

Ex Eagle Entry

by Ltc J. SARAMAGO, PO Army G5 Plans

Exercise "Eagle Entry 04", the second exercise of the three part Eagle Exercise Series was a milestone event for the NRDC-IT HQ. This exercise served as one of many important steps to ensure that the Headquarters is prepared for NATO Response Force (NRF) 3 Standby which starts in July 2004. Training activities took place at Conigliera Area within Ugo Mara Barracks during the period 09-13 February 2004.

This exercise included elements of the NRF Land Component Early Entry Command Post, the Rear Support Command Forward, the NRF Brigade Early Entry Command Post, and included observers from other Land Component Command Forces as well. The exercise was divided into two distinct periods, a study period and a deployment exercise, designed to achieve the exercise aim to develop and confirm

IMPORTANT STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE HEADQUARTERS IS PREPARED FOR NATO RESPONSE FORCE (NRF) 3

NRF land component Early Entry doctrine, architecture, procedures and readiness.

The first day of the exercise consisted of a study period. During this period the



NRDC-IT Headquarters' Staff and members of the Taurinense Brigade (the NRF Brigade) briefed the exercise



EE CP members attending a meeting inside an inflatable tent.



A view of the EE CP under camouflage nets.



International Staff within the EE CP.



audience on various topics ranging from a complete review and update of the NRF Concept to how the NRF Brigade will deploy its Early Entry Command Post. This portion of the exercise allowed the staff to share information, identify requirements and ensured that all members of the NRDC-IT have a common understanding of how the NRF will initially enter and operate in an Area of Operations. This study period generated interesting discussion and identified areas that the staff of both the NRDC-IT and the NRF Brigade Headquarters must focus on in order to ensure readiness prior to NRF Standby in July 2004.

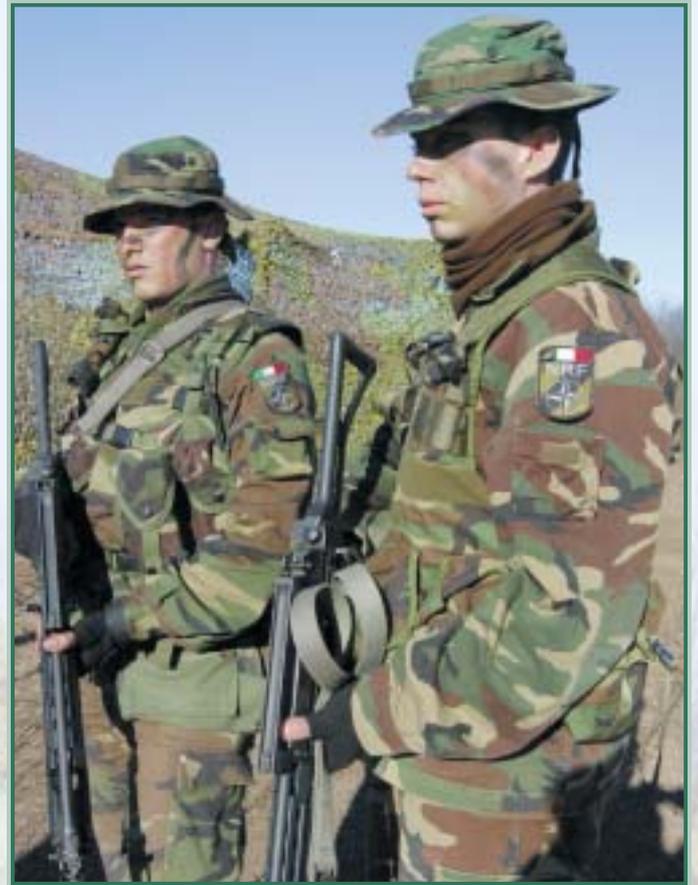
After the study period, the Headquarters began the second part of the exercise. The NRF Land Component Early Entry Command Post, the Rear Support Command Forward, the NRF Brigade Early Entry Command Post deployed to the Conigliera Area of Caserma Ugo Mara Barracks for a two day deployment exercise designed to test procedures, systems, and equipment and to practice the deployment of initial command and control and forward operating logistics functions. The deployment exercise allowed the staff to check the availability and proper function of all physical assets to include command and control systems, computer information systems, and support systems. The exercise also provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Command to check their own personal readiness. Members that belonged to an Early Entry Command Post and to the Rear Support Command were subject to inspection of all of their personal combat



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equipment and deployment records (immunization records, orders, etc..) prior to deployment. Overall, this phase of the exercise provided opportunity for all members of the Command to visualize the requirements of this phase of deployment. It provided an illustration of the architecture and operation of the NRF Early Entry Command Post within the NRF Concept and provided a great opportunity to improve existing architecture, systems, and procedures.

Overall the exercise generated some positive results. During the exercise it was determined that requirements to move the Early Entry Command Post were too great and that the size of the physical architecture should be reduced. As a result, the NRDC-IT will change the physical architecture of the Early Entry Command Post to a smaller and more agile one. After operating under the exercise scenario for just one day, the Headquarters also identified the need to improve the battle rhythm for the commanders and staff. The battle rhythm will be revised to ensure vital information is shared at appropriate times throughout the conduct of operations without exceeding the capability of the staff. The Headquarters also validated some systems that worked well. For example,



Soldiers of the NRF Taurinense Bde on guard to the EE CP.



Mounting the camouflage nets for the EE CP.



Italian and Spanish NCO, working together.

the Headquarters' video teleconference (VTC) capability proved to be very effective tool for sharing information among all command posts and allowed for excellent interaction with the Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters. The VTC was integral to successful coordination and interaction between each echelon of command.

In January the NRDC-IT completed the first part of the Eagle Exercise Series: "Eagles Nest 04". With the lessons learned from both "Eagles Nest and now Eagle Entry 04", the NRDC-IT is prepared to take on its next challenge and culminating exercise within the Eagle Series: "Eagle Landing 04". This exercise will focus on operations after our forces have entered into a specified Theater of operations. It will take place in conjunction with Exercise Dynamic Action 04 that will be used to conduct Operational Planning Processes at JFC and NRF CC's levels. The final step will be represented by Allied Action 04, designed to certify the JFC and the CCs for the next NRF rotation and to validate the CJTF capability. These exercises together will provide training, experience and lessons learned that will be instrumental in confirming the NRDC-IT's ability to implement the NATO Response Force Concept. "Eagle Landing 04" is scheduled for 20 March- 2 April 2004.

