

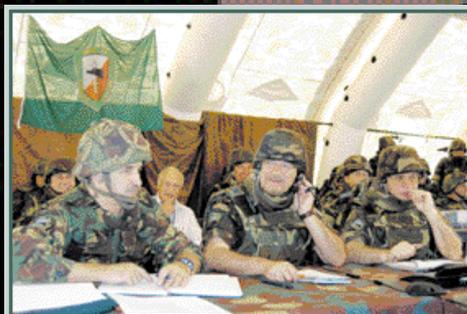


# NRDC-IT Magazine

Issue n. 4 - August 2004



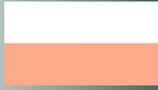
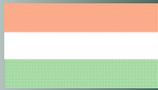
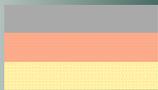
**NATO  
SUMMIT**



**EX ALLIED  
ACTION 04**



**NORMANDY  
BATTLE FIELD TOUR**



## FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

First of all let me thank you Ambassador Maurizio Moreno, Italian Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, for its contribution covering the NATO Summit in Istanbul.

This issue of our magazine is mainly dedicated to NATO Response Force as we completed some major exercises and we are looking to achieve the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) during Exercise Destined Glory that will be played in Sardinia next October.

Riccardo Cristoni  
Ltc. IT Army  
Chief PI



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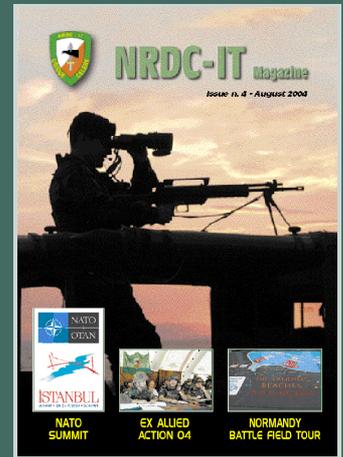
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## CONTENTS

NATO after the Istanbul Summit.....	1
Ex Eagle Landing '04.....	5
Ex Allied Action '04.....	8
Ex Arrcade Fiscal.....	12
Italian Army Day.....	13
Battlefield Tour '04.....	16
NRF Brigade.....	19
Adventure Training.....	22
Cross Country Run.....	24
Visits and Events.....	26
A Taste of International Food.....	28



Front page:

*A soldier of the Security Coy on patrol at dusk during Exercise AA04*

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# NATO After the Istanbul Summit

by Ambassador Maurizio Moreno

The outcome of the Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government held in Istanbul on 27-29 June 2004 was undoubtedly positive. Indeed the Allies on this occasion sent out a clear message of restored cohesion to the international community.

There was a common commitment to pursuing, with consistency and credibility, the security objectives of the Alliance. This Alliance has proved able to transform itself in the face of the asymmetric threats which characterise the current international context, after overcoming, in the run-up to the coalition's military action in Iraq, moments of crisis that could have cast a shadow over transatlantic cooperation.

For over 50 years, NATO was the bulwark of our defence against threats originating in the East.

Today, NATO has not lost its relevance. In fact, it was confirmed in Istanbul as a political-military organisation actively engaged in promoting security and stability, ready to take action where necessary with new missions, including in areas remote from its original geographical sphere of interest.

This transformation was conducted with coherence, thanks to effective action to renew the impetus for political dialogue, to the careful development of partnerships with other international organisations and non-member States, and to the acquisition of new military capacities on the basis of programmes adopted during the previous Allied Summit held in Prague in Autumn 2002.

It is worth taking a closer look at these various aspects, starting with the political dialogue.

The idea put forward by Italy at Istanbul was that NATO should put increased



emphasis on its role as a permanent forum for dialogue and discussion on security strategies. The new NATO should first enhance its profile in consultation activities between European and North American democracies, and then ensure it can talk to a growing number of partners on an equal footing.

NATO should therefore not be seen only as a military alliance, but as an organisation with its own political function, as the place for "discussing the challenges to our common security and for identifying the most effective means to address the new threats that loom over our respective countries", in the words of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Franco Frattini, in

his remarks to the North Atlantic Council in the preparatory phase which preceded the Summit.

The Alliance will thus eventually be able to confirm its fundamental role as part of the effective multilateralism approach which Italy has been actively pursuing.

I would like to illustrate some of the practical results which this approach delivered in Istanbul.

In the city on the Bosphorus, Allied Heads of State and Government met for the first time in their new format "at 26", thus symbolically underscoring the speed with which the Alliance was able to adapt to the new geopolitical context following the end of the Cold War. In this period NATO welcomed in its midst 10 new members in

two successive enlargement rounds, while establishing a relationship with Russia based on confident cooperation and fruitful partnership.

It was on the same basis that the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council celebrated its tenth anniversary in the Turkish city, as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between



Family portrait with all the NATO Heads of State



# NATO After the Istanbul Summit

NATO's 26 Allies and 20 Partners which played a fundamental role in support of aspirant countries on the way to fully-fledged membership of the Alliance. The perspectives for work outlined in Istanbul showed an increased focus on Partners from the Caucasus and Central Asia, without losing sight of the membership programmes to bring the three remaining aspirants, Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), into the fold of the Alliance.

Also on the agenda, and of particular significance to Italy, is the assistance to be given to Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina in order to ensure that they can join the broader framework of Euro-Atlantic Partnership.

Events in the Balkans are of special concern to the Alliance, which has developed a comprehensive strategy for the region based on enhancing synergies, in a way consistent with the aims stated above, with the other major international players: the UN, the EU and the OSCE. The Balkans, where almost 5,000 Italian troops are deployed, were discussed in Istanbul and in particular during the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers which was chaired by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his current capacity as Honorary President of the North Atlantic Council.

In more politically mature Bosnia, NATO agreed to transfer responsibilities to the EU in light of the successful experience in FYROM. In Kosovo, however, following the recent outbreaks of violence, Allies reiterated the need to maintain a presence in order to ensure the transition to a stable system based on standards shared by both sides.

This approach is very clear, and offers the key to understanding



*Mr. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Amb. Maurizio Moreno, entering NATO HQ in Bruxelles*

the decision to end the SFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Indeed this decision marks a success for the Alliance, and is in no way an act of disengagement. NATO will in fact maintain a presence in Sarajevo, but of a different nature, focusing predominantly on supporting defence reform.

In the last few months, partly thanks to Italy's efforts when it held the six-month Presidency of the European Union, NATO's relations with the EU on the basis of the Berlin Plus arrangements have been gaining new impetus, thus confirming the EU's new specific role in the field of security. A field in which the EU and NATO share the same objectives, not least in the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The handover to the EU of responsibilities for the operations in Bosnia & Herzegovina will be a further demonstration of the importance of NATO-EU relations, as part of a coherent division of labour inspired by a common perception of world security.

The establishment of a special partnership with Moscow, which Italy strongly supported through the organisation in Spring 2002 of a historic NATO-Russia Summit in Pratica di Mare, has yielded equally positive results. The work now carried out "at 27", both on military matters and as part of the political dialogue, has led to tangible achievements in the fields of peacekeeping, theatre missile defence, anti-proliferation policies, the fight against terrorism, civil protection and consultations on emergency situations. In the current security context, it is indeed in the Alliance's interest to ensure that Russia is able to play its rightful role.

Russia, for its part, took the opportunity offered by the Istanbul Summit to reiterate the strategic value of cooperation "at 27", and to confirm Moscow's willingness to provide further contributions to NATO operations.

In the run-up to Istanbul, relations with Mediterranean Dialogue countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia), with Italy's strong backing, were also pursued with renewed vigour in a bid to upgrade the exercise.



*Press Conference NATO Secretary General, Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer*



# NATO After the Istanbul Summit



*A view of NATO Headquarter in Bruxelles*

To this end, a raft of practical initiatives were launched during the Summit. The aim was no longer only dialogue, but also effective cooperation to be developed through a pragmatic approach in areas such as interoperability, defence reform, maritime security, civil protection, the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as

well as illegal trafficking and immigration. Furthermore, the Alliance showed its openness to other countries in the area with a shared interest in strengthening security and stability in the Mediterranean.

A new and specific initiative – the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative – was also adopted at the summit for the benefit of the broader Middle East region. It includes programmes intended to consolidate world security and stability and to promote the democratisation and reform processes initiated by nations in the area. It is important to emphasise the innovative approach which characterises this initiative, which is based on the full and equal participation by all those involved, without any artificial models for institution-building being imposed “from above”.

Progress was also made in the complex transformation of Alliance military capabilities, an area in which the meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Istanbul highlighted some very encouraging results.

As regards the commitments made in 2002 by the Allies gathered in Prague, it is expected that almost 50 percent of the targets established with the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC) will be met



*Italian Ambassador to NATO, Maurizio Moreno meets the Italian ISAF troops*

by 2005, and 80 percent by 2008. The efforts made at multilateral level should also be taken into account, in particular the consortia for the development of strategic sealift, with Italy's participation, and strategic airlift. Similar efforts are under way for air-to-air refuelling – again with Italy's participation; for the Allied Ground Surveillance system; for the modernisation of Allied satellite communications (SATCOM system) where a joint bid involving Italy and its own satellite programme known as SICRAL, France and the United Kingdom was recently declared successful; for the creation of a theatre missile defence system, with a recently completed feasibility study; and for the establishment of a battalion with specific capabilities in the field of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence.

Furthermore, and it is a great pleasure to write this for a magazine published by the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps in Solbiate Olona, the creation of the NATO Response Force (NRF) is undoubtedly of key significance in the current security environment. I am proud to recall that Italy, which has made the Solbiate Command available to NATO, became Lead Nation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 for the NRF land component, which is of particular importance in view of the advanced technology used and innovative features guaranteeing high readiness levels. The NRF is the core instrument to ensure that NATO is able to carry out new rapid response missions to safeguard Allied security in the face of the new asymmetric threats. It is due to reach initial operational capability in Autumn, under Italian leadership, and full operation capability will be attained in 2006. Our country will be the top contributor to the NRF this year, with over 6,500 troops assigned to the new force, in addition to naval and air combat units as well as logistical support.



These are, in a nutshell, the various dimensions of the new NATO.

Against this background, the main message which emerged from the Istanbul Summit lay in restored Allied unity on strategies to project NATO's stabilising potential out of theatre.

# NATO After the Istanbul Summit



**General James L. Jones (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) shaking hands to President Hamid Karzai Head of the transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan**

NATO's renewed political dialogue, enlargement, deeper and broader partnerships, transformed capabilities and new missions should not be regarded as an attempt by the Alliance to find a *raison d'être* now that the era of bipolar confrontation has ended. They should be seen in the light of strategic requirements in a world where the geographical barriers and physical distances which once protected us no longer exist.

A world where it would be extremely short-sighted, for instance, to ignore the fact that the stabilisation and reconstruction of Afghanistan have a direct effect on our security. After Istanbul, one of the top priorities for the Allies, with Italy at the forefront, is to ensure that their mission in Afghanistan will succeed in paving the way for the development of a solid democratic process. This is done through both political and military means, with the allocation of troops, assets and resources to assist in the rebirth of the country. Indeed the outcome of this mission will enable the international community to measure NATO's commitment and credibility as it faces the current challenges to our security. The Alliance has therefore set itself ambitious stabilisation targets so that elections can duly take place in the second half of the year. Italy has made a substantial contribution, with a reserve battalion in theatre as part of the NRF, to the measures aimed at guaranteeing the security of the electoral process as requested personally by President Karzai of Afghanistan in Istanbul. In addition, the NATO Secretary General was able to announce that the first phase in the expansion of ISAF had been completed and the second phase initiated with the gradual establishment of new Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) across the country's territory

Significantly, the Istanbul Summit also coincided with the transfer of power in Iraq to the new sovereign interim government, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1546 of 8 June 2004. The resolution explicitly asks UN Member States and the relevant international organisations to assist the multinational force, which can contribute to the restoration of security and stability in Iraq on the request of the legitimate Iraqi Government.

In this context, and following a specific request by the newly established Iraqi authorities, NATO Heads of State and Government committed the Alliance, building on its undeniable experience in this field, to assisting the Iraqi security forces with training and equipping as part of the arduous stabilisation process in the country. Again in this case, Italy expressed its readiness to help rebuild Iraq's armed and security forces. As a first step, a NATO Training Implementation Mission has been dispatched to Iraq, with personnel from 11 Allied countries including Italy, in order to explore how best to fulfil the Alliance's training commitments.

## **Ambassador Maurizio Moreno**

*The Italian Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2002, Mr. Maurizio Moreno was born in Rome on June 23, 1940.*

*After graduating in law at the University of Rome, he joined the diplomatic service in 1963.*

*Director General for European Countries from July 1999 until August 2002, he served before as Ambassador to the Czech Republic (1996-1999).*

*His initial assignments, between 1965 and 1974, included Basel (Vice-Consul), Rabat (First Secretary, Italian Embassy), Bordeaux (Consul).*

*From 1976 to 1980 he was the Italian Alternate Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.*

*Appointed Consul General in Lyon in 1980, Ambassador Moreno was the Deputy Head of the Italian Delegation to the CDE-CSCE in Stockholm in 1984. Returned to Rome as Director of the Policy-Planning Office in 1985, he was subse-*

*quently in charge of Africa at the Political Affairs General Directorate.*

*Ambassador to Senegal from 1988 to 1992, Maurizio Moreno served again in Rome between 1992 and 1996 as Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the Minister and then Special Envoy to Somalia, Director of the Press and Information Department and finally Director of the Diplomatic Institute.*

*A member of the Board of SIOI (Società Italiana per l'Organizzazione Internazionale), and of IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali), IsIAO (Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente) and other Institutes of Research on International Affairs, Mr. Maurizio Moreno was awarded national orders by Austria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Senegal, SMOM and the United Kingdom.*

*Divorced, one son.*

*Languages: French and English*



# Exercise Eagle Landing '04

by Maj M. PECCHINOTTI, SO2 EPS C

## "The Corps prepares to become NRF LAND COMPONENT COMMAND"

### MARCH 2004 and the HQ has carried out another major exercise.

Due to the new concept of the NRF each activity became fundamental. For this reason EXERCISE EAGLE LANDING '04 evolved many times before STARTEX. This was an important exercise for NRDC-IT because it allowed us to prepare our role as NRF3 and ensured that this HQ and its Staff were successful in satisfying SACEUR's criteria for the command and control of a NATO Response Force. Within the NRF Implementation Plan the Exercise represented the conclusion of the Component Command Training period (after the National and before the Joint Force Training periods). In terms of Command Posts, Response Cell and augmentation of "external" HQs/Units and Nations, there was representation from:

- HQ ARRC based in Germany
- CAOC 7 based in Larissa (GR)
- IT Navy General Staff based in Rome
- HU HQs, both for Division CP and CIMIC Coy
- Multinational CBRN BN based in Czech Republic
- MSU CC Regt
- 1 (IT) Mech Div
- IT Logistic Bde
- IT AD Bde
- IT FRIULI Bde
- IT ISTAR Bde
- IT Eng Bde
- IT Arty Bde
- IT NBC Regt
- IT Army Aviation Regt
- NRF Battle Groups



A typical birdtable briefing during Ex Eagle Landing

Exercise "Eagle Landing 04" was planned to demonstrate the operational capability of the NRF Land Component to plan and conduct a joint, combined Crisis Response Operation. By doing so, EL04 exercised NRF roles and responsibilities at tactical levels of command in order to validate the Land NRF package and the LCC capabilities to manage the NRF. In order to achieve this, the HQ was deployed outside its own Barracks, the NRF package was deployed in the field, and EXCON was based inside Ugo Mara Barracks, in the surrounding area.

It was a Command Post Exercise driven by a MEL/MIL. The Exercise End State was clear from the start: to certify the LCC capability to manage the Land NRF3 forces.



DCOMs discuss; Maj Gen Lane (NRDC-IT) updates Maj Gen Valotto (ARRC) on the exercise operational situation

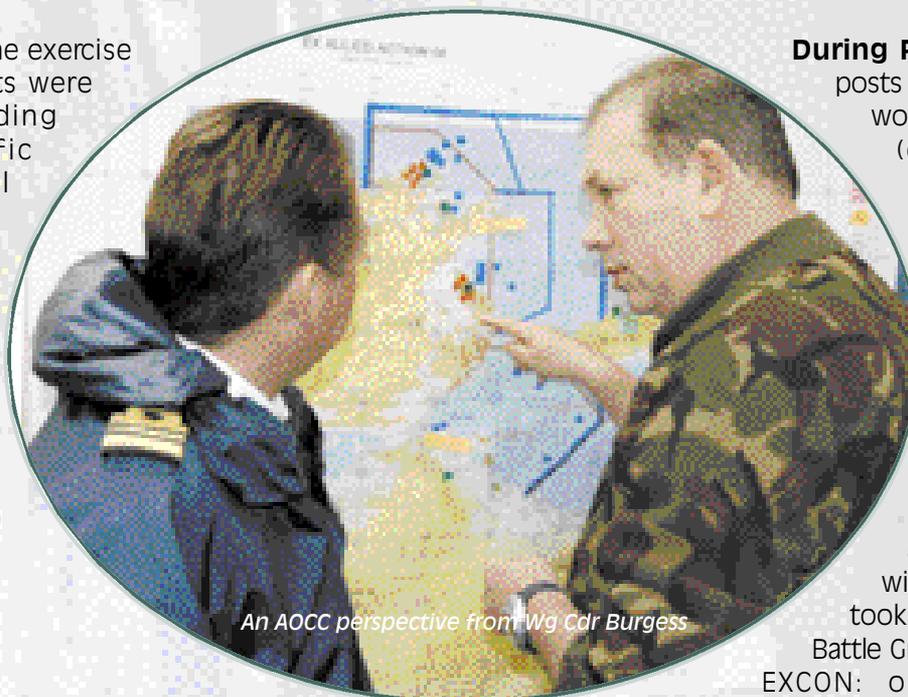


Key HQ commanders run a simulated press conference



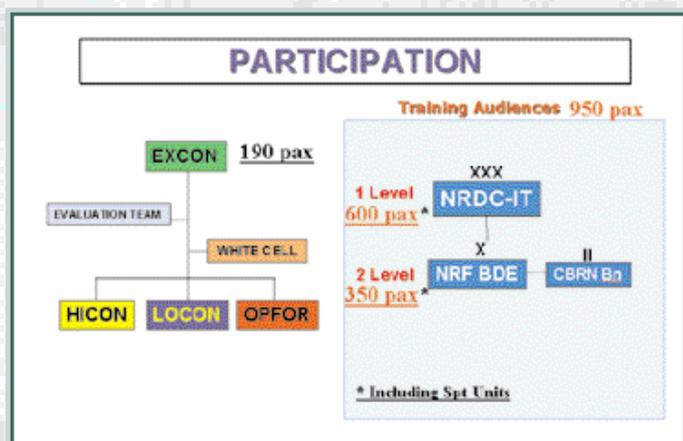
# Exercise Eagle Landing '04

During Part 1 of the exercise the command posts were structured according to their specific functional responsibilities and manned by HQ NRDC-IT personnel in accordance with TACSOI 11000 (HQ NRDC-IT Command Post Organisation when deployed on NRF operations).



An AOCC perspective from Wg Cdr Burgess

During Part 2 the command posts were further manned, working extended hours (except for OPSCEN, activated 24hrs and one/two members for each Functional Area during the night). The assigned formations (except NRF Bde and Multinational CBRN Defence BN) and units operated as Response Cells (RCs) within EXCON. NRF Bde took part in Part 1 with 4 Battle Group CPs as RCs within EXCON: one Mountain, one Airborne, one Infantry, and one Artillery



Ex Eagle Landing 04 structure



HQ NRDC-IT staff planning



NRF commanders simulate joint planning with IOs and NGOs



# Exercise Eagle Landing '04



*EXCON setup in Ugo MARA Barracks*

## **Training objectives for Part 1 were:**

Test internal NRF Bde tactics, techniques and procedures (TACSOP, TACSOI);

Verify Taurinense Brigade capability to undertake NRF missions (including its Info Ops, Media, CIMIC, HUMINT capabilities);

Verify the strategic (SATCOM) and tactical NRF CIS assets;

Interface with DJTF;

Develop our Effects Based Ops processes;

Develop inter component linkages;

Plan for CHOC from NRF to HRF (L);

JSE impact of Rear Operations;

Test NRDC-IT MAIN NRF task organization and internal TTP;

Verify the RSC FWD capability to manage RSOM functions.



*Press registration at PIC*

## **Part 2 (LCC) objectives were:**

Exerise the deployment of the appropriate CJFLCC structure for integration into a CJTF operation;

Focus on: "R2", "Information Management" and "Integrity and Delivery of NRDC-IT Processes"; practice the air/sea/land interface with ACC, MCC.



*GEO Branch*



*CIMIC staff discussing DPRE plans*



*ARRC visitors in EXCON*

# Ex Allied Action '04

by Ltc M. VANASSE, US Army G5 Plans



Allied Action 2004 (AA04) was a Command Post Exercise (CPX) designed to certify Joint Force Command – Naples and its Component Commands (air, land and maritime) to assume responsibility as the NATO Response Force.

## WHO

The first phase of the CPX training was based around the NATO Response Force. Exercise Allied Action was a training event for both of the NRF Command Posts, manned by all branches of the NRDC-IT staff. The Italian Taurinense Alpini Brigade participated as the NRF Brigade, this Brigade along with the newly formed Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Defence Battalion, a Hungarian Civil-Military (CMIC) Company and the Italian Friuli Brigade form the nucleus of the land forces for NRF-3. The NRDC-IT Operations Center (OPSCEN) monitored developments from Solbiate Olano and allowed the NRF Main Command Post and RSC Forward Command Post to 'reach back' to the remainder of the staff.

During the final phase of the CPX, the entire NRDC-IT staff deployed as a High Readiness Force (HRF) staff under a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF).

Deployment to training areas throughout Italy allowed supporting elements of the HQ to train. The Signal Brigade, Support Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment (with the "SPLUGA" and "SEMPIONE" Battalions) deployed to provide live support to the Headquarters and its associated land forces.

Exercise Control (EXCON) was extensive; representatives from both the Italian 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and the Hungarian Division, the Taurinense Brigade, the MEC TF, ARTY RCST TF, National Support Elements, ISTAR Brigade, Civil-Military advisors, the MSU, Engineer Brigade and the Air Defence Battalion



Italian CHOD, Adm DI PAOLA, SACEUR, Gen J. L. JONES and JFC Naples Commander, Adm JOHNSON attending the Press Conference

populated the Land Component LOCON and provided input and expertise to the HQ to enable the exercise to run smoothly.

Last, but not least, the exercise involved essential augmentees who were processed into the HQ and trained along side their full time HQ counterparts.



DJTF in Persano



The Commander gives his direction



Lt Col Smellie with external observers from Stavanger



# Ex Allied Action '04



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

## WHAT

Exercise Allied Action was the culmination of the training to assume the NATO Response Force mission. The exercise was designed to maximise the interaction between the Joint Force Commander and the Air, Land and Maritime Components.

The scenario for Allied Action was based on a fictional island in the mid-Atlantic called Jewellery. The island is home to four nations with a mix of ethnicities. Besides the conventional armed forces of two belligerent nations, the scenario included refugees, terrorist activity, propaganda, poor infrastructure conditions, environmental issues, simulated medical emergencies, local and international media, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and civilian and military organizations with independent agendas.

## WHEN

The first elements of the Headquarters to deploy were from the Rear Support Command. They deployed by "plane, train and automobile" beginning on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. The RSC deployment demonstrated the utility of a special train capable of housing a staff and the com-

munications package necessary to control operations while conducting a deployment.

Pre-CPX training was conducted from 25-27 May. This training consisted of a general information day, a func-



*The sun sets over the Signal Bde*



*Offloading the HQ at Civitavecchia*



*The G2 battle picture*



# Ex Allied Action '04



Ambassador Moreno and Gen (USMC) Jones welcomed by CZ CBRN COM

tional area-training day and a mini-CPX training day for all participants.

The CPX started in the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> May 04 and ended on 7<sup>th</sup> June 04. It was divided in two phases.

Phase 1 of the CPX was from the 29<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June. During this phase the NATO Response Force was certified. The Deployable Joint Task Force (DJTF) and all of

**(THE NRF)... "IS VALIDATING A CONCEPT THAT IS VERY TRANSFORMATIONAL IN NATURE AND WILL SERVE THE ALLIANCE EXTREMELY WELL IN THE FUTURE"**

GEN JONES, SACEUR

the NRF components (land, maritime and air) conducted Initial Entry Operations to the fictional island of Jewellery. The mission of the NRF was to deploy quickly and establish the conditions for a follow-on Peace Force deploying for a two-year Peace Keeping Operation.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> June was an operational pause between the two phases. That day was used to adjust the scenario from a pure NRF environment to a transitional NRF to High

Readiness Force (HRF) environment in the CPX. The remainder of the NRDC-IT staff deployed to the training areas while the NRF staff conducted Lessons Learned.

Phase 2 of Allied Action was from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June. In this phase the entire NRDC-IT corps staff

was deployed as the LCC for the Peace Force to command the employment of two divisions and many separate Corps troops. During Phase 2, the CJTF conducted a joint, Crisis Response Operation (CRO) and simulated the execution of Non-Combatant Evacuation (NEO) and Counter-Terrorism operations on the island of Jewellery.

## WHERE

The Exercise was conducted mainly in Italy with the Joint Force Command (JFC) and Air Component Command (ACC) operating from their permanent headquarters in Naples, while the Deployable Joint Task Force (DJTF) HQ along with the Maritime Component Command (MCC), portions of the Psychological Operations Component Command (POCC), and Exercise Control operated from the Persano Training Area, close to Naples. NRDC-IT participated as the Land Component Command (LCC) and operated from a Training Area near Civitavecchia, north of Rome. The NRF Main Command Post set up at S. Agostino while the RSC was deployed to Monte Romano.



Gen Jones in the Main CBRN Bn CP

The CPX took place in the following different locations:

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| JFC Battle Staff and ACC     | - Naples                  |
| DJTF, EXCON, ACC FWD and MCC | - Persano (Salerno)       |
| LOCON for LCC's units        | - Solbiate Olona (Varese) |
| LCC, NRF BDE and CBRN Bn     | - CIVITAVECCHIA (Rome)    |
| AOC and CAOC 7               | - Larissa (Greece)        |

## WHY

This exercise was the culmination of the training of the NRDC-IT command and staff as the Land Component HQ for the NRF-3. The HQ was certified and assumed the NATO Response Force mission from NRDC-Turkey on 1 July 2004 for six months. The exercise allowed us to do many things:



Adm (US Navy) Johnson visiting the HQ



# Ex Allied Action '04

- Confirm NRF Command Posts set up and manning.
- Establish an Effects-Based Operations Group and Joint Effects Cell to coordinate Corps operations.
- Hold press conferences and practice commanders and staff in media handling.
- Allow the support division to conduct real life support for the entire deployed HQ.
- Test HQ force protection measures and procedures, provided by the Signal Bde.

Liaison officers were deployed to the other Component HQs, to EXCON and to the DJTF and CJTF staffs. In addition, our HQ received LO s from many of these organizations.



NATO, Ambassador Maurizio MORENO for Italy, and Ambassador Bodgan MAZURU for Romania. The visit was divided in two days, the first in Persano visiting the Deployable Joint Task Force Command Post and the second in Civitavecchia visiting the NRDC-IT, NRF Brigade and CBRN Battalion Command Posts.

During the visit to Civitavecchia a Press Conference was organised, attended by SACEUR, Italian CHOD and JFC Commander in the presence of local, national and international media.

## WAY AHEAD:

The NRDC-IT staff completed a busy, six-month training period for the NATO Response Force mission with a culminating CPX called Allied Action. The lessons we learned from our internal (EAGLE) exercises and Dynamic and Allied Action will enable NATO and Joint Forces Command-Naples to improve the training and certification process for the German-Netherlands Corps who will replace us as NRF-4 in January 2005.

Next on the calendar for us after summer leave is Exercise Destined Glory, where SACEUR will demonstrate the Interim

Operational Capability (IOC) achieved by NATO in developing the NRF concept. This exercise will be in October 2005 and occur mainly on the island of Sardinia.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS (DV) AND MEDIA DAY

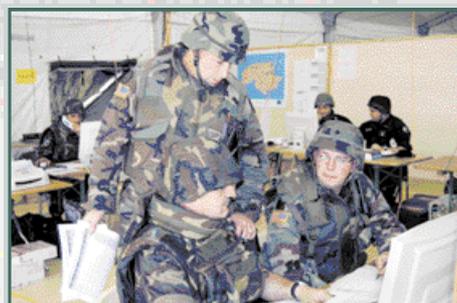
The Exercise represented an unique opportunity to show NRF "state of the art" to Allied military commanders. The DV day was attended by about 100 guests from the North Atlantic Council, NATO Headquarters, other High Readiness Force headquarters and Ministries of Defence. The top military authorities were represented by SACEUR, General James L. JONES, by the Italian Chief of Defence (CHOD), Admiral Gianpaolo DI PAOLA and by Joint Force Command Naples Commander, Admiral Gregory JOHN-SON; while among the Permanent Representatives to

**"NATO IS THE HUB OF TRANSFORMATION: THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL THE NATO ALLIES SPEAK TOGETHER, TO MAKE NATO STRONGER AND SOLID."**

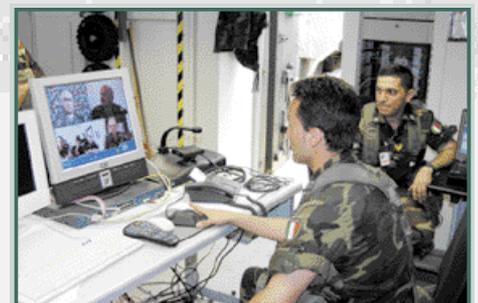
*ADM GIANPAOLO DI PAOLA, IT CHOD*



COM and DCOM NRDC-IT during comds update



Ready for battle in OPSCEN Main



Live feed on the VTC



# Ex Arcade Fiscal

by Maj C. Tapinnetto, G8 – So2 Analysis and Statistics

## NRDC-IT G8's MOTTO: "FIRST IN - LAST OUT"



*ARRC G8 gives his lecture*

In April NRDC-IT G8 hosted Exercise ARCADE Fiscal 04, organised by HQ ARCC – G8 and attended by the majority of the Ground Readiness Forces G8 community. The aim of the Exercise was to share budgeting points of view on important issues within NATO such as the NATO Response Force and NATO automated financial system.

The exercise comprised briefings, syndicates and panel discussions on various Budget and Finance regulations and their likely impact on operations, specifically the financial implications related to the NATO Response Force concept and the way ahead for the standby NRF/HRF (L).

There was the chance to talk in open forum about operational experiences and explore different methods of financing NATO operations, in particular to achieve a common understanding of the NRF concept.

The **ARRC G8** representative illustrated the NATO Automated Financial System Light (NAFS) used by ARRC during previous exercises, its implementation and the resulting implications for the use of NAFS on operations. Furthermore he discussed the Common Financial Administrative Procedures for GRFs and a new prospective of the problem was offered with the proposal of a new document "The Financial Deviation" to be presented to the Senior Resource Committee for approval.

With reference to Customs issues and related Memorandum of Understanding and Technical Agreements in the Operational environment, **GE/NL Corps** provided an overview of the major issues related to purchasing and contracting activities, customs, the solutions proposed and the problems still pending from their recent experience whilst deployed to Afghanistan.

**NRDC-TU** then gave a lecture on G8 problems and experiences they had before being nominated as one of the standby NRF HQ's, how they dealt with these financial issues and what lessons we can learn in order to improve our knowledge of the NRF concept.

**SHAPE representative** delivered a lecture and discussion on NATO Security Investments Programme projects, command and control of these projects and their financial management.

The exercise proved very successful in all areas, particularly during the discussion phases, when it was possible to see and understand the differences between the different NRF's, and the implications and interpretations of financial regulations and possible impacts this may have during handover/takeover on operations. The closing social dinner in Milan reinforced the relationship between all participants and all saw ARCADE Fiscal 04 as a complete success; a necessary tool in this fast changing environment which will be run as an annual Exercise, hosted by each NRF in turn.



*A rapt audience (when it comes to money!)*

# Italian Army Day

by Ltc R. CRISTONI, Chief PI

## NRDC-IT celebrates Italian Army Day



NRDC-IT promotional stand

### **Rome, Italy. The NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy took part in the celebration of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Italian Army on 4th May 2004.**

The event took part in the Military Hippodrome of Tor di Quinto in Rome and NRDC-IT contributed with an international delegation of the Staff and a stand showing its organization and activities.

The President of the Italian Republic, the Hon Carlo Azeglio CIAMPI, presided over the celebration that was attended by the highest political and military authorities, national and international military high ranking officials, civilians and national media.

The NRDC-IT stand was hosted in an "international area" within a static display of the main equipment and weapons system of the Italian Army:

Emphasising the importance of worldwide military

cooperation, the Italian Army asked the Allies and friendly countries to take part in this event and present their own armies; eleven countries attended with their delegations: Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

More than 2000 soldiers were involved in the parade and in the tactical demonstrations, showing the best equipment and vehicles of the Italian Army such as attack and transport helicopters, CENTAURO armored vehicles, ARIETE tanks and PUMA infantry vehicles.

The NRDC-IT display was visited by Mr Letta, Undersecretary of the Presidency of Ministers Council, and attracted many curious visitors. In fact, such was the fame of our "special" promotional gadgets, that we feared the stand would run out after only one hour!

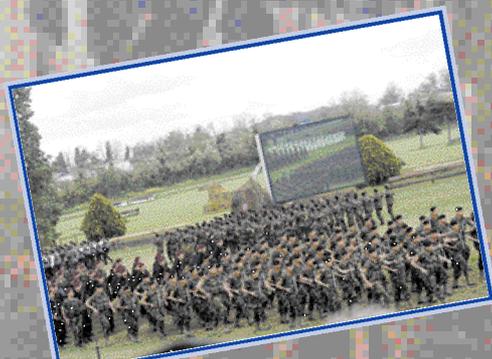
# Italian Army Day



ESERCITO  
1954



# 4<sup>th</sup> May '04



# Battlefield Tour '04

by Capt G. FORMIGNANI, SO3 ENGR PLANS

## NRDC-IT celebrates the 60th anniversary of D-DAY



*The Staff study the invasion plan*

EAGLE TOUR 04 was the exercise name given to NRDC-IT 2004 Battlefield Tour (BT). The exercise took place in the French region of Normandy (NW of France, facing the Atlantic Ocean), during the period 11-16 May 04. The BT was the only one planned by HQ NRDC-IT for 2004, planned and organised by the Engineer Division. The exercise was aimed at both senior and junior staff officers of the HQ (80 total) and, for the first time, 5 spouses came along.

The focus for the BT was to allow attendees the opportunity to analyse the Invasion through the battles fought between the Allies and the Germans in the Normandy Campaign, over the period June-August 1944.

To achieve the exercise training objectives, the BT had been designed to demonstrate some of the enduring characteristics of conflict, particularly at the operational level. Specific objectives were:

- To consider the military strategic and operational levels of command, decision making and resource allocation.

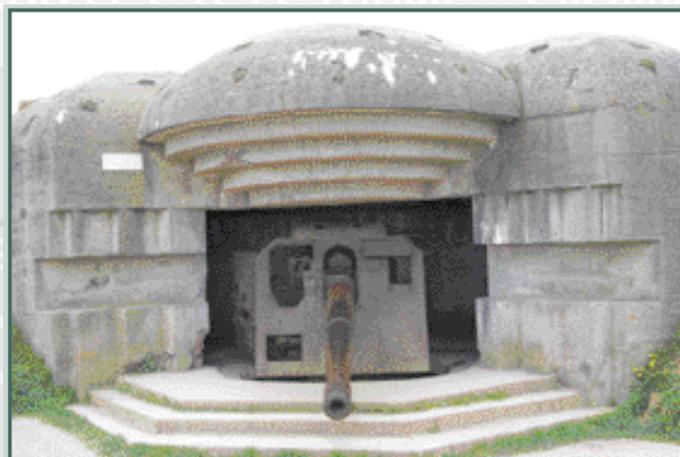


*The dark crosses of the German War Cemetery*

- To highlight the application of the principles of war and practice of operational art during the campaign through the battles analysed.
- To illustrate the significance of environmental and component factors in the planning and conduct of major operations and battles.
- To stimulate discussion, expanding knowledge of military history at the strategic, operational and higher tactical levels of conflict.
- To consider the relevance and lessons of military history for operations today.
- Throughout, to take into account the impact of technology on the conduct of military operations.



*DCOM gets into the detail*



*Fortress Europe; German fortifications on the Atlantic Wall*



# Battlefield Tour '04

D-Day, 6 June 1944, saw the largest amphibious landing operation in history. From ports and harbours on the southern coast of England, an armada of troopships and landing craft launched the Allied return to mainland Europe. This was the crucial campaign of the Western theatre.

The Exercise started prior to arrival in France with an introductory briefing in 'Ugo Mara' Barracks by Engineer Division, aimed to provide an overview. The exercise continued over 11 to 16 May with the tour of the battlefields, including evening back-briefs with informal discussions allowing comments and understanding of key elements of the battles analysed day by day. Two guest historians, Dr. David Hall and Dr. Niall Barr, among the most prepared and experienced on the subject matters of the Campaign, guided us through the battlefields, providing detailed pictures of the events and thorough analysis of the battles and the campaign. Of note was the ability of the historians to always offer varying perspectives and points of view, thus provoking considerable thought to exercise attendees of all ranks.

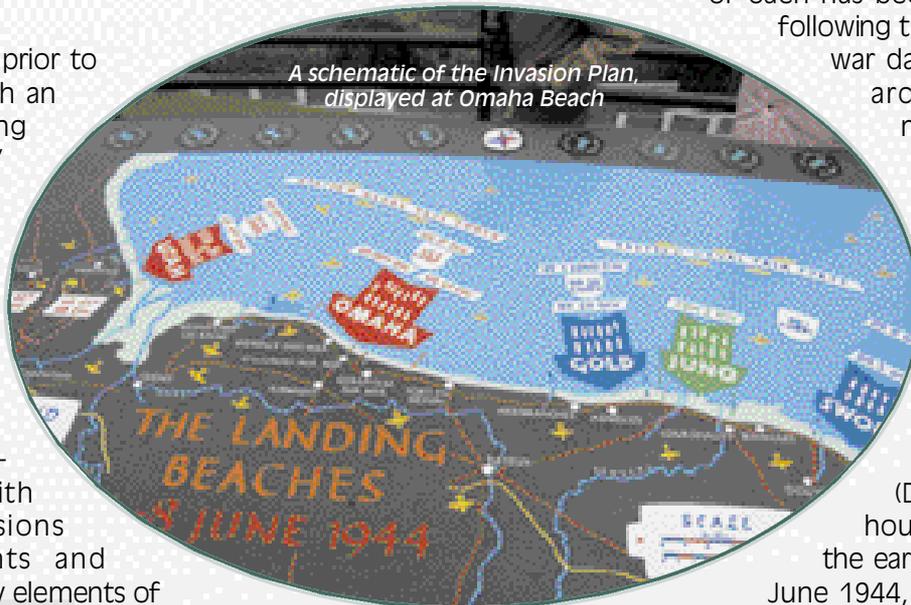
The 'battlefield' today remains largely similar to 60 years ago, with new roads replacing some of the old railways. As a result the countryside of Normandy has hardly changed since the battle. The area remains an attractive

tourist and farming area, visited regularly by the few remaining veterans of the battle and military students, either alone or in organized tours. The tour party moved by plane to Paris, and then by coaches, to the exercise base of Benouville-Ouistreham. The city of Caen has been extensively rebuilt following the Allied bombing and war damage. Today the city architecture combines modern and Middle

Age infrastructure, such as the Norman castle and the Gothic Abbeys. Northeast of Caen, Pegasus Bridge is still standing, clearly marked and fully operational (Day 1). Nearby, the first house to be liberated in the early hours of the 6th of June 1944, is now a well known

café, still owned by M.me Arlette

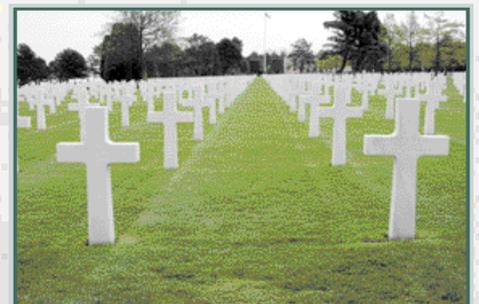
Gondrée, who clearly enjoyed relaying stories and her impressions of the Normandy Landings. The remains of the Mulberry harbour, unofficially named Port Winston, are still in Arromanches, where the Landing Museum shows a diorama of the 1944 landing seen from the sea. The viewpoint offers a wonderful outlook over the ocean (Day 2). A sobering view is offered by the German cemetery at La Cambe, with its dark and heavy colours, contrasting with the American cemetery beside Omaha Beach, which its Philadelphian architects designed with light colours and a wide, grassy mall extending westward from the reflecting pool, bisecting the grave area, where the memorial chapel is located (Day 2). The view from Pointe du Hoc, which was



A briefing on the German fortifications



The Staff at the Polish memorial



The white crosses of the US War Cemetery

# Battlefield Tour '04



*60 years of living history; Mme Arlette Gondrée in her house, the first freed by the allies*



*A "Willy" Jeep in the US Memorial Museum*

climbed by the American Rangers, is impressive and the landscape helped to recall the atmosphere of 60 years ago (Day 2). Chambois and Montormel Memorial view points offered a clear picture of the battlefield, as it could be observed during the encirclement, closing the Falaise pocket (Day 3).

In conclusion, in a modern era, where operations are often joint, Exercise EAGLE TOUR 2004 highlighted the growing synergy between sea, land and air power. HQ NRDC-IT had a unique chance to review the setting of the last great set-piece battle of the western world; a large scale landing operation which offers many lessons to all the functional branches.



*Explaining Glider landings by the 6<sup>th</sup> British Airborne Div*



*Pegasus Bridge, with the Gondrée family house on the far bank*



*The end of a fascinating Tour*





# NRF Brigade

by HQ "Taurinense" Brigade

## The "Taurinense" Alpini Brigade

The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade was formed in Turin in April 15th 1952.

The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade derives its military traditions from the TAURINENSE and "Cuneense" Alpini Divisions, both established in 1935 and disbanded at the end of World War II.

During WWII the two divisions fought on the Western Front, in the Balkans and on the Eastern Front. They received the highest military acknowledgements for their courage and bravery.

Currently the TAURINENSE Brigade consists of regiments and battalions which took part in all the campaigns fought by the Italian Army from 1885 to 1945, in the Horn of Africa, the Balkans, Russia and Italy, deser-

ving many of the highest Militaryawards.

In 1963 the TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade was assigned permanently to NATO Immediate Reaction Forces; such forces took part in all AMF (L) exercises together with other Allied Nations in several European training areas.

The Brigade was one of the first to be professionalized in order to reach higher professional stands and be ready to carry on peace and security missions abroad.

The Italian Army has chosen the TAURINENSE Brigade as NRF Brigade thanks to the experience gained through more than forty years of commitment to the Land Component of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF).

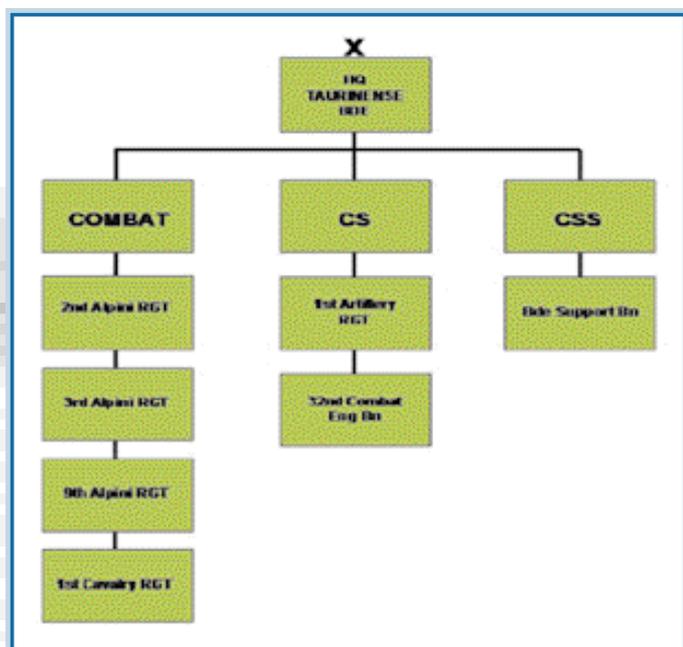


# NRF Brigade

## CURRENT ORGANIZATION

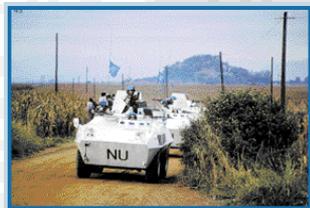
The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade is a Light Infantry Unit trained to operate in arduous environments. Its Units are trained in rock climbing, cross country skiing, and especially to survive and fight in mountain areas. The strength of the Brigade HQ and its units is approximately 4000 men.

The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade is made up of four Combat Units, two Combat Support Units and one Combat Service Support Unit.



Since the early nineties, the TAURINENSE Alpini Bde has been deployed in a number of overseas missions, in particular:

- in 1991 in Northern IRAQ Operation "PROVIDE COMFORT", conducted to deliver humanitarian relief to the Kurdish population;
- in 1993 in MOZAMBIQUE, Operation "ONUMOZ", with a UN mandate;
- from January 1996 to April 1998 the Brigade was employed in Bosnia, on Operation "CONSTANT GUARD";
- in 1999 it was deployed in ALBANIA, on Operation "ALLIED HARBOUR", the first



NATO – led humanitarian mission;

- also in 1999 the 3rd Alpini Regiment of the TAURINENSE Bde was detached to the "ARIE-TE" Armoured Brigade, to take part in Operation "JOINT GUARDIAN" in KOSOVO;
- from 1999 until December 2000 its Airmobile Field Hospital contributed to the efforts of the Italian Field Hospital in Durres, within "COMMZ WEST" in Albania,;
- from July to November 2000 the Brigade was employed on Operation "JOINT GUARDIAN" in Kosovo and the HQ took responsibility for the Multinational Brigade (West);
- from November 2001 to March 2002 the Brigade was again deployed on Operation "JOINT GUARDIAN";
- in 2002 and 2003 two Regiments were deployed to "ISAF" in Kabul;
- in 2003 TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade constituted the Italian Contingent deployed in Afghanistan on Operation "ENDURING FREEDOM";
- two units of the Brigade, namely the SUSA Battalion and the 1st Mountain Artillery Regiment, are currently detached to ISAF in Afghanistan



## NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO NRF

In 2004 the Italian Army General Staff selected the TAURINENSE Brigade as national contingent framework for the Italian NRF. A significant contribution to the implementation of NRF 3 has been made by the Staff and the 3rd Regiment together with an artillery battery and one engineer coy.

The NRF project represents SACEUR's highest priority and is the NATO response to the challenges of the 21st Century following the review of NATO Forces.

For the implementation of NRF, the TAURINENSE Alpini Bde has taken command of the following additional assets in order to meet the requirements fixed by NATO:



# NRF Brigade

- an Airborne Infantry Battle Group based on the 183<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Regiment;
- a Mechanised Infantry Battle Group based on the 8<sup>th</sup> Bersaglieri Regiment;
- a Field Artillery Battalion based on the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment;
- An air defense capability based on the 17<sup>th</sup> Air Defence Regiment;

In addition the following international assets have been assigned to the Bde:

- One Spanish recce coy;
- One Greek air manoeuvre coy, assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alpini Regiment;
- Two Turkish staff officers.

The structure of the NRF Command Post reflects that of a Light Infantry Multinational Brigade CP, able to deploy to any theatre at short notice and able to perform missions such as:

- Initial entry operations;
- Embargo operations;
- Non combatant evacuation operations;
- Crisis response operations;
- Show of force ;
- Support to counter terrorism operations;
- Support to crisis consequence management;

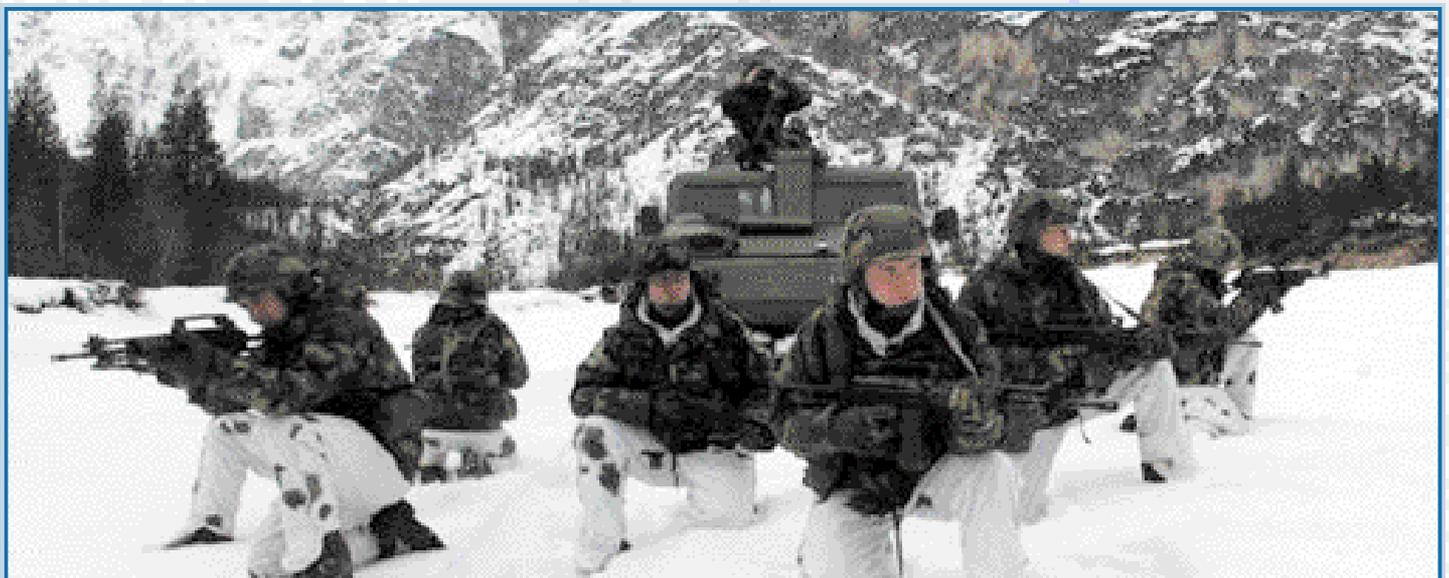


## TRAINING

In accordance with NATO procedure, all the units assigned to NRF are required to conduct a cycle of six months training, followed by a six month "stand-by" phase. The Brigade's preparation began with Exercise PEGASO, a computer assisted exercise conducted at the Italian Army Simulation School in Civitavecchia, where the Brigade was certified by Italy as ready to start the training phase together with the Land Component Command, based on HQ NRDC-IT.

The six months training phase was very intense and based on a variety of exercises; firstly in January, Exercise EAGLE NEST, a study period and MAPEX focussing on the NRF concept; in February Exercise EAGLE ENTRY saw both NRDC-IT and TAURINENSE Bde deploy their Early entry Command Post in order to verify their capabilities; In March, Exercise EAGLE LANDING, a Command Post exercise where the NRDC-IT was certified as LCC-ready and took the opportunity to improve its Command and Control of the NRF Bde; in May and June the major NRF exercise, Exercise ALLIED ACTION 04, took place, where the whole NRF capability was certified by SHAPE.

The last hurdle of the training phase will take the form of Exercise DESTINED GLORY 04, a LIVEX to be conducted in Sardinia in the middle of October. The exercise will signify the achievement of initial operational capability of the NRF.



by LtC P. LAMACCHIA. G7 Training

## Eagle Adventure 2004



At the end of July the second phase of the Summer Adventure Training took place. The exercise, named Eagle Adventure 04 (just to stay in the Eagles series), was designed to show NRDC-IT personnel the austerity and beauty of the Alpine environment. The place chosen for the activity was La Thuile, a typical alpine village in the heart of the Aosta Valley and among the highest mountains of Europe. The accommodation was in the "Monte Bianco" Barracks which is the home base of the 88<sup>th</sup> Alpieri Company belonging to the Italian Military Alpine School. The programme drafted by the Training Branch was tailored to train all participants aware in different alpine environments, including the peaceful woods of Val Ferret and the severe high altitude landscape of "Rifugio Vittorio Emanuele" in the heart of Gran Paradiso Massif, culminating in the incredible, breathtaking "Punta Helbronner" at the height of 3600 m.

The adventure started amongst typical alpine scenery, the beautiful Val Ferret was the perfect kick off. Theoretically it is the best point for enjoying the sight of the impressive Grand Jorasses Massif but the weather wasn't on our side. In fact very low and dark clouds accompanied us all morning and, once at the "Rifugio Bertone", the skies opened giving us the chance to train in a *wet* mountain environment! Before the following day's challenge there was the opportunity to relax; in the evening we tasted the local folklore attending a concert by an Aosta Valley Choir, "Les Hironnelles", who dedicated their performance to our

Headquarters.

Day 2's goal was to reach the "Rifugio Vittorio Emanuele" and, looking at the maps, everybody realised that it would not be easy. But in reality the sunshine and the incredible landscape allowed us to ignore the fatigue and, in less than three hours, we were all taking photos at the Rifugio, enjoying the view and, for some, the food...



Approaching the helo

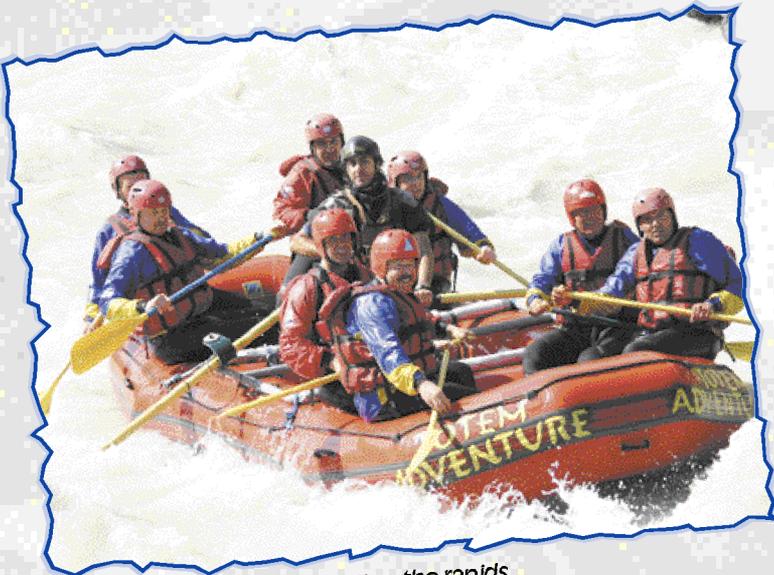
On the third day the adventure took on a third dimension! After a very pleasant walk in the Piccolo San Bernardo area we reached the border with France where a couple of helicopters from the Venaria base joined us. The afternoon was spent training in order to make everyone confident in helicopter procedures. As a result everybody had the once-in-a-lifetime expe-

# Training

rience of flying on the Mont Blanc Massif. The day after the last trekking activity we took to the skies and reached the Mont Fallere area, just in the middle of the Aosta Valley and after which we returned to a small village where the buses were waiting, taking us first to visit the Castle "Generale Cantore" where the HQ Italian Alpine Military School is based.



*The smiles will soon wear off!*



*Riding the rapids*

Incredibly all the marches were over! Everybody was very satisfied of what they had achieved, but the adventure was still ongoing... On Saturday we took the cable car and reached the Punta Helbronner Area but... the weather still wasn't playing... we actually spent two hours in the middle of nowhere, the only clue of being at such a height was the quality of the air, very thin and fresh... and the snow, of course... in July!!!

Eventually, as in all stories, the end came but there was still time for the last challenge: a rafting ride was organised and all had the opportunity to try a very exciting downhill on the white waters of the River Dora Baltea.

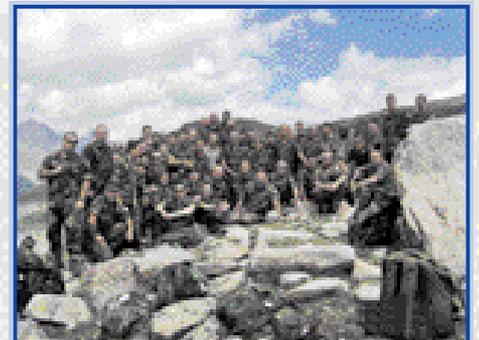
In conclusion it is possible to say that all the objectives were achieved, all the participants came back to Solbiate absolutely fascinated with what they had seen and enjoyed during a fantastic week's training.



*An Aosta Valley Choir welcome*



*Its still summer, honestly!*



*Survivor's photo*

# Cross Country

by Maj. Giuseppe GINOSA, IT Army, G6 Ops, OIC Running

Just a few days after Exercise EAGLE LANDING '04, NRDC - IT was able to offer another very good training opportunity for its Staff.

Four kilometres of cross country run through "Conigliera", the military training area situated beside the Ugo MARA Barracks provided the Staff with an opportunity to train together, test their stamina and leave their CRONOS terminals alone for a while.

Toil, sweat, smiles and, of course, the will to win: these were the most important ingredients needed by the NRDC - IT Community for the Cross Country Run '04 of April 7<sup>th</sup>.



Ready, Steady... GO!

The morning dawned glorious; at 10.45, about 50 competitors, taken from the best runners of the HQ, warmed up. They represented not just themselves, but also the teams they belong to: Ops Div Team 1, Ops Div Team 2, Spt Div, Central Staff, RSC/G9, G6 & HQ 1 Sig Bde, Engr Div.

At 11.00 sharp, NRDC-IT Commander, Lt. Gen. Mauro DEL VECCHIO, released the runners on their gruelling 2 laps of a two-kilometer circuit.

Cross Country Run '04, scheduled within the Sports Board Action Plan for the Year 2004, is one of the several activities included in the Ugo MARA Cup Competition 2004.

The main aim of the Cross Country Run '04 was to improve cohesion amongst all personnel within the respective branches and increase the practice of sport in our HQ while the aim of the Ugo MARA Cup Competition 2004 is to provide HQ Divisions with a platform for competitive, healthy competition, but also to win the Ugo MARA Cup.

The winner, ICpl SCHIRINZI, IT Army, got finished in just 15 minutes. He was followed by two other runners less than 30 seconds later.

A few minutes later all the runners had finished.

After refreshments (hot tea and fresh water) all was ready for the prize giving.

The COMNRDC(IT) kindly presented prizes: cups for the three best placed runners and a cup for the best placed team, Ops Div Team 1.



"Only one more circuit to go"



The Finish Line



LCpl Schirinzi receives his prize





*The winner's line up*

## INDIVIDUALS

Ser.	Rank / Name	Time
1st	NCO SCHIRINZI	15' 00"
2nd	Serg. GENTILE	15' 22"
3rd	NCO REMORINI	15' 29"
4th	Maj. LIPPOLIS	15' 52"
5th	Capt. BOGGERI	15' 55"
6th	WO BEIKIRCHER	16' 09"
7th	LTC ALBRIZIO	16' 37"

This sports event was a success due to the professionalism of all involved.

A special mention goes to the Spt Regt and to the Gymnasium Staff, and also to those brave runners that after their military physical test joined the run.

In the tables below you can see final results for individuals of the competition and UGO MARA CUP COMPETITION 2004 team situation as at 1 May '04.

## UGO MARA CUP COMPETITION 2004 – RESULTS AFTER 3 EVENTS AS AT 1 MAY 04

Ser	Team	Basketball	Cross Country Run	Football 5-a-Side	Points	Position
1	Ops Div Team 1	7	7	3	17	2
2	Ops Div Team 2	-	1	-	1	7
3	Sp Div	5	5	2	12	3
4	Central Staffs	-	1	5	6	5
5	RSC/G9	-	1	4	5	6
6	G6 & HQ 1 Sig Bde	6	6	7	19	1
7	Engr	-	1	6	7	4

# Visits and Events



**16<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

Change of command of the Italian Signal Brigade  
from Brig. Gen. Righela to Brig. Gen. Giordano



**19<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

Celebration of the Netherlands' Queen's Birthday



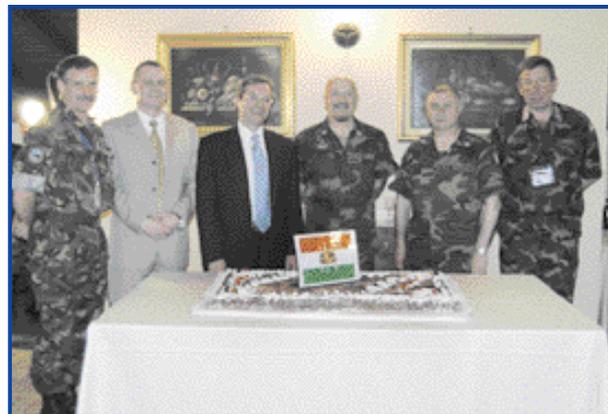
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

Visit of Gen. Cabigiosu, former Chief  
of Italian Joint Operational HQ



**20<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

Visit of the Hungarian Ambassador,  
Mr. Istvan KOVACS



**20<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

Celebration of the Hungarian Army Day



**21<sup>st</sup> May 2004**

Visit of Mr. Antonello COLOMBO,  
Mayor of Solbiate Olona



# Visits and Events



**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2004**

The NRDC-IT flag marching in the Italian National Parade in Rome



**29<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

Celebration of the UK Queen's Birthday



**24<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

Visit of Gen. Iacomino,  
1<sup>st</sup> Regional Air Commander



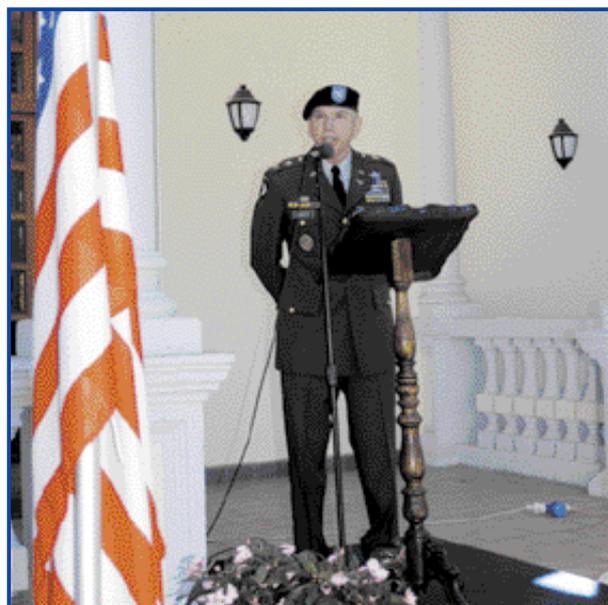
**7<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

Visit of the Italian Chief of Defence  
Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola



**29<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

Visit of Brig. Gen. Couch, ARRC G6 chief,  
to the Italian Signal Brigade



**9<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

Celebration of USA Independence Day



by Col S. NEMETH, ACOS G9

## HUNGARIAN CUISINE

It is a popular, though inaccurate view that Hungarian food is simply hot and fatty. As a result of the many different assimilated peoples in the region, Hungarians could safely regard their cuisine as a blend of Balkan and German cooking, in which onion and sour cream meets with hot paprika and fat, not to mention tomatoes picked fresh from the vine and the meeting of sour cabbage with Italian-type ragout.

Hungarian produce is characterised by a wonderfully pleasant and intensive range of flavours, especially the vegetables, the fruit, the outstanding quality of beef from the indigenous "grey" herds on the **puszta** (the Hungarian Plain), the goose liver, and the paprika and salami. These are the very ingredients, of character and individuality.

In one of his works Antonio Bonfini, the Italian historian, who lived in the 15th century, noted that the most characteristic feature of the Hungarian cuisine was the richness of its flavours.

### A WORLD OF FLAVOURS BASED ON HISTORICAL TRADITIONS

In the late 9th century, when the Hungarians arrived in the Carpathian basin to occupy their new homeland, they prepared food by chopping the ingredients, the meat and the vegetables, and cooking them in water with fine herbs. When they roasted the meat, on spits or ovens, they served it with spicy sauces.

Perhaps the most famous Hungarian meal is abroad the **GULYÁS (pron.GOULASH)**. This dish is one of the few authentic contributions of Hungarian gastronomy to international cuisine, even so, **it usually resembles a stew, whereas it is supposed to be more like a soup**. It is a traditional herdsmen's food, hence the name as cooked by them, it is prepared with the beef

## Hungarian Goulash Soup (Gulyásleves)

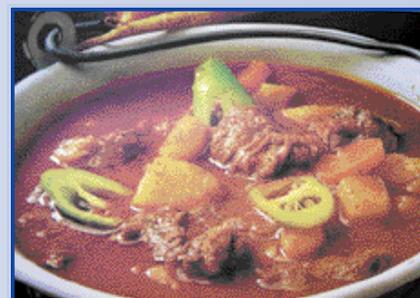
### Ingredients:

- 1,5 kilogram beef (chuck or other stew beef)
- 6 Tablespoons lard (or other cooking fat, or oil)
- 2 to 3 medium onions
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon caraway (optional)
- 2 Tablespoons hot (preferable Hungarian) red paprika
- salt to taste
- 10 cups (2.5 litres) beef stock (or water)
- 4-5 medium new potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch square (1-1.5 cm. square) cubes
- 2 banana peppers, chopped
- 2 medium tomatoes, peeled and chopped (or a 15-ounce can of tomatoes, seeded and chopped)
- a bunch of celery leaves, tied in a bundle with string.

**Garnish:** homemade pasta bits (made from 1 egg and about 3/4 cup-or 10 decagrams-flour) and finely chopped green onions.

### Method:

- ◆ Prepare the meat by cutting away all fat and cubing it into small pieces-about 1/2-inch square (1-1.5 cm. square). Set aside.
- ◆ Chop the onion finely and saute in hot lard in a dish until golden brown. (If there is any cooking on open fire, the best is to use a **kettle**. Otherwise use a Dutch oven.) Stir in the crushed garlic. Sprinkle with caraway and stir in.
- ◆ Remove the pot from the heat and let cool down. Sprinkle on all the paprika and stir in well-then mix in the meat cubes and salt. Return the pot to a medium heat and let roast, mixing from time to time and adding stock, if needed, to keep it from drying out. When nicely roasted, moisten again, cover, and let stew.
- ◆ When the meat is soft, add the potato cubes, the chopped peppers, chopped tomatoes, and the remaining stock, then plunge in the bundle of celery leaves. Bring soup to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until the vegetables and meat are tender.
- ◆ Prepare the pasta by kneading the flour into the beaten egg. This is especially easy in a food processor. The dough will be stiff. Cover with plastic and let rest for at least an hour. Knead again briefly, then roll into a pencil shape and cut into pea-size pieces. Sprinkle with a little flour to keep from sticking.
- ◆ When 10 minutes away from serving, bring the soup to a boil. Add the pasta pieces, reduce heat, cover partially, and leave alone for about 5 minutes or so. Mix carefully. Remove celery bundle. Then ladle into bowls and top with finely chopped green onions.
- ◆ "So easy to do, so tempting to the appetite!"



# International Food

cut into cubes, placed in a kettle and cooked on a slow heat for 2-3 hours with lots of water, onions and paprika, and served with potatoes cut into cubes or small-size noodles added near the end of cooking time.

**PÖRKÖLT (pron.POWRKOWLT), stew**, the most easy to prepare, ubiquitous Hungarian meat speciality which can be made from veal, beef or pork, even pork's feet. The meat, cut into cubes and liberally salted, is browned, then stewed in lard and onions, and is seasoned with paprika, it is served with **galuska** (small dumplings), boiled potatoes or **tarhonya** (egg barley).

**BABLEVES, bean soup**, the indispensable item on the menu of every Hungarian restaurant, and especially roadside inns (**csárda**), it is the favorite Hungarian one-dish meal, and is therefore usually done well in even the most modest of places. The recipe calls for onions, pinto beans, smoked pork, especially smoked butt or flank, and paprika, and is said to taste even better reheated than freshly made. Some people like to eat it with the addition of a spoonful of sour cream or dash of vinegar.

Again we know from **Antonio Bonfini** that by the Middle Ages, shepherds living on the Great Hungarian Plain, were already preparing Hungarian goulash soup in the cauldron, much as today. The finely chopped meat was cooked with sliced onions, and then flavoured, except that at the time paprika, tomatoes and potatoes were not available.

## THE FLAVOURS OF THE DOMESTIC CUISINE

The domestic cuisine follows traditional Hungarian taste, in which the role of braised and steamed dishes takes precedence over that of the roast. Hungarians cannot

do without soup. Thick and thin ragouts and pasta are also very much in favour. We Hungarians like to prepare vegetables in a special way, and these dishes are called braised vegetables (**f\_zelék**). They are finely chopped and then thickened with sour cream, flour or perhaps grated potatoes. The most savoury braised meals are made of spinach, pumpkin, cabbage, potatoes, cauliflower, bean, lentil and kohlrabi. Boiled pasta is also frequently served with vegetables. Popular dishes are the cabbage, potato, spinach and French bean pastas.

## HUNGARIAN WINES

The pleasures of the table are not complete without the wines appropriate to the food. The wines from the historical Hungarian wine regions provide a wonderful and attractive „framework of flavours” for characteristic Hungarian dishes. The volcanic soil of the Tokaj Hill produces the world-famous **Tokaji Aszú**, which one of its most renowned advocates, the Sun King (Louis XIV), called the „**wine of kings, and the king of wines.**” The world of flavour given by the overripe, wrinkled grapes is wonderfully complemented by long, elegant and fruity acids.

There are lots of different famous wines across the country.

Excellent white wines, such as **Egri Leányka**, are fermented in the cellars on the hillsides around city **Eger**, but the region is best known for its excellent red wines, **Egri Bikavér** (Bull's Blood).

The fertile soil in the **lake Balaton** highlands and the **Somló** wine area is volcanic in origin, which has a favourable influence on the elegant flavours and aromas found in the local wines.



### Ingredients:

- 400 Fresh goose liver
- 2 Tablespoons finely Chopped shallots
- 2 Tablespoons fresh tarragon
- 5 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 5 Tablespoons walnut oil
- A little flour
- Salt and pepper

## Goose liver slices in tarragon Sauce

### Method:

- ◆ Cut the goose liver into eight 1.5 cm thick slices, season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with a little flour.
- ◆ To prepare the sauce, put following into a heated Teflon dish: lemon juice, pickling onions and tarragon, spiced with a little salt and pepper.
- ◆ Steam for one minute, then after adding the walnut oil, take off the heat and keep it warm.
- ◆ In another Teflon dish, cook the liver slices on both sides for approx. 40 seconds without oil or grease, and then pour the hot tarragon sauce on top when serving.
- ◆ The dish should be served with a **Tokaji Aszú**.



The NRDC-IT colours marching in the Italian National Parade in Rome