

NRDC-ITA Magazine

NATO RAPID DEPLOYABLE CORPS - ITALY - SOLBIATE OLONA
2011, ISSUE 17



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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Almost six months have passed since last issue of the NRDC-ITA Magazine. Summer is over and the majority of us are back to the day-to-day work. So, it's time to catch up by telling you about the news in our community.

As is customary each year, personnel rotation is in progress and changes are underway in almost every aspect of the NATO community at Solbiate Olona. First and foremost, we've said so long to LTG Gian Marco Chiarini and welcomed LTG Giorgio Battisti, as new NRDC-ITA Commander.

Additionally, several staff officers, and family members have left NRDC-ITA with a new destination, and sometimes a new life ahead. We deeply thank them for their contribution to our cause. At the same time, we would like to extend our warm welcome to the newcomers. They will soon be part of the "family"



and integrate in the NRDC-ITA Team, participating with the famous NRDC-ITA's can-do attitude to daily challenges.

Therefore, it is worth repeating our request for submissions for this Magazine and for our newsletter, "Everywhere Rapidly".

Have you got any idea for the next issue? Are you an expert on any subjects? Do you have a funny picture, a story, or an interesting place to visit and you want to share it with our community?

If so, please contact the Public Affairs Office at editor@paonrdc.it, or ext. 5113.

Thanks!!

Colonel ITA (A) Francesco Cosimato, Chief PAO

NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy Magazine

September 2011, Issue nr. 17

NRDC-ITA Commander

Lieutenant General ITA (A) Giorgio Battisti

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Submissions should be made available via e-mail only. Send all submissions for publication to editor@paonrdc.it. Circulation is 500 copies.



Commander NRDC-ITA Address

Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti, Italian Army



Since I assumed the command of this unique Headquarters on 30 June 2011, I have been aware that taking over the responsibility would have meant to be called to accomplish a new mission. The mission of serving the needs of the Alliance, leading, in the name of continuity, an already valuable organization characterized by the precious expertise and professionalism of all allied personnel.

It is always worth reflecting on the achievements and look at the challenges lying ahead. The Headquarters rapid logistic projection model, the ability to sustain its complex and articulate structure, as well as meeting the Combat Readiness Evaluation criteria, have been tested throughout various exercises, as part of the NRF-16 preparation cycle. The positive outcome of all the past exercises was really evidence to the Corps being a reliable Headquarters of the Alliance, both in the national and international operational environments.

Such a complex operational situation has paved the way for the implementation of the new Strategic Concept and the Comprehensive Approach Doctrine.

Eagle Eye Seminar 2011 gave a great opportunity to this Headquarters to give an effective contribution in setting up a useful framework on which to build up its understanding on how to approach such new strategies and

doctrines, both physically and conceptually.

May I therefore express to all the Staff my sincere gratitude for the excellent contribution to what the Headquarters nowadays represents in the modern strategic scenario.

That contribution would be not sustainable without the continuous support of our beloved families. To them go my warmest and fondest thanks for what they do for us every day!

Looking ahead, I would like to draw your attention to what should be seen as key elements for success.

I firmly believe that individual commitment to team effort is what leads us to success. In a multinational environment, cooperation at every level leads to achieve common goals. Success is also synonym of respect of roles. Roles that refer to different levels of accountability. Levels of accountability which belong to leaders who are to win the respect by delivering more than they promise and not the other way around.

Common goals require the cooperation of all the NRDC-ITA personnel. Nationality makes no difference when it comes to common goals. We all need to give our essential contribution in the name of the life we chose. A



life that has got rules. Rules that are supposed to be followed in order to assist us meeting common goals.

A lot has been done but it is still a long way to go! I am confident that together we will make it happen through any challenge we are going to face.



NRDC-ITA Welcomes New Commander

Story and Photos by NRDC-ITA PAO

Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti, of the Italian Army, assumed command of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy during a change of command ceremony which took place on

June the 30 2011, at Caserma Ugo Mara in Solbiate Olona, Italy.

With the flags of the 15 countries contributing to NRDC-ITA strength flying proud in the morning breeze, the ceremony marked an historic day for the Alliance in Italy.

Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers from NRDC-ITA and the NRDC-ITA Support Brigade participated in the change of command ceremony.

The ceremony was also attended by regional, provincial and city Labara, Ganfalons and Veterans Associations including Lombardia region, and the cities of Milano, Varese, Busto Arsizio and Solbiate Olona.

The ceremony followed the traditional Italian military protocol and was presided over by Lieutenant General Francesco



The passing of the NRDC Italy flag

Tarricone, Land Forces Commander. Lieutenant Generale Giuseppe Valotto, Chief of the Italian Army General Staff was also present. During the ceremony General Chiarini addressed those participating before passing the NRDC-ITA flag to General Battisti, the traditional military way to symbolise a change in command. General Chiarini, an Italian Tank Corps officer, has commanded NRDC-ITA for three years since assuming command on 27 August 2008. Under General Chiarini's command NRDC-ITA has conducted numerous operational and training activities including a deployment to Afghanistan in 2009 (January-July) when over 200 staff personnel from NRDC-ITA

contributed to the manning of the ISAF HQ in Kabul. Recently the Headquarters has conducted three major exercises and has provided the Headquarters of the land component of the NATO Response Force from January to June 2011.

General Chiarini assumed the role of the Italian Military Representative to the EU and NATO in Brussels during September 2011.

Prior to assuming command of NRDC-ITA Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti was the Chief of Staff of the Land Forces Command in Verona. He assumed command at a busy time as NRDC-ITA personnel begin their final preparations for a major exercise in October 2011. In 2012 NRDC-ITA will train in preparation for the Headquarters providing over 200 staff for the ISAF Intermediate Joint Command in Afghanistan during 2013.



Flag bearers during the Change of Command ceremony

NRDC Italy Relinquishes Responsibility for NRF (L) to NRDC Turkey



Story by NRDC- ITA PAO, Photos by NRDC-T

With the formal hand-over of the NRF flag held in Istanbul on 12 July 2011, Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti, Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy relinquished responsibilities for the Land Component of the NATO Response Force (NRF) to Lieutenant General Hulusi Akar, Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Turkey. Besides the Commander, attending the ceremony on behalf of NRDC-Italy were NRDC Italy Chief of Staff, Major General Leonardo di Marco, and Command Sergeant Major Antonio Puglisi.

NRDC-Italy took over the NRF commitment on 1 January 2011 and since that period has acted as NATO's high readiness force, ready to respond to any crisis as directed by the NATO Alliance.



The passing of the NRF (L) flag

Over the past six months the Headquarters has been ready to deploy anywhere in the world within 5-30 days and has maintained its focus and capabilities, whilst ready to deploy, through a series of training events and seminars.

Speaking after the ceremony General Battisti emphasised the importance of the commitment: "The demands of the NRF commitment should not be underestimated. NRDC-Italy conducted a series of demanding exercises during 2010 to ensure we were ready to respond to any crisis, anywhere in the world. Whilst the Headquarters was not tasked by NATO we stood ready to deploy and maintained our

focus through regular training events and briefings. Recent events have clearly demonstrated how rapidly a crisis can emerge and it is essential that we maintain our ability to influence such events quickly."

Whilst the NRF commitment has passed, NRDC Italy remain focussed on maintaining their operational effectiveness and are preparing for their next challenging exercise, Eagle Roster 11, in October 2011.





Deputy Commander Visit to the Italian 2nd Bridge Engineer Regiment

Story by Lieutenant Colonel ITA (A) Marco Schinzari, ENG Branch , Photos provided by 2nd Bridge Engineer Regiment

On July the 7th 2011, Major General GBR (A) Thomas A. Beckett, NRDC Italy Deputy Commander, visited the 2nd Italian Army Bridge Engineer Regiment, based at Piacenza, Italy. The aim of the visit was to be informed about the ongoing activities and training techniques of the Italian engineer unit, which is subordinated to the Italian Engineer Command, under the responsibility of the Italian Land Support Forces HQs, and has been affiliated to NRDC-ITA Headquarters since 2002.

General Beckett, accompanied by Colonel ITA (A) Vittorio Stella, Assistant Chief of Staff Engineer, was warmly welcomed by the Regiment Commander, Colonel Fabio Cornacchia and his Staff.

During the visit, the General toured the main Regiment sites, the Regiment historical museum, and other facilities. He was briefed on the unit's history and capabilities, and assisted at some training activities performed by the Sappers of the regiment at "Scalo Po" training area. In particular, General Beckett attended a session of specific pontoonniers training, to include the construction of a floating bridge, an exercise on navigation procedures on the Po



Maj.Gen. Beckett signing the Regiment Book of Honour

River, and the construction of a Bailey fixed bridge.

Part of the demonstration was also the "Off Shore" section training activity, where NRDC-ITA DCOM saw a race preparation activities. To be noted that the 2nd Bridge Regiment is the sole unit in the Italian Army to be able to provide such a capacity. Among the others, the Off Shore section took part to the 2011 World Championship competition race in Finland last 17th July reaching

the second position.

The visit presented the General with a perfect opportunity to also get acquainted with the main equipments and techniques used nowadays by the Italian military engineer units deployed for Emergency and Natural Disaster Relief operations.

At the end of the visit General Beckett signed the Regiment's Honour Book.

The origin of the 2nd ITA Bridge Engineer Regiment traces back to the 1st of January 1883, when the 4th Bridge Engineer Regiment was established. Several years later, the 4th Bridge Engr Rgt took part to the WW1 operations, in the period from 1915 to 1918, emplacing several crossing points on Isonzo and Piave rivers (North-East of Italy), and giving support to war-fighting operations against Austro-Hungarian troops. Afterwards, on the 15th of May 1933, the

regiment's denomination has been modified in the 2nd Bridge Engineer Regiment. Then from 1935 till 1936 the 2nd Bridge Engineer Regiment was involved in the operation of Eastern Africa Campaign. Also, from 1941 to 1943 for WW2 operations, the Unit was deployed to perform war-fighting operations in the Greek-Albanian and



Maj.Gen. Beckett receives the Regiment crest from Col. Cornacchia

From the Staff



Russian Campaigns. 1951 and in 1966 the 2nd Bridge Eng Rgt was deployed to provide Engineer Support to the national Authorities and civilian population to the flooded areas of Polesine, Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna regions.

Also, the Unit was tasked to support national civilian population for earthquakes in Friuli and Irpinia regions, respectively in 1976 and in 1980.

Since the very early stage of the Balkan crises, the Regiment took part in various national and NATO and UN Operations. It started with the Italian Operation codenamed "Pellicano", in Albania, 1991-1992, and, almost at the same time, it took part to the UN mission in Somalia, in 1992. Later, the regiment deployed several times in support to the various NATO Missions and Operations in the Balkans:

- "Joint Guardian", Kosovo, 1999 and 2001;
- "Joint Forge", Bosnia, 2002;
- "Decisive Endeavour", Kosovo, 2004;
- "Joint Enterprise", Kosovo, 2005 and 2006.

Furthermore, in 2007, the Italian regiment provided support to the "ISAF" mission in Afghanistan.

Minor contributions were also provided to the disaster relief operation "Indus", for the Pakistani earthquake in 2005, and, again in the Kosovo in 2008, for a Natural Disaster emergency operation.

The homeland activities of the Regiment are linked to main flooding happened in the recent past in different Italian Regions:



A moment of the exercise on navigation procedures

Piemonte in 1994, Emilia Romagna in 1996 and 2000 and Campania in 1998. Besides, the Regiment was tasked to support the civilian population of Abruzzo region, badly hit by an earthquake in 2009. Finally, the Unit was tasked to support to the activities aimed at preventing impending environment disasters in Campania region, in 2008, and along the Po River in 2010.

Today, the Regiment is based only on one Bridge battalion. This configuration will be modified in the next future, when the current capabilities will be doubled with one more Combat Support Battalion. This will eventually enable the unit to provide both Engineer Combat Support, as well as all Mobility tasks, in addition to normal River Crossing operations activities, enhancing the unit's flexibility, combat power and capability to perform a wider range of military tasks.

The 2nd Italian Army Bridge Engineer Regiment is a peculiar unit, ready to be employed for

Homeland and Abroad missions, and represents a great credit for the Italian Army and the NATO Alliance as a whole.



A soldier from the 2nd Regiment during a drill (dated 1917)



New NATO Command Structure

Story by Colonel ITA (A) Francesco Cosimato, Chief PAO

NRDC's role following to the NATO Command Structure reform and the New Strategic Concept

The new command and control structure recently approved by the Defence Minister on the 8th of June does not seem to have affected the Rapid Deployable Headquarters as they are today. In fact, their reporting line is the same and the mission agreed among the troop contributing nations is still the same. Nonetheless, a deeper analysis is needed to verify the changes in the framework given by the new strategic concept approved in the Lisbon summit last year.

NATO After Lisbon

If we consider the new strategic concept and the Command and Control structure reform as a whole it becomes quite evident that the main challenge is to grant more functions with less resources, military forces are requested to be more effective and flexible.

On one hand the political level continues to put in place military actions with a general mandate by the United Nations, but, on the other hand, with a lower level of international support and a higher level of media confrontation, the operation "Unified Protector" is a perfect



NATO Headquarters, Belgium

example of that. The threats we have been facing so far are taking higher profiles, the paragraph "security environment" of the strategic concept is detailed in identifying a wide range of risks including new ones such as the risks related to the use of technology, climate changes, water scarcity and increasing energy needs that will be new issues to be considered while assessing the situation on the field in a crisis area.

NATO Leaders have clearly indicated the need of the so called "holistic approach" to crisis management.

Doctrinal Challenges

We are at a turning point in which NATO is not just a military alliance in which doctrine and procedures are the core business of military forces working together. Leaders are willing to use a panel of assets able to conduct operations with a lot of

aspects other than the military in the field of diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, state governance, democratization and a lot more.

So far we have had military bodies in charge of liaison functions in these arenas, now a further step is needed. Both civilians and military





people are requested to develop a common culture to put in place a joint effort to accomplish the missions likely to be given by the political level.

NRDC's areas of improvement

The land component of a joint force is the military body with the higher level of interaction with non military actors. Any single check point as well as any element of the Command and Control chain is a place in which local population can ask for support in non military matters.

The doctrinal debate on the so-called "comprehensive approach" should result in significant changes in the Headquarters' structure in order to fully incorporate it in the establishment and the procedures for the staff. Along with that a capability to identify civilian partners to both solve day by day problems and plan the crisis area's future.

One of the most difficult challenges is to ensure communications towards civilian agencies, keeping separate the classified networks from the local agencies and GO's and NGO's networks, but having a Command Post layout in which internet is to be used daily for an effective cooperation with the civilian world.

Interagencies working groups are probably going



NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen



The NATO emblem



Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Adm. ITA (N) Giampaolo DI PAOLA

to be reinforced, meeting on regular basis and with more detailed tasks.

The need to maximise the deployability of the forces requires to strengthen non only the manoeuvre assets, but also the system in place to deploy the various bodies of the HQ. NRDC's have to make all the efforts needed to have the same capability to deploy of their affiliated units.

The future of NRDC's is in the capability to be able to conduct war fighting operations and to support civilian bodies doing stabilization at the same time, taking advantage of any possibility to support the local population.

The challenge is to do that without expanding too much the establishment and avoiding duplications and unnecessary redundancies.

Conclusion

The NRDC Commander is a person that will be requested to take decisions in a lot of fields ranging from kinetic to non kinetic operations, daily liaising with his civilian and military counterparts, and with the need to make sure his Headquarters acts in a coordinated and flexible manner in any issues, including the possibility to face possible crisis involving many different actors.

From the Staff



Exercise Eagle Tour 2011

Story by Major ITA (A) Simone Gatto, ENG Branch, Photos by Lieutenant Colonel ITA (A) Stefano Sbaccanti, PAO

“Soldiers seem always to be needed when diplomacy fails”. This was certainly true in Asia Minor in 1914 for Gallipoli campaign that remains among the most contentious episodes of WWI history, where United Kingdom – France led forces fought versus tenacious and enduring Turkish supported by Germany. At the very beginning of the campaign the main Allied intention was to force open a warm water passage to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Constantinople conquest, but very soon the expeditionary operation developed into a ruinous trench warfare.

Its visionary origins, its tragic course and the dramatic ending all give the power to stimulate conflicting arguments. Gallipoli has always been interpreted in national terms, with of course different story description covering what the belligerent nations have decided to emphasize. This year NRDC Italy battlefield tour (Exercise Eagle Tour 2011 – Ex ET 2011) has been organized on the Gallipoli

peninsula to study on site, with an aseptic modus operandi, the campaign in order to prepare NRDC-ITA key leaders and Senior National Representatives to conduct large-scale operation, train them in decision making process and to upswing team building within the participants.

The exercise was organized by Engineer Branch and G8 Purchase & Contract, with the support of the Senior Turkish Representative.

The exercise was launched on March the 31st with a historical introduction and a specific lecture run by Professor Stephen Prince to provide the participants with a first flavor of the historical facts.

The real tour started on May the 09th, with a charter flight to Cannakale (on the Turkish Asian side) from Malpensa. From Cannakale airport the delegation moved by bus to the Hellenic town of Troy where they had the possibility to visit the famous ruins of the different “Troy” from Bronze age till Roman empire period. Through the centuries, Troy had a strategic importance, because of its position on



The organizing team, from left Maj. Gatto, Col. Stella, Lt.Col. Tempesta and Lt.Col. Belogi

the Dardanelle strait between Europe and Asia.

The second day, after an overnight rest on the Asian coast the delegation by ferryboat landed at Eceabat, on the European Gallipoli peninsula, to study the events related to the Cape Hellas battle area. At Eceabat, the delegation stopped in front of the model showing the overall area of the campaign where the two accompanying historians, Professor Prince for the Allied side and Dr. Yildirim for the Turkish side. They introduced the sea battle and gave the audience the first overview on the entire Campaign. The sea battle was also analyzed at the war museum located in the Tabyasi Naval Battery where a historical movie showed the heroic acts of both belligerents. On the way to Cape Hellas, among the different historical stands, the delegation had the opportunity to pay respect to the thousands of French and



A static display at Kilitbahir



The French cemetery

Commonwealth fallen during the battles with two simple ceremonies at the France War Cemetery of Gallipoli, that overlook Morto Bay on the Southern part of the promontory, and to the Commonwealth memorial stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The obelisk over 30 m can be seen by all ships passing through the Dardanelles and it is the memorial for the men who fell during the campaign or were lost in the sea.

On the memorial there are reported all the names of the ships and the Army formations that took part to the campaign. The French took part to the campaign with the “Corps Expéditionnaire d’Orient”. That was responsible for the right section of the Allied line at Kereves Dere, a deep gully about one kilometer north where is now located the Turkish memorial.

After these touching ceremonies the group moved to the Turkish Memorial highs, higher 42 metres, that commemorates all the Turkish soldiers died during the battle of Canakkale. There,

one placard reports what Atatürk said about the 57th Regiment: “this is a famous regiment, because all of them were killed”. Unbelievable but true! From the memorial is possible to have a tremendous view on Kumkale Cape on the Asian side and on S beach.

From here, the group moved through W beach, also known as 1st Lancashire Landing, Y beach and Gully beach. At these three stands the audience had the opportunity to appreciate some military constructions, such as piers and water cisterns used

during the landing.

The day after, the focus was on the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) area of operation, (photo ANZAC) starting from ANZAC cove. During Gallipoli campaign there was no better known place than ANZAC Cove, since more than 27000 Australians, New Zealanders and Indians were put ashore in ANZAC cove between 25 April and 01 May 1915

For this reason, ANZAC represents the place where Australians found themselves by accident. The value, mateship, self-sacrifice and integrity, of those soldiers were instrumental in the formation of Australian identity. Every year on April the 25th not less than 7000 Australians visit this area to pay respect to their fallen heroes. The epic facts of the ANZAC are reported by Mel Gibson and Mark Lee in the famous Australian movie “Gallipoli”.

From ANZAC cove the delegation had the opportunity to climb a little bit on Shrapnel Valley, where Turkish snipers killed hundreds of Allied, and



The ANZAC Cove

From the Staff



Wreath-lying ceremony at the Turkish cemetery

museum. During the night, Lieutenant General Gian Marco Chiarini, Commander NRDC-ITA, hosted a social event on a ferry boat along the Marmora. During the event, also attended by the Commander and Chief of Staff of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Turkey, General Chiarini bid farewell to some Staff Officers who were due to leave the HQs soon. Seeing Istanbul from the ferry boat was an amazing experience and remarked the extreme historical importance of the strait!

On Friday, the “Panorama 1453” museum was visited. There, it was possible to appreciate the fall of Constantinople on a painted 360° ceiling sphere.

The exercise met all the goals prefixed; it increased the team building within the NRDC-ITA key leaders and multinational members and provided a great opportunity for the NRDC-ITA delegation to study on site the historic events which took place

appreciate for themselves how demanding the terrain was. Next stops were the Australian Lone Pine Cemetery and the Turkish Soldier Memorial where the delegation paid a visit and laid a commemorative wreath to the heroic, tenacious and enduring Turkish soldier. The Nek, the Chinuk Bair and the New Zealand stands closed the tour leaving the delegation with a lot of unanswered strategic

questions. At the end of the third day, after a six hours bus transfer from Gallipoli peninsula the delegation arrived in the Pera district, the heart of Istanbul, a melting pot megalopolis where Europe hugs Asia. The day after, in Istanbul the group had the opportunity to visit the ancient area including Santa Sofia, the Blue Mosque, the Roman Cistern, the Topaki



NRDC-ITA Staff at Troy

Individual Military Training 2011



Story by Captain ITA (A) Paolo Carunchio, G7

The 1st session of the annual Individual Military Training (IMT) was conducted over the period 21-25 March and 17-19 of May at multiple locations to include Solbiate Olona, Bellinzago Novarese and Candelo Massazza. The new IMT concept approved by NRDC – ITA Chief of Staff, requires the core training to consist of a majority of practical exercises. This interval of IMT was developed in accordance with this directive with 21 of the 44 (47%) training periods dedicated to practical exercises. In particular, the aim was to provide the NRDC ITA personnel with additional professional knowledge and specific military skills in order to meet the challenging requirements set for High Readiness Force personnel. A total of 125 individuals participated in the first 5 days of training with 74 of them succeeding in completing the overall training cycle by completing the final events at the Candelo Massazza firing range.

This session of annual IMT cycle introduced many new training events to meet the evolving challenges of today's combat environments and contingency operations. The previous training consisted of only C-IED, CBRN, mine awareness, health education and static weapons training at the Bellinzago Novarese firing range. This year IMT included those previous events and in addition lectures on Law of War, Media Awareness, Rules of Engagement,

Personal Recovery, Combat Thrauma Management/Force Health Protection. As far as the practical activities were concerned, this year IMT also included E – CAS procedures, orienteering techniques, MEDEVAC procedures, individual fighting techniques, and familiarization with “Lince” (the new Italian tactical vehicle). The practical exercises proved to be beneficial in increasing both the educational benefits as well as level of interest in the annual IMT.



The theoretical and practical lessons during E – CAS procedures provided familiarization to all participants in the NATO procedures for requesting and directing the CAS support in the absence of qualified Forward Air Controller (FAC). The 3rd Artillery Regiment instructors provided excellent instruction and realistic scenarios during practical exercises greatly enhancing the training experience for all participants. Lectures on Law of War, Media Awareness and Rules of Engagement were also very instructive and greatly stimulated audience interest resulting in a

barrage of questions at the end of each lesson in order to achieve a better understanding of the topics. The on site theoretical lessons were followed by an orienteering march in Ticino river area and by a practical fire session in Candelo Massazza. On this occasion the attendees got the opportunity to challenge themselves with dynamic weapons training that utilized the employment of mobile targets and the development of emergency shooting exercises with both rifle (Beretta mod. AR 70/90) and pistol (Beretta mod. PB 92). The new and improved annual IMT was made possible through the cooperation of multiple organizations. As the OPR for the activity I owe a special thank to all the instructors internal to NRDC – ITA and from external organizations such as the 7 CBRN Regiment and the Mountain Troops Command of Bolzano (COMALP); if the IMT proved a success that was due to their dedication and efforts.

Obviously, all the activities would not have been possible without the full cooperation of our Support Brigade and the Support Regiment. Both units showed a very cooperative attitude and provided day and night time availability. Finally, I would like to remind those who missed the first iteration that the next IMT session will be held over the period 19-23 of September and 08-10 of November 2011. Do not miss such an opportunity; you are going to have fun.

From the Staff



Why Peace Operations are Challenging for Military Forces

Story by Lieutenant Colonel, ITA (A) Vittorio Lipari, G5

While G5 Military Planning is challenged by Peace Operations, G5 Policy needs to look beyond Military Operations

To stop conflict, peace forces must be prepared to engage in combat or in the least to deal with peace spoilers. As it is well known, military forces have been designed, equipped, and trained according to fundamental principles of war, which are the tenets originally proposed by Carl von Clausewitz in his essay *Principles of War*, and later enlarged in his book, *On War*. However, these principles rarely apply in practice when it comes to peace operations. In addition, there are a number of specific operational pathologies created by imperatives to manage public support for peace operations that complicate operations on the ground.

If we look at what are acknowledged as the four main principles of war (objective, unity, mass, and surprise), we can see that all are problematic when it comes to peace operations. First and foremost is the principle that military operations should be conducted towards clearly defined, decisive and attainable objectives. This is possible in war, with objectives including seizure of territory and/or destruction of enemy forces. In peace operations, however, objectives are often vague to reduce the coordinating problem,



and may emerge also as a consequence of the posturing issue because at an early stage of a peace operation, it may be convenient to talk tough without actually committing precious resources to tough action. In addition, peace operations are, in themselves, decisive only in the sense of short-term effects; for examples, securing aid routes or stopping a massacre. Actually, truly decisive objectives are the long-term provision of societal security, political surety, and economic stability, for which non-military instruments are essential. This issue enlarges upon the Comprehensive Approach, which represents one of the major challenges facing the Alliance today and is no longer a question of whether NATO needs such an approach but rather defining the content.

In our HQ, G5 and in particular the Policy section already

joint operational experience, may inhibit the creation and operation of an effective command structure in peace operations. To make matters worse, commanders must coordinate their actions with civilian agencies (UN, non-government, and local agencies) to achieve unity of effort in peace operations. Here differences in military and civilian organizational cultures are more profound and can place a barrier to effective and timely coordination.

The third principle is for commanders to mass force. This may be achieved through concentration of force at points in space and time that will have greatest impact on the enemy. It also may be achieved through massing the effects of combat power, that is, synchronized use of all the elements of combat power to create decisive effect.



When it comes to peace operations, however, forces are more commonly dispersed rather than concentrated in order to maintain high visibility and provide security on the ground. Force dispersal at this level also limits possibilities for massing effects. The smaller the unit, the fewer elements of combat power will be available to the commander.

The principle of surprise, namely, to strike the enemy when and where they least expect it, is difficult to incorporate into peace operations. The critical ingredients for surprise are speed, secrecy, and deception. Speed, as we have seen before, may be hampered by the lack of a timely coordination; while secrecy, and then deception, is often compromised by the imperative for unity of effort, which requires peace forces to share operational information with civilian agencies, many of which hire local staff.

Moreover, in place of traditional principle of war, peace operations are shaped by the imperative to deal with public opinion. This imperative is generated by the sensitivity to casualties, particularly in what are essentially wars of choice, which are fought for reasons of principle, ideology, geopolitics or sometimes pure humanitarianism.

In any case, military intervention as wars of choice, in contrast with passivity that might cost in the long run, is due to the



connection between threats and domestic institutions. On this, it would be better to place more weight on “transformative” strategies that do not interfere in the domestic affairs of the target, such as counterinsurgency operations, nation-building and reconstruction, and policing. At the level of national and external policy, this also results in a focus on winning the media battle.



Furthermore, concerns with public opinion produce pathologies in peace operations. First is the strategic compression of the battlefield. In conventional

war, strategic outcomes are shaped by military action at the campaign level. By contrast, tactical military actions can have strategic consequences in peace operations (the already famous “strategic soldier”). As a consequence, not only must the military commanders become effective media managers, they must also anticipate and avoid those military actions likely to result in negative fallout.

Second is an operational focus on full force protection, which is that peace forces are not vulnerable to attack. Full force protection, as an operational imperative, can hinder effective peace operations in a number of ways. It can result in a concentration of force when security for aid operations would be best promoted through the dispersal of peace forces to provide military presence over a larger area. It can require military commanders to order their forces to wear body armour, visibly demonstrating distrust and insecurity, when a more relaxed force posture would make it easier to build relations with the local community. Similarly, an over-reliance on air power, given by the aversion to casualties in wars of choice, can impede mission success as well.

In front of the challenges posed by peace operations, peace forces must avoid over-use of force so



peace operations, it is mandatory to avoid mission failures exploring the military character of peace operations by first considering the applicability of

and helping to reconstruct governments, police forces, and armies. Being all these activities essential to achieve the aforementioned provision of societal security, political surety, and economic stability, meaning the accomplishment of what are identified as truly decisive long-term objectives. In conclusion, doctrine is evolving in the NATO environment in order to keep the military instrument “up to date” and ready to face those new challenges.

The “new” Comprehensive Operational Planning Directive (COPD) and related documents and Functional Area Services like TOPFAS are clear examples on how the military instrument is capable and willing to change the way the military “do their business” in order to face this evolution In our HQ, G5 Plans & Policy is monitoring the NATO, and not only, doctrinal evolution and in our library you can find useful information on these topics.

as to maintain consent for their operations while at the same time being prepared to take robust action against peace spoilers. Such careful pondering may dramatically fail, triggering a return to intervention pessimism and traditional peacekeeping, where these served only to monitor ceasefire and supervise truces after being deployed when a conflict had ceased and with the full consent of the belligerents. On the balance between maintaining consent for peace operations while also being prepared to use force to neutralize those seeking to wreck peace agreement and oppose

the principles of war, and then by looking at how, in practice, peace operations are shaped by imperatives to deal with.

Prospects for peace operations look hopeful despite they are more complex affairs than the predecessor peacekeeping missions. In fact, peace operations are a kind of interventions that involve a wider range of tasks, including protecting territory, people, and aid operations, disarming belligerents, policing demilitarised sites and monitoring demobilization, monitoring and running elections,



Exercise Noble Light '10 Transfer of Control



Story by Captain ITA (A) Ivan Iacca, Org&Coord

Exercise “Noble Light 2010” was a key training event to the NATO Response Force 16 preparation cycle and it served as a platform to conduct the HQ Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) activities under Force Command Madrid responsibility. One of the key issues performed by NRDC-ITA staff personnel during the Exercise was the Transfer of Control (TRANSCON) from HQ NRDC-ITA Main Command Post (MAIN CP) to the Alternate Command Post (ALT CP).

The Main CP was located in Bellinzago Novarese into “Babini” barracks’s military compound. The Alt CP was located in Candelo Masazza “Cascina Pelata” military compound.

The preparation of the activity started months before the NRDC-ITA Primary Training Audience’s (PTA) deployment. Different training activities were conducted, ranging from documentation preparation to training on the field. In particular one of them was the rehearsal of the TRANSCON conducted on 27 September 2010 inside “Ugo Mara” barracks.

In accordance with the Exercise documentation and CREVAL criteria, NRDC-ITA and Support Brigade units conducted a routine TRANSCON. Due to this configuration the staff was divided into different groups:

- Skeleton party (for the Alt CP),
- Activation party,
- Main Body 1,
- Main Body 2,
- Operational Planning Group,
- Command Group,
- Work party.



Following is a quickly definition of the mentioned staff groups:

Skeleton Party. MAIN (ALT) was permanently manned with a Skeleton Party covering all functional areas in the CP and capable of full data and information replication. It was responsible for maintaining commonality of all information and data with the MAIN CP;

Activation Party. The task of the Activation Party was to establish commonality of information between MAIN and MAIN (ALT) within each functional area. The Activation Party was not supposed to be routinely

required, although flexibility to be use it was retained. Each functional area was responsible to ensure that essential supplies (minus CIS equipment) were available to Activation Party members to perform their duties. It was up to each functional areas to decide where their area would send a representative with the Activation Party, observing the following criteria:

- (1) Consideration of Commander’s Intent and current Corps mission priorities.
- (2) Activation Party personnel, derived from off-duty shift, must be fully conversant with the current situation and future intentions prior to departure.
- (3) When the Activation Party must be made up of on-duty shift personnel, their positions must be back-filled from the off-duty shift, where possible prior to their departure.

Main Body 1. It was the balance of one shift that moves to MAIN (ALT) to establish an on-duty shift prior to TRANSCON.

Command Group and Operational Planning Group. The movement of the Command Group and OPG (if convened) would be situation dependent and may take place before or after TRANSCON.

Main Body 2. It was the on-duty shift at MAIN prior to

From the Staff



TRANSCON. They moved from MAIN to the MAIN (ALT) after TRANSCON, and in principle became the off-duty shift there.

Work Party. It remained at MAIN to clear staff areas of equipment and, if necessary, load it onto the transport earmarked to move to the new MAIN site. Individuals within the Work Party will join the staff at MAIN (ALT) or stay at MAIN dependent upon the length of time before MAIN opens. Once the Italian Support Brigade (IT Spt Bde) confirms that equipment can be moved to the new Main location, the Work Party will converge on the deactivated MAIN site to accompany the move of the equipment to the new location. All of them moved with a dedicated tactical military vehicles (organized by C2 STF) in order to reach the ALT CP (the new command post). In the meantime of the planned movement all the personnel started to leave the flexibility to transfer control between MAIN

CP and the MAIN (ALT) CP may be required either in response to an increased threat, or to maintain communications over extended lines of communication. HQ NRDC-ITA will deploy on operations with the MAIN CP and the MAIN (ALT). MAIN (ALT) will be deployed in the STEP UP/ALT mode (default setting). It will be fully set up in terms of CIS and C2 equipment. MAIN (ALT) will be manned by a skeleton party tasked to maintain commonality of data and information between MAIN and MAIN (ALT). The activity was performed in the smoothly way, by the main road that connected Bellinzago Novarese to Candelo Masazza; when the order was clearly made



the first staff groups started to move in order to reach the MAIN (ALT) CP in Candelo Masazza. At the scheduled timeline all the others staff groups continued to move and left the MAIN CP – Bellinzago Novarese. The security along the itinerary was guaranteed by the escort of the Security COY and Military Police (Carabinieri), everything was run in the right way and all the staff groups' convoys arrived on time and without any kind of problems in the new MAIN CP location. The full capability and control by the new MAIN CP in Candelo Masazza was declared at 0400 p.m. .

The TRANSCON ran smoothly and concluded its activity within the arrival of the staff described before. The new MAIN CP started to function without problems and it continued to guarantee the full command and control of the NRDC-ITA HQ till the end of the exercise.



NRF 16, Mission Accomplished!



Story by Lieutenant Colonel ITA (A) Stefano Sbaccanti, PAO

The 30th of June 2011 signed the end of tour for NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy as Land Component Command (LCC) for the 16th rotation of the NATO Response Force (NRF).

On page 5 of this issue there's a summary of the formal hand-over of the NRF flag held in Istanbul on 12 July 2011, when Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti, Commander

NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy relinquished responsibilities for the Land Component of the NATO Response Force to Lieutenant General Hulusi Akar, Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Turkey.

"The NATO Response Force", said Major General ITA (A) Leonardo di Marco, NRDC-ITA Chief of Staff, "provides a mechanism to generate a high readiness and technologically advanced force package made up of land, air, sea and special force components that can be deployed quickly on operations wherever needed. Our Headquarters provides the Land Force HQ element to the NRF on a rotational basis with other Commands."

NRDC-ITA conducted a number of exercises in close coordination with higher, parent and subordinate/affiliated Headquarters. Needless to say,



the whole Staff greatly benefited from this experience.

Brigadier General ITA (A) Roberto Perretti, NRDC-ITA Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations added, "With the NRF16 rotation NRDC-ITA took another step forward along the way to learn how to cope with today's operational challenges

that demand proficiency, speed, agility, and flexibility across all aspects of headquarters operations. The actual stand-by period lasts six months, but is preceded by a six-month NATO exercise programme in order to integrate and standardise the various national contingents. Generally, nations carry out a pre-training period in preparation for the NATO exercises of between 6-18 months. Once the overall preparation

period of as much as 24 months has been accomplished.

In our stand-by period, the Corps headquarters, and portions of the Italian Support Brigade, were ready to deploy to virtually any part of the world on very short notice, under the command of the Joint Forces Command (JFC) based in Naples" concluded the General.



LtGen ITA (A) Giorgio Battisti (right) shaking hand with LtGen TUR (A) Akar (left) after passing the NRF (L) flag on to him

From the Staff



NRDC-ITA Celebrates the International Day

Story by Lieutenant Colonel ITA (A) Stefano Sbaccanti, PAO, Photos by Corporal ITA (A) Salvatore Picone, PAO

Last 25th June 2001 NRDC-ITA celebrated its annual International Day. This event, which is now in its 8th edition, is a perfect opportunity to allow staff members, families and friends to experience, taste, view and listen to the culture of the different nations composing the NRDC-ITA environment.

The day started with a welcome speech from the NRDC-ITA Commander, Lieutenant General ITA (A) Gian Marco Chiarini, who declared the celebrations open and welcomed everyone to the Caserma Ugo Mara. He reminded the spectators the importance of multi nationalism, particularly within the NATO context. Furthermore, he encouraged everyone to enjoy themselves and to explore the different activities of the programme, which included an historical car rally, folk dances from Bulgaria and Slovenia, belly dancers from Turkey, a Bersaglieri band performance, a pony show, an Italian Jazz/Pop music band, and more



Folk dance

entertainment for the young and old alike. A special thank was dedicated to all of those whose efforts made the day possible. In particular, the Support Brigade was recognized as instrumental in ensuring the day could run so smoothly.

On the field, the national contingent of Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America provided each a colorful and extravagant stand with samples

of their food, beverages, national dress and other examples of their traditions, customs and folklore.

The International Day 2011 was attended by selected local dignitaries and other invitees from the local population, who enjoyed the hospitality and experienced a special feeling, one of diversity yet underpinned by unity.

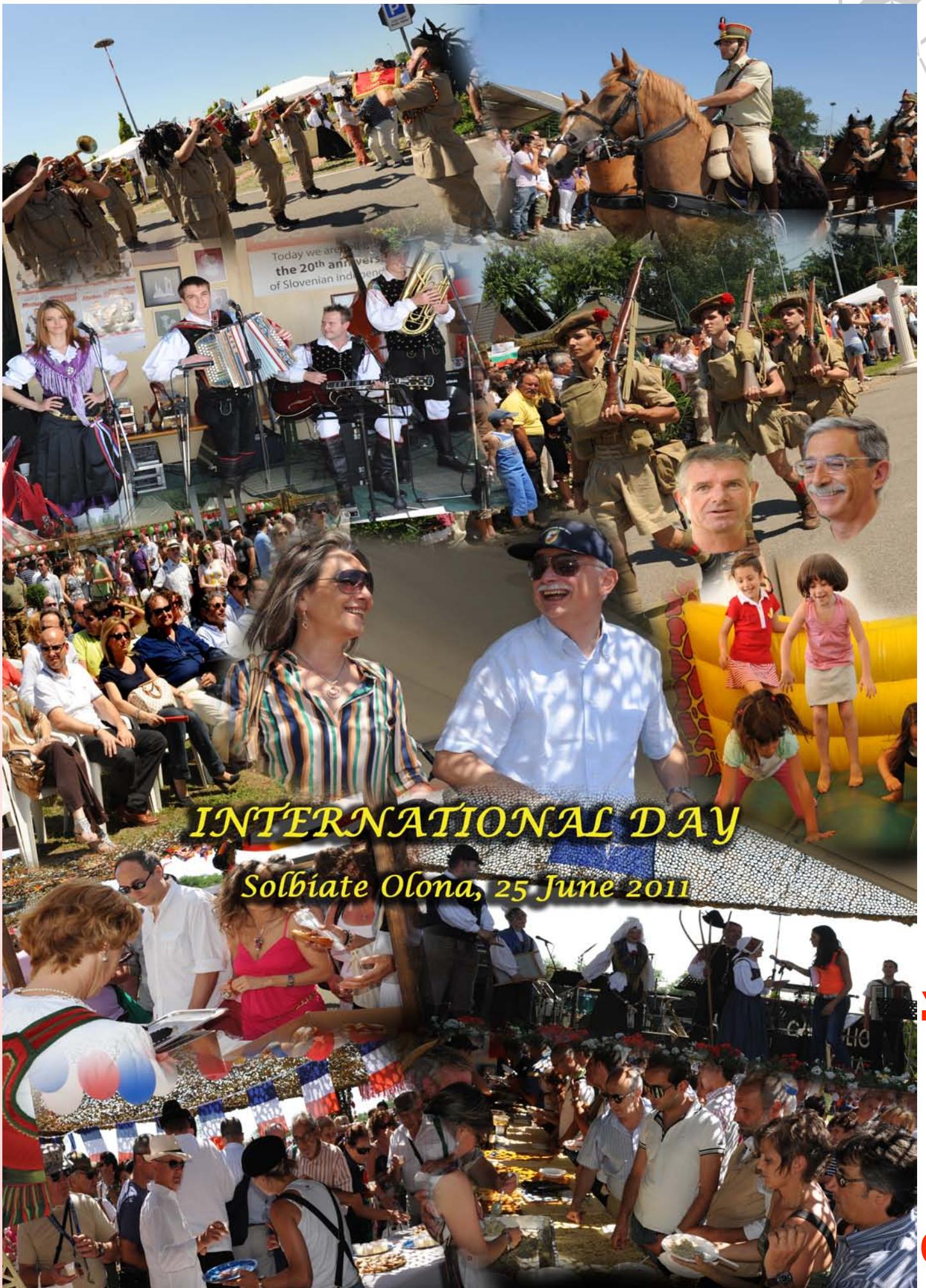
Community



A moment of the historical parade



The French stand



INTERNATIONAL DAY
Solbiate Olona, 25 June 2011

Community



Milano City Relay Marathon 2011

Story by Lieutenant Colonel ITA (A) Vincenzo Dell'Aquila, RSC, Photos by NRDC-ITA PAO



The logo of the 2011 Milano City Marathon

The Milano City Relay Marathon, held on 10 April 2011, has confirmed to be an important event and it has become part of the international calendar of running events. It represents the sport discipline par excellence where true values of sacrifice, struggle and self improvement come before the competition among athletes. It is also an important forum to show the true face of people, considering the

aim of the event: to support good causes and to do something for people in need. And running is just the sport that better identify NATO values, an organization that "run fast" but never leaves anyone behind. But NATO also focus its efforts in raising the awareness of values and the promotion of solidarity. NRDC ITA could not miss the opportunity to participate in the competition and express its support for solidarity.

This year more than 1200 Relay Teams have participated in the event. Among them 15 NRDC ITA relay teams and 3 more persons in the 42 Km race have competed successfully. In a day bewitched by hot weather, under

a desert sun, competitors have never given up, boosted also by their shirts that remembered they are running for "something important". The shirt worn by our teams read "World's Children Affected by Cardiovascular Diseases". Due to this pathology, millions of children in the world cannot live adequately their childhood.



Milano City Relay Marathon has represented a moment of aggregation. Our aim was, and remains, that of sending a strong message of solidarity and stir even the most waterproof consciences.

The NRDC ITA runner teams had a terrific result. Our teams "fought" with the same stubbornness with which our colleagues are fighting in Afghanistan and other operational theatres. The values that push us and that make everything possible are the same. RACE GOES ON!



Warrant Officer Franciamore raising the prize won by the NRDC-ITA Team

NIWIC, EVERYONE'S WELCOME!



Story by Mrs Giancarla Angelini, NIWIC Board Member

NIWIC stands for the NRDC Italy Wives' International Club. It is a recognised voluntary membership association within the NRDC Italy Morale & Welfare programme. Every spouse or partner who holds a NATO card can be a member, as well as any female personnel serving at NRDC-ITA.

After an international move – or national at that – there is always a hectic period with countless issues a family has to adapt to. Stress can build up quickly at home and at work, and joining NIWIC might not seem to be the right priority. Wrong!! When all of this happens, there is nothing like taking a break and meeting other ladies who recently went through the same experience. You can get some good advice, find the solution to “that” problem, make some friends for you and your children or just relax for a few hours with a good cup of coffee at the International Coffee mornings. These are just a few examples of the benefits one might get by joining.

NIWIC routinely organizes several activities and multinational events in order to bring together the various nationalities involved in the NRDC by fostering good relationship and mutual understanding. Examples are fund-raisers for charitable purposes, Italian conversational classes, a Christmas Fair each year, an International Coffee morning on the first Thursday of each month (except during July

and August), cultural trips, cookery demonstrations, visits to art galleries, museums, villas, gardens, outlets centres, local markets and the like.

Joining NIWIC doesn't necessarily mean you have to attend them all.

Remember, membership is free in more than one way: it doesn't cost any money, and you can always tailor your level of involvement to your available time, personal interest and taste.

So, to those who are still considering whether to join or

not, the current members would like to say, “What are you waiting for? Hurry up! We all look forward to meeting you!”

For more info:
communitycoordinator@ymail.com



NIWIC members at the 2010 Christmas Fair

Want to practice your Italian in a friendly environment? Join the NIWIC Italian Conversational Group. This group meets once a week to provide informal practice for non-native Italian speakers. Reaching out to our ever-growing international community, we try to give you the confidence to branch out to your Italian hosts and local communities.

It is a great way to meet ladies from other countries and practice your Italian. It doesn't matter what level of Italian you speak, everyone is welcome!

Date: Every Monday, from 10,00 – 12,00.

Location: alternatively, rotating between a room at Support Brigade HQ and a NIWIC member's house.

Community



**Highly Capable
Rapidly Deployable
Multi-National
Community Oriented**