

Exercise “Snow Master”

■ by LTC ITA A Giulio DI MARZIO

Once again NRDC-ITA staff members deployed to La Thuile to enjoy the challenge in one of the most charming and technically difficult skiing resort Italy had to offer, during exercise “Eagle Snow Master 2009”.

The activity took place during 16 to 23 February, in a wonderfully sunny week, although the temperatures ranged around – 8 C°. The exercise participants were welcomed by a breathtaking white covered landscape where the snowfall had achieved a record highest level for the last 30 years.

The exercise proved to be a great opportunity to strengthen the bond and feeling of belonging within HQ NRDC-ITA Staff through the demanding and rigorous training activities. The time spent together during training and the two social events proved to be extremely useful for a reciprocal knowledge and appreciation, laying those constructive relationships constituting the base of a synergic working team building, mutual

understanding, improving self confidence and physical fitness. This has been an excellent opportunity to foster teamwork and will prove to be the stone for NRDC-ITA cohesion and cooperation in preparation for NRF in the future.

The activity program lasted for an average of six hours of intensive training each day and was delivered by a combination of military and civilian instructors. The activities were designed to be demanding and,





both physically and mentally, could challenge everybody from beginner to expert skiers. Despite the variety in physical fitness, there existed a great spirit of competition and cooperation within all of the different ability group's classes.

The presence of family members, some of whom participated for the overall exercise period and others for the days at the weekend, further enhanced multi national group interaction, friendship and cohesion.

In addition, two different social opportunities occurred during the exercise and these consisted of a typical Valpellenetze dinner in a high mountain "baita", reached by looka-like military BV tracked vehicles, and a buffet dinner in a fashionable local nightspot. The latter was preceded by the awarding for skiing class achievements, and provided an opportunity to invite local guests and the military and civilian instructors.

Finally, the Giant Slalom "Memorial Ltc Danilo LORUSSO" event proved to be a



strong moment of competition for all participants who paid the highest honor to the compassionate memory of our colleague by challenging themselves in the purest spirit of friendship and teamwork.

Our most sincere and grateful thanks is awarded to the most excellent support from the Alpine Troops Military Training Centre, which once again, provided skiing instructors and accommodation for NRDC-ITA personnel at the "M.te Bianco" barrack, in spite of the difficulties imposed by the refurbishment on significant part of the infrastructure.

Finally it is worth mentioning our highly esteemed visitors. We welcomed the visit of DCOMNRDC-ITA who had the opportunity to challenge himself in a full day of skiing with one of the most qualified Military instructors from the Alpine troops training Centre, and then the visit of the Command-



ing Officer of the Alpine troops training Centre, General Claudio BERTO. He went, visiting some EAGLE SNOWMASTER classes in their instruction phase, and showed a high interest in their level of assimilation and outstanding adventure spirit, meeting the participants and exchanging impressions on their training opportunity.

The resort of La Thuile, as stated by a former commanding officer of the Alpine Troops Military School, General Roberto STELLA (retired), and now President of the La Thuile Ski lift Plants, has proved to be an impressive backdrop for a really challenging and exciting opportunity to conduct winter adventurous training.

Comments from the Senior Officer attending the Exercise

As both a member of the HQ and a Senior National Representative (SNR), I found a lot of value in EX EAGLE SNOWMASTER from three standpoints. First, the deployment and logistic aspects of the exercise required considerable planning, coordination, and then execution. Even though the group was only about 12% of the total HQ population, this was still valuable deployment training and experience gained for all involved. Second, the training was physically demanding and expertly carried out. As a soldier, I felt like I was doing a soldier's duty, and came away from the exercise with a feeling that I had improved my winter and skiing skills. And, third, as an SNR, the exercise was very valuable in terms of "making the team tighter". Since the exercise was carried out far from the flag pole (Caserma Ugo Mara), all who participated had to work together closely, and accomplish a defined mission. We all shared in a common experience that was both pleasant and unpleasant. The HQ always benefits from events like this, as those involved become more familiar with and more trusting of each other.

■ by COL USA A Anthony PUCKETT

Participating to the "Memorial Ltc Danilo LO RUSSO" Giant Slalom

One of the most touching moments of the Exercise Eagle Snowmaster was when I was called to participate in the Danilo LO RUSSO memorial Contest. While preparing to begin my descent downhill than I started recalling who Danilo was.

Danilo had lived an amazing life although unfortunately short. Danilo was a great friend; He was the kind of friend that stands by you when you need somebody there.

What is it that we remember when we think of Danilo? I think everyone who knows him very well would agree with me on this. It was his sense of humor and his love of sports.

Danilo's death was sudden. I remember when I heard the news simply could not believe it. Danilo was too young but as it slowly occurred to me I have realized that Danilo indeed lived his life wonderfully. Danilo was well loved and he had done so

many things on earth and I'm sure he will do much more in heaven. I will forever be grateful to have known Danilo.

All the memories I have shared with him will forever be cherished and remembered.

Danilo will forever live in my hearth ...in our hearts.

Looking at this wonderful landscape where the mountains touch the sky and the sunshine create a particular atmosphere, I like to think that Danilo is among us enjoying as we are nature, sport and friendship.

As the competition is concerned, led by this common feeling, it resulted in a challenging moment of sport where in all the three categories everyone did the best of himself proving how effective the week of ski classes had been.

■ by LTC ITA A Fabio ASSO

1st Giant Slalom "Memorial Ltc. Danilo LO RUSSO" RANKLIST

	Beginners	Time	Intermediate	Time	Advanced	Time
1 st	DE GREGORIO A.	1:01.65	BARTOLI L.	41.75	PARDI Y.	38.70
2 nd	BARI G.	1:02.22	CAPORELLA T.	46.07	CONTE S.	40.17
3 rd	ZAGO A.	1:05.12	CARTONE A.	46.46	VERGARI S.	42.12