



NRDC-IT Magazine

Issue n. 1 - June 2003



FOC



New COS



NRF



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FOREWORD

Dear readers,
It is my great pleasure and honour to introduce to you the first issue of "NRDC-IT Magazine", an internal information product developed by Media Operations' staff on a quarterly basis.

This publication is mainly aimed at enhancing knowledge and improving visibility of our Corps among our staff, both military and civilian, their families and other national and international headquarters. It will address what the Corps does and highlight its most important events. The magazine will cover military topics as well as sporting events, social events and everything else related to the people and the life within the headquarters.

NRDC-IT Magazine is developed on a voluntary basis contribution of articles and pictures provided by the Corps' staff as well as by our subordinate and affiliate units. I believe that in this manner we will create a corporate identity and strengthen internal relationships and knowledge.

Media Ops will not censor any articles, but it will retain the prerogative to print or insert them into the magazine.

We encourage comments and suggestions to improve the quality of our magazine.

(e-mail: hrf.media@libero.it).

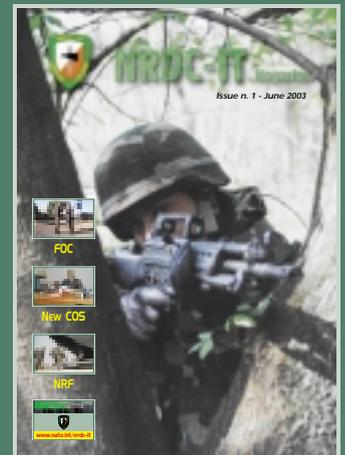


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Major IT Army
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Full Operational Capability (FOC)

by LT. GEN. Fabrizio CASTAGNETTI COMMANDER of NRDC-IT

A great achievement but we need to keep the momentum



*The NRDC-IT Commander
Lt. G. Fabrizio Castagnetti*

Last December our Corps achieved the Full Operational Capability after an intense training year. The final report issued from SACEUR, praising us for the excellent full deployment (Exercise Eagle Flight 02) and for the fact that many of the Military Criteria were not only met but also exceeded in the Final Test

(Exercise Light Ship 02), was a clear recognition of the incredible effort put in place in a very short time.

This effort was a "combined" one, where the principal actors were the Italian Army Staff, the Italian Operational Land Forces HQ (COMFO-TER), our Staff and the Signal Brigade. While being now

proud of the fantastic results we achieved, let us go back with the memory to the scale of the mission we had to perform, what we have to do to succeed and, principally, what we have to do next to keep the momentum. The mission we received was to build a Multinational Headquarters Staff, at Corps or Land Component Command (LCC) level, at high readiness and fully deployable, able to command and control up to a minimum of 4 Divisions plus the necessary Combat Support and Combat Service Support troops, in war fighting or Crisis Response Operations (CROs). A similar project had been successfully fulfilled once in the past, when the already existing "British Army of the Rhein" was transformed in the Allied Command EUROPE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). Such a challenge without mastering the English language, having almost no "fundamentals" (trained Staff, barrack, facilities...), with no existing affiliation of units, seemed at the beginning a very difficult one if not crazy at all.

However, there was no choice: surrender or fight with the prospective to become more professional in NATO terms, work in a much more satisfactory environment, and provide our families a better quality of life. Since surrender was not an alternative for good soldiers, we had to fight and we did.

"THE FINAL REPORT ISSUED FROM SACEUR, PRAISING US FOR THE EXCELLENT FULL DEPLOYMENT"



The Commander receives the NATO flag at SHAPE in Sept. 02.



Full Operational Capability (FOC)

From the beginning it was also clear that to reach the FOC and to be able to maintain a very high level of professionalism and readiness we had to achieve and then sustain a set of Decisive Points.

In summary the decisive Points were a permanent availability of:

- a Support Regiment capable of fully sustaining the Command Posts in the field (life, security/defense, engineer works);
- a Signal Regiment capable of putting in place all the necessary CIS equipment for the Command and Control functions;
- a Base Support Command (or Garrison HQ) capable of establishing and maintaining satisfactory work conditions and a good quality of life.
- at least 90% of the Peace Establishment, physically fit and regularly trained;
- "coordinating authority" over all the Units "affiliated" to the NRDC-IT, and a robust training program;
- a set of superbly trained and competent Officers and NCOs, able to follow and, possibly, influence all major NATO issues;
- "intelligence" assets necessary first to "know" and, then, to conduct our operations in the most effective way.

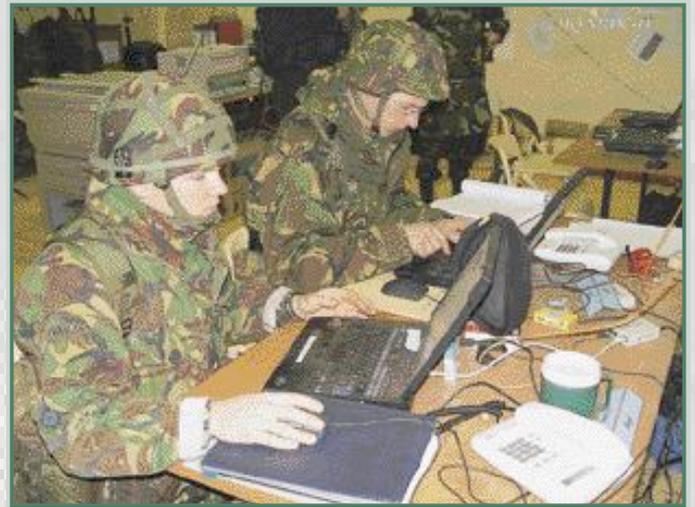
"THE SUPPORT REGIMENT AND THE SIGNAL REGIMENT HAVE PROVED TO BE TWO VERY ROBUST AND CAPABLE UNITS"

Unfortunately, these decisive points were and are not timely sequential, not achievable in a clear and rational proceeding. What should have been the first objective to be met (Base Support Command) would be clearly the last.

In fact, while some decisive points have already been achieved and completed, the FOC being a clear testimony of that, other will be achieved shortly, other in 3-4 years period.

Let us see these points in due order.

The Support Regiment and the Signal Regiment have proved to be two very robust and capable Units and are in the process of achieving a perma-



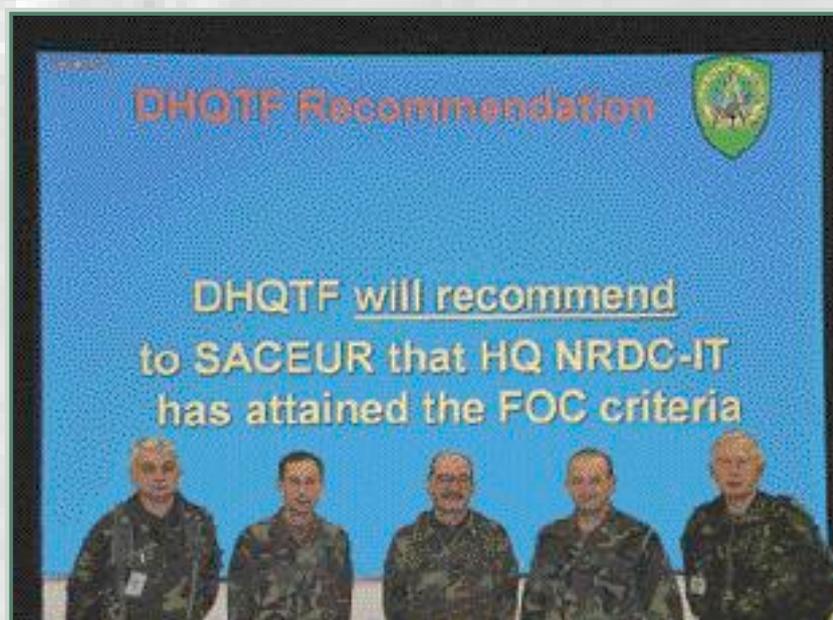
Staff working in the Operation Center.

nent standard of excellence by receiving the equipment they still lack (air conditioning for life in the tents and remaining CIS assets). To be mentioned also the constitution of a second Infantry Company within the 3rd Bersaglieri Regiment in Milan that most likely will be subordinated to the NRDC-IT and the availability of a Barrack in Legnano.

How to best use this infrastructure is still to be fully analysed. We have started to loose some of the very well trained and competent Officers and NCOs (COS, Chief Plans, etc..) but with the arrival of all the personnel of the contributing countries, we do not foresee any problem to main-

tain the 90% of the Peace Establishment. While sorry to see many friends leave, we must consider that a rotation of about 30% of the full Staff every year is inevitable and the training and integration of new personnel will be a permanent effort.

Remember also to think positive. Sure, losing our Chief of Staff and Chief G3 Plans was temporarily decreasing our operational effectiveness but they will



The recommendation made by DHQTF inspection team at the end of FOC.



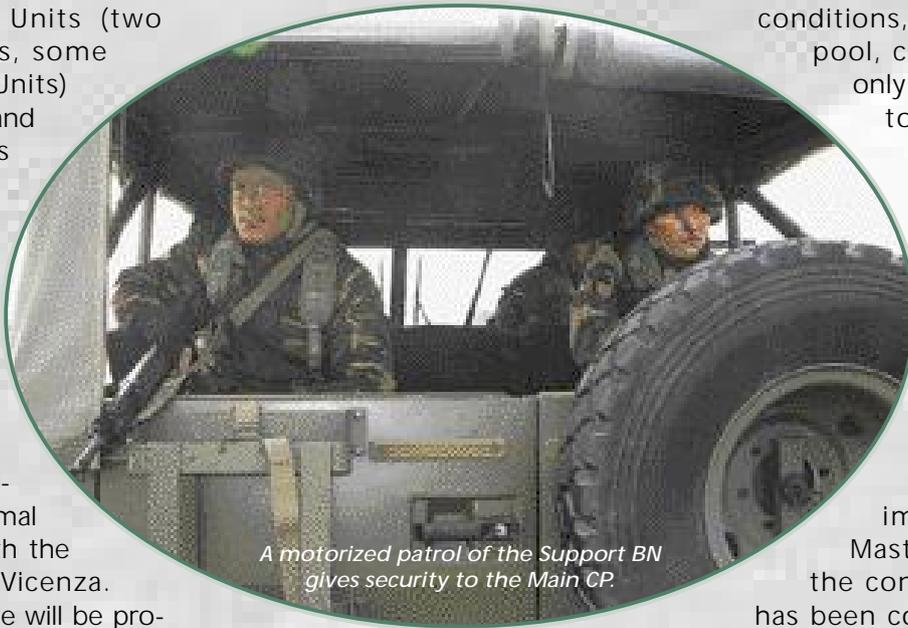
Full Operational Capability (FOC)

"TO HAVE A PERMANENT OPERATIONAL AND EFFECTIVE MULTINATIONAL HQ, IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL, A "CONDITIO SINE QUA NON" FOR THE ITALIAN PROFESSIONAL ARMY"

do an excellent job in their new position, they will create "culture", they will remain our "agents" in other Multinational organization abroad or at the Army Staff, they will be substituted by other brilliant Officers.

The affiliation of Units (two moreover Divisions, some minor CS and CSS Units) and of the essential and other augmentees issues is still an open problem and common to the other NRDCs except the ARRC. The Army Staff and ourselves are working on this issue and as a first result we very much hope to establish a formal or informal training affiliation with the US SETAF based in Vicenza.

The augmentees issue will be properly discussed in the first plenary meeting, which the IT-MOD will organize soon. The problem that is causing the biggest concern to me, and it was from the beginning, is the construction of all the facilities in order to have a permanent Base able to provide, good working condition and good quality of life. Remember that this project goes beyond what was requested by NATO. The infrastructures body is for me a parallel Center of Gravity. We could have reached our FOC working and sleeping in



A motorized patrol of the Support BN gives security to the Main CP.

"THE INFRASTRUCTURES BODY IS FOR ME A PARALLEL CENTER OF GRAVITY"



Some members of the DHQTF inspection team briefed by the Commander of the "SPLUGA" Signal Bn.

tents and go on with poor, if not existing, sports and welfare facilities, but our results would remain fragile and transient. A real barrack (sports facilities, Officers', NCOs' and Soldiers' Clubs all working and efficient, a village with good housing conditions, schools, swimming pool, cinema, etc...) is not only absolutely necessary to have a permanent operational and effective multinational HQ, it is also essential, a "conditio sine qua non" for the Italian professional Army.

The infrastructure works are proceeding, slowly but steadily, and, most important of all, the Master Plan detailing all the constructions we need has been completely approved. Most of you and I will not be able to see the "village" in place but our successors surely will.

Attached to the infrastructures is the necessity of having a Garrison HQ that can master the English language, can maintain the Base when completed, can provide all the NATO benefits to the Italian and International personnel. In this regard, much is still to be done.

For all the things we have already achieved we must keep the momentum. We have now a very well trained staff that must be kept at the same competent level with an intelligent personnel rotation and with a robust training program.

We must keep the motivation of the personnel at the same excellent present level with specific reference to the IT Staff Members. For this, we must act in 3 directions. First, demonstrate that the infrastructure's master plan in not a dream but is proceeding with the execution although not as fast as we would like. Second, we must commend the personnel that have worked very well so far, not penalize them (on the progression of their career, with the next jobs, etc...). Third, we must be able to provide the limited NATO benefits to all personnel involved, without having to lean on other NATO HQs in Italy.

What Italy is doing with this project, is not just one of the many reorganizations of the Army that we have



Full Operational Capability

continually experienced since 1975. This is a revolution, in culture, in the way we work in operations (Mission Command) and do our business in the Permanent HQ (decentralization rather than centralization), in the way we plan and build barracks.

We have the moral strength, the will and

the professional competence to succeed and to give our successors a much better organization to work in.

The English language is and will remain (for the non-native English speaking personnel) a handicap in understanding, writing and speaking. This handicap must be

reduced to a minimum by a continuous effort, until speaking Italian or English will make no difference.

We must be and remain a team.

From the youngest draftee to the

"WE MUST BE AND REMAIN A TEAM. FROM THE YOUNGEST DRAFTEE TO THE COMMANDER, ALL MUST KNOW THE END STATE, THE OBJECTIVES WE HAVE TO ACHIEVE, THE FUNCTIONS WE HAVE TO PERFORM, THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY"

Commander, all must know the end state, the objectives we have to achieve, the functions we have to perform, the areas of responsibility. Everyone must be a master in its own field and work for the good of the

others and of the HQ. Everybody to master his area of responsibility means that Job descriptions must be clearly set and perfectly implemented, and if these have to be amended, changed or completed this must be done constantly, in a trend of training, lesson learned and adaptation of the structure.

To become a team it is also very impor-



Italian MoD Mr. Martino and Italian high military ranks briefed at the MAIN CP.

tant to have social functions and sports events. These will increase in number and quality parallel to the realization of the necessary facilities.

To this end, I recommend all our too many weekend commuters to reconsider their decisions. We have close to the Ugo Mara Barrack 10 apartments free and

these are now open to bidding by personnel of contributing Countries. Finally, as already said before, our Staff does not have to suffer or put up with the next NATO transformation.

We must be proactive and probably influence what is going to happen. In this regard, I see the NATO Response Force (NRF) as an

incredible opportunity for NATO as a whole, for the IT Army, for the NRDC-IT.

Now we have the "head" able to plan, deploy and execute. Our NRF-Land will represent the legs and the arms. The creation of a Task Force at Brigade level plus a Bde HQ able, together with the Units, to deploy within 5-30days will also generate the necessity of creative training that will complement the exercises already planned

beyond 2003 (Allied Action 04, possibly FOC of the Hungarian Armed forces-2005 and others).

The NRDC-IT will receive other Italian and International Units affiliated as a proof that the FOC we achieved with so great a success was not our End State but just a Decisive Point of a project of a much bigger scale.

"I SEE THE NATO RESPONSE FORCE (NRF) AS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR NATO AS A WHOLE, FOR THE IT ARMY, FOR THE NRDC-IT"



The DHQTF inspection team briefed by a Soldier of the 1st Signal Regiment.



New Chief of Staff

Major General Luigi Pellegrino, took over the post on March 20, 2003.

He was born in Rome on 10th February 1949. He attended the 150th Military Academy Course and the "Scuola di Applicazione" in Turin from 1968 to 1972.

He later attended the 53rd NBC Officers course at the Joint NBC School, the 12th Orientation Course on International Organization by SIOI (Italian Society for International Organization), the 6th Basic Electronic Warfare Course at the Army Centre for Information and Electronic Defense, the Army War College courses (both basic and advanced), and the course on "Methodology and Techniques of Negotiation for Military Attaché to Diplomatic Missions" at the University of Trieste.

From 1973 to 1983 he served in the 4th Signal Battalion at the Corps level, in the "Centauro" Signal Battalion, in the "Acqui" Motorized Brigade, in the 11th "Leonessa" Signal Battalion and in the 10th "Lanciano" Signal Battalion. During this time he served successively as Platoon Commander, Operations Officer, Company Commander, Chief of Operations and Training section and Regiment Adjutant.

Following the earthquake of November 23, 1980 in Campania and Basilicata, he was the Detachment Commander in charge of Rescue Operations for seven months.

From 1989 to 1990 he commanded the 4th "Gardena" Signal Battalion and from 1993 to 1995 the 11th Signal Regiment.

Having completed the General Staff Officer Courses, from 1987 to 1989 he was Staff Officer in the Research and Study Office at the Army General Staff, from 1990 to 1993 Section Chief in the Co-ordination Office of the Defense Chief of Staff's General Office and from 1995 to 1998 Military, Naval and Air Attaché to the

Italian Embassy in Jordan.

He held the post of Deputy Commander and Chief of Training at the Signal School from 1998 to 1999 and

thereafter on October 8th 1999 he was appointed Deputy Inspector for the Signal Service and Commander of the Signal and Information School in Rome. While performing this appointment he also assumed duties as Assistant Chief Of Staff, Support in KFOR-4 HQ in Pristina, Kosovo, from October 2000 to April 2001. Afterwards, he returned to Rome to resume his primary assignment until 19th March 2003.

On 20th March 2003 he was appointed Chief of Staff of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Italy.

Maj. Gen. Pellegrino's decorations include: Knight's Cross of the Italian Republic Order of Merit, Mauriziana medal, Medal for Long Command Service, Long Service Gold Cross, Campania Rescue Operation Medal and NATO Kosovo Medal.



Maj. Gen. Pellegrino is married to Patrizia and they have two daughters, Alessia and Nadia.



Ex Light Ship

by MAJ. J. I. GIL RUIZ G3 OPS COORD/BSM

Exercise "Light Ship 2002", last step towards FOC



A column of the Tact. Spt. Rgt. trucks during the deployment.

The Rapid Deployable Corps (RDC) (IT) was the most important project for the Italian Army in 2002. Its significance affects not only Italy but the whole Alliance, whose Strategic Concept requires an increasing capability of producing common security and stability. In the current international scenario, where threats to peace are becoming more and more unpredictable, national support and cohesion of the Allies are key factors to the success of the project.

The Alliance, in the process of restructuring its forces in order to meet the security threats of the 21st century, created a new concept: NATO forces able to rapidly deploy to crisis areas in support of both Article 5 and non-Article 5 missions.

To be one of these Forces, we had to follow go through a certification process that set the principles against which all HQs-candidates were to be measured. This process was aimed at testing command and control compatibility, ability to affiliate multinational forces, HQ combat and command support, exercise participation etc., as well as 377 sub-criteria to be evaluated including a Deployed Location Inspection as part of the FOC Evaluation. To attain final certification, our Headquarters had to demonstrate its capabilities in 50 areas, both in barracks and in the field, in two phases - static and operational. By doing so, NRDC-IT HQ would become able of commanding up to 60,000 soldiers. The general requirement for High Readiness Forces

"EX "LIGHT SHIP 02" has been the most extensive exercise ever conducted in the short but eventful history of our HQ"

(HRF) HQ is to be ready to deploy its first advanced elements (forward HQ structures) within 10 days and the entire force within two months into a theatre of operation.

So, there we were, the setting looked complicated. If anybody had told me last April that the FOC of NRDC-IT was going to be my main challenge, professionally speaking, I would have thought that they were kidding me.

Then when I saw that my name was deleted from the Essential Augmentees list for the Spanish HRF because I was joining the Italian HRF as a main player, I thought that life never does stop surprising you.

So, from then on till until Christmas, all the NRDC were on a race that had to lead us to success, there was no option.

Following the mandate of our Commander, Lt General CASTAGNETTI: "We must be a team. From the youngest draftee to the Commanders, all must know the end state, the objective we have to achieve, the function we have to perform, the areas of responsibility. Everyone must be a master in their own field and work for the good of the others and of the HQ", everyone got ready



Checkpoint at the gate of the MAIN CP.

for the evaluation period we had to face. Both individual and collective training was continuous through seminars, conferences, courses, etc.



(Full Operational Capability)

IOC and FOC evaluations

As previously said, in order to reach the goal, our HQ had to undergo two evaluations: the IOC that took place from 3rd – 7th June and the FOC. To carry out the evaluation tasks, SHAPE appointed a working team called DHQTF. The acronym raised some concerns among a number of us as to what it stood for, so just in case: Deployable Headquarters Task Force.

After passing the IOC, the final stage after summer had two hurdles. The first one was exercise "EAGLE FLIGHT", carried out from 21st September till 7th October and the last and main step, the FOC itself "EX LIGHT SHIP", at the beginning of December. Both exercises took place in different locations in the area of Civitavecchia.

Getting HQ NRDC-IT ready – EX "EAGLE FLIGHT"

During its execution, HQ NRDC-IT tested resources, capabilities and procedures in anticipation of the FOC evaluation. We also practised tactics, techniques and processes during the transition from war fighting to PSO and for offensive operations exercises, in order to validate changes to our TACSOPs. Since "EAGLE FLIGHT" was a command posts exercise, the subordinated units were represented by response cells.

The activity developed in two phases: the Deployment Phase from 21st – 30th September 2002 and the Static Phase (CPX) from 1st – 7th October 2002.

"EAGLE FLIGHT" was conceived as a more complex exercise than the previous ones. In fact, we were deployed to training areas 700 km from embarkation to disembarkation from the peacetime location to the Training Areas. The Deployment Phase was a extremely ambitious challenge and required the full deployment of all Command Posts

"THIS DEPLOYMENT EXERCISE FULLY DEMONSTRATED THE ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS TO DEPLOY THE HQS... A VERY IMPRESSIVE EFFORT!"



The SPOD in Civitavecchia.

(MAIN, RAS, TACP and RSC), the Support Regiment, organic CIS equipment and required support vehicles by airlift, sealift, military rail and road march. According to the DHQTF assessment: "This deployment exercise fully demonstrated the actual requirements to deploy the HQs... a very impressive effort!"

FOC – EX "LIGHT SHIP"

EX "LIGHT SHIP 02" has been the most extensive exercise ever conducted in the short but eventful history of our HQ. The exercise was to mark the end of the operational testing process serving as the scenario to obtain from SHAPE the certification for HQ NRDC-IT of Full Operational Capability as an HRF.

It also had an added prize benefit: getting closer to the beginning of Christmas. The HQ was augmented (as also happened for EX "EAGLE FLIGHT") with selected personnel (essential augmentees) belonging to



The Command Group holding a Video Tele Conference (VTC).

Ex Light Ship

other units of the Italian Army, who could sustain High Intensity Operations as a Corps HQ or LCC.

During "LIGHT SHIP", the HQ conducted an exercise to demonstrate its real capability of conducting War Fighting and Crisis Response Operations. We got subordinate forces from four Divisions, the 1st Italian Div, the 3rd UK Div, EUROFOR and a Spanish Div.

An Italian signals brigade supported the HQ. The brigade included a support regiment to provide logistics support, a signals regiment with two signals battalions and a garrison HQ regiment. NRDC-IT was responsible for providing signals links to its subordinate formations.

The combat support units were mainly Italian, with some foreign contributions, and consisted of an Intelligence Surveillance and Target Acquisition Brigade, an Artillery Brigade, an Air-Defence Brigade, an Engineer Brigade, a Military Police Battalion, a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Battalion, the Airborne "FRIULI" Brigade that provided the Corps' deep-attack capabilities, Special Forces and the Italian "Ranger" Battalion.

Italy's Combat Service Support Units included a Logistics Brigade with a Transport Regiment and a field hospital.

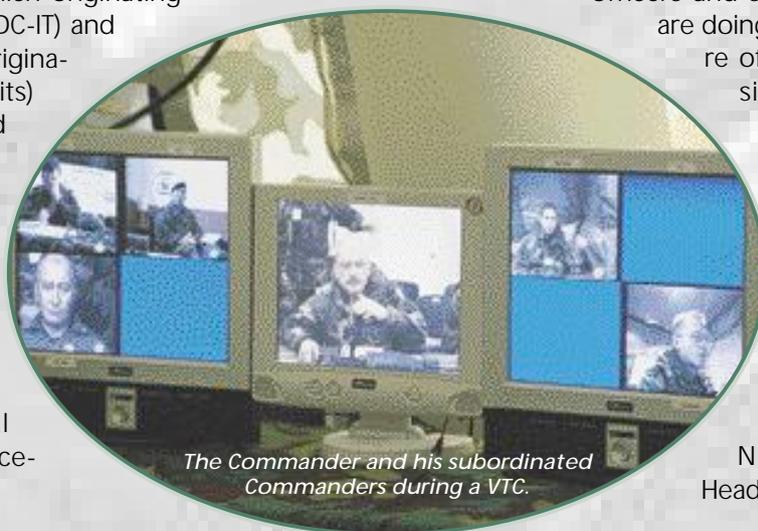
All these forces had the same state of readiness and the same capability as HQ NRDC in order to accomplish every kind of operation.

In order to complete its degree of training, our HQ carried out the exercises relying on Directing Staff support (DISTAFF) whose mission was to stage incidents in order to evaluate the personnel's response capability to unexpected situations. The Exercise Direction staged incidents on two levels:

HICON (those incidents which originating from a level above HQ NRDC-IT) and LOCON (those incidents originating from subordinated units)

- all of them were located at the Italian Army War College in Civitavecchia. The key to success lays in effective planning and getting resources. At the HQ, we worked hard and systematically: we analyzed military criteria, prepared doctrinal concepts and, finally, procedures.

"THE KEY TO SUCCESS LAYS IN EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND GETTING RESOURCES. AT THE HQ, WE WORKED HARD AND SYSTEMATICALLY: WE ANALYZED MILITARY CRITERIA, PREPARED DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS AND, FINALLY, PROCEDURES."



The Commander and his subordinated Commanders during a VTC.



A new 20 ft. modular Shelter for the MAIN CP.

There was a high degree of understanding among the personnel. We are all members of the same team and I must say that there were no differences between one country and the other as concerning the military culture we contributed with the individuals' professional experience. We are allies serving in the same Unit. All Staff worked day and night with great team spirit.

However, even a perfectly trained HQ would not be able to conduct any operation without effective logistics support.

In front of the extraordinary and professional effort of all HQ members, DHOTF could only use expressions like these to qualify our EX "LIGHT SHIP": "The Headquarters has fully committed to exceeding the standards and for preparing for the future and that attitude shows in the results" or

"Headquarters has highly motivated and professional officers and soldiers who know what they are doing and truly believe in the future of this Corps", "Overall impression: competent, motivated staff with a mature planning process".

Following such successful results, the NATO RDC IT HQ in Solbiate Olona (VARESE) was the last of six land-based, corps-sized Headquarters, which in December 2002 qualified as a NATO Rapid Deployable Headquarters.

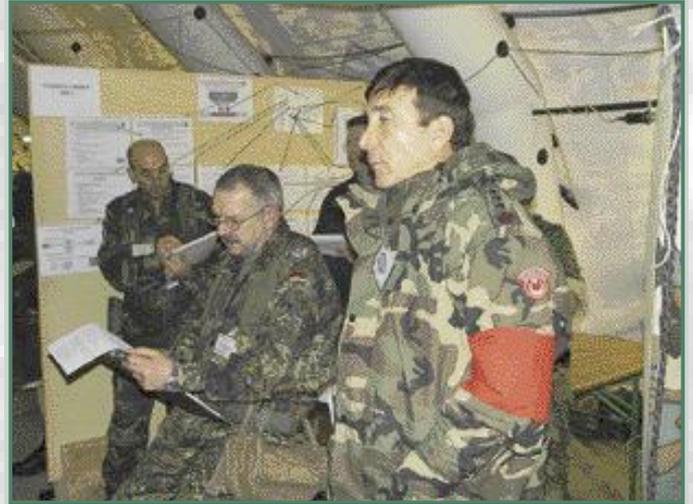


Ex Light Ship

We are now capable of conducting Art. 5 and non Art. 5 Operations at short notice as well as conducting operations as a Land Component Command (LCC) within a Multinational Operation.

Before concluding, I would not like to finish this article without mentioning just briefly some facts that completed our daily life in that period. The useful Rock Drill where we did not listen to music but learnt how to "read" an OPLAN during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE). The moments of "confession" with the DHQTF officers who came to you like a priest looking for a sinner, asking questions, trying to find a weak point in your training. The day and night shift - which one was longer or colder or busier or ... better, just to find out that both had bad or good moments as does everything in life. And, of course, our colleagues in the same accomodation with whom we shared our life and especially our dreams, snores included. Everything together made up an unforgettable experience to tell our grandchildren and to keep forever in our memories.

The problem now is the way ahead: Concept Development ... then: training... exercising ... evaluating ... re-validating ... deploying: High Readiness Forces require rigorous and continuous training!



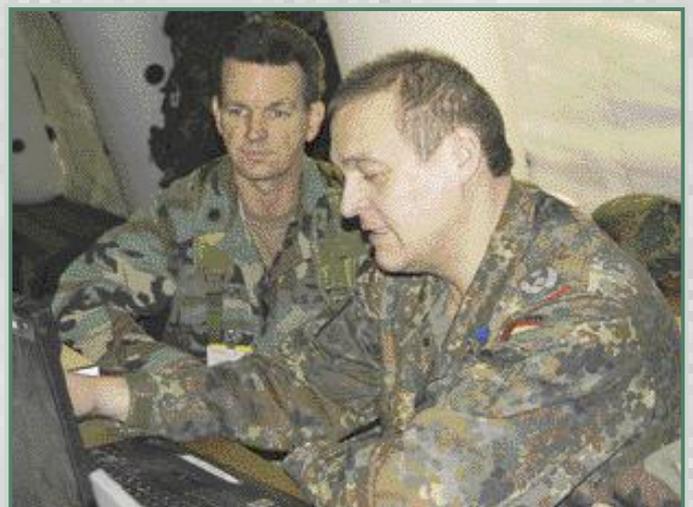
The DHQTF inspectors are taking notes.



Personnel operating inside the modular shelter.



NBC attack "GRAB THE GAS MASK".



A taste of international Staff working.



2003 An Intense

by MAJ. P. SANDONNINI G3 TRAINING/EPS



The Italian MBT "Ariete".

2003 is likely to be an intense year, indeed. Since we achieved FOC last December, some people would think that most of the work was done. However, nothing could prove to be further from the truth.

Now in the NATO arena, the six newly qualified HRF (L) HQs are competing for resources, range allocation, funding and ... glory. Competition is likely to be intense. So, NRDC-IT has planned its share, the output of which is the 2003 training calendar. There were many drafts when it was being put together, as you would expect, whilst our eye was mainly on the IOC and FOC preparations.

Let us see the main events of this year:

- In January, a Mobile Training Team from The NATO School - SHAPE in Oberammergau arrived in force and taught us a lesson - more than one lesson in fact. They conducted the "Combined NATO Staff Officer Orientation and Crisis Management" course, for a grand total of 124 participants, many from our affiliated units from outside the HQ. Guest speakers featured COMNAVSOUTH, a three star General, the NATO political advisor, a former CNN journalist and others.
- Response Cell to ex "Disciplined Warrior 03" in Verona: this exercise is a Command Post Exercise named "DW" that took place in Verona, Italy, from 24 Feb.

to 04 Mar. DW 03 aimed at improving the capabilities of the Southern Region to carry out crisis response operations, in particular where Peace Support Operations are concerned. It used modern simulation techniques to replicate the flow of information and the decision making processes in a deployed military HQ. Staffs serving at NATO commands were participating in the exercise, as well as personnel from the Turkish General Staff. The exercise also aimed at training personnel from the HU Defence forces, that took the opportunity to enhance experiences in planning for multinational operations. We provided some 15 staff that represented the Corps, covering all the major functions.

- Functional Training: a large number of Branch study periods will take place, allowing for the first time both internal and external staff to study, comment on and refine specific areas such as doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures, together with the opportunity to review SOP/SOLs post FOC.
- CPX/CAX "Sharp Dagger 03": this exercise took place at the German Army simulation centre in Wildflecken, from late April until the beginning of May (many comments were made about the choice of timing...). It involved exercising 250 staff from HQ, on extended hours, with back up from the Signals Brigade and Support Regiment. It simulated a CRO, degenerating rapidly into a WF situation and the German computer system will help us by showing how we fair.
- NRDC-IT response cell to ex "Mare Aperto 03": In May we provided about 15 staff who played the land element in a maritime exercise carried out by the Italian Navy MCC. For the Navy MCC, this exercise constitutes their IOC.



The Italian Self Propelled Howitzer "M 109L".

- LCC Response Cell "Northern Light 03": after a well deserved summer leave (unless we are selected to go somewhere more exciting), we will take approximately 130 staff, so UK and NL



Training Year

forces may enact an amphibious landing in a broader NATO-led operation. It will take part in Brittany, England and Scotland in the second half of September. We will experience the thrill of sailing, for a while

- During the year, some 30 Officers/NCO from all branches will take part in various ARRC study periods, to improve and update their professional capabilities and skills. In the meantime, ARRC and others will be sending representatives along to our study periods as well.



Mission rehearsal exercise (MRE) for NRDC-IT Staff and subordinated Divisions.

Moreover, a number of innovations have been inserted:

- Individual Military Training-1: the first basic skills refreshment course for all staff took part in February, totalling some 50 Officers, NCOs and other ranks. Classes included practical lessons on subjects such as "mine awareness, hand grenade throwing and NATO radio procedures". Another two periods are scheduled for later this year in September and December. OK, we could have done better, but ... "practice makes perfect".
- Battlefield tour: next October we will visit two major battlefields, Marengo (Italian Independence War) and Montecassino (WWII) with an historian explaining them in detail. We can always learn a great deal past battles, both from the winning and the losing side. If we don't learn from past mistakes, we are doomed to repeat them in future ... (ad lib quote from the Lessons Learned Cell).



Female soldiers of the Tat. Spt. Rgt. on training.

- Adventure training: for a full five days, this July we will roam the mountains, rucksack on our backs. This will produce team spirit, cohesion...and a lot of blisters! It will take place in a breathtaking place, Passo del Tonale, where we will be lodged in a Mountain Troops facility. Start training....
- Arid/desert seminar: since it is better to prevent than to remedy, COMNRDC instructed us to start thinking about deployment in a huge array of areas, from mountainous to sea, from jungle to ...anywhere, including desert area. The aim of this seminar will be to familiarise staff with the problems of deploying and fighting in an arid/desert environment, and to draw conclusions from recent deployments such as "Desert Shield" in 1991, and the more recent deployment of US/UK forces to the Gulf area.



Securing the area.



NATO Response Force

by Capt. N. GORGOLIONE G3 PLANS



In order to carry out its full range of missions, NATO must be able to deploy forces rapidly to wherever they are required in order

to achieve its objectives, upon decision by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and to sustain operations over distance and time, including in potential NBC environments.

Effective military forces, an integral part of the Alliance's overall political strategy, are vital to safeguarding the freedom and security of its peoples and contributing to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic region.

For this reason, during the Prague Summit held in November 2002, the Alliance's Heads of State and Government agreed to create a NATO Response Force (NRF).

The NRF will consist of a technologically advanced, flexible, deployable, interoperable and sustainable force including land; sea and air elements ready to move quickly to wherever needed, as decided by the NAC.

The NRF will also be a catalyst for converging and promoting technological and doctrinal improvements in the Alliance's military capabilities.

The Force will achieve its initial operational capability as soon as possible, but no later than October 2004 and the full operational capability no later than October 2006.

The idea of creating such a Force originated from a proposal by the US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, which was submitted to NATO last September.

The ability to deploy on short notice, backed by the political resolve of NATO countries, could act as a substantial deterrent and assist in the early resolution of developing crises, precluding the need for subsequent deployment of larger forces at a later stage of an unresolved situation.

The NATO Response Force will be limited in size, capable of performing various missions on its own and participating with other forces in the full range of NATO

"THE NRF WILL CONSIST OF A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, FLEXIBLE, DEPLOYABLE, INTEROPERABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FORCE INCLUDING LAND; SEA AND AIR ELEMENTS READY TO MOVE QUICKLY TO WHEREVER NEEDED, AS DECIDED BY THE NAC."

A challenge for the Alliance

operations.

Missions that could be assigned to NRF include:

- Consequence Management (including a NBC scenario)
- Crisis Response Operations (as the initial force) including Peace Enforcement
- Embargo Operations
- Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)

The Regional Commands in their future organization will exercise command of the NRF, normally through a deployed HQ.

In order to share the burden of such a Force the units assigned to the NRF will rotate among NATO countries.

As far as the Land Component Command is concerned, rotation will be among the High Readiness Forces (Land) HQs.

HRFs(L) will be responsible for training their troops for NRF and, where required, they will deploy as land or component command.

NRF will be composed of air, land and maritime components and specialist functions from NATO countries.

The Air component will have air-to-air and air-to-ground engagement capabilities, tactical and strategic capabilities, air-to-air and airborne early warning assets.

The Land component will include (light and heavy) forces, Combat Support and Combat Service Support units.

The Maritime component will include carriers with their escorts and amphibious forces.

The NATO Response Force training will be conducted in accordance with NATO standard agreements in order to assure maximum interoperability and combat effectiveness.

The Command and Control relation during the conduct of an operation will be Operational Command to the appropriate NATO Commander. Transfer of Authority (TOA) will occur before deployment has commenced.

Logistic support will be adequate for an extended period of time and include capabilities for deploying and redeploying the Force.

In the near future, NATO Response Force will become one of the most challenging projects involving the Alliance.



Italian soldiers is embarking on CH47 helicopter.



NRDC-IT on the web

NRDC-IT is on the WEB!



It is said that one exists only if it is on the Internet, consequently we have moved to the web, too!

Joking aside, a web site is a tremendous interface with the outside world and can also be a powerful working tool. It enables us to "show our flag," marks our presence and makes our work more understandable to the people.

Therefore, if you are interested in our history, activities and events just go to www.nato.int/nrdc-it and enjoy surfing our brand new web site.



What are your feelings about



SGT Stefan RING
Germany

My name is Stefan Ring. I'm a Sergeant in the Germany Army. I work in the G6 Branch as Assistant Chief Clerk. This is the first time I've come to Italy. The Italian soldiers and the other people are very friendly. I like the mountains and the way of life. I arrived in Solbiate Olona two weeks ago. I hope, I will get to know a lot of towns, villages and other nice places. I believe I will have a good time in Italy.



W.O. Dimitrios ANDRIKOPOULOS
Greece

I'm glad that I have the opportunity, the privilege I would say, to work in a NATO HQ and especially this Italian HQ. I like Italy, I enjoy living here very much.



W.O. HOLGADO Josè A.
Spain

This is my first experience in a multinational Command but I'm very happy to work here for 4 years. My work is very interesting 'cause I can learn many things everyday, having the possibility to compare myself, my culture, my customs with those of people coming from other countries. In order to improve the daily work I live very well in Italy. I have appreciate all place I have visit, and my job make me know Italy better than as a tourist. I like Italian culture, food, but it's a sin that there's so traffic!!!

Cpl. Jessy ROSITO
Italy



I have been serving in the Italian Army for nearly three years, but this is the first time that I've been assigned to a multinational HQ. I consider this a great opportunity to improve my professional capabilities and qualifications, not only because I like military skills but also because I like working in a multinational environment. I'm very proud to be a part of this professional and highly motivated team. I'm ready and willing to carry out a real mission with this HQ.

Sergeant First Class John Allen
USA



Being assigned to the NRDC is a great opportunity for me in working along side our allies. My family and I especially enjoy being assigned to Italy. We appreciated the hospitality given to us on arrival to the NRDC by the US and Italian Armies. I look forward to serving my nation and working with our allies as part of this Headquarters.

this headquarters and Italy?



**MAJ Eugeniusz
KARMILOWICZ
Poland**

As for the HQ, the first thing which comes to my mind is that there's a very good relationship among the officers serving in our HQ. People, by their behavior and attitude towards others, create not only a good atmosphere to perform the tasks in but also strengthen ties, including with our families. I have also been impressed by the very good Italian food, different from what I am used to having in Poland. The various kinds of pasta and very fresh fruit especially, which in Poland is imported, is what not only I but also my family now living here in Italy enjoy.



**MAJ Nerim BITLISLIOGLU
Turkey**

I am very glad to be in a NATO HQ. Also it is a very useful opportunity for all of us to work in a Multinational environment. Italy is a lovely place and the people very helpful. I believe I will enjoy it much more if I improve my Italian in the future.



**LTC Willem
LANGENHUYSEN
Netherlands**

It is a challenge and a great opportunity to improve constantly the readiness of this magnificent HQ. And Italy ... indeed ... one of the most beautiful countries in Europe from many perspectives. Yes, I am

enjoying my stay here very much!

**LTC Jorge SARAMAGO
Portugal**

I am just arriving to ours headquarters and I am very glad with this new professional experience. Living in Italy it is a great opportunity to learn about a country full of culture



**W.O. Krisztiàn BUGLAVECZ
Hungary**

Beautiful country, friendly people, challenging job, what more can I say? Thank God that I can be here and experience all of this.



**SGT Joanne MAC VEIGH
UK**

It's a new experience for me, working in a Multinational HQ, but the majority of people I work with are friendly. The only obstacle seems to be the language barrier and different working practices. Italy is a beautiful place to work in addition there is so much to see and do. It's a country full of culture!



Sports Board

by MAJ M. STOCCUTO G3 OPS

The beginning of the year 2003 saw NRDC-IT setting up a Sports Board involving all NRDC-IT personnel and HQ Signal Bde.

The Sports Board is a sports structure within the Command that will enable personnel to take part in events, sports and adventure training activities by forming teams within the Branches in order to promote friendship and cooperation across the international structures of NRDC-IT.

All competition programs are normally planned to accommodate teams from throughout the headquarters. Those from the Command Group & Central Staff, two from Ops Division, the Support Division, the Rear Support Command & AOCC, the Engineer Division, plus the G6 and HQ Signals Bde. Although inter-branch competition will be the norm, other teams may be formed and enroll in competitions as approved by the Chairman, Col. John Prall (US).

The Sports Board will determine the availability of facilities and costs and possible instructors/technical advisors within HQ NRDC/Signal Bde.

All Competitions organized by the NRDC-IT Sports Board will contribute to the annual award of the Second Lieutenant Ugo Mara Cup. This trophy signifies the highest level of achievement attained throughout a year's worth of athletic competition.

At present, three events/competitions have already been run.

On October 31st last year, the first Ugo Mara Barracks International Golf Tournament (UMBIGT) was played at Le Robinie Golf Club, just in front of our HQ.

After a great afternoon during which 16 participants, including COMRRC LG Castagnetti and DCOMRRC MJ Monro, played their best shots, SSGT Spencer (UK) won the tournament scoring the best result.

November 7th saw the Sports Board setting up an



Individual military training "15 km. march".

inter-Branch swimming race as part of the inter-Branch sporting competition.

The 4th Armd Regt hosted the competition in the swimming pool at Babini Barracks in Bellinzago Nov. (NO) providing outstanding support.

The teams raced in twelve different events (8 individual and 4 relay) embracing all styles and culminating in the Chain of Command Race. Seventy swimmers, supported by a

multicolored cheering public offered a great morning of sport.

The OPS DIV Team 2 was the winning team, led by an outstanding swimmer - LTC Polli. However, each team proved to have great swimmers and the final scores were very close.

The new 2003 sports year started with a five-a-side football competition held at the Ugo Mara Barracks Gymnasium. On February 26th the teams challenged one another in a sequence of 20-minute matches where the 8 team members alternated on the pitch to kick the ball between the goal posts.

The final match was played by the Central Staff Team versus the Engineer Team. The latter scored a sounding victory (5-2) and was awarded the trophy presented by DCOMRRC.

Forthcoming events include a shooting competition on April 6th and, in the next few months, basketball, volleyball

and tennis tournaments, involving an increasing number of people both as players and organizers.

More and more NRDC-IT personnel are taking advantage of the few hours they are entitled to for their physical training at all times of the day, especially during the lunch break.

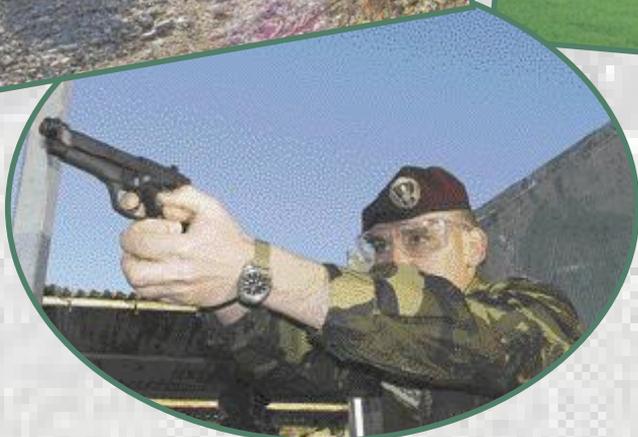
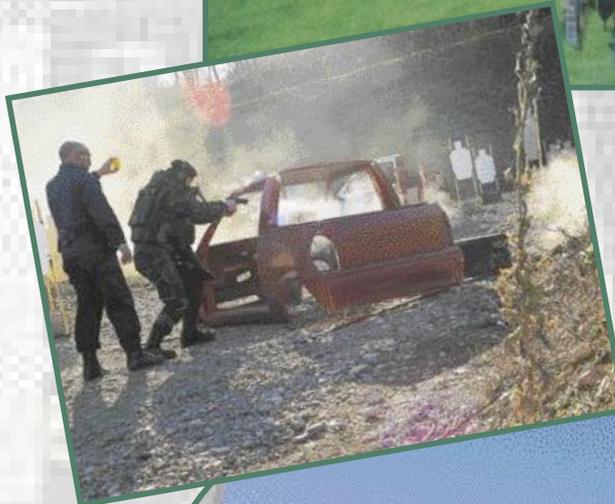
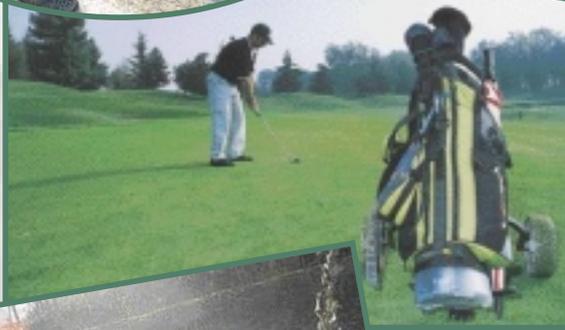
To conclude the increase in sports activities is contributing to enhance the Branch spirit, multinational friendship and the level of fitness to a point that today the mood can be summarized in the motto "Stay in... SHAPE!."



NRDC-IT swimming competition.



Sports Board



The Air Operations

by Maj M. MANTEGAZZA AOCC

The Air Operations Coordination Centre is an Air Force agency integrated into the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy but functionally subordinate to the Air Commander in any joint scenario. It is manned by Air Force personnel skilled in the planning and coordination of air operations and is tasked to conduct smooth coordination between Land Component (or Corps) and Air Component ops. In general terms the AOCC has two main tasks. First, it advises the NRDC Commander as to the best use of air capabilities and airspace. Secondly, it keeps the Air Component informed on NRDC's intent, scheme of manoeuvre and progress of Land operations.

To perform these tasks, the Air Agency is organised into different branches. The AOCC consists of Air Force personnel from a number of nations including Italy, United Kingdom, Hungary, Greece and the United States.

The structure consists of a Commander, an Offensive Operations Air Section, a Defensive Air Operations Section, an Intel Section and an Admin Cell.

The Offensive Air Operations Section coordinates close air support assets and carries out missions in direct support of HQ. Using the ICC system and in close contact with



CAOC, the section monitors the execution and evaluates the results of the mission informing the respective Command Group Cell.

The Defensive Air Operation Section coordinates all Air Defence, Ground Base Air Defence (GBAD) and Airspace management within friendly territories with the Combined Air Operations Centre. The Air Defence Section Chief is also

the AOCC Deputy Chief and is normally posted in the Rear Alternate Step-up (RAS) HQ when it is deployed on exercise or in real operations.

"NRDC AOCC IS EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE HARDWARE EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE."

The Intelligence Section coordinates air-related intelligence. Besides assessing the impact that opposing air forces may have on NRDC ops, it also contributes to the coordination of

Joint ISTAR, Targeting and BDA efforts.

The Agency normally employs high-tech state-of-the-art technology and hardware to achieve its purpose. AOCC receives the so-called Recognized Air Picture (RAP) from the designated CAOC and disseminates it to specific HQ agencies and subordinate Units. The Air Agency also receives reports through the Integrated Command & Control System (ICC). This fundamental asset is an integrated C3I tool that provides information management and



The AOCC team working on the ICC system.



Coordination Centre (AOCC)

decisional support to NATO Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) at the air operations level during peacetime, exercises and wartime.

NRDC AOCC is equipped with the most up-to-date hardware equipment and software within the Alliance. It is equipped with a large number of Sun Blade 2000 workstations with 18-inch LCDs. A standard HQ configuration would employ three servers and three back-up servers to provide three different LANs, but in line with NATO operational requirements, the ICC system is capable of operating six different LANs simultaneously, simply by reconfiguring the three back-up servers as main servers. All information is stored on removable hard disks and if needed on digital tapes. The hardware is already capable of operating directly with satellites through smart card-type devices. In case of power loss, the system will continue to operate thanks to an auxiliary power unit. Through a specific card the ICC System is already able to receive input from various radar sources.

In conclusion, both know-how and equipment are at their highest possible levels, and can fully interface Air and Land Commanders worldwide in real time.



Ex Disciplined Warrior

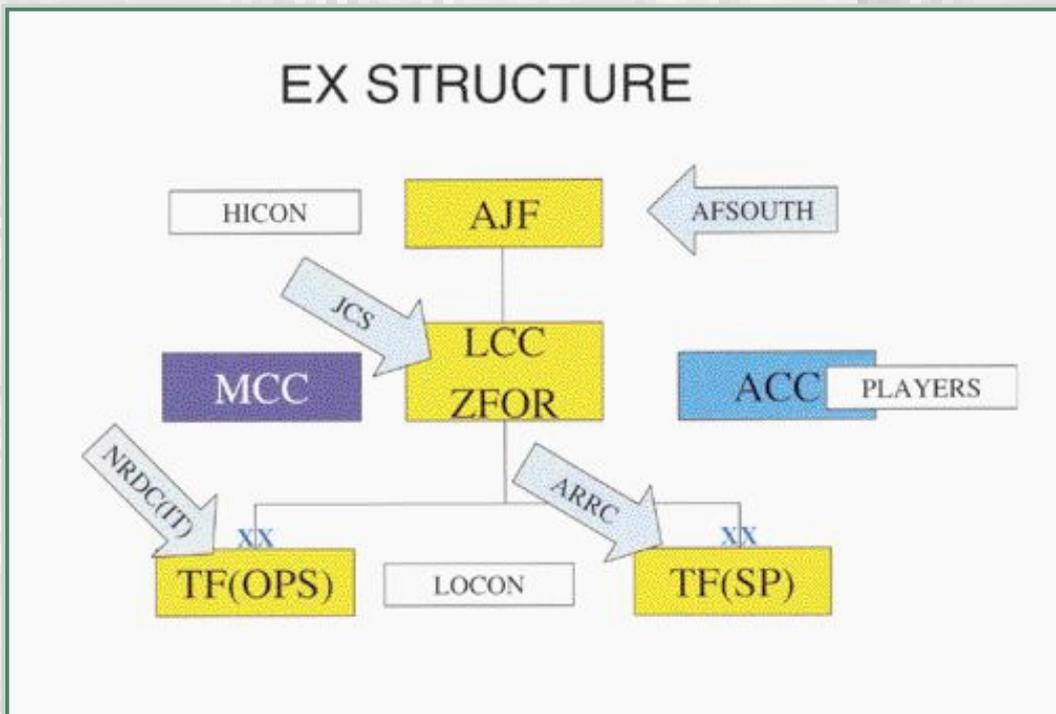
by MAJ. J. I. GIL RUIZ G3 OPS COORD/BSM

For the first time after achieving FOC status last December, HQ NRDC - IT participated as LOCON () (response cell) in an exercise called "DISCIPLINED WARRIOR 03". This exercise was organized by Joint Command South (JCS) VERONA from 24 February to 7 March 03.

Our 12 members belonged to G3 OPS (Team Leader/TF Comd/COS, Ch Ops and LCC LO), G2 (G2 Cell and Admin coord), G3 Plans (Mountain Bdes and Mech Bde), G3 Air (G3 Air/Avn), AOCC (), FCOORD (Fire Coord/CS) and the Support Division (G4 Ops).

The purpose of the exercise was to conduct a Southern Region Command Post Exercise (CPX) in which HQ Staff performed Crisis Management functions and procedures in a Crisis Response Operation (CRO) scenario. The exercise was also aimed to initiate the affirmation of the Hungarian Defence Forces in planning interoperable defensive/offensive operations.

The structure of the exercise was as follows:



HQ JCS were the training audience (LCC – ZFOR), while the Hungarian (HU) Armed Forces acted as observers/evaluators.

The exercise setting consisted of an Alliance executing an on-going PSO operation with a fictitious geo-political scenario. The overall intent was to create an escalating crisis situation that required detailed and coordinated staff crisis-action planning, operational decision-making and operational/tactical force employment in a non-article 5 CRO focused on peace enforcement. The CPX was part of a general plan to conduct a series of training events during the exercise planning process that prepared JCS and Hungarian Land Forces Command (LFC) to operate as a Joint Force Land Component Commander (JFLCC). CIMIC () activities with IOs/NGOs and international/local media outlets were considered very important.

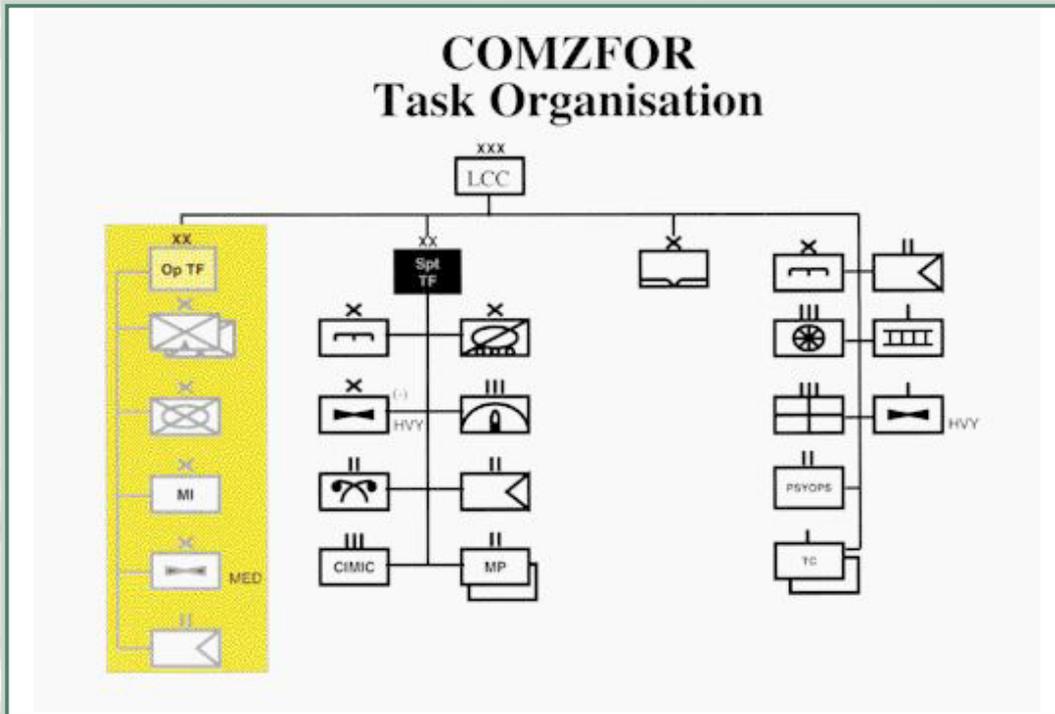
The exercise was divided into two phases: pre-exercise training that lasted for three days and the CPX itself that concluded with a Distinguished Visitor's day followed by a wash up debrief and redeployment.

The DISTAFF () was composed of AFSOUTH acting as EXCON (AJF), ARRC (Multinational Task Force Support - MNTF (SP)) and our HQ NRDC-IT (Multinational Task Force Operations - MNTF (OPS)) acting as LOCON.



Ex Disciplined Warrior

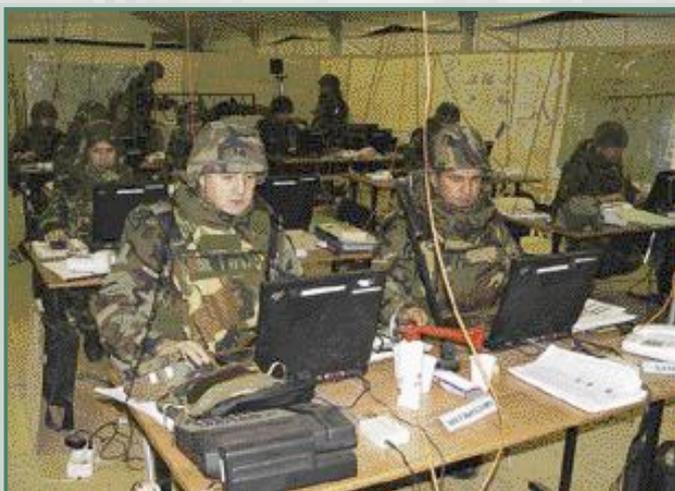
The Task Org of ZFOR –LCC forces was the following:



Where our Division, MNTF (OPS), is represented in yellow.

One of our main problems was the coordination with the response cell from the ARCC – MNTF (SP). Our Division MNTF (OPS) and theirs had to share the AOO () to perform different duties, so some coordination measures were agreed upon beforehand during a meeting with members of both Divisions that took place in our HQ.

But among all the many things that happened during those two weeks, what distinguished this exercise from others was the location. The exercise was carried out in WESTSTAR bunker. There, we arrived in the bunker before first light came up then leaving in the evening, once darkness had come again, not having any fresh air for as long as the exercise lasted. We also practiced an evacuation drill through the long tunnels.



The Staff during a Briefing.



"Ugo Mara" barracks

by Lt. M. SCALA, ENGINEER Branch

"Ugo Mara" barracks: past, present and... future.

FOREWORD.

The Italian High Readiness Force Project started in late 2000 and the following year the "Ugo Mara" Barracks was officially designated to host this NATO Command. The NRDC-IT is conveniently located at only 30 Km from Milan, 15 Km from the main Italian international airport of Malpensa and 1Km from the motorway junction.

The following events should be considered as basic steps of this project:

- 1 Feb 2001: establishment of "Ugo Mara Barracks" Garrison HQ
- 1 Aug 2001: establishment of High Readiness HQ
- 1 Nov 2001: constitution of High Readiness Forces Command (NATO Rapid Deployable Corp- IT) from Operational Projection Forces HQ previously located in Milan. On the same day the IT Signal Bde was established.

"UGO MARA BARRACKS"- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

The first news related to the barracks goes back to late 1916. The military compound included several buildings supporting the Busto Arsizio airfield.

During the First World War, the compound was transformed into an internment camp and after this conflict the barracks became an artillery depot.



The Light Building home of the Signal Brigade HQ.

In 1936 the barracks was officially named Lt Ugo Mara due to his military valor during the First World War, was awarded a silver and a bronze medals. In 1956, after the Second World War, the barracks hosted the 3rd Armored Bn and later the 4th and 20th Bersaglieri Bn. The Italian Army review carried out in 1975 marked a sequence of events for the barracks; at the beginning it hosted two different units: the 4th Armored Bn "Passalacqua" and the 10th Bersaglieri Bn (moved to Bologna in 1981), then the 67th Infantry Bn and the Legnano Logistics Bn and finally the 33rd Ambrosiano Logistic Rgt (1995).



The building of the NRDC-IT HQ.



"Ugo Mara" barracks

THE NRDC-IT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.

Since the beginning High Readiness HQ was set up with number of requirements that have to fulfill all needs related to a modern barracks in an international environment.

More than 30 projects were identified and all requirements included in a document, which from the beginning of 2001 became the "Ugo Mara Barracks Master Plan". Major planned activities include:

- a new building for the Corps (nickname STAR SHIP, 9,000 m², cost 6,400,000 euro) providing 230 offices for 450 personnel
- a new building for the Sig. Bde, National Intelligence Cells and National Support Elements (9,600 m², cost 5,165,000 euro) including 218 offices, 3 briefing rooms and an accommodation area with 128 modules
- a modern gymnasium with sauna, body building area and an indoor football field
- the renovation of the existing Officer and NCO clubs
- the construction of a Medical Centre, PX and a building as garrison HQ
- the construction of a parking area for more than 700 cars and a new entrance to the military compound

Particular mention should be made of the "Monte Rosa Village". For the first time in the Italian military history, a village will be built for the families of all personnel serving on the base. This project will utilise an area of 35 hectares, located beyond the logistics area

and will comprise more than 200 houses, schools, leisure and conference centers, a shopping centre, an indoor swimming pool and an outdoor sports complex.



CURRENT SITUATION

The NATO evaluation process was overcome, after a complex and composite validation process ending with Exercise "Light Ship 2002". The NRDC-IT is now a reality and the Italian High Readiness Corps is one of the six units under direct SACEUR command.

To complete the NATO integration process all of us are now awaiting the implementation of the "Ugo Mara Master Plan". Projects cover a wide range of activities: during last year a number of assignments were completed, such as the "Light Building", the gymnasium, the joint mess but we have to

endure the delay of the other projects. Shortly the work for the new entrance will start together with the demolition of the three old buildings close to the "Star Ship". Infrastructures require a long time between the planning phase and their completion as laws, regulations and fund constraints make the progression of work very slow, but the process has started and is irreversible. All NRDC-IT personnel are eagerly waiting the time when "the dream becomes a reality".



The new HQ building "Starship".

Reception Agency

by Capt. A. ANDRE' RECEPTION AGENCY

Unknow entity



Col. CIPRIANI Chief of the Reception Agency, receives a spanish NCO.

All those who haven't passed at least once through the receiving agency, please raise your hands (but without throwing a stone). This article is addressed to these people, to those who, among hundreds and hundreds of people, don't know that this agency was the first to operate "in the field" back in January 2001, even before all this started, before the "merry-go-round" started and the "aircrafts" took off, or at least tried to considering that the runway was missing and the pilots were quarrelling. We have tried to give meaning to the saying "facts and not words". Then we should examine these facts, we have gather, examined, dissected, elaborated them, in other words we were "nit-pickers". What follows is a summary of the work.

Lodging:

Type	National staff	International staff
In service ASI, AST, ASC assigned	194	//
Guest House (temporary stay)	24	14
Free market lodgings rent in Lonate Pozzolo	10	
Free market lodgings rent shortly available in Gallarate	12	
Lodgings found through estate agencies	49	28

We have contacted about 250 agencies in the area (Solbiate Olona) to help find flats to rent within a radius of about 30 kilometres, obtaining in many cases excellent terms, fee reductions and at times extra services, which are normally not included.



Reception Agency

Fiscal assistance

Probably not every one knows that it is virtually impossible to do anything in Italy without a "CF" (Fiscal tax Code). For Italians this is normal since they have one from the day they are born, but it would never occur to a foreigner that you would need one even to buy a telephone card.

Thanks to the good relationship with the Fiscal Agency in Busto Arsizio, this service is now faster and, in consideration of the statistics we have indicated above, 113 documents have been to date issued to the military personnel and their families arriving from abroad.

Health assistance

Even in this field hitches are not lacking given the differences in the conventions stipulated between the EU Member States and non-EU countries.

For personnel arriving from non-EU countries the agency and local health offices (ASL) managed to obtain a "green book" for their health service.

Residence permit

All the aspects related to the foreign military personnel and their families' stay in Italy have been cleared up with the foreign office at the Police Station in Varese. Through the receiving agency it has been possible to obtain residence permits for the families of colleagues and foreign friends very quickly, getting around all the bureaucracy.

School education

The members of the agency have provided direct assistance to all personnel whose children need to attend a school, including the European School in Varese.

Agreements have been made to enable foreign personnel and their families to learn Italian. The aim is to organize on-base courses to give families in particular a chance to better integrate into our society.

What else?

If what already said it is not sufficient for you, we could talk of the assistance given to personnel for water, electricity, gas and telephone connections, satellite dishes, opening a bank account and so on, or we could talk of the hundreds of facilities and reductions that our organisation has arranged with various companies, retailers, etc. in our country.

**SEE YOU SOON,
DEAR READERS AND FRIENDS.**



German NCO assisted by a staff member of the Reception Agency.

Communication Information

Lt. C. PORCILE G6PLANS

INTRODUCTION

Every good soldier knows that the success of an operation depends on equipment, training and morale along with other factors, but he also knows that Communications is a decisive factor.

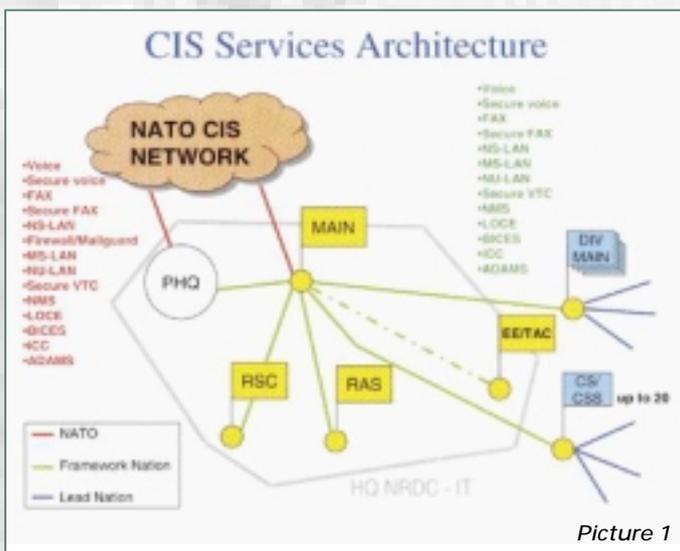
The Romans used signaling towers, the Indians used smoke signals and today we have the Communication Information System, called CIS.

NRDC-IT CIS CONCEPT

The NRDC CIS concept is based upon a military tactical CIS system that provides the following secure and insecure information services:

- Voice
- Telegraph
- Facsimile
- Data circuits to provide:
 - the NATO SECRET WAN
 - the Mission or Theatre Classified WAN
 - the NATO Unclassified WAN or Internet
 - C2 Tools (based on SIACCON)
 - Video Teleconferencing (VTC)
 - Air System (ICC)
 - Functional Area Sub Services (FAS)

The 1st Signal Regiment provides CIS to the NRDC - IT.



Picture 1

CIS ARCHITECTURE

The NRDC-IT CIS is explained in detail below with particular emphasis on the Communications System and the Information System that together make up the Communications Information System (CIS).

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (CS)

The NRDC-IT Communications System (CS) is based on

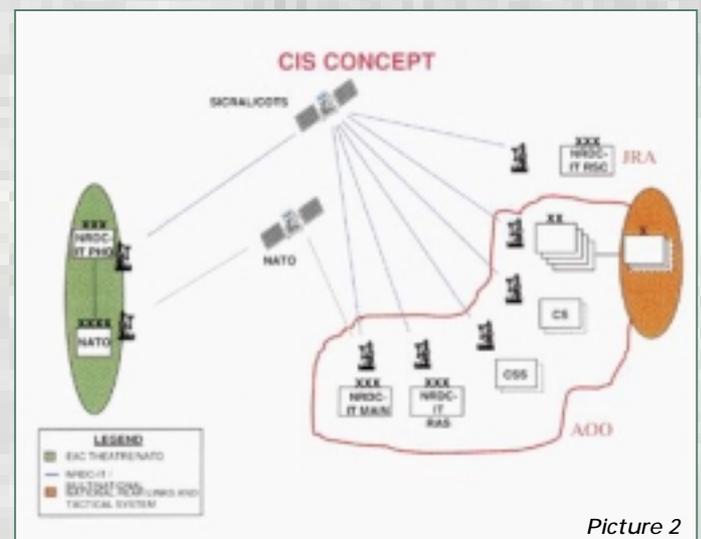
SOTRIN which stands for "SOTTosistema di TRAsmissioni INtegrato" (integrated communications subsystem) and is enhanced and supported by a number of other systems.

SOTRIN is a communication net, the nodes of which are connected through several kinds of links. The 1st Signals Regt. has the equipment and skills to set up SATCOM, Line of Sight (LOS), and copper and fibre links. The use of different kinds of links enables not only flexibility but also reliability of the system.

The System can be easily integrated thanks to the structure of the nodes that allow easy expansion of the net and the addition of further nodes through other links without any major technical problems.

The core of the SOTRIN node is Marconi's digital switchboard (CD - 11x). The CD automatically manages the entire net and with special add-on cards is also capable of providing voice and data. Recently the Marconi equipment based on ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) technology has been purchased. It allows voice and data traffic to be optimized over the SOTRIN net.

- a. SATCOM Since the use of the SATCOM provides the necessary redundancy to the whole communication systems and, when deployed, NRDC Early Entry CPs require SATCOM connectivity, both the Italian Military SAT (SICRAL) and the commercial SAT systems can be used. Provision of space segment for NRDC-IT communications is normally negotiated by Italy and NATO. In addition to this a high capacity static SATCOM hub at PHQ SOLBIATE OLONA is installed to link the PHQ to the SATCOM net when deployed.
- b. LOS Lines of Sight are normally employed to create a trunk node network where close formation HQs are linked.
- c. E1 In some cases, when distance allows, it is cost effective to insert cable links in E1 standard.



Picture 2



System (CIS)

INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IS)

The Information Systems are provided via three Wide Area Networks (WANs). These are the NATO SECRET WAN, Mission/Theatre Classified WAN and NATO UNCLASSIFIED WAN.

a. NATO SECRET WAN (NSW). The NSW provides Office Automation for NATO HQs. NRDC PHQ is connected to the NSW allowing the NRDC staff to exchange information with other NATO staffs. On deployment the NSW is extended into the NRDC CPs from the NATO DCM/MCM. The following FAS are provided via the NSW: (see Picture 1)

(1) NATO WIDE WEB There is a NATO Intranet facility available on the NSW called the NATO WIDE WEB. It facilitates the sharing of information throughout NATO.

(2) Intelligence FAS BICES (Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System) is a web enabled, multi-national intelligence system. It provides national intelligence (releasable to NATO) via a number of National Contributory Databases. LOCE (Linked Operations Intelligence Centre Europe) is a US owned and administered web enabled system. These systems are used by NRDC to access all Intelligence information.

(3) Logistic FAS (LOGFAS) Elements of the SHAPE LOGFAS (principally ADAMS) are used within the NRDC CPs and subordinate formations.

(4) Integrated Command and Control system for Air (ICC). AOCC(L) uses the ICC to pass on and receive air C2, planning and NATO Initial Common Operational Picture (iCOP) information. The ICC system is administered, deployed and maintained by the NRDC AOCC(L).

b. INTERNET The world wide web is available to users at NRDC PHQ. INTERNET links to operations are received through the use of PTT or the DCM/MCM from SHAPE.

c. Mission/Theatre SECRET WAN (M/T S WAN) The Mission/Theatre SECRET WAN allows the staff at NRDC CPs and subordinate formations to exchange Theatre or Mission SECRET information rapidly via email (at NRDC PHQ only in OPSCEN). On these LANs, the C2 FAS used by NRDC-IT is the Italian SIACCON (ATCCIS compliant) (see Picture 5) It provides common situational awareness, format mailing and digital maps.



EX LIGHT SHIP 02

To give an overview of the CIS services available at NRDC-IT and the 1st Signals Regt. capabilities, it is worth mentioning EXER LIGHT SHIP 02 (EX LS02).

EX LS02 was the conclusive test for NRDC IT to achieve Full Operational Capability (FOC). It took place in Civitavecchia last autumn and involved the complete NRDC IT in which four completely equipped Command Posts (CPs) were deployed - MAIN, RAS, RSC and TACTical. Two further CPs were deployed to demonstrate the Corps ability to deliver CIS services to subordinate Units.

The 1st Signal Regt. set up:

- a telephone network (with teleconferencing, fax and encryption devices)
- a secure VTC system connecting all CPs deployed
- three different Local Area Network (LANs) connected to two classified Wide Area Networks (WAN) and one unclassified WAN within each CP

Each LAN made it possible to exchange e-mail, to browse web pages and to share files.

The classified LANs enabled SIACCON (Italian Automated C2 System) and NATO Functional Sub System (FASS) to be used as LOCE, ADAMS and ICC.

CONCLUSION

Communication is paramount for a modern Army, albeit highly challenging and demanding for the communicators.

An example of the efforts made by the 1st Signal Regt. during LS02 can be seen with the following:

- employed personnel:
 - Officers: 34
 - NCOs: 82
 - Troops: 278
- vehicles employed: 94
- telephones employed: 520
- Personal Computers employed: 497

Signalers must be able to work hard every day planning what might have to be done the day after, knowing that tomorrow is not going to be better than today.



The Cusani Palace

by Capt. D. SCALABRIN G4 MOV



The main entrance of Cusani Palace.

Its central plan was developed around a rectangular courtyard with porticos on two sides and granite columns. The façade facing Via Brera was built on 1717 by architect Giovanni Maria Ruggeri with two portals and a remarkably decorative architectural structure. The rear of the building was finished in 1790 by Giuseppe Piermarini (also known for his work on La Scala Opera House and the Royal Palace in Milan), marking the completion of the work.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Cusani family handed over the property to the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy, which established its Ministry of War in the Palace.

In 1815, with the fall of the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy and the return of the Austrians, the Cusani Palace became the Lombardo - Veneto military HQ, led for years by the famous (not only for the march) Field-Marshal Radetzky.

After the Second War of Independence and following the annexation of the area to the Kingdom of Sardinia, the Palace became home to the Italian Military HQs.

In 1884, the 3rd Army Corps HQ was moved from Verona to the Cusani Palace, where it remained until 1997 when, to implement the New Italian Defence Model, it was converted into the Operational Projection Forces (Land) Command - the cornerstone of the present HQ NRDC-IT.

Today, it also houses the Officer's Club giving everyone the opportunity to visit the Palace and relax in one of the oldest and most magnificent lounges in the city centre.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Italian MOD, SHAPE, HQ SACLANT and all contributing nations, the Republic of Italy, in addition to the use of the well-known "Ugo Mara" barracks, has also granted the use of the "Cadorna" barracks located in Legnano and the Cusani Palace in Milan to HQ NRDC-IT as facilities and infrastructures.

It seems necessary to take advantage of this opportunity to provide some information on at least the historic Cusani Palace, considered the finest example of Milanese private housing of the early 17th century.

While the first written documents regarding the Palace date back to the late 16th century, it reached its height at the beginning of the following century, when Cardinal Agostino Cusani refurbished the Palace, thus enhancing its prestige.



The internal courtyard of Cusani Palace.



A Recipe of International Food

Dear reader, this page will always carry a recipe of a typical dish of one of the countries contributing to our HQ. Let's start with Italy's...

... Tiramisù

Preparation time: 20min

Refrigeration time: at least six hours

Ingredients:

- 400 gm fresh mascarpone cheese
- 1 cup brandy or cognac
- 4 eggs
- Savoardi biscuits
- 4 tablespoons sugarcocoa powder
- 1 cups strong espresso coffee



- ◆ In a large bowl, whisk the sugar with the egg yolks until thick, foamy and pale. Add the mascarpone cheese and mix until smooth.
- ◆ In another bowl, whisk the egg whites until firm and fold into the mascarpone mixture.
- ◆ In a bowl, combine the espresso coffee with the brandy or cognac and dip the Pavesini biscuits into the mixture one at a time.
- ◆ Line the base of a rectangular dish with the Pavesini biscuits. Spread the mascarpone mixture evenly over the coffee-flavoured Pavesini biscuits and top with a second layer of them and mascarpone mixture. Repeat with a third layer of biscuits and mascarpone mixture.
- ◆ Use a fine sieve to sprinkle the whole surface with cocoa.
- ◆ Refrigerate at least six hours before serving. The desert can be made the day before serving.

Buon appetito!



