

# Sports Board

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The beginning of the year 2003 saw NRDC-IT setting up a Sports Board involving all NRDC-IT personnel and HQ Signal Bde.

The Sports Board is a sports structure within the Command that will enable personnel to take part in events, sports and adventure training activities by forming teams within the Branches in order to promote friendship and cooperation across the international structures of NRDC-IT.

All competition programs are normally planned to accommodate teams from throughout the headquarters. Those from the Command Group & Central Staff, two from Ops Division, the Support Division, the Rear Support Command & AOCC, the Engineer Division, plus the G6 and HQ Signals Bde. Although inter-branch competition will be the norm, other teams may be formed and enroll in competitions as approved by the Chairman, Col. John Prall (US).

The Sports Board will determine the availability of facilities and costs and possible instructors/technical advisors within HQ NRDC/Signal Bde.

All Competitions organized by the NRDC-IT Sports Board will contribute to the annual award of the Second Lieutenant Ugo Mara Cup. This trophy signifies the highest level of achievement attained throughout a year's worth of athletic competition.

At present, three events/competitions have already been run.

On October 31st last year, the first Ugo Mara Barracks International Golf Tournament (UMBIGT) was played at Le Robinie Golf Club, just in front of our HQ.

After a great afternoon during which 16 participants, including COMRRC LG Castagnetti and DCOMRRC MJ Monro, played their best shots, SSGT Spencer (UK) won the tournament scoring the best result.

November 7th saw the Sports Board setting up an



*Individual military training "15 km. march".*

inter-Branch swimming race as part of the inter-Branch sporting competition.

The 4th Armd Regt hosted the competition in the swimming pool at Babini Barracks in Bellinzago Nov. (NO) providing outstanding support.

The teams raced in twelve different events (8 individual and 4 relay) embracing all styles and culminating in the Chain of Command Race. Seventy swimmers, supported by a

multicolored cheering public offered a great morning of sport.

The OPS DIV Team 2 was the winning team, led by an outstanding swimmer - LTC Polli. However, each team proved to have great swimmers and the final scores were very close.

The new 2003 sports year started with a five-a-side football competition held at the Ugo Mara Barracks Gymnasium. On February 26th the teams challenged one another in a sequence of 20-minute matches where the 8 team members alternated on the pitch to kick the ball between the goal posts.

The final match was played by the Central Staff Team versus the Engineer Team. The latter scored a sounding victory (5-2) and was awarded the trophy presented by DCOMRRC.

Forthcoming events include a shooting competition on April 6th and, in the next few months, basketball, volleyball

and tennis tournaments, involving an increasing number of people both as players and organizers.

More and more NRDC-IT personnel are taking advantage of the few hours they are entitled to for their physical training at all times of the day, especially during the lunch break.

To conclude the increase in sports activities is contributing to enhance the Branch spirit, multinational friendship and the level of fitness to a point that today the mood can be summarized in the motto "Stay in... SHAPE!."



*NRDC-IT swimming competition.*



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