

## EAGLE SNOWMASTER 2008

### The never-ending challenge

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#### The Exercise

Snowmaster is an annual mountain exercise. The aim is to develop teamwork capability and the individual qualities of the participants throughout numerous training activities in a challenging mountain environment.

The participants, coming from the different Divisions, are divided into teams according to their physical fitness and their ski skills. Therefore it's clear that in this kind of exercise the highest results come from the "team building" point of view.

You can see, for example, people from Ops Division, RSC and CIS who are together working hard, but also having fun.

People who, sometimes, know each other only by name, now are shoulder to shoulder facing and overcoming the harsh difficulties of the mountains.

The results are exceptional: today we reach the top of the mountain together; tomorrow I've got one more friend on whom I can rely both during an OPG meeting and on the streets of Kabul.

#### The Alpine Training Centre

80 NRDC-ITA soldiers attended Snowmaster 2008, divided into two groups during the period 14 to 27 of January.

LTC Pietro Caporello, LTC Antonio Tonarelli and Maj Lorenzo Guani organized the exercise, carried out with the logistical and operational support of the Italian Army Alpine Training Centre in Aosta. The training area used for the exercise was Pila (1800 metres, 20 km from Aosta)



and surrounding area and Crevacol (1400 metres) at the foot of Great San Bernardo Pass. Pila is also accessible by a cable car starting from Aosta centre.

The Alpine Training Centre accommodated us within the "Testafochi" barracks, which is the Alpine Training Regiment HQ. So, we give our special thanks to the Regiment Commander, Colonel Giorgio Romitelli, and to his deputy, LTC Pierpaolo Lamacchia a former NRDC-ITA staff officer.

All the training activities have been carried out with success thanks to its skilled instructors, led by the outstanding WO Fabrizio D'Incà, and thanks to its contribution in terms of first quality materials and technical equipment that the Centre provided us for the occasion.

#### The training activities

The exercise program foresaw for each group two travel days, 4 ski training days and one survival training stage

in snow covered terrain. That stage included some additional activities such as classes on search and rescue of personnel missing under avalanches and on ski movement in a winter, snowy environment. The personnel, divided into teams, conducted the activity under the leadership of military instructors who gave their best to ensure we achieved the training objectives.

In reality a lot of participants were amazed to succeed in such a mission, thanks to our efforts, determination and the power of the group.

### The visitors

Snowmaster also provided an occasion to receive visits from very special guests.

During the first week Colonel Gruenebach and the official NRDC-ITA Ski Team kept us company. They performed their ski training in preparation for the CaSTA competition (Italian Army Mountain Troops Ski Championship) in the same areas used for our exercise.

During the second week we welcomed the NRDC-ITA Commander, Lt Gen Giuseppe Emilio Gay, and the Deputy Commander, Maj Gen David Bill with their assistants, for two days' ski training.

We were very pleased and proud to host our Commanders and to show them our will power and determination in the face of the harsh alpine conditions.



### Conclusions

We believe that everyone will remember what they saw and what they did during these days, and how much they suffered and how much they enjoyed their experiences in such beautiful and fascinating mountains.

It's very difficult find the right words to describe these hours and these feelings. In this case we have only to let the pictures speak, we hope they give justice to those who participated for their efforts and to those whom stayed at home for their patience. ....but don't worry, your turn is coming soon, Snowmaster never ends and it's waiting for you in 2009 with new challenges!

