

Exercise GORDIAN KNOT 2008

by Major Marian Predoaica

Amidst the beautiful scenery of the Island of Crete, the NATO Deployable Corps – Greece conducted Exercise Gordian Knot 08 from 26th May until the 3rd June. This exercise was the highlight of the Greek Headquarters' training year. The exercise was conducted with full Crisis Establishment manning of the HQ in order to reflect the demands that a Headquarters would be under if required to deploy at full strength. The Headquarters was supported by the 15 similar NATO HQs and members of the Greek Joint War College. Three command posts (Main CP, Rear CP and Rear Support Command CP) were established with the aim of testing all procedures at all levels and passing the difficult NATO Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL). Amongst the 1000 participants were nine personnel from the NRDC-ITA:

- LTC Christian BICHON.
- LTC Bert PELLEGRINO.
- Maj Gennaro DE MAIO.
- Maj Marian PREDOAICA.
- Maj Giovanni CAPPELLO.
- Maj Enrico PICCHIONI.
- Capt Ricciardo RIZZO.
- WO Olindo GENTILE.
- Cpl Giulia FANELLI.

The scenario chosen for this Deployment and Command Post Exercise (DEPEX/CPX) was a demanding and complex peace enforcement scenario which confronted the staff with a varied and challenging array of tasks. The scenario was conducted in a fictitious country that was experiencing a difficult civil disorder and humanitarian crisis. For some personnel, the exercise proved to be a little bit more challenging than expected, particularly as many were required to work out of role in new and untested fields than those they normally occupy in NRDC-ITA. Nevertheless, helped by the considerable experience accumulated in previous exercises and real operations, they overcame these difficulties and achieved all tasks required of them during the exercise. Warrant Officer Olindo Gentile had this to say. "For me the exercise was a good change and allowed me to improve myself. For the first time I played for the Engineer Planner. Participating as the only Engineer representative during the Main Planning

Group (MPG) in the night shift was not always easy, but I accomplished all the tasks in the best way possible. It would be a pleasure for me to participate in such an exercise again."



All the participants had the chance to be tested under pressure and to contribute to the improvement of the collective performance of NDC-GR. This allowed us to accumulate new and valuable information and share in their areas of expertise.

Major Gennaro De Maio found the exercise very useful. "The participation in this exercise proved to be very useful for me. I had the chance to see how our colleagues from NDC-GR are conducting the FCOORD and how they are applying doctrine, SOPs and SOIs in practice. The time spent on this exercise helped me to improve my knowledge in the FCOORD field and my way of working in an international environment. By participating in the exercise, I was able to give my best in helping NDC-GR to reach their targets, especially concerning the combat readiness."

The distinguished visitors and Command Group who visited the exercise were well satisfied with what they saw. Of particular satisfaction was the knowledge that our contribution had assisted the NDC-GR pass the NATO Combat Readiness Evaluation test. We were also fortunate to be able to see and experience some of the culture of this beautiful and ancient island. It was a satisfying and rewarding experience for all of those involved.