



EXERCISE EAGLE NEST 1

The Combat Service Support Division Study Day

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“In war logisticians determine who will win, then the operators go forth and make it happen.”

General Erwin Rommel

Yet frequently the blame for military fiascos is laid upon logistic failures, while the successful campaigns are credited to the commander, despite any of his logistic shortcomings. For example, one hears far less about the excellent logistic arrangements made by the ever-victorious Duke of Marlborough than about Napoleon’s and Hitler’s supply breakdowns when defeated in their invasions of Russia.

Nowadays, the modern battlespace has also to deal with the dangers of asymmetrical warfare, a fighting area with no frontlines, and no clear distinction between civilians and enemy soldiers/fighters, where humanitarian aid actions often turn into full-scale urban battles in a blink of an

eye. In this type of new scenario, the scale, long distances, intensity and tempo of high-intensity conflicts will then demand a responsive, agile, and flexible logistic tool.

In a few words, logistics has more than ever become a key aspect to succeed.

It is moving from these premises that, on Tuesday 10 February 2009, exercise “EAGLE NEST 1” took place. This was the first of a series of so-called logistic “Study Days” NRDC-ITA Combat Service Support Division (CSS Div) has scheduled for 2009. The objective of such training activity is sharing information and reaching a common ground and understanding on some topic of special interest for logisticians. But not only loggies, please! Participation of personnel from other Functional Areas and Branches plays a key role in getting a common logistic picture.



Following the guidance and recommendations of BG Vincenzo PURI, DCOS CSS Div, the one-day exercise saw the participation of representatives from HQ NRDC-ITA CS and CIS Divisions, Rear Support Command (RSC), Support Brigade, and 1st RETRA (TPT regt), one of NRDC-ITA affiliated logistic units.

The full and comprehensive agenda of the exercise acted as the springboard for a stirring brainstorm, during which several logistic issues were discussed.

Personnel from nine contributing nations, bearing different cultural and professional backgrounds had a perfect chance to exchange their experience in operations overseas, and their views on the related logistic aspects.

Presentations covered the overarching framework of NATO logistic principles and doctrine, and prompted a burning debate on pivotal subjects, such as the concept of “collective responsibility” for logistic support, the need for implementing multinational logistic solutions, the difference between operational logistic support

to the manoeuvre (CSS) and real life support, and last but not least, the importance of involving the Corps affiliated logistic units in all NRDC-ITA training activities.

In short, exercise “EAGLE NEST 1” represented an excellent opportunity to involve actors from other units and Functional Areas in order to share knowledge and views on logistics, and to physically “embrace” NRDC-ITA affiliated logistic units in the broader picture portrayed by the Corps LOG concept.

There is still a long way to go, but undoubtedly for many attendees this “Study Day” paved the way to a different approach to both national and NATO logistic matters. Indeed CSS Division’s motto says, “*Knowledge is power*”. But it is to be pointed out that ... *being a logistician is a question of attitude!*

What else to be expected now? As NRDC-ITA Command Group expressed their wish to participate in the “Study Days” to come, CSS Div is looking forward to seeing logistics... rising to the highest office! ■