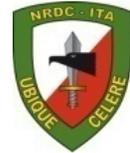




**NATO RAPID DEPLOYABLE CORPS ITALY (NRDC-ITA)**  
**UGO MARA BARRACKS, SOLBIATE OLONA**



**EXERCISE EAGLE EYE SEMINAR**

28 JANUARY 2010

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**NATO'S FUTURE STRATEGIC CONCEPT - FACING NEW CHALLENGES IN AN EVOLVING SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**

**- SUMMARY -**

The first lecture of the HQ NRDC-ITA seminar on Geo-Strategical studies was given by Ambassador Claudio Bisognero, the NATO Deputy Secretary General. His Excellency, the Ambassador, who is hugely experienced in International Politics, provided the audience with his views on NATO's future strategies and the ever evolving challenges that the alliance will face given the current security environment.

The ambassador started his presentation by recognising the importance of the current NATO operations in Afghanistan and paying tribute to the efforts and commitment of the 42 different nations involved in seeking a lasting resolution. He praised the ongoing commitment of the alliance to the region particularly in terms of men, material and treasure whilst reaffirming that there was still much to be done. At the same time he reminded the audience that NATO's focus must also remain dynamic recognising that there are additional threats to global security which must not be ignored. He referred to the threat of piracy, terrorism as a "Global Franchise", resource wars, proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and climate change as being threats that will undoubtedly define the face of future wars.

His Excellency majored on the six priorities that must remain the current and future focus for NATO. The need for military transformation, moving away from territorial defence towards the external and asymmetric threats that will characterise modern conflict. The need to further recognise multi national solutions to a global problem whilst at the same time adopting the much vaunted comprehensive approach more effectively across the spectrum of conflict. Whilst NATO is very much focused on the current threat it must continue to evolve as an alliance by better connecting with its member states, those on the periphery of the alliance and the International Community at large. Although NATO must be regarded historically as one of the world's most successful alliances, we must not be complacent. NATO must be critical of its capabilities and ensure that she continues to grow, improve and progress as a force for good in an uncertain world.

In conclusion His Excellency recognised the achievements of NATO and the NRDC-ITA commending the alliance on the achievements over the past few years. He reiterated that Afghanistan was a turning point in terms of how wars should and would be fought in the future. Military solutions alone are no longer enough. All actors, be they civilian, military, international, regional or national have a part to play. Success will only be achieved through the synchronisation of all efforts and capabilities in pursuit of a common goal.

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## **ASSYMETRIC SCENARIOS AND CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENTS AT THE “2020 HORIZON”**

### **- SUMMARY -**

The second lecture of the HQ NRDC-ITA seminar on Geo-Strategical studies was given by Professor Andrea Margelletti, the Director of the Centro di Studi Internazionali in Rome. The Professor, who specialises in International Politics and Crisis management, provided the audience with his views on asymmetric scenarios that NATO may face over the next decade and the capability developments that will assist in dealing with these threats.

Professor Margelletti's presentation focused on the need to understand the human dynamics and to affect the psyche of the population rather than concentrating on conventional and historical means of finding conflict resolution. He went further by suggesting that instead of focusing on an unidentified enemy we should try and identify good and bad opportunities and posture ourselves to take advantage of the opportunities as and when they arise. This need for incisive and cerebral intervention will lead to far greater and far reaching success than traditional means of resolving threats/conflicts. Key to success is an understanding of the peoples and cultures that define a nation rather than the nation itself. Effective Human Intelligence will win far greater results than the technical and military sources of intelligence that currently define the Contemporary Operating Environment.

The need to understand a threat or an opportunity must start from within. Nation states are under threat from within due to the multi cultural, multi faith populations that are a creation of 20<sup>th</sup> Century immigration. Without an effective understanding of these cultural differences it will be impossible for a nation state to embrace and integrate the various component parts of their own population. Without integration the very essence of what a nation state represents will be eroded, leading to a very real threat caused by ethnic tensions from within their own countries. The threat from within with all our nations is very real and in some cases more dangerous than external threats.

The Professor reinforced the need to move away from traditional and conservative ideas as to how to achieve conflict resolution. Communication, understanding and credibility will be vital in achieving peace. Lateral and horizontal thinking will be required in order to truly understand the problems and through that be able to identify real and lasting solutions.

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## **MILITARY PREPARATION FOR FUTURE TASKS AND CONFLICTS**

### **- SUMMARY -**

The third lecture of the HQ NRDC-ITA seminar on Geo-Strategical studies was given by Lieutenant General Carlo Cabigiosu, a retired Italian Army Officer. The General, who now acts as a military advisor and expert in military affairs, provided the seminar with his views on the future face of conflict and likely military tasks and how the military must approach/prepare for these tasks.

The General's lecture majored on the future for NATO both as a political alliance and as a military power. He talked about NATO's new strategic concepts and the way in which the future may be perceived and defined. He provided the audience with an insight into scenarios that NATO will be likely to face and how we must adapt to meet these challenges. The future scenarios that may face NATO are all encompassing, from Stabilisation and Reconstruction of failed states, through Asymmetric confrontations with non state actors, to Conventional conflict and cyber war. NATO must be prepared for all facets of likely future conflict.

The General went further by saying that despite NATO's success there was still room for improvement across the alliance. Cooperation between the military and political arms of the alliance must further evolve in order to truly be comprehensive in the approach to conflict. Internal cohesion was a vital factor and one which would lead to a more capable and dynamic force structure able to deploy anywhere to meet any challenge or threat. In terms of the future, the needs of the military will increase and must be weighed against other requirements within the spectrum of human needs. Whilst the needs to be technologically capable, with advanced air, naval and ground forces and weaponry are recognised, NATO must weigh those needs against the requirement to be able to deal with threats in terms of human needs such as disease, preservation of life and cultural differences. Technology will improve capability but will not win a war in isolation. A military force must be technologically capable, but not at the expense of being able to train an army/force, support, protect and understand a population both internally and externally to the NATO community.

It is almost impossible to predict the face or cause of future conflict but we can assume that the causes of future conflicts will be defined by our actions in those that we face today. Competition for resources, terrorism, failed states and economic challenges are current threats and will remain prevalent.

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## **FIGHTING ASYMMETRIC CONFLICTS: POLITICS AND PUBLIC OPINION IN THE POST-HEROIC WESTERN WORLD AND IN MILITANT SOCIETIES**

### **- SUMMARY -**

The final lecture of the HQ NRDC-ITA seminar on Geo-Strategical studies was given by Professor Dr. Massimo de Leonardis from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. The Professor, a renowned expert on the History of International Relations and Institutions and of International Politics, provided the seminar with his views on the complexities of fighting asymmetric conflicts. His focus was on the context of Politics and Public Opinion in the post-Heroic Western World and in Militant Societies. In the contemporary operating environment this focus and assessment was not only relevant, but extremely valuable for the audience, many of whom are currently focusing on the NRDC-ITA's upcoming role as the NRF<sup>1</sup>.

The Professor's lecture encompassed three main areas: the ascendancy of irregular warfare and the pre-eminence of the asymmetric threats. The comparisons in Christian and Muslim ideologies towards warfare and casualties both historically and in the contemporary operating environment. And the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan and the need for a strong coordinated and dynamic approach from NATO, her partners and the wider International community to ensure a lasting resolution.

The Professor finished his lecture by reaffirming that the need for a holistic approach to the Afghanistan question, to include the political, military, economic and religious spheres. The threat he believed to be very real; not a threat necessarily to NATO as an alliance, but undoubtedly, "a strategic retreat in Afghanistan would cast serious doubts on the ability of the West to maintain the predominance enjoyed in the last centuries."

The Chairman thanked Professor de Leonardis for his invaluable and fascinating insight into the Fighting Asymmetric Conflicts: Politics and Public Opinion in the post-Heroic Western World and in Militant Societies. He reiterated the relevance of the subject and the need for the International community to not only understand the threat but to posture itself to ensure that we meet the challenges in not only the physical component but within the conceptual and moral component as well. There is no one solution for these issues; we must be able to use all capabilities and ideals to reach a lasting solution.

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#### *Note to editors:*

*HQ NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy (NRDC-ITA) is a multinational NATO Headquarters with more than 2000 military and civilian personnel from 15 NATO nations, based in Solbiate Olona, close to Milan. The Corps is capable of commanding up to four divisions, combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) units for a total of 60,000 personnel. A wide range of options will also be available to command and control land forces at the brigade and divisional level to operate as a stand-alone formation or subordinated to a higher HQ. For further information please see [www.nato.int/nrdc-it](http://www.nato.int/nrdc-it) or [www.paonrdc.it](http://www.paonrdc.it)*

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<sup>1</sup> The HQ NRDC-ITA assumes responsibility for the Land Component Command within the NATO Reaction Force (NRF) in 2011