

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.

