Information operations (IO) presents viable options to combatant commanders (CCDRs) for conducting operations throughout the range of military operations (ROMO) and all phases of war. IO enables forces to achieve objectives and possibly deter aggression. It enables the use of information-related capabilities (IRCs) in restricted, contested, or politically sensitive areas where traditional air, land, and sea operations may not be permitted. Historically, commanders have employed various IRCs to prevent escalation and enable security.

For example during a humanitarian assistance operation, a commander may influence host nation and even regional cooperation through the integration of public affairs (PA) activities and military information support operations (MISO) messaging designed to facilitate safe and orderly humanitarian assistance among the local populace. During a major operation, the commander may influence region-wide perceptions as well as local behavior through integration of electronic warfare (EW), MISO, and cyberspace operations (CO) with other kinetic or non-kinetic missions against key targets. Examples of other IRCs employed across the ROMO can be seen in figure on IO and the ROMO.