

# Farewell to a Comrade

## Warrant Officer Cosimo Argentieri, Italian Army

It was with great sadness that the NATO Rapid Deployable Italy learnt of the death of their friend and colleague, Warrant Officer Cosimo Argentieri. He died suddenly on the 30th March 2010 of a heart attack, whilst at his family home in southern Italy.

Warrant Officer Argentieri, who was 46, was born in Conversano in the province of Bari. After school and military conscription as an Infantryman, he attended the 55th Italian Army Warrant Officer's course at the age of 20, becoming an artilleryman in a Mountain Artillery Regiment. After initial training, he joined his regiment in Dobbiaco in the province of Bolzano. He quickly established himself as a very capable soldier and was quick to rise through the ranks. Whilst very much a team player Cosimo was also a thinking man's soldier, quick to identify a problem and quick to find a solution. He epitomised all that is good in a modern soldier, quick witted, fit and enthusiastic with a steely determination to succeed. During his career within the army he achieved many things and had a diverse and colourful career but never lost his passion for basic soldiering and the army in which he was so very proud to serve.

Away from regular military skills, Warrant Officer Argentieri proved to be adept at turning his hands to the most demanding of administrative tasks. This and his excellent grasp of languages led to a number of assignments within the International Community. He served for three years in Madrid as a Staff Assistant where he was described as an integral part of his team and an excellent ambassador for the Italian Armed Forces. More

recently he served within the NRDC-ITA Public Affairs Office.

During his time with the NRDC-ITA he saw operational service in Afghanistan on two separate occasions. Despite the pressure of a busy and challenging environment he rose to the challenge in every way. Loyal and dedicated he was quite simply a pleasure to serve with and no one could have wished for a better man, to serve alongside. His ability to interact, to organise and to support were outstanding, in short he added value at each and every turn.

Whilst the consummate professional and proud to serve his country, Cosimo was most proud of his family of whom he talked of often. His wife Paola and two children Lucrezia and Giuseppe were for him the most important part of his life.

A doting father and loving husband, it is to Paola, Lucrezia and Giuseppe that we extend our sympathies to at this terrible time.

Cosimo loved life and most importantly his family; we are poorer for his passing yet richer for having had the privilege of knowing him, he will be missed by us all.

*"Shed not a tear for a life that was lost, yet rejoice for a life that was lived."*

