



INTERNATIONAL DAY 2009

An Entertaining Celebration

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The annual NRDC-ITA International Day is designed to be a celebration of the unique and diverse culture that makes up the headquarters. It represents a chance for the staff, their families and the local population to discover and sample the delights of this multicultural headquarters first hand and to demonstrate their national identities.

For the past six years this celebration was held, during the summer, when the weather was generally generous and favored the event with beautiful sunshine. This year, the decision concerning the time for holding the celebration was difficult to take because a large contingent of NRDC-ITA was deployed to HQ ISAF in Kabul to support operations in Afghanistan during a demanding and pivotal moment of the campaign. As a result, the International Day was scheduled to be held on 17th of October when most of the personnel who participated to the challenging ISAF mission had already returned to work after an extended and well-deserved summer vacation.

Notwithstanding all the worries that the bad weather would spoil the festivity, it was proven that the choice of holding the celebration on 17th of October was a very lucky one. Despite the autumn's capricious weather, during that day the sun generously offered its light and warmth for the joy of all the participants.

The entertainments included in the programme of the event were at least as enjoyable as any of the other amusements of the previous International Day editions. Parades, dancers, music and entertainments kept the audience pleasantly busy for more than 5 hours. Enthusiastic musicians of Slovenian brass band, British pipes and drums band, Hungar-

ian folk music group and Italian music group competed to prove that the traditional songs from their homes are among the most beautiful songs in the world.

When not mesmerized by the performance of the bands, the audience was delighted by the harmonious and gracious moves of the skillful dancers from Hungary, Italy, Spain and Turkey.

The music and the dances were not the only attractions of the day. The members of each of the 15 contributing nations demonstrated their passion in providing colorful, extravagant and entertaining stands from which to uphold their rich and refined customs and traditions.

One of the most delightful opportunities offered during the festivity to all the participants eager to enjoy themselves was to go on a delicious and seemingly endless traditional gastronomic tour of 15 countries, washed down with good quality wine, sangria and famous brands of beer.

An historic car rally, a gun salute, bouncy castles and slides were the attractions that made especially happy all the children participating to the celebration.

The series of events ended around 19.00 leaving all the participants with the feeling that they would have carried on enjoying themselves until late into the night.

The International Day proved to be again a very successful celebration that offered an unique and pleasant opportunity to further enhance the international cooperation within the headquarters, to bring all the staff and their families closer together and to illustrate the character of NRDC-ITA, one of diversity yet underpinned by unity. ■