

1st GRF(L)s COS Conference

by Maj Marco Zona

Solbiate Olona, 08 Oct 2008, HQ NRDC-ITA Main Briefing Room, 09.00 AM, "Maj. Gen. Antonio SATTA (COS NRDC-ITA) welcomes the participants at the 1st GRF(L)s COS Conference.

This is the official opening of one of the main and most relevant events planned and hosted by NRDC-ITA in 2008. It was an extremely successful initiative, undertaken by NRDC-ITA, to get everyone together with the aim of creating a professional periodic forum to interact and discuss the NATO main issue looking forward and sharing opinions, thoughts and ideas.

Briefings covered relevant topics that included the NATO Response Force mission and the Mutual Training Support (provided by BG SCOLLO – DCOS TRADOC; LTC M. ONSLOW – G3OPS Chief G35; LTC F. ASSO – Dep. ACOS G3 OPS; LTC. John WRIGHT – SO1 Current Ops and LTC. M.MAUS – SO2 JTWG LNO).

The bottom-up approach of the Conference was intended to draw out creative thought. The discussion periods that followed the presentations were chaired by Maj. Gen. SATTA (Hosting COS). These discussions underlined the importance of Mutual Training Support for all Corps. NRDC-ITA has taken the initiative to investigate possible areas for cooperation between NATO Corps HQs, and to make recommendations for procedures and mechanisms that will foster cooperation to the mutual benefit of each HQ.

In addition to the primary business, COSs' Conference provided an opportunity to strengthen social relationships and share some of Italian culture. On Tuesday 7 October evening the participants were invited to attend an evening "ice breaker" at Ugo Mara Barracks Officers Club, giving conference attendees the opportunity to have a flavour for some Italian cuisine. On 8 October they were able to enjoy a windshield tour of Milan, featuring notable sites, visiting "Duomo" Cathedral and "La Scala" theatre. The tour was followed by a dinner buffet in the NRDC-ITA historical residence "Palazzo Cusani" in Milan.

A great job was done by the Projects Officers (LTC. FALESSI & LTC. PIERINI – G3AIR BRANCH), briefers, and the Protocol Office in organising and hosting an excellent conference at NRDC-ITA at Ugo Mara Barracks. The visiting COSs thanked our organizers, both for the concise and relevant staff briefings, and for the considerable administrative support.

The 1st GRF(L)s COS Conference was thoroughly appreciated by those who attended it and has been suggested that such a meeting should be held twice annually and hosted by all GRF(L) HQs on a rotation. This would permit the creation of an outstanding forum where all possible issues can be raised during following GRF(L)s COM Conferences.

