

Ex Destined Glory '04

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Destined Glory '04 was a live-firing training exercise comprised of elements of the NRF 3 forces along with Maritime and Amphibious forces affiliated with STRIKFORNATO. Canada, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States have provided high-readiness forces to the exercise, able to conduct peace support, crisis response or defense operations. The exercise represented the achievement of the NRF Initial Operational Capability (IOC) set up for 2004 by the decisions taken at the NATO Prague Summit in 2002 when the new force was launched.

Force contributions included a NATO Response Force (NRF) High Readiness Force (Maritime) (HRF(M)), a NATO Response Force (NRF) High readiness Force (Land) (HRF(L)) other high readiness expeditionary forces encompassing amphibious, carrier strike, TLAM, land, and air capabilities. The Exercise took place in the Central Mediterranean area, in the ranges and air/water space assigned by Italy, as the Host Nation (HN) of the Exercise, in the period from 30 September - 18 October 2004.

The aim of exercise DG '04 was to form, deploy, train and employ combined maritime expeditionary forces operating in a Non-Article 5 Crisis Response Operations (CRO) LIVEX. The forces had to show their capability of performing certain missions on their own, as well as participating in an operation as part of a larger force either operating concurrently or acting as a follow-on force.

The Exercise involved more than 10,500 personnel, over 50 ships and 50 aircraft from 11 NATO nations: Canada, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States who provided high-readiness forces to the exercise as a "Joint Capable Force," able to conduct peace support, crisis response or defense operations.



DARDO infantry vehicle moving in Capo Teulada firing range

For NRDC-IT, DG '04 aimed to verify the procedures identified for the Early Entry and RSC FWD CPs after the revisions following the previous Eagle Entry '04 Exercise conducted last February. Specific attention was focused on the testing of the Early Entry and RSC Forward Command Post Deployment; setting accordingly

to the new layouts and capability to Communicate and Exercise the Battle Rhythm and Procedures to include Reach Back Planning (monitor the NRF Bde Training and receive routine reports from NRF BDE EECF).

Beside its own modules deployment, NRDC-IT coordinated the deployment and activity of its NRF Taurinense Brigade and subordinate Units, involved in a LIVEX and called to show:

- The insertion of airborne force (IT para platoon air-drop) with the intent to demonstrate NRF rapid deployment capabilities;
 - A Mechanized manoeuvre IT Mech/Alpine Coys + GR Aslt Pl. ops with the intent to demonstrate NRF tactical capabilities & promote multinational integration;
- and in support of a Distinguished Visitors Demo Day to show their main assets in support of their specific



LTG Mauro DEL VECCHIO, NRDC-IT Commander, visiting the EE Command Post



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capabilities in a static display, together with all other amphibious forces that participated in the exercise.

The overall participation of NRDC-IT and Taurinense Bde as NRF modules was realized through:

- NRDC-IT deploying two CPs with some 60 staff , 120 Signal Bde Support elements and approx. 50 vehicles, moving by air and sea and locating respectively the EECP into the Training Range area of Capo Teulada and the RSC FWD CP within the Army Airbase of Cagliari.
- Taurinense Brigade deploying its own Early Entry Command Post and related support and a regiment, the 183° para, coordinating 3 coys as initial entry forces from 3rd Alpini Rgt, 8th Bersaglieri Rgt. and its own. A Greek Platoon joined the Alpini Coy.

Referring notably to NRDC-IT activity the deployment had few Training Objectives both interfaced with STRIKEFORNATO Field Training Exercise (FTX) and some focused on the improvement of own Command and Control capability of Initial Entry Forces (IEF):

- Verify/train EE CP & RSC FWD C2 procedures in the context of the IEF mission;
- Establish the EE & RSC FWD

CPs using specific layout;

- Train/test EE CP & RSC FWD deployment procedures;
- Test strategic CIS assets (SATCOM)
- Exercise the NRDC-IT reach-back capability;
- Practise NRDC-IT EE CP interface and coordination with NRF Tau Bde EE CP
- Demonstrate NRF-3 Land element capabilities
- Exercise NRF-3 land units in a LIVEX
- Practise HQ Planning Staff in OPP related to future NRF missions.

NRDC-IT deployment was a successful test to verify procedures and functionality of the Early Entry and RSC FWD CPs and all the aforementioned were achieved.

To better understand how that CPs were conceived it is important to understand the functions NRDC-IT is called to sustain through its deployment.



The concept for NRDC-IT is to maintain an early entry command and control capability to provide the means to exercise command and control over lead elements of assigned formations and units as they arrive in the AOO. This capability is to satisfy a similar requirement also into the Joint Rear Area, where RSC is to deploy a similar asset to set con-



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ditions and begin execution of reception, staging, and onward movement of the force, and sustainment of the force. EE CP and RSC FWD precede the deployment of other elements of HQs Group deploying from PHQ, from one AOO to another, or from a maritime platform. Those early entry CPs, once in theatre are to link with the respective already in place RECCE Team members, who deployed few days in advance to provide timely information critical to the mounting of the CPs, deployment and units, and completion of the theatre plan, and are to embed them to maintain as much acquired situation awareness as possible.

The NRDC-IT EE and RSC FWD Command Posts are multi-functional HQs designed to allow HQ NRDC-IT to deploy to the AOO and JRA as early as possible. The prime function of both CPs taken together is to provide rapidly deployable C2 facilities (must be air portable), capable of limited, operational level, command, control, liaison and facilitation of RSOM.

Their organization of both of them, structured the same and all assets but staff are one the mirror of the other to ease deployment and planning activities is by modules and foresees three different packages suitable to perform their function in accordance with the friendly and threat situation.



French amphibious unit landing in Capo Teulada range

This organization enables the deployment of only the necessary package to perform the mission balanced against strategic movement capabilities:

- **Level I Pack:** This provides for the basic structure enabling C2 capabilities with minimum real life support only. It is suitable for very permissive environments, especially when secured and supported by other entities.
- **Level II Pack:** This includes Level I plus organic force

protection capabilities if deploying in an unstable environment.

- **Level III Pack:** This provides Level II plus real life support equipment such as: c o o k h o u s e , showers, toilet facilities and related ancillary equipment.

The activities carried out during the fifteen days of deployment and started with the setting of the structures, according to the revised layouts, engaged the two CPs staff members in vignettes specifically structured to test response along with procedures and leaving due time for a dedicated hot wash up every evening to discuss the actions carried out during the day.

Let's say it was a kind of seminar on procedures and test on systems, which proved how the new structures are more efficient and capable of guaranteeing better situational awareness and information exchange among all staff members, boosting the problem solving requirements.

In the middle of our specific training STRIKEFORNATO had scheduled a Distinguished Visitor Day. Nato VIPs, led by Adm (US Navy) MULLEN, Ambassadors, Military attachés and Media representatives from many nations were invited to visit the LIVEX and the Static Display set up at



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NRF LCC Early Entry Command Post

Capo Teulada Training Range. Adm MULLEN received an explanatory briefing by Col. SPINELLI acting COMEECP and expressed his appreciation both for the CPs NRDC-IT deployed to perform its EE C2 functions and the Taurinense Units performance.

Overall, NRDC-IT is very satisfied with attainment of our stated training objectives. The Taurinense Bde succeeded in demonstrating NRF capabilities, and we validated

the construct and systems with our newly redesigned forward command posts. We also proved that NATO CIS services can be extended from home-station NATO nodes using framework nation satellite links. As our Corps Planning Group is concerned it worked to deliver required items to support the operational planning process, proving how the reach back concept, after Allied Action '04, was completely absorbed and integrated into NRDC-IT procedures.



Greek Special Forces and S.Marco sailors reading NRDC-IT Magazine



NRF soldier during the exercise

