



CULTURAL AWARENESS

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Introduction

Nowadays, we are invaded by a plenty images, by permanent and fast change, and by a strong need for self-determination and identity. A lot of people have difficulties to adapt their behavior when somebody else has different interests, habits, intentions, beliefs, social organizations, or political symbols – in other words, different culture.

In order to become proficient in working well with people from a variety of cultures it is necessary to be culturally aware, to understand that cultural differences and to respect those differences when interacting with people whose customs, traditions and world view may be different from our own. In the military, cultural awareness seems to be almost a basic requirement for success on the battlefield (including psychological operations, information and influence operations, effects-based operations, strategic communications, and civil affairs) and in post conflict operations.

Cultural Awareness module is covering the requirements of initiating cadets in cultural awareness in order to develop their intercultural communication skills necessary for acting in a environment consist of cultural differences and similarities. The module has three large topics dealing with fundamentals of cultural awareness, intercultural communication and cultural impacts to operational effectiveness and it is designed to support participants to understand how cultural differences have an effect on behaviour and how they can adjust their actions to culturally better perform in a military multicultural environment.

The module main objective is to help the cadets demonstrate an awareness of their own cultural assumptions, values, and biases and understand how the military is viewed within other cultures by trying to analyze and consider other points of view and realize the way their own actions may be interpreted.

Furthermore, *Cultural Awareness* module has the goal of giving the cadets accurate and appropriate information necessary to any participant into a multinational and multicultural team as we are aware that the diversity of military and civilian customs and traditions should be overcome. As long as the actors involved recognize and accept the cultural barriers it is easier to build the trust needed in a well- welded team and this e-book succeeds in providing the information the cadets need in this respect.

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