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# NRDC-ITA



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# FOREWORD

by COL (ITA A) Francesco COSIMATO

NRDC ITA is, month by month, closer to the NRF stand by period and other commitments that will surely follow within the framework of NATO operations.

Operational environments are getting to be extremely complicated and non military activities are growing, along with higher risks for our troops.

Military Headquarters are asked to engage in very complex scenarios in which a lot of new expertise is required, so the capability to plug in new specialists is vital for the interaction with non military agencies such as international and local bodies to liaise with.

In this arena the magazine will continue to be a forum to analyze, investigate and explain the possible threats we will be facing, the assets we should put in place and the most appropriate solutions to be chosen.

What is vital for any Headquarters is to maintain an environment in which the conceptual aspects, recent activities and fresh ideas are available to compare.

The wide spectrum of missions related to the NRF is the best motivation our authors because there are a lot of crisis areas to explore, doctrines to analyze and new factors to deal with.

The magazine will continue to be open to any kind of contribution, even external, we are sure that this is important to provide the audience with something worth to be read.



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## ON EXERCISES AND DOCTRINE

# 1<sup>st</sup> GNC Exercise NOBLE SWORD 2010

by **CAPT (ITA A) Michele TOSI**



The Wildflecken training area served 1st (German-Netherlands) Corps as the ideal environment for exercise Noble Sword during which the HQ Corps trained German, Dutch and Norwegian units. From 7 to 22 June, about 1500 soldiers ranking from private to general have been ready to extend and deepen their knowledge. Another major formation at Rhon Barracks, apart from the Corps, was the 1st DEU Armoured Division with representatives from all subordinate units.

The women and men of this division – whose brigades and battalions can be found across Northern Germany – will soon

take part in two important missions. Already in January 2011 they will deploy to Kosovo within the framework of the KFOR mission, followed by the division's task as a lead unit for the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. During the exercise Noble Sword, the multinational Corps from Munster was the training partner for the division staff from Hannover.

In this computer assisted exercise, the division had no need for combat vehicles, since all troop movements were virtual. It was the particular objective of the Corps to pass on the lessons learned during the Afghanistan mission last year to 1st DEU Armoured Division. The CIS and HQ Battalions facilitated the work of the Corps staff; in addition they were supported by parts of 13th NLD Mechanised Brigade.

The main participating troops Noble Sword 2010 were, as already mentioned, 1st Armoured Division (DEU A) from Hannover and 13th Mechanized Brigade (NLD A) from Oirschot.

Just few words about them.

The 1st German Armoured Division is the core of the German Army's reaction force.

The HQ of the Division is located in Hannover, the capital of Lower Saxony. Due to its organization and equipment it is able to lead operations in the context of networked, joint and multinational operations. The major brigades of the Division are the 9th Armoured Brigade in Munster – also Lower Saxony – and 21st Armoured Brigade in Augustdorf, a garrison in North Rhine-Westphalia. Further regiments under the command are the 1st Signal Regiment, 6th Air Defence Regiment, 100th Artillery Regiment and 100th Engineer Regiment. Further Battalions like 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and the 3rd Logistic Battalion are also subordinated. Additionally the division can lead forces of the airmobile brigade as well as multinational troops up to the brigade level. The division uses the possibilities of mechanized forces for fast and expansive operations with high impact assertiveness.





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The 13th Mechanized Brigade is one of the three brigades of the Dutch land forces. Due to its numerous vehicles, armoured or not, the Brigade is easily deployable over long distances for various tasks. With approximately 3000 soldiers, the Brigade is also one of the unit most frequently engaged in NATO activities in southern Netherlands. It consists of the 17th Mechanized Infantry Battalion Guard Fusiliers Princess Irene, the 42nd Mechanized Artillery Battalion Limburg Hunters, the Tank Battalion 11 Regiment of Hussars van Szttyama and the Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron 42 of Borrel Hussars. Further troops are its combat support and logistic units. The core of the Brigade is its state of the art armoured vehicles, such as the reconnaissance vehicle Fennek and the main battle tank Leopard 2A6.





# The Coalition and US Central Command: Italian Contribution

by BG (ITA A) Raffaele DE FEO - COL (ITA A) Roberto MININI

The Battle of Yorktown (Virginia) in 1781 was a decisive victory against the British achieved by a combined assault of American forces led by General George Washington and French forces led by General Comte de Rochambeau. Their coordinated action prevented the British Army commanded by Lieutenant General Lord Cornwallis from escaping by sea. It proved to be the last major land battle of the American Revolutionary War, as the surrender of Cornwallis's army prompted the British government eventually to negotiate an end to the conflict.

Since then the US, in nearly all major conflicts it has fought, has been able to build up a Coalition of forces. History links the success and the end of the American Revolution to the Battle of Yorktown, to this Coalition of the willing.

Therefore the foundation of a Coalition, as it is known today, is not a new idea: it has been an integral part of the past, remains so in the present and will continue to play an important role for the United States in the future.

In September 2001 the US and the Coalition of Nations, emerged as a consequence of the terrorist attack perpetrated by Al Qaeda on American soil to prosecute Global War On Terrorism (GWOT), which marked the first of a series of operations which have been conducted in the US Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). In a few months, the tenth anniversary of the US forces engagement in Afghanistan will be celebrated. The US and the Coalition of 68 Nations have made a massive contribution in leading, participating and providing security and generating stability in Afghanistan with Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and the NATO led International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF), and in Iraq through Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and the NATO Training Mission.

From October 2001 onwards, the US has realised, or simply reaffirmed, the enormous strategic and political value that a Coalition provides and acknowledged that this support is paramount to set up the conditions for success for the multiple operations within CENTCOM's AOR.

From that initial idea of a Coalition, there exists today a complex organization represented by the Nations, which are represented in the Coalition Coordination Centre (CCC) and in the staff of CENTCOM, in Tampa, Florida. Their role, seen from the US perspective, is to provide an integrated support to the commander's strategic objectives.

Alliances and Coalitions, despite their significant advantages and disadvantages, are today, as they were in the past and will be in the future, an integral part of the common effort in the GWOT.

This article aims to highlight the Italian contribution to CENTCOM. In doing so, it is necessary to spend some time describing the complexity, in terms of history, resources and processes, which characterize CENTCOM from an Italian perspective.

### **The Unified Combatant Commands**

Well before the end of WWII, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee envisaged the need to have Unified Combatant Commands whose responsibility should be geographically defined.

The implementation of this idea was developed during the 1945-1950 period. The example that was taken as the reference for the development of this project was the system in place during WWII for the conduct of operations in the European Theatre. However the experience of the Pacific Theatre, where the Navy and Army were in competition for command, was something that the Committee totally disregarded. The Navy





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supported the creation of the Combatant Commands as it didn't want to suffer the same ambiguities it faced in the Pacific.

On 14th December 1946, President Henry Truman signed the "Outline Command Plan" authorizing the implementation of all necessary measures to establish the immediate creation of six Combatant Commands and in 1949 three Functional Commands were added, increasing the total number of Combatant Commands to nine.

In 1986, the "Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act" established the first rationalization and reorganization of the structure of the Combatant Commands since their creation. Furthermore, this Act kept the geographical definition of responsibility but clarified the Commanders in Chief (CINC) responsibilities. In the following years some adjustments to the structure were required in response to geo-political changes, like the collapse of the Soviet Union. As a consequence the number of Functional Commands was increased to four<sup>1</sup>.



## US Central Command

The US CENTCOM, as known today, takes its origins from the "Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force" which was the US answer to the Iranian Crises and to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, with the objective to enforce the American position in the Middle East and Central Asia. The evolution process from the "Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force" to CENTCOM formally ended on the 1st of January 1986 when President Ronald Reagan signed the executive order.

The CENTCOM AOR, despite being the smallest amongst the six assigned to the Combatant Commands, comprises some of the most critical crisis areas on the planet. It consists of twenty nations<sup>2</sup>, 530 million inhabitants, 22 ethnic groups, 18 major languages with numerous dialects, and Islam as the predominant religious, political and cultural power in the region.

The political situation is extremely complicated as in most cases modernity and external influences collide with socio-cultural dynamics characterised by strong ultra traditional roots. It is an area of contrasts which



1 - 'Joint Forces Command', 'Special Operations Command', 'Strategic Command' and 'Transportation Command'.

2 - Israel and Occupied Territories are not in the CENTCOM AOR.



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see some of the poorest countries in the world, as well as others in the highest pro-capita (\$100,000).

The Middle East and some Central Asia Nations hold 64% of the world oil reserve, 34% of overall oil production, and 46% of natural gas. Vital trade routes, like the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, Suez Canal, Arabian Gulf and the Straits of Aden and Hormuz, fall in the CENTCOM AOR.

In all honesty, CENTCOM does not own the biggest AOR but, without any doubt, it has to deal with some of the most challenging political and military situations that the US has ever faced. As shown by Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait in 1991 and in Kurdistan with Operation Provide Comfort and in 1992 in Somalia with Operation Provide Relief. In the 1990s a small number of operations were launched against threats posed by the regime of Saddam Hussein and some terrorist organizations. Thereafter Operation Enduring Freedom commenced in Afghanistan in 2001 and in 2003 in Iraq Operation with Iraqi Freedom. CENTCOM continues today to be committed to support, through security and assistance, the effort of the elected governments of Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2008, the Department of Defence, with the aim to relieve some of the responsibilities of CENTCOM and EUCOM, authorized the establishment of AFRICOM<sup>3</sup>.

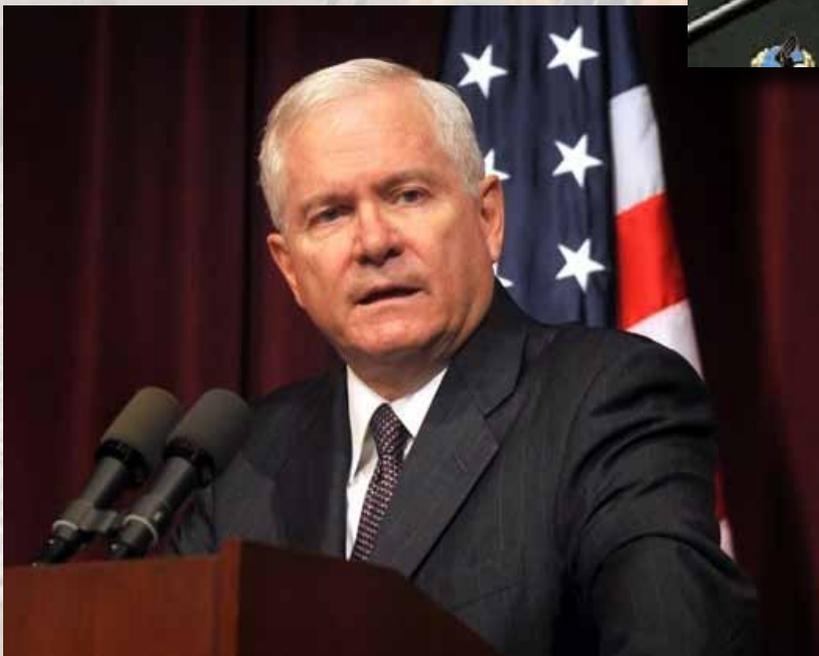
However, CENTCOM's initiatives must also consider that direct threats against US interests, as well as nations in its AOR, are generated by a complex and interconnected system of relations including transnational extremism, hostile opposition and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These dynamics are made worse by the instability in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the current situation in Iraq, Iranian policies and initiatives, the deterioration of the situation in Yemen, militant Islamic movements and, as a consequence the lack of progresses in the Middle East Peace Process.

In an effort to respond to all of these challenges the CENTCOM mission is: "With



national and international partners, US Central Command promotes cooperation among nations, responds to crises, and deters or defeats state and non-state aggression, and supports development and, when necessary, reconstruction in order to establish the conditions for regional security, stability, and prosperity."

The CENTCOM challenge is that because the situation to overcome is so complex, the simple military approach is not feasible. Piracy and smuggling, economies that are not integrated regionally and globally, under-developed Nations, terrorist entities and organizations that support and promote them, sectarian rivalries and territorial disputes, all complicate the situation. These issues generate instability which results in more cases of poor governance.



3 - Egypt remains in CENTCOM AOR.



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As such, CENTCOM needs to be supported in its effort by a shared vision and resources which enable it to generate the conditions for regional security, prosperity and stability. The statement that these threats are not only harming the US, and are directed not only against the Nations in the region but all Nations that have interests in this part of the world, requires shared objectives.

This vision, introduced in December 2008 by Secretary Robert M. Gates and General David H. Petraeus, then Commander US CENTCOM, during the Manama Conference in Bahrain, aimed to generate both inside and outside the AOR coordinated synergies supported by common objectives, which would show adaptability and flexibility and the competence to direct a coordinated effort towards the potential or substantial emerging areas of crises.

This instrument, titled "Regional Security Architecture", has been designed to align the network of relations to the common security interest and those that are not exclusively CENTCOM centric. All of this requires a Multi Agency Approach in which Departments, Agencies, Non Government Organizations, US and international with the Coalition Nations and including the active participation of the local governments, to mark together to coordinate their efforts.

However, this vital initiative cannot be implemented without resources. In 2009, the United States allocated 513 Bn \$ to the Defence budget (3.6% of its Gross Domestic Product of almost 14,256 Bn \$). (foto n.8 "Tabella Anni Fiscali 2001-2011) Noting that 146bn \$ that was added to the Defence Budget for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), in the fiscal year 2009 the US actually committed 4.7% of its GDP to Defence.

Finally, observing the forecast expenditure for Fiscal Year 2011, based on priorities and programs endorsed by President Obama, the gross figure, including 159.3bn \$ for OCO, would be around 711bn \$, a 6.15% increase in the budget in respect to 2009.

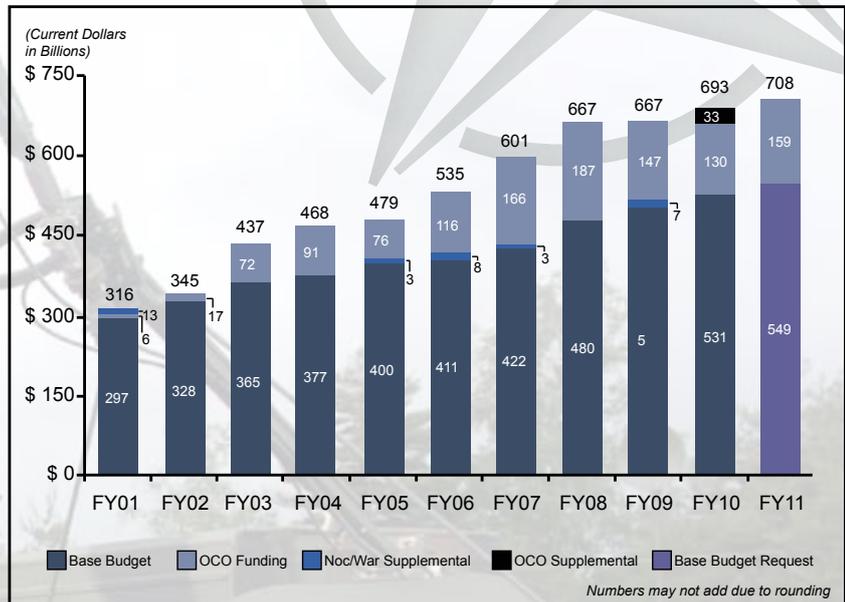
These figures do not show the full amount of

resources for which CENTCOM is the "customer" or on which it exercises a certain level of responsibility or control. It should not be forgotten that the active presence of the US in the region sees the commitments and the initiatives of other Departments, which support development of projects, the establishment of local government organizations, and the reconstruction effort in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The impressive financial outlay underlines the US commitment in an area where many occurrences have global reacting effects, and where CENTCOM has been present, without a break, for almost two decades.

## The Coalition Coordination Centre And The Italian Contribution

One of the lessons learned from Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1991) highlighted the need to



DoD Budget \$ in Billions	FY2010			FY2011 Request
	Enacted	Supp	Total	
Base	530,7	-	530,7	548,9
Overseas Contingency Operations	129,6	33,0	162,6	159,3
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>660,3</b>	<b>33,0</b>	<b>693,3</b>	<b>708,2</b>

Numbers may not add due to rounding  
Discretionary budget authority



## ON EXERCISES AND DOCTRINE

establish an organization that is able and capable of supporting and integrating Coalition Nations into the planning and operations process, and serving as a focal point for all issues related to the Coalition. This was brought to fruition by CENTCOM J5 following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

In October 2001 the embryo of what would become the Coalition Coordination Center (CCC) was established. This organization, through the years, expanded to reach the size it is today. The primary function of the CCC is to be the coordinating office between CENTCOM and the Coalition Nations represented in Tampa. The Italian Joint Cell has been present in Tampa since 16th October 2001 following the decision of the Italian Government to play an active role in the GWOT. Its main responsibilities and functions are to act as the liaison and coordinating agency between CENTCOM and the Italian Joint HQ<sup>4</sup> to ease the information exchange on current and future operations, and to establish relationships with other national entities represented in the CCC.

To discharge these functions, the Italian Cell is led by a Brigadier General who also acts as the Italian Senior Representative. This position is allocated on a rotation basis between the Army, Navy and Air Force. The Italian Senior Representative in this function is supported by a staff of experts in operations (Land, Maritime and Air), communications and intelligence. One officer is embedded in the CENTCOM staff and the Italian Cell retains the capability to detach liaison staff to other US Command or Coalition entities. Currently one liaison team is operating in Bahrain.

Due to the changes occurring in the various theatres, additional commitments, and new Coalition partners, and to better manage national resources, the Italian Cell, has evolved and adapted its structure and functionality to satisfy the new challenges.

CENTCOM today, provides an "international forum" that is unique and in which Nations are able to maintain or establish fast and effective bilateral and multilateral relationships that support any interaction between Nations and towards CENTCOM. In this "international forum", in which almost one third of the Nations in the world are represented, our national Cell represents Italy and highlights and enforces the importance of the role and commitment of our country.

### **The Combined Planning Group**

In June 2002, General Tommy R. Franks, at the time Commander US CENTCOM, directed the establishment of an embedded planning staff inside CENTCOM. His vision was: "... a Combined HQ capable of planning, coordinating and executing military operations that leverage all elements of the OEF Coalition."

After the project was endorsed in November 2002, the Combined Planning Group (CPG) was activated as a part of the J5 "Plans & Policy Directorate" and at the beginning of December, the first Coalition Officer entered the CPG. From January 2003, Italy has had a permanent representative on the international staff of the CPG. At the beginning of January 2003, Full Operational Capability (FOC) was declared and the CPG became a reality inside the J5 at CENTCOM.

The CPG structure consists of a Director of Brigadier General rank and three branches led by Colonels. The first two branches are responsible for areas geographically defined. The Middle East Branch interests are focused on the Middle East, Levant and Arabian Peninsula, specifically Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Yemen and Egypt which remained, under the responsibility of



4 - Comando Operativo di Vertice Interforze (COI).



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CENTCOM after the creation of AFRICOM, while Israel and Occupied Territories are in EUCOM AOR. The Central Asia and South Asia Branch focuses on Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgystan, Pakistan, Tajikstan, Turkmenstan and Uzbekistan.

The third branch, named Special Projects and Administration, is responsible for coordinating functions between the multinational staff of the CPG and the rest of the HQ. It is, with the exception of one Australian officer, exclusively staffed by US personnel due to accessibility of information, who can be called upon to perform special American only tasks.

At present, the CPG is represented by over 30 different nationalities, all coming from countries that agreed to join the US in the GWOT.

While remaining inside the J5, the CPG has evolved its function and today its reason for existence is to directly advise the Combined Forces Commander and staff on strategic to operational level plans and assessments, and political-military and civil-military analysis, based on independent, non US conditioned views based on peculiar experiences, cultures and sensitivities. It defines the uniqueness of the CPG that's an international body that supports the Commander with its assessments. All of this is summarized in its mission: "The Combined Planning Group conducts strategic assessments, political-military and civil-military analysis of the USCENTCOM AOR and external influences in order to advise the Commander USCENTCOM of strategic trends and support USCENTCOM theatre planning."

Moreover, the CPG is tasked to:

- Provide economic, geographical and demographic analysis,
- Identify strategic issues that will affect and, or influence CENTCOM,
- Analyze ongoing events and situations regarding AOR countries for their immediate or near-term effect on US Government and US CENTCOM policy and strategy over the next 5 years, and
- Assess transnational and external influences.

The current Italian representative in the CPG is the Levant Section Chief who is specifically responsible for Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and his responsibilities are extended to cover aspects of Israel and the Occupied Territories which directly effect CENTCOM and, for obvious reasons, the Middle East Process..

The CPG also has the opportunity to present directly to the Commander CENTCOM, on a quarterly basis, its non-conditional assessment and independent point of view on the AOR. In doing so, it provides the privileged opportunity of visibility of all nations that contribute to the Combined Planning Group.

### Conclusions

From a factual and historical basis, the US does not want, nor is it in the position to deprive itself of a Coalition of Nations. International support to the coalition could be limited to a platoon or up to an infantry Brigade, one aircraft or an entire Wing, or simply a presence in Tampa to provide political support. The reality is that any mission carried out by the Coalition is something that the US does not need to do on its own.

The integration of Coalition forces, in support of CENTCOM, is an essential resource that pays dividends all the time. Full cooperation and coordination, as well as exchange of information, even within the limits of a Coalition, represent a fundamental pre-condition to pursue common objectives.

Without doubt, a strong and capable Coalition and bolstered by integrity is paramount for the security, stability and prosperity of the entire planet and represents the strategic objective for the US and CENTCOM, whose effects go beyond the boundaries of July 2011.





# ON EXERCISES AND DOCTRINE

## The Scenario Modelling

by LTC (ITA A) Giulio DI MARZIO

### 1. Overview:

A scenario is the lead-in background story of a crisis or conflict and consists of a sketch, outline or description of an imagined situation or of any possible sequence of future events used for training NATO Command Structure (NCS) staff elements, HQs or Forces as well as in seminar, academic or experimental environments. A scenario will be composed of specific modules essential to the accomplishment of the NATO Commander's objectives or of the seminar/academic/rehearsal objectives.

### 2. General:

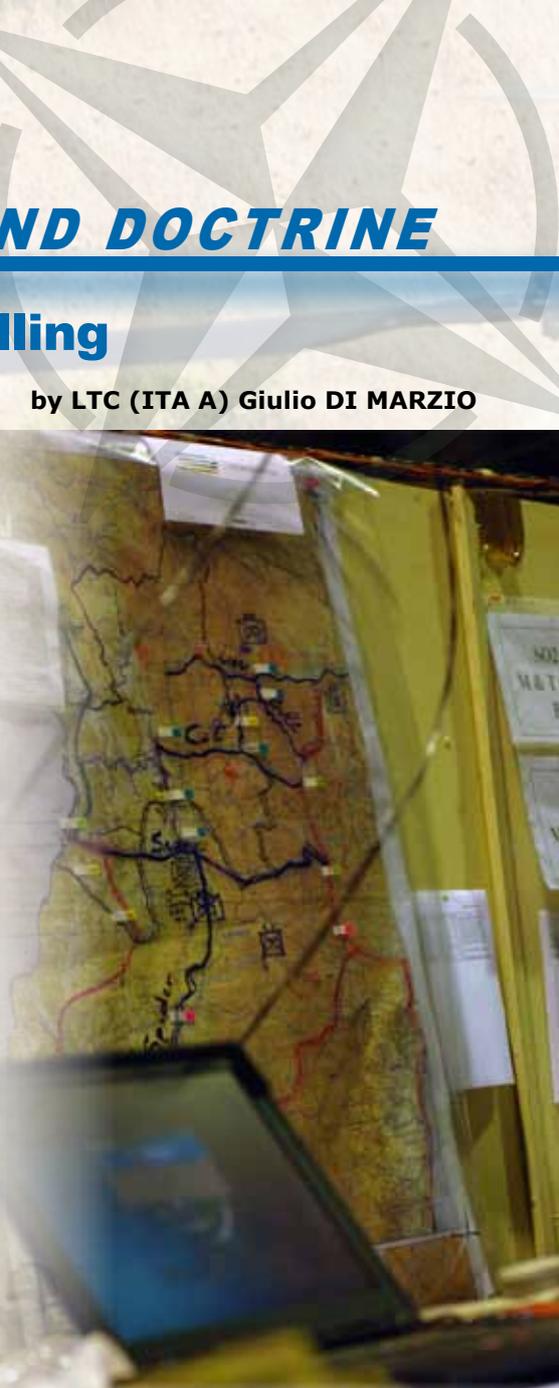
The scenario has various functions and interrelations. It is used for all exercises at any level: strategic, operational and tactical. It requires a certain art to develop the scenario that is to be broad enough but has to contain details to support all the range of requirements coming from the end-user, the Primary Training Audience (PTA). It has to be artificial because the various exercises differ from real operation or more closer to reality when the exercise is focus on training the PTA on a mission. The same artificiality, above mentioned, applies to the data gathering and input into the automated info system used by the PTA. Then it has a clear and defined methodology and sequence delineated by 6 modules which mirrored all the exercise development and give the audience what they need to be trained properly.

Finally I would remind the strict connection that the Scenario has with the MEL/MIL (Main Events List/Main Incidents List) Development. In fact, as mentioned, the scenario provides the broad settings and detailed background info on all relevant aspect that the MEL/MIL Development team build Story lines/Events and Incidents designed to trigger certain decision and activities in the PTA based on the exercise and training objectives.

### 3. Scenario Modules:

The scenario information and data are organised into modules, which are required for each exercise phase. The table here lays out the six Scenario modules and the timeline for their development in relations to the various phases of an exercise execution stage as defined by the BI-SC 75-3.

Module	Stage 3 - Exercise Execution	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
		Individual and Collective Training	Crisis Response Planning	Execution
1 - Geo-Strategic Situation		Finalized	Finalized	Finalized
2 - Theatre of Operations		Geo-political	Geo-Strategic	Geo-Tactical
3 - Strategic Initiation	n/a		Finalized	Finalized
4 - Crisis Response Planning Information	n/a		Finalized	Finalized
5 - Force Activation and Deployment Information	n/a		Initial	Finalized
6 - Execution Information (STARTEX and MEL/MIL)	n/a		-	Finalized





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The Module 1 – Geo-Strategic Situation is to be prepared by OSE/EPG prior to the ESPEC Conference of an exercise. The Scenario group should be working in advance of the MEL/MIL group. Where a new scenario is to be developed, the Scenario group may first meet during or even before the IPC. The group may have to programme one or two workshops to enable the coordination of products, otherwise it will probably subdivide into small sections addressing;

- geography and infrastructure
- country studies giving background material
  - political
  - social
  - financial
  - industrial
  - religious
- order of battle
  - armed forces
  - irregular/terrorist group force holdings
  - distribution

The Module 2 – Synthetic Theatre of Operations Module gives static information/data about the region to support strategic assessments and operational planning. It is provided by the CPT and the Information/data are produced in Bi-SC AIS Functional Services/doctrinal formats (where available) and includes, inter alia.

- Mapping/Map Data Set
- Theatre Data
- Country Studies/Country Information
- Regional Orders of Battle (ORBAT)
- OPFOR Campaign (For use by EXCON only).

The Module 3 – Strategic Initiation Module establishes the international and NATO political desired end-state, objectives, limitations and directions as well as the supporting strategic military assessments and planning guidance following NATO crisis response system. This module, prepared by the EPG, includes, as a minimum:

- Road to Crisis (Narrative summary of major events leading to planning situation, included in MEL/MIL database)
- UNSC Resolutions
- Strategic Military Assessment
- NAC Initiating Directive
- Strategic Planning Guidance/Directive

The Module 4 – Crisis Response Planning Information

Module provides current updated information/data about the international and regional situation. Information/data are produced in Bi-SC AIS Functional Services/doctrinal formats (where available). This module, already prepared by CPT, includes, as a minimum:

- Current Intelligence Summary.
- Friendly Forces. Forces available for planning based on NATO ORBAT as well as current disposition of forces in the theatre area.
- Civil Military Assessment
- Environmental Assessment



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- OLRT Recce Reports
- TOPFAS data set

The Module 5 – Force Activation and Deployment Information Module provides external information/data in response to player CONOPS and CJSOR as well as CCIR as required to complete execution planning and to initiate deployment and initial entry operations. Information/data are produced in Bi-SC AIS Functional Services/doctrinal formats (where available). This module delivered by FPC by CPT, includes, as a minimum:

- ACTWARN/ACTREQ Messages
- FORCEPREP Messages
- Allied Force List (AFL) (ORBAT Force profiles)
- Force Balancing Results
- SOFA/MOUs/TAs
- Current Intelligence Summary (INTSUM)/ Intelligence Report (INTREP) (as required)
- Joint Target Lists
- Rules of Engagement Authorisation (ROEAUTH)/Implementation (ROEIMPL)

The Module 6 – Execution Information Module describes the current situation at STARTEX, based on Bi-SC Reporting Directive requirements. Information/data are produced in Bi-SC AIS Functional Services/doctrinal formats (where available). This module includes, as a minimum:

- Road to War (Narrative summary of major events leading to current situation, included in MEL/MIL database)
- Current Intelligence Summary (INTSUM)/ Intelligence Report (INTREP) (as required)
- Current ASSESSREP
- Order of Battle / Transfer of Authority Land/Air/Sea / STARTEX Force Laydown
- Current SITREPS for Land, Air, Navy, PIO, CIMIC, CIS , Deployment, Logistics
- Common Operating Picture(s) - (may be generated by LOCON and assisted by Synthetic Tools)

Bi-SC Exercise Directive (75-3)

Module 1  
Geo Strategic situation

**The BACKGROUND**

Module 2  
Synthetic Theatre of Operations

**The DATA**

Module 3  
Strategic Initiation

**The TRIGGER**

Module 4  
Crisis response Planning Information

**The PLANNING**

Module 5  
Force Activation and Deployment Information

**The STARTEX**

Module 6  
Execution Information

**The PLAY**

- Major Events and Incidents Lists (database)

#### 4. Conclusion

Scenario is a basic tool for an exercise development sequence and should include all the required elements useful to define the reference framework where the exercise is played. Its production implies a synergic & core action by the Core Planning Teams members (CPT) which have to contribute with their capabilities from their different perspective. Mainly G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, Info ops and CIMIC are quite deeply involved in this setting because of their peculiar expertise. In general the scenario sets the conditions to play the game....the exercise it.





## ON EXERCISES AND DOCTRINE

# The New NRF and its Logistics Concept

by COL (ITA A) Vincenzo GELATO



### **Foreword**

In this article we are going to deal not only with the Logistic Concept developed for NRF 16 but also with the general aspects of the new role of Logistics in view of the actual strategic environment.

### **Background**

The new missions of the Alliance are radically different from those it faced during the Cold War. NATO has been involved in out-of-area operations for over a decade, underscoring the need for deployable and sustainable forces. Recent Strategic Guidance describes the evolving security environment as being complex and global, and subject to unforeseeable developments. The Alliance is therefore forced to develop modern, highly capable forces to respond to this new environment. Forces that are fully deployable, sustainable and interoperable, able to operate across the full spectrum of conflicts and crises for extended periods of time beyond Alliance territory and at strategic distance. This results – inter alia – to a call for improvements in strategic lift, intra-theatre airlift and multinational logistics support.

### **The role of Logistics in Operations**

Logistics must be able to support the full range of NATO Missions. Logistics support capabilities are the most critical for many of the types of operations that NATO may undertake, and in particular those belonging to NRF. As an operational enabler, logistics has two main functions. First, effective logistics enables the Forces to project and sustain military power over extended lines of communications into a distant operational area. Second, logistics should be recognized not only as a supporting capability to combat forces, but also as an equal creator of non-lethal operational effects, during disaster relief and throughout the whole spectrum of mission types, particularly in operations that are heavily dependent on logistics capabilities. In short, a force multiplier.

### **Emerging issues**

But we are not Alice in Wonderland! In fact, the recent NRF experiences have taught the lessons. Despite clear intents of Allied leaders in setting specific goals (NRF among others), that initiative has not, however, achieved consensus, and some nations remain adamantly reluctant. In fact, the most significant weak links in the NRF



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to date have been with strategic airlift, air-to-ground surveillance, aerial refueling, combat support and combat service support. As far as the Logistics Command and Control is concerned, the most evident issue lays with the availability and capability of an operational Joint Logistics Support Group. In large measure, these failures are directly linked with the declining defense budgets of most NATO member states. In this regard, the words of NATO Secretary General are clear indicators: "Participation in the NRF is something like a reverse lottery: if your numbers come up, you actually loose money!..."

### **Mind the Gap!**

This is not a joke related to the London Underground. We are here talking about the capabilities gap that we face anytime we deal with NRF Force List. In fact, the logistics concept for a generic NRF mission would need a complete JLSG HQ at Joint level, a Logistic Liaison Detachment at CC level (one for each component), the usual Combat Service Support organization at tactical level, and the inevitable National Support Elements. In this regard, readers are reminded that military logistics is twofold: the Operational Logistics and the Real Life Support. Of course, our main concerns are related to the Operational Logistics, the one that have to support the manouvre and be tailored to Mission assigned and Commander's intent.

### **NRF 16**

As far as the NRF 16 logistics concept is concerned, there is no good news! We are back at the starting point. To date we are missing the entire JLSG and details of the logistics organization of the Combat units. Not to speak about the Medical assets. In addition, we have to call to mind that our subordinate Brigade is a multinational one and therefore more complex and difficult to support. In this regards, Troop Contributing Nations are warmly invited to negotiate either bilateral or multilateral agreements in order to simplify the logistics support to their units and the overall logistic footprint of NRF 16, but this process takes a long lapse of time. Of course, the detailed logistics concept for NRF 16, which will be developed in details during the Logistics Conference that will be held in Naples this month (November 2010), will take in due consideration all the requirements



and capabilities needed to support the various possible tasks for NRF 16 and also the Nations' willing to bear their related burdens, in both terms: funding and forces.

### **Conclusions**

Unfortunately, there is little room for optimism. It seems to the writer that Contributing Nations are pretending to play their role in the participation in the NRF Force Pool, keeping in the back of their minds an unbeatable extrasensory perception, and of course, making a sure bet on that.



# NATO ARMIES AND THEIR TRADITIONS

## The Reconnaissance Troops of the Hungarian Defence Forces

by LTC (HUN A) Ferenc Kajari

Sun Tzu at around 500 B.C. wrote: Know the enemy, know yourself; your victory will never be endangered. Know the ground, know the weather; your victory will then be total.<sup>1</sup>

According to the doctrine of the Hungarian Defence Forces, a great part of that required knowledge is gathered by the reconnaissance troops, as their main task is to collect information about the enemy (its location, composition, strength and expected intent), about the terrain and the weather.

"Before World War I, operational-level reconnaissance and security missions were the role of horse cavalry. Tactical-level reconnaissance missions were assumed by the unit itself. World War I, with its massive fortifications, firepower, and eventual rise of air power and mechanization, changed all this. From 1918 to the present, various ground

forces at both the operational and tactical levels have designed reconnaissance units using different combinations of weaponry and mechanized and motorized vehicles." This is how the dawn of the reconnaissance units has been summarized in a study prepared at the US Army Combined Arms Centre.<sup>2</sup>

The Hungarian military had not been far behind from the leading military powers. The first dedicated Hungarian reconnaissance units and the independent Hungarian military intelligence had been established in 1919, right after the World War.

Reconnaissance battalions had first been organised in the 1938 order of battle of the Hungarian Royal Defence Forces.

Since the end of World War II, the reconnaissance units have been the de facto special forces of the Hungarian military. They are small, self-contained units that can



operate close to – or most of the case behind – enemy lines to accomplish their mission. The special mission needs specially trained personnel. Besides the standard military training, recce troops have been trained to operate during cold weather conditions or in mountainous areas; they are able to cross water obstacles with standard issue equipment or with improvised devices. Survival and evasion is part of their training. Every recce platoon has a sniper capability and equipment to breach obstacles and minefields. Recce troops are also trained to use standard or improvised explosive devices.

Part of their training is to plan and conduct direct actions against designated targets or capture enemy soldiers to gain the required information.

The even more specialised long-range reconnaissance units are able to operate diver teams as well.



1 - Sun Tzu: The Art of War

2 - McGrath, John J., Scouts out! : the development of reconnaissance units in modern armies Combat Studies Institute Press, US Army Combined Arms Center;Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



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Special capabilities are distinguished in the uniform. The reconnaissance insignia depicting the armoured, the long-range recce and the signals intelligence units had been introduced in the army in the 80's.

The Green Beret uniquely has only been worn by the long-range recce units. As an acknowledgement of their outstanding performance and demonstration of their equal capabilities, the personnel of the armoured recce units have also been authorised to wear it after the operations conducted along the southern Hungarian border in 1991.

The two traditional types of the reconnaissance units of the Hungarian military are the armoured reconnaissance and the long-range reconnaissance units. The first long-range recce unit, the 34th Bercsényi László Reconnaissance Battalion, has been established in 1951 and ever since this unit provides the backbone of the military parachuting within the Hungarian Defence Forces.

Due to the quality of their personnel, their training and high readiness posture, the reconnaissance units have been the favourite option of the HDF General Staff, when there was a need to deploy units to solve a delicate situation or to deploy Hungarian troops in a newly undertaken international mission. On these occasions, usually one of the reconnaissance battalions has been tasked to provide the core of the Hungarian contingent deployed to international missions.

Reconnaissance battalions distinguished themselves in providing personnel to missions such as UNFICYP, Multinational Forces and Observers on the Sinai Peninsula, IFOR, KFOR, the Iraqi operations and ISAF.

During the past years the Hungarian Defence Forces has been reorganised and downsized several times. Like other arms and services of the army, the reconnaissance organisation has also been affected and changed significantly. The last two former reconnaissance battalions were the 34th Bercsényi László Reconnaissance battalion and the 25th Bornemissza Gergely Reconnaissance battalion.

The 34th Bercsényi László Reconnaissance battalion has been reorganised and provided the core of the 34th Bercsényi László Special Operations battalion.

The 25th Bornemissza Gergely Reconnaissance battalion has been converted into a military Intelligence type unit. Besides maintaining the armoured reconnaissance and long-range reconnaissance capabilities, the unit now is capable to provide HUMINT, IMINT and EW support, together with an all-source analysis capability to the Hungarian Defence Forces.

Due to the ethos of the reconnaissance units, in spite of the demanding training there has never been a shortage of personnel



applying for the reconnaissance positions. To become a reconnaissance officer or to serve at a reconnaissance unit – even during the past era of conscription – has always been a prestigious possibility that has only been granted to a selected few. The cherry on top – as once the reconnaissance company commander stated in our first year in the military college.





# NATO ARMIES AND THEIR TRADITIONS

## The Carabinieri Corps and the International Environment

by LTC (CC) Massimo IZZO - LTC (CC) Tullio MOTT - WO1 (CC) Dante MARION



The Ancient Corps of the Royal Carabinieri was instituted in Turin by the King of Sardinia, Vittorio Emanuele 1st by Royal Warranty on 13th of July 1814.



The Carabinieri Force was Issued with a distinctive uniform in dark blue with silver braid around the collar and cuffs, edges trimmed in scarlet and epaulets in silver, with white fringes for the mounted division and light blue for infantry. The characteristic hat with two points was popularly known as the "Lucerna". A version of this uniform is still used today for important ceremonies.

Since its foundation Carabinieri had both Military and Police functions.

In addition they were the King Guards in charge for security and honour escorts, in 1868 this task has been given to a selected Regiment of Carabinieri (height not less than 1.92 mt.) called Corazzieri and since 1946 this task is performed in favour of the President of the Italian Republic.

The Carabinieri Force took part to all Italian Military history events starting from the three independence wars (1848) passing through the Crimean and Eritrean Campaigns up to the First and Second World Wars, between these was also involved in the East African military Operation and many other Military Operations. During many of these military operations and other recorded episodes and bravery acts, several honour medals were awarded to the flag.

The participation in Military Operations abroad (some of them other than war) began with the first Carabinieri Deployment to Crimea and to the Red Sea and continued with the presence of the Force in Crete, Macedonia, Greece, Anatolia, Albania, Palestine, these operations, where the basis leading to the acquirement of an international dimension of the Force and in some of them Carabinieri supported the built up of the local Police Forces.

The Carabinieri involvement in peacekeeping operations, under the UN, NATO, OSCE and European Union multinational or bilateral agreements, started in 1979 with the deployment to UNIFIL Lebanon, and built the current structure of more than 1000 Carabinieri serving today in overseas missions.

Over the past ten years the traffic of organized crime has become more concentrated





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on an international level. Consequently, an efficient structure is required to deal with this situation.

As such, the international community is working towards closer collaboration in order to fight the new threat of crime together using communal resources.

The Carabinieri Force has taken specific initiatives following guidelines on cooperation from the Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs to collaborate in association with other national military and police organizations in order to export national intelligence gained from experience in organized crime. The exchange of information on personnel training and recruitment, organization and new technologies has been intensified with police forces and military organizations in other countries utilizing experience already gained in previous cooperation initiatives with the National Gendarmerie in France and the Civil Guard in Spain in 1994. This has resulted in the formalization of the FIEP Agreement (France, Italy, Spain and Portugal) involving the French Gendarmerie, Spanish Civil Guard, Portuguese Republican National Guard, Turkish Gendarmerie, Dutch Koninklijke Marechaussée and Moroccan Gendarmerie. At the same time, technical bilateral agreements were signed with the Rumanian Gendarmerie, the Internal Military Troops of the Ukraine, the Armed Forces of Qatar, the National Gendarmerie in Argentina and the Carabineros in Chile, with the objective of amplifying experience in the fields of training, formation, information technology, public relations and public relations.

With regard to international police cooperation the course of action taken has been directed principally towards the intensification in the exchange of information regarding emergent criminality, identification of the best operating procedures, the spread of investigative experience with maximum effectiveness as well as research into the proposal to make national legislation homogeneous. Officers of the Force are involved in G8 Groups, "Terrorism Experts" and "Di Leone" - subgroup "Law Enforcement", in working groups as required by the Schengen Agreement for the development of "Acquis Communautaire" as well as in all the police cooperation activities of the Justice and Internal Affairs Third Pillar of the European Union. The Force is directly involved in the European Police Department, Europol, whose international branch is studying emergent crime as a priority, and is presently setting up a system for the exchange of data between the investigative structures of each individual member state. In this important sector Officers of the Carabinieri are employed as experts in the AWF (Analysis Work

File) concerned with organized crime, illegal immigration from Eastern European countries and terrorism. The Carabinieri Special Operations Group has recently activated, on behalf of Europol, an Operating Project between member states, MSOP (Member State Operational Project) to develop international cooperation against organized crime involving the illegal trafficking of human beings. This procedure permits the exchange, in real time, of useful investigative data from other European member states and in countries which have applied to become members, and the ability to share operating strategies. The original concept anticipated the realization of a joint team investigative squad made up of personnel from Europol and national police forces for the development of investigations against crime organizations active in European countries.

The Carabinieri Force also participates in international cooperation through OIPC, (International Organization of Crime Police - Interpol) by attaching personnel to the Police International





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Cooperation Service reporting to the Department of Public Security - Head Office of the Crime Unit, as well as attached to the General Secretariat. The Service is made up of 5 Divisions, the 2nd and the 3rd represents, in particular, the Italian structure of Interpol. Finally, an Officer of the Carabinieri is assigned to OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office) as Assigned National Expert in the prevention and fight against Euro counterfeiting. Even though this cooperation was in compliance with the First Pillar, European Union Directives, and not the Third Pillar, European Justice and Internal Affairs, it still permitted the Force to provide the European member countries with its considerable experience acquired in its own specialized field. Cooperation in the ENFSI (European National Forensic Science Institute's Work Groups) is particularly noteworthy. The Carabinieri Scientific Investigation Department competes with other European forensic institutes in research and experimentation for the most modern techniques in scientific investigation.

Carabinieri in addition to that built up a Centre Of Excellency for Specialized Police Units (COESPU) directly under the UN DPKO-Police Division supervision, to train Personnel belonging to Nations that send Police Units in UN Missions.

All this background in Policing is constantly used also in performing Peacekeeping Missions as it happened in some of the most recent Missions involving the Carabinieri Corps like: IPTF SFOR and EUPOL in Bosnia-Herzegovina, KFOR UNMIK in Kosovo, MAPE and D.I.E. in Albania, TIPH in Palestine, UNIFIL in Lebanon, ONUMOZ in Mozambique, UNMEE in Ethiopia, INTERFET Indonesia and ISAF in Afghanistan.

Carabinieri Corps is one of the 5 National Police Forces and one of the 2 with general Police functions. The reason why we have 2 general Police forces is an historical one but we also love to say that is for democratic reasons as it was for the "Consoles" in the Roman Republic until they were two it was a Republic, when they become one (it happened first with Caesar) the Empire began.

Carabinieri Corps is within the Ministry of Defence at the same rank of the classical three Services (Army, Navy, Air Force). This situation is the last step of an evolution of 196 years of history and wont be the last; before year 2000 Carabinieri was a "specialty" within the Army.

The last reform Law, nr.78 of year 2000, stated that Carabinieri has exclusive functions of security and Military Police for the Armed Forces and support reconstruction of local Police forces abroad under international mandates or bilateral agreements.

Within NATO these tasks are accomplished by MP and MSU assets, both can be employed also in N.T.M. (NATO Training Mission) as it is in IRAQ and Afghanistan.

NRDC-ITA is the only HRF HQ that has within its organization Carabinieri assets both in MP and MSU form.

Within the permanent HQ structure The Carabinieri are organized as follow:

The full complex of the MP functions are covered by the Force Provost Marshall Office which head is also the Carabinieri Senior, within the G2 Branch there is a CI cell manned with Carabinieri personnel and within G3 Branch there is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for MSU





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employment (task provider for the Specialized Civil Police Assets).

The Force Provost Marshall (FPM) is in charge to direct, steer and coordinate the use of Military police during NRDC-ITA operations, combining capabilities of MP available units, with respect to each primary national regulation, and providing advice to COMNRDC-ITA on MP related matters. On the national chain, FPM is the main bridge between NRDC-ITA and the Local security authorities, especially for what pertains to NRDC-ITA deployments, VIP visits, off-post training and PHQ physical security. FPM Office is composed of two sections:

- MP PLANS/OPS SECTION is responsible for mobility Support and Area security; it produces MP planning documents and provides MP support on close coordination with OPS DIV/G35 section.
- MP DISCIPLINE & REGULATION SECTION is responsible for Entitled Prisoner of War (EPW) control operations and Law Enforcement. It ensures that EPW International regulations are applied and enforces the MP standing laws and procedures. Section Chief is responsible for spreading out discipline policy and, when more than one nation is involved, supports the FPM in pursuing agreements/common lines of action for the SNRs/NCCs concerned.

MSU Section is permanently established in HQ NRDC-ITA it's Chief, SO1 MSU is in charge of advising COMNRDC-ITA and the Staff, as subject matter expert, on MSU issues and capabilities; of liaising with affiliated MSU units and other NATO HQs and selected schools regarding MSU doctrine, capabilities, training and C2 matters. He is the only focal point for all MSU issues (planning and coordination of orders for MSU assets) within NRDC-ITA HQ.

In operations many posts will be manned, some for the Military Police functions and others for the Civil police functions, in particular the last one is a Staff Officer posted as Civil Police Advisor, within the Advisors in charge of developing the whole spectrum of agreements and links with the Local Police Forces, focusing on the main fields of Policing support such as training, mentoring or substituting the Local Police Forces (all in consistency with the mandate).

As all the universe is in a unstoppable developing so is the Carabinieri Corps organization within this HQ looking to better organize the Staff in accomplishing its own tasks, who will live will see.





## The “Palio di Siena”

by LTC (USAF) Robert Epstein



As we’ve all experienced, throughout the year we receive emails notifying us of upcoming concerts or events which Moral and Welfare has acquired tickets for and will be conducting a lottery to distribute them to the headquarters personnel. I, as most, pick and choose which events sound interesting, apply by walking my application form down to the G1 hallway and never hear anything about the event again. Well as luck had it, I put in for tickets and finally received an email back informing me that I needed to stop by and pick up my tickets...I had won tickets to Il Palio.

About 400 kilometers South of NRDC-ITA and Solbiate Olona lies the beautiful medieval Tuscan city of Siena, famous around the world for its biannual horse races, known as Il Palio. As a matter of fact, the first time

I became aware of Il Palio was from the open scenes of the 2008 James Bond thriller, “Quantum of Solace,” which had Bond chasing an assassin through the middle of the race.

Now, I have been to horse races before, but none since stationed in Italy. Where I call home in the United States, Cincinnati, Ohio is only about an hours drive from the famous Kentucky Derby. This long running race, by American standards, has been run since 1875 and is all about enjoying the beautifully groomed race track and rolling hills of Kentucky, speed, and sipping on Mint Juleps, a cocktail consisting of Kentucky bourbon, mint leaves and sugar syrup served over lots of ice.

This is what I expected to some extent when I won the tickets for Il Palio, another horse race with parties to follow. This was not the case! Il Palio di Siena is more than a simple horse race. It is the culmination of ongoing rivalry and competition between the contrade (neighborhoods) and has been running in the same location, the beautiful shell shaped Piazza del Campo since 1310, or 182 years before Christopher Columbus (or Cristoforo Colombo for my Italian friends) discovered America. I quickly realized I was not just attending a horse race, but rather taking a trip back in time.

The city of Siena is made up of 17 contrade or neighborhoods. These neighborhoods were defined in the middle ages as administrative districts aiding the military companies hired to defend Siena from their enemy Firenze to the North. These contrade each have their own colors and are now defined by a tight family bond under a single flag. Every part of life in Siena is based around the contrada, to include baptisms, deaths, marriages, church holidays, festivals and of course, victory at Il Palio.

Each contrada has to pull together the finances to purchase a horse to compete in Il Palio, but not all 17 get to compete. Before each race, a lottery is held to determine which 10 of the 17 contrada are able to enter a horse to compete. Then the Captain of the contrada needs to determine the contrada’s strategy, either to attempt to win the race or use the neighborhood’s financial resources to make their enemy contrada lose the race. Il Palio is all about bragging rights, but winning is a very expensive undertaking. Some contrade have gone decades without winning as they save for generations to give their contrada the political and financial strength for a victory.

July 2nd, race day, was full of pageantry and excitement. At about 17:00, Piazza del Campo had about 50,000 people gathered inside the piazza and another few thousand in the grandstands or balconies overlooking the track. The entire piazza was shut down to outside traffic by the Carabinieri, and the only way out before the race was over was to be carried out by medical personnel on a stretcher, which we saw a number of times due to the July heat. Each contrada marched through the piazza on



the race track in their traditional medieval costume. They paraded their horse to the crowd while demonstrating their skill at flag-waving. Flag-waving comes from the military tradition, where the flag was the reference point for soldiers and the loss of it could mean defeat. For this reason, the art of flag-waving was a required military skill and each contrada is still "graded" today as they parade through the crowd to see which is best.

After three hours of parades, it was now nearing time for the race. There was a noticeable feeling of exhilaration in the air, as the crowd anticipated how the politics of the contrada would change the outcome of the race. The horses are required to make three circuits of Piazza del Campo to win Il Palio. The horse can win the race without having a jockey on board. Since the jockey rides bareback and the course is very narrow with sharp turns, it is not uncommon for crashes and jockeys to come off their horse. This day would be no different. Multiple crashes occurred and I saw at least two jockeys come off their horses.

The race lasted only 90 seconds but was full of drama as the lead was surrendered by Contrada dell Onda in the last lap to Contrada della Selva. As the horse and jockey crossed the line for the third time, canon fire marked their victory as did a roaring cheer from the Selva fans. This sparked an evening of endless partying and celebrations, which lasted well into the next day as flag wavers and drum corps traversed the streets of Siena. Locals and tourists alike dined in the streets, drank chianti and celebrated another year of this ongoing festival.

For my wife and I, we are very grateful to the Headquarters for providing the opportunity for us to attend this amazing cultural event. I thoroughly think these programs need to continue as they offer insight into our host country's rich history and culture. I would also highly encourage each member of NRDC-ITA to apply for the opportunities the Moral and Welfare office make available for us.





## 21 May, Hungary's National Defence Day

by MAJ (HUN A) Szilvia Sagi

Almost all countries of the world commemorate about their defence forces symbolized the sovereignty and self-defence capability of the nation. In the last decades, in our country members of the defence forces were celebrated in several ways. In 1940 a governing order declared 28 June as the Day of Defence. According to this regulation the Day of Defence was "the celebration of armed forces", the ceremonial display of the military spirit and the internal power of the army in front of the nation.

Since the 50's until 1991, 29 September was the Armed Forces Day and National Defence Day. By a regulation of the Government since 1992, 21 May is the Day of the Hungarian National Defence, this is

the day of battle of Castle Buda in 1849, when the Hungarian Army lead by General Artúr Görgey recaptured the capital this day from the troops lead by Austrian General Hentzi.

From the memorials we have learned that the successful occupation of the Buda Castle – the Honvéd General Artúr Görgey was not more than 31 years old at the time – was the 'crown' of the glorious Spring Campaign, and the General had proven his excellent capabilities, when he forged the poorly equipped Hungarian forces into an army within a short time.

This battle was the last step to make clear for Habsburg Emperor the Hungarian's willing of independence, and this victory could symbolized the freedom of the Country and would have provided a good discussion basis for the expected peace talks.

Remembering for this unprecedented battle and victory, since 1992 we remember the heroes who lined up as soldiers under the tricolor of the nation on 21st May 1849, and faced death bravely, singing the national anthem

while attacking the strongholds of the enemy.

First and foremost, this day is the day of remembrance, a celebration in honor of the predecessors who had defended their homeland heroically. Nevertheless, it also has to be mentioned that Hungarian soldiers – just like in the past – deserve all our respect in these times, as well. Be it a contracted soldier, a professional serviceman, regardless of the location they are serving at, both within the boundaries of the country, and in an international mission.

This year, the Hungarian Contingent of NRDC-ITA HQ invited the other





Senior National Representatives (SNRs), Deputy Chief of Staffs (DCOSs) and Assistant Chief of Staffs (ACOSs) of the HQ to celebrate the Hungarian Armed Forces Day together.

The event was held in "Ugo Mara" Barracks, in the garden of the Officers' Club on 19 May at 12.00 hrs.

After arrival of the guests, the Hungarian Senior National Representative, General András Szűcs greeted the participants and thanked them for coming for the celebration. In his speech he expressed that this was an irregular event, because his and the Hungarian Contingent's intention was on one side to commemorate the Hungarian Armed Forces Day because this year on 21 May we celebrated the 162 anniversary of the establishment of the first independent Hungarian Army,

and on the other hand this event could be a good reason to spend more time in a familiar environment.

Following this General Szűcs asked the participants to thank together to all servicemen of the Hungarian Armed Forces to provide their selfless service to the Nation and their commitment to their demanding job, and in order to carry out the other purpose of the event he invited the guests for a small buffet organised, prepared and served by the Hungarian Contingent.

Before the invitees started to enjoy the traditional Hungarian wines



and meals, the Commander of NRDC-ITA, Lieutenant General Gian Marco Chiarini complimented to the Hungarian Contingent and thanked the invitation for the national celebration.

Personally this event was memorable for me, because this illustrious event was the date of my promotion to major and was a great honour for me to received felicitation not only from Hungarian contingent but also from General Chiarini and all invited guests too.

I wish for all officers and NCOs to have same opportunity which could be a life time memory for all military service carriers.

## With You Soldier and Friend...for You Pastor *The Meaning of a Presence*

by CAPT (ITA A) Don Marco GALANTI

Dear Readers,

in all or almost Nato Armed Forces exist among "officers" the Military Chaplains of different Religions and Confessions which ensure the Spiritual Assistance to all personnel and their families, this: for a "people" with very particular characteristics, kind of service and mobility. Under each uniform there's a person with his life and his history.

In Italy this presence is ensured by Catholic priests, who have the responsibility and obligation to serve every man and woman with their respective families, whatever faith they profess.

This role, that while in the country has a normal course, abroad in peacekeeping missions, it becomes important and decisive, not only to assist all the staff, but also to collaborate with Commands to ensure such a serene and right work for the aims settled.

I'm not born now in this world and for this service, but every time that I have the opportunity to be with my soldiers during their "job", I'm amazed and delighted as a child in front of the twinkling lights of shop windows.

We are people in uniform like "Samaritans" on the dusty streets of the land where we go, with respect and commitment and so we try like this we try to live these experiences.

As Chaplain to see our soldiers, asking about the fundamental questions of life is so gratify, so I would like to tell you the words of the Church that I have in my mind every day that explain and qualify my presence: *"The vocation of the soldier is the PEACE. During the Synod of the Church Military Ordinariate in Italy, we have clarified our identity on beatitude: Blessed are the peacemakers so that they should be called Sons of God". Then the Second Vatican Council remind us: «men as sinner, are and will always be under the threat of war until the Jesus' coming», so that our Military Church said in its Synod that "all those are serving the community by choosing to do the military profession in the all corps, ministers of security and freedom of peoples, that if properly perform their duty, really contribute to the stability of peace. » [nr. 564]"*.

Our soldiers are really the servants of peace, people who operate for peace. «Our soldiers love the "Peace-keeping"». It's the title of a book that has shown that our soldiers have made these operations not only from the professional point of view, but also in the human one.

I feel privileged to be able to do these experiences of faith, outside the common conventions that we know. I'm with them soldier and friend, and for them pastor of hope and faith.

Since I was a young priest and during the years of formation, I always thought to priest as one who goes where nobody wants to go, looking for all those who might avoid him because they are harder to engage, surpassing the reality of the parish and making every man image of that God who stands talking to everyone: from the Zacchaeus' house,...to the messy life of Magdalene, who welcomes everyone without judging but looking into the heart. Maybe I'm so close to the limits, but I think that God lives in every heart that knows how to reflect about the answers that might are not inside the rules that we know, at least initially, and here in this condition, helping them to follow a walking of knowledge and spiritual life that the Church indicates and offers from the tradition.

How many times I've seen in these recent years, faces full of such emotional tears facing the dangerous service: the smile of children that greet us and making shine our eyes, attentive faces during a Mass for their





fallen colleague, a prayer for those who awaits us at home, so these wet eyes from the men in uniform who believe in justice and Peace to every man and every man that pay back for the service and the commitment.

Therefore, even for me Chaplain, Missions abroad are unique and rich of humanity: see and hear our young soldiers so determined and eager to do their professionalism, knowing the risks and the hardships and difficulties that they expect, this is so satisfaction.

During the day, and alternate in their various services, there's a time for a greeting, a coffee together, and the moment of confrontation and about of questions for the meaning of the hate from these people and of the presence of religion that sometimes divides rather than unites.

This is being Chaplain and it's the sense of this presence. We are proud to be soldiers, and Christian soldiers or whatever Faith, that through the service for the Peace offers their young lives helping others for the security, and I with them, as an older brother, accompanying them to live their life, their service through the faith of this noble work: to be "peacemakers". This tells authenticity, vocation, commitment, responsibility, Faith in one word. The strength of our service has been transformed into a fortress of our faith.

The Military Chaplain is this brother who shares and guides the heart of these people so that their service will always be authentic and true. It may seem, to a stranger's eyes, a small thing, but we know how important it is, that consciences are straight and have the right attitude, to be a true Peace defenders.

This is my commitment in the Armed Forces and the sense of my presence, cheerful and serene, God, by whatever name we call Him, in whatever form we pray Him, He is the Lord of life and for this is worth living and committing for it.





## NRDC-ITA Wives International Club



Ladies, are you new to the area? Do you want to meet new people? Would you like to visit local tourist sites and find out where the best shops and markets are? Do you want to practice your language skills or learn Italian? If so, you should join us at a NIWIC Coffee Morning.

NIWIC stands for the NRDC-Italy Wives International Club. It is a voluntary association within the NRDC-Italy Morale & Welfare Programme. Every spouse or partner who holds an NRDC ID card can be a member, as well as any female military personnel serving in the NRDC.

As well as providing a friendly, informal opportunity to meet other spouses, NIWIC also

has a busy calendar of social, cultural and educational activities. Recent highlights have included:

- Free Italian lessons

Many of us arrive in Italy with little or no knowledge of the Italian language. NIWIC arranged Italian classes with a local language school. These were a great success last year, as wives of all nationalities learnt to communicate in Italian. Classes will run again from October 2010 to March 2011. It is intended to have 3 groups – complete beginners, intermediates and one for the more advanced. Details will be available later in the year.

- A 2 day trip to the beautiful city of Venezia

We stayed in the Foresteria on the banks of the Canal Grande by the Piazza San Marco. As well as visiting some of the many museums, we managed to sample the delights of Venetian cuisine, sip Prosecco in the local bars and find time to buy handbags, Murano class, carnival masks.....!

- A visit to see the Turin Shroud (La Santa Sindone di Torino)

The Shroud was on display to the public for the first time in 10 years. Over 20 NIWIC members spent a busy day in Torino, visiting the Shroud and enjoying a wonderful lunch at the Dowagers' Palace.

- Christmas Fair/Mercatino di Natale.

Every year NIWIC holds a mercatino di natale in the O Club. Each nation has a stall selling Christmas treats traditional to their country. As well as showing off their baking and craft skills, members raise money for charity. Last year over 1000 euros was raised, which was distributed between WarChild, a charity that helps children in war torn countries such as Afghanistan, and the Croce Rossa Italiana (Italian Red Cross).

Why not make the most of your time here by joining NIWIC?

Coffee mornings take place on the first Thursday of the month in the morning (except during the month of August), from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month for trips and activities. Children are also welcome at coffee mornings, although we recommend that you bring a drink and a toy for your child as unfortunately we do not have a day care facility.

New members and new ideas are always welcome. If you would like more information, or would like to join us at one of our Coffee Mornings, please contact Sherry Bates-Wilson ([babybates42@hotmail.com](mailto:babybates42@hotmail.com)) or Lesley Onslow ([communitycoordinator@ymail.com](mailto:communitycoordinator@ymail.com)).





## “Playing for Life” - A Concert for Haiti

by MAJ (GBR A) Christopher Tom SARGENT

On Tuesday 12th January 2010 a huge earthquake registering massive 7.0-magnitude struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti. Haiti's worst quake in two centuries hit south of the capital Port-au-Prince and killed over 100,000 people and left millions homeless. The world was shocked by the loss of life and aid and support has flooded into the area.

In response to the tragedy the Support Brigade at the HQ NRDC-ITA decided to hold a concert to raise money for those who have suffered. Despite being many thousands of miles from their home base, the Commander and personnel of the Brigade and the Headquarters felt compelled to demonstrate their support and sympathy.



The concert which was christened “Suonando Per La Vita”, which translates as “Playing For Life” was held on Sunday 18th April at the Headquarters of the NRDC-ITA in Caserma Ugo Mara, in Solbiate Olona. Despite the inclement weather the concert was a huge success and allowed the Headquarters and Support Brigade to demonstrate support for those who have suffered so much.

The Deputy Commander of the NRDC-ITA, Major General David Capewell opened the concert and encouraged performers and spectators to support the cause. The 600 spectators including local mayors and members of the local community were entertained by a large and diverse number of

acts. Artists and performers from the local Folk Group “Bosino”, Chorus Singers “Notum Novum” and Bands from Busto Arsizio, Gorla Minore and Marnate provided the music along with the Lonate Pozzolo Bersalieri Band. Acts and demonstration from the Guardia di Finanza Dog Unit, a dance school and a local Horse Stables proved to be very popular with the audience.

All in all the day was a huge success, Colonel Antonio Pennino, the Commander of the Support Brigade, was delighted with the way the event went. “This event was planned in order to demonstrate our support for the people of Haiti. My men and I were all saddened by what occurred in Haiti and felt compelled to assist albeit in a small way. I would like to thank all the performers for what they did at the concert and for the spectators who turned up. Despite the weather the support was fantastic. Overall we raised over 4000 Euros for what is a very worthy cause”.



# NCO AND SOLDIER OF THE YEAR 2009



**WO2 (ITA A)  
Stefano BOLOGNINO**

**OR4 (ESP A)  
Oscar PUEBLA FRAILE**

