



NRDC-IT Magazine

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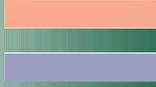
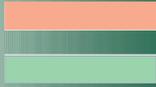
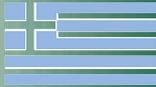
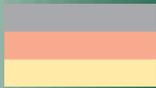
EX EE 04



1st IT DIV



MSU



FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

it has been a really exciting period for our headquarters as a new Commander took over and finally the new building for the staff, named "Star Ship", has been completed and we have moved in our brand new offices.

The Corps continues its training within the Eagle Series Exercises for assuming the Land Component Command role for NRF3 and for starting the "Stand by" phase from the 1st July 2004 in the best conditions.

Our efforts are all focused on preparing Allied Action Exercise, that will take place in Civitavecchia at the end of May 2004, and working in close coordination with Joint Force Command South. You will read about the outcome of this exercise in the next issue.



Riccardo Cristoni
Ltc. IT Army
Chief PI



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Commander Foreword

Lt Gen Mauro Del Vecchio

First of all, I would like to thank my predecessor Lt Gen Fabrizio CASTAGNETTI and Lady Teresa CASTAGNETTI for their magnificent contributions in the first phases of the realization of the NATO rapid Deployable Corps -Italy project. Credit must be given also to the Italian Armed forces and to the excellent professional and spiritual qualities of men and women of the other ten NRDC-It contributing Nations.

When I assumed command of the NRDC-IT on 20 February 2004, I was conscious that NATO is changing radically and that our Headquarters is playing an essential part within this transformation process. Modern, flexible, rapidly deployable forces are required to meet and defeat today's asymmetrical threats, the most notable one being terrorism.

We must be able to face changing circumstances and to tackle new security challenges within and outside the traditional NATO's area of responsibility. At the Prague Summit held in November 2002, the NATO Heads of State agreed to the concept of a robust, readily deployable and credible force, the NATO Response Force (NRF). In this context, NRDC-IT will assume leadership as NRF Land Component Command in the second half of this year.

There are a lot of critical situations throughout the world. I hope that the efforts of the international community will contribute more and more to stabilize Afghanistan, Iraq and the Balkans, where I've served as a Multinational Unit Commander alongside the ARRC. This means that we, as part of the NATO Command and Force Structure, can be deployed when and where necessary, in support of the collective will of the Alliance.

Officers, NCOs, Soldiers of NRDC_IT, this is our job and we must be prepared and ready to deploy on operations when requested to bring peace where people live in less fortunate circumstances than ours. That's a challenge that I am sure we all together will win.

I look forward to working with all of you in the aim to contribute to the process of defense, security and stability in the world



*The NRDC-IT Commander
Lt. Gen. Mauro Del Vecchio*



Change of Command

by *Lt Col R. CRISTONI, Chief PI*

Change of Command Ceremony

Solbiate Olona, Italy. On 20 February 2004, at the end of a significant ceremony held in the Flags Square of the Ugo Mara barracks, Lieutenant General Mauro Del Vecchio took over as new NRDC-IT Commander, replacing Lieutenant General Fabrizio Castagnetti who was designated as Deputy Chief of Italian Defence Staff in Rome.

IT WAS A TOUGH CHALLENGE INDEED, A SORT OF "MISSION IMPOSSIBLE".

Lt Gen Castagnetti COMNRDC-IT

The event took place in unusual atmosphere and environment as all the region has been stormed by snow for a couple of days and everything was white coloured and the temperature was some degrees below zero. This, may be, contributed to keep the official speeches short but he has caused some organizational and transport problems for all the guests scheduled to join us in this ceremony. Despite the amount of fallen snow the Signal Brigade personnel did an excellent job by keeping clear all the ceremony area and the access road working hard all the night through.

The ceremony was presided by the Commander in Chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe, US Navy Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, by IT Army Lt Gen Cosimo D'Arrigo, Commander of Operational Forces and attended by various local and regional authorities as well by national and international high ranking officials and by national media.

"THERE WAS NOTHING AND NOW WE HAVE A VERY EFFICIENT HEADQUARTERS, EXCEEDING ANY ESTIMATE"

Admiral G. Johnson CINCSOUTH

All the invitees, after being cheered by the two Commanders, reached the main "palco" waiting for the parade to be formed. The first formation to enter the Flags square was the 3rd regiment Bersaglieri Fanfara, a military band that plays its instruments while running, followed by two coys of the Logistic and Support regiment, two coys of the 1st Signal regiment and by one Carabinieri (MP) platoon. Then the NATO flag together with the 11 contributing nations flags took their position in the center of the parade. At the end the War Flag of the 1st regiment join the parade accompanied by the Italian

national anthem.

The ceremony then proceeded with the official speeches of the Senior appointment holder and of the two Commanders and the most significant event: the hand over of the Corps Colours from Lt Gen Castagnetti to Lt Gen Del Vecchio.



A Senior NCO holds the CORPS colours.

Admiral Johnson praised the great goals achieved by the Italian Army and by General Castagnetti for creating the headquarters from almost "nothing" and stated that he was looking to work closely with NRDC-IT from July 04 on as part of NATO Responce Force 3.

Gen Castagnetti has been the first NRDC-IT Commander and during his command he achieved the qualification of the NRDC-IT

"NATO RESPONCE FORCE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE NATO'S CENTER OF GRAVITY AND TO THIS EXTENT, THERE IS NO ROMM FOR FAILURE"

Lt Gen Castagnetti NRDC-IT COM

as a High Readiness Force (L) HQ at the end of 2002. In his address to the participants he briefly mentioned that history of the High readiness Forces Headquarters (HRF) project and the heavy commitments assumed by the Italian Army, but most of all by the multinational staff and by Signal Brigade personnel. He encouraged the staff to continue playing a proactive role in the creation of the NATO Response Force as NRDC-IT will play the Land Component Command role for NRF 3 from July 2004 to mid January 2005.

The creation of NRDC-IT headquarters is not just an operational Comand structure but "goes beyond the alliance interests, having the potential to become an icon, an example to follow for the new fully professional



Lt Gen Castagnetti and Lt Gen Del Vecchio cheer Adm Johnson upon his arrival in Solbiate Olona.



Change of Command

Lt Gen Castagnetti's address.

Admiral Johnson, Lt Gen d'Arrigo, authorities, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the NRDC-IT and Signal Brigade personnel, thank you very much for honouring this change of command ceremony with your presence. A special thanks to the mayors, or their representatives, of the cities of Solbiate Olona, that hosts our base, Milan, Varese, Busto Arsizio and all other neighbouring local communities of the region of Lombardia.

You have extended your hand of friendship and displayed your hospitality to hundreds of military families, Italian and the other ten allied countries that form the NRDC-IT. These families have felt themselves at home from the very beginning; a further demonstration of the characters of friendship, hospitality and the warmth of the Italian people.

In 2001, when the project of the creation of a high readiness headquarters began, within the frame of the NATO force structure review, the proposal made by Italy to offer Solbiate Olona as the home of this new deployable headquarters, was received with skepticism. This was in large part due to the lack of specific experience at such a level of command, lack of equipment and Italian personnel trained in NATO operational procedures, insufficiency of infrastructural facilities and the vastity of resources needed. It was a tough challenge indeed, a sort of "mission impossible". Well, in December 2002, after an unprecedented deployment exercise of all the NRDC-IT group, the headquarters obtained full operational capability with the highest ratings achievable. The credit goes to the gigantic effort made by the Italian Army Staff, the Land Operational Forces HQ, and the hard work, great motivation, leadership and profound competence of hundreds of men and women of the Signal Brigade and the headquarters staff representing the countries of Italy, United Kingdom, United States of America, Hungary, Greece, Spain, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Turkey.

We had a clear objective to achieve, we main-

tained our focus, we had faith and trust, we worked as a team and we succeeded. To all of the officers, NCOs and soldiers of the NRDC-IT group, my deepest thanks, thanks also from Italy and NATO. Be proud of what you have achieved, NATO is a fundamental alliance for the security of the world and our headquarters is now an important part of its core.

While satisfied with these achievements, we all know that we are not yet at the end state; a lot more is still to be done, we have to complete the acquisition of the equipment, optimize the operational procedures, redefine the manning and manage the personnel rotation without any decrease of operational capability; also, we must review the functions of the staff to render them more efficient, responsive and coherent with the new tasks and threats.

As you have done thus far, I encourage you to continue playing a proactive role in the creation of the NATO Response Force. The NATO Response Force is and will continue to be NATO's center of gravity and to this extent, there is no room for failure; because failure may cause the Alliance itself to become irrelevant.

Admiral Johnson, be assured that this headquarters has shifted its full potential and strength toward achieving success with the NATO Response Force.

We will be proactive, visionary and determined to make the NATO response force a fundamental turning point of NATO. The full operational capability and now the NATO Response Force were not the only two tasks we had. This base, as you know, was home to a logistics battalion and so we were faced with another important task; to transform this battalion level barracks into a base for a multinational, joint corps headquarters. Also in this area, the amount of resources put to bear by the Italian Army Staff and Operational forces, Geniodife, the Army and the Air Force Territorial Engineers and the garrison headquarters, have been huge.

A master plan has been drafted and approved, financial resources committed, some projects

have been completed, and others are underway while others will begin shortly. To mention just a few: a new entrance, full renovation of the temporary staff headquarters (to my rear), the officer's club, brand new headquarters for the signal brigade and the national support elements, a summer garden with a military "foresteria", the "starship" building (to my right) almost ready to be inaugurated, a parking lot for 600 vehicles, also almost ready, a new perimeter security fence, a second parking lot outside and finally the jewel, still to be initiated, a village with 200 independent houses, a commercial center, sports facilities, a couple of schools, a cinema. When fully realized this accomplishment will have an importance that goes beyond the alliance interests, having the potential to become an icon, an example to follow for the new fully professional Italian Army.

I am sorry to leave Solbiate half way through this process, but the new job in Rome, deputy of Joint Defence staff, will allow me not only to work for the good of NATO, but also to continue to follow and support in every way possible this great headquarters. I am leaving the command to a friend, to a very capable man who will continue the job.

Dear Mauro, my best wishes for you to improve the operational capabilities of this headquarters, to make this base a great place to work and live, and I hope you may lead this headquarters to a real operation in the near future.

Officers, NCOs, Carabinieri, soldiers and civilians of the NRDC-IT group, my two past years as your commander have been an exciting experience, an adventure of which I am proud, enriched by success. All this would not have been possible without your unlimited support, dedication, competence, determination, and friendship.

You, you most of all, deserve the credit of what has been achieved and, I am sure, the future will see you act brilliantly as always. Thanks very much. I will never forget you. Take care. All the best to you and your families.



Members of the bersaglieri fanfare with their typical hat.



A view of the formation and of the Contributing Nation Flags ready for the parade.



Change of Command



Lt Gen Del Vecchio address his speech after assuming command.

Italian Army" Castagnetti said.

A new concept of a military Italian base where soldiers and their families can live together, go to school, play sports and go shopping. So far many projects have been completed and others will come soon, among those the 200 independent houses village represents the most ambitious and important.

NATO CAN RELY UPON A COMMAND STRUCTURE OF HIGH OPERATIONAL READINESS, FULLY DEPLOYABLE ON OPERATIONS ABROAD WITH MINIMAL WARNING, AND ABLE TO CONTROL CORPS LEVEL FORCES AND ABOVE.

Lt Gen Del Vecchio NRDC-IT COM

Lieutenant General Del Vecchio possesses an extraordinary operational experience as Commander of Multinational units in the Balkans area of operation such as Bosnia in 1997 and FYROM and KOSOVO in 1999 where, in particular, he was the Commander of the Italian contingent when NATO entered KOSOVO after the air campaign. His operational vision and expertise will greatly contribute to the preparation and training of the whole staff as it is entering the NRF roster.

The event was concluded with a small reception at the Officer Club where all the guest had the chance to warm themselves and raise their glasses for a toast for the two Commnaders. Afterwards the incoming and outgoing Commander met the local and regional media and released some statements. _____



Adm Johnson, CINCSOUTH, and Lt Gen D'Arrigo, COM IT HQLAND reviewing the formation.

Lt Gen Mauro Del Vecchio's adress

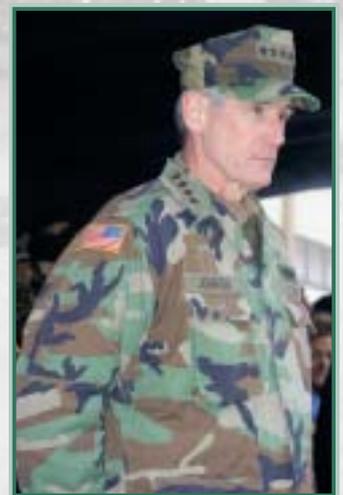
Admiral Johnson, Lieutenant General D'Arrigo, authorities, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, I am very proud today to assume command of this great unit, with a full knowledge of the responsibility entrusted in me. The achievements since the constitution of this head quarters have been most significant. Today, here in Solbiate Olona, NATO can rely upon a command structure of high operational readiness, fully deployable on operations abroad with minimal warning, and able to control corps level forces and above. The Italian Army Staff and the Land Operational Forces headquarters have expended a great deal of effort to reach this objective. Moreover, the personnel of the Corps staff and of the Signal Brigade have contributed valuable and determined efforts enabling the corps to attain a full operational capability. I am fully aware of their exceptional efforts. For this reason, I express my gratitude to the members of the chain of command who have entrusted me with the duties of Corps commander.

Furthermore, I express my sin-

cere appreciation to the men and women of the Corps headquarters and the Signal brigade who have, with high professionalism and strong motivation, carried this command to a high operational level.

To Lieutenant General Castagnetti, who has been the primary architect of the corps' accomplishments, and is destined for duties of even greater responsibility within the Italian Armed Forces, I express my sincere admiration and respect. Fabrizio, my friend, you leave a great, lasting legacy upon the corps. All of the personnel within the Corps headquarters and the Signal Brigade will follow, I'm convinced, the road that you have forged, seeking always to finish, for the better, the work that you have done so well.

Admiral Johnson, Lieutenant General D'Arrigo, authorities, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, and members of the command, it is with these sentiments of gratitude, admiration, and humility, that I assume command of the corps and I endeavour to respond adequately to the expectations of the Italian Armed Forces as well as those of the NATO chain of command.



Admiral US NAVY G. Johnson CINCSOUTH.



New Commander

Lieutenant General Mauro DEL VECCHIO (IT Army) Commander HQ NATO RAPID DEPLOYABLE CORPS - IT



Lieutenant General Mauro DEL VECCHIO was born in 1946, in Rome, Italy. He attended the Military Academy Course in 1965, where he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant. He attended the Turin School of Application and after two years he was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant of "bersaglieri" infantry.

His military education also includes Italian Army War College (Basic and Advanced Courses), equitation course, psychological warfare and parachuting courses.

His command appointments include periods as Infantry Platoon and Company Commanders, Commanding Officer of the 1st Bersaglieri Battalion "La Marmora", Commander of the Military District of Florence, and Commander of "Garibaldi" Bersaglieri

Brigade (1997-1999) in Caserta and Commander of the School of Application and Specialization (2000-2003) in Turin.

He has had considerable International experience including periods spent as Commander of Multinational units deployed in Operations in the Balkans area, such as Bosnia 1997, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Kosovo in 1999; for those operations he was awarded the following decorations: Great Officer to the Italian Republic Merit, the Knight's Cross of the Italian Republic Military Order, the Legion of Merit awarded by the Spanish Minister of Defence and the Portuguese First Class of Merit Medal.

Since November 2002 he has been appointed President of Council of the Italian Military Order.

Most recently he covered the assignment of Deputy Chief of Manpower Department within the Italian Army General Staff. On 13 January 2004 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and on 20 February he assumed the appointment of Commander of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy.

Lt. Gen. Del Vecchio holds a degree in Strategic Science and his decorations include Army Bronze Medal, "Mauriziana" Medal, Gold Cross for Long service, Silver Medal for Long period of Command, Commemorative Cross for the Peace Mission in Bosnia Herzegovina, in Kosovo and in Fyrom-Albania, Commemorative Medal for Relief Operations in Friuli and the Knight's Malta Commendation Medal for Relief Operations in the former Yugoslavia.



Ex Eagle Nest 1/04

by J. I. GIL RUIZ Maj SP ARMY G3 OPS COORD

Ex EAGLE NEST is a series of three HQ level Study Periods focused on the NRF concept which is taking place in Ugo Mara Barracks during 2004.

In January, HQ NRDC IT conducted the first, Exercise EAGLE NEST 1/04. It was a very useful opportunity to achieve a common understanding of the NRF, which is an essential prerequisite for our preparations for the stand by period.

Ex EAGLE NEST 1/04 consisted of a two-day study period (briefings/syndicate discussions; followed by a one-day Map Exercise (MAPEX) designed to develop an understanding of a likely NRF operation from ACTORD to recovery or handover to follow-on forces.

The objectives achieved were the following:

- To brief HQ Staff, C2 elements of NRF Bde and AFSOUTH Reps on NRDC-IT understanding and current developments in the NRF Concept as well as on the resulting implications for NRDC-IT and assigned Units namely during the Force Integration, collective training and Stand-by Phases.
- To obtain the higher echelons views and intentions on this issue. To have the opportunity to back brief HQ NRDC-IT on recent/relevant developments concerning NRF Concept implementation
- To brief on the way ahead for the stand-by NRF/HRF(L) period (Jun04 – Dec04) and our participation in Ex ALLIED ACTION 04.
- To listen to any queries or concerns that the invited representatives of other HQs have and to analyse possible options for the resolution of those concerns where possible.
- To establish a personal working relationship with C2 NRF Bde elms/AFSOUTH structures thus improving the passage of information and coordination between HQ NRDC-IT, subordinate formations and AFSOUTH.
- To understand clearly the organization, capabilities and limitations of all subordinated Units.

Ex EAGLE NEST 1/04 Participation included incorporating

VERY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE NRF



An Officer of the CBRN Bn presenting a briefing.



Multinational Staff attending a briefing on NRF concept.

representation from C2 Elements of NRF Bde staff (Taurinense Bde), assigned Units/Formations (CBRN Bn, HU CIMIC Coy and GR Coy) and AFSOUTH J3 – J5 Representatives. AIRSOUTH, HU Div, MANTOVA Div, Arty Bde, Istar Bde, FRIULI Bde as well as other affiliated Units sent representatives as Observers.

From HQ NRDC-IT all available personnel attended during the Study Period while the MAPEX was for SO2s (Staff Officers) and above.

In order to avoid unnecessary movements for external attendees and works, scenario and planning tools for Exercises EAGLE LANDING, EAGLE ENTRY and EAGLE NEST were produced in close coordination. IPC (Initial Planning Conference) and MPC (Main Planning Conference) were also held at the same time for EAGLE exercises.

The aim of the first Exercise of the EAGLE series (NEST, ENTRY and LANDING) was to spread the NRF concept among the NRDC staff and the assigned NRF Bde elements representatives and to carry out an Exercise to implement this concept.

EXECUTION

During the **Study Period**, formal briefs held in plenary sessions were addressed to the attendees, being followed by discussions.

The Study period was split in two different working days; the first one was used for formal presentations provided by Branches concerning NRF general topics as:

- **NRF Concept - G3Ops**
- **NRF HQ (L) C2 - G3Ops**
- **NRF (L) Bde - TAURINESE Bde**
- **CIS concept - G6**
- **DJTF - AFSOUTH J5**
- **NEO (Non Combatant Evacuation Operations) and Counter terrorism Ops for NRF - G5Plans**

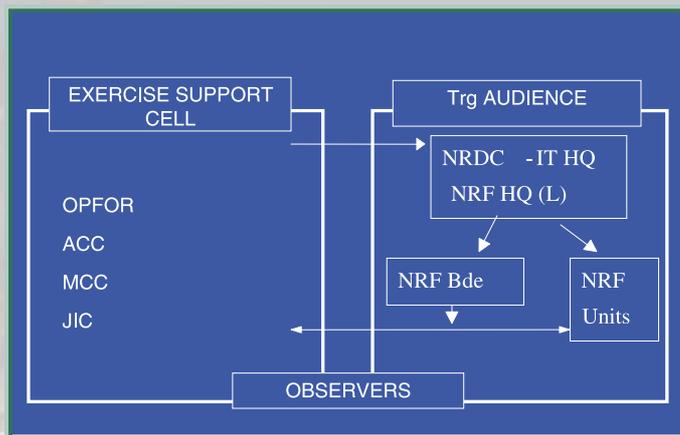


Ex Eagle Nest 1/04

The second day was broken down into three different activities. The first one consisted of formal briefs from G3 Ops about tactical procedures to be used by HQ NRDC-IT as NRF-3, including deployment and force integration aspects; Support Div (NRF CSS concept), RSC (RSOM) and FCOORD (Targeting Procedures). The second one allowed contributing non-framework Nations (CBRN Czech Bn, HU CIMIC Coy and GR Coy) to explain in detail the units offered to the NRF Force. And, finally, the third one consisted of separate workshops led by G3 Ops, G2 and Support Div together with the external representatives, in order to discuss functional matters. Their conclusions were presented afterwards.

G 3Ops recorded the conclusions at the end of each day and these were then presented to the audience.

Throughout the **MAPEX**, HQ NRDC-IT acted as a NRF (L) Component Command, commanding assigned NRF Bde, CS and CSS Units according to this Exercise organization.



Basic MAPEX Organisation

The MAPEX comprised two different activities:

In the morning: Three scenarios were explored as a practical confirmation of the deployment and initial activation phases. All the HQ elements across the spectrum of command explained and defined their respective roles and interaction with the other NRF components. The explanations were made within the tactical scenario but the issues discussed were largely procedural.

In the afternoon: A specific, fictional tactical scenario was described in the post deployment period that posed a problem and required all participants to develop a solution identifying lines of work for short, medium and longer term implementation and also consideration of Non-Combatant Evacuation and Counter Terrorist operational contingencies.

Once Exercise EAGLE NEST finished, it was agreed by all the participants that this kind of Exercise is a very useful



Members of the CBRN Bataillon attending a presentation.

tool for us to be trained as an NRF LCC HQ. Next EAGLE Exercises conducted in this way, when doctrine is being produced at the same time that the concept is applied, are a very powerful instrument to be used by a HQ like ours. There is no doubt about the benefits that we can obtain from these exercises, benefits that must be applied in a very short period of time. NRF-3 stand by period is just around the corner.



Media Ops videooperator supporting the MAPEX.



The Commander and his Staff attending the exercise.



Ex Eagle Entry

by Ltc J. SARAMAGO, PO Army G5 Plans

Exercise "Eagle Entry 04", the second exercise of the three part Eagle Exercise Series was a milestone event for the NRDC-IT HQ. This exercise served as one of many important steps to ensure that the Headquarters is prepared for NATO Response Force (NRF) 3 Standby which starts in July 2004. Training activities took place at Conigliera Area within Ugo Mara Barracks during the period 09-13 February 2004. This exercise included elements of the NRF Land Component Early Entry Command Post, the Rear Support Command Forward, the NRF Brigade Early Entry Command Post, and included observers from other Land Component Command Forces as well. The exercise was divided into two distinct periods, a study period and a deployment exercise, designed to achieve the exercise aim to develop and confirm



IMPORTANT STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE HEADQUARTERS IS PREPARED FOR NATO RESPONSE FORCE (NRF) 3

NRF land component Early Entry doctrine, architecture, procedures and readiness.

The first day of the exercise consisted of a study period. During this period the



NRDC-IT Headquarters' Staff and members of the Taurinense Brigade (the NRF Brigade) briefed the exercise



EE CP members attending a meeting inside an inflatable tent.



A view of the EE CP under camouflage nets.



International Staff within the EE CP.

audience on various topics ranging from a complete review and update of the NRF Concept to how the NRF Brigade will deploy its Early Entry Command Post. This portion of the exercise allowed the staff to share information, identify requirements and ensured that all members of the NRDC-IT have a common understanding of how the NRF will initially enter and operate in an Area of Operations. This study period generated interesting discussion and identified areas that the staff of both the NRDC-IT and the NRF Brigade Headquarters must focus on in order to ensure readiness prior to NRF Standby in July 2004.

After the study period, the Headquarters began the second part of the exercise. The NRF Land Component Early Entry Command

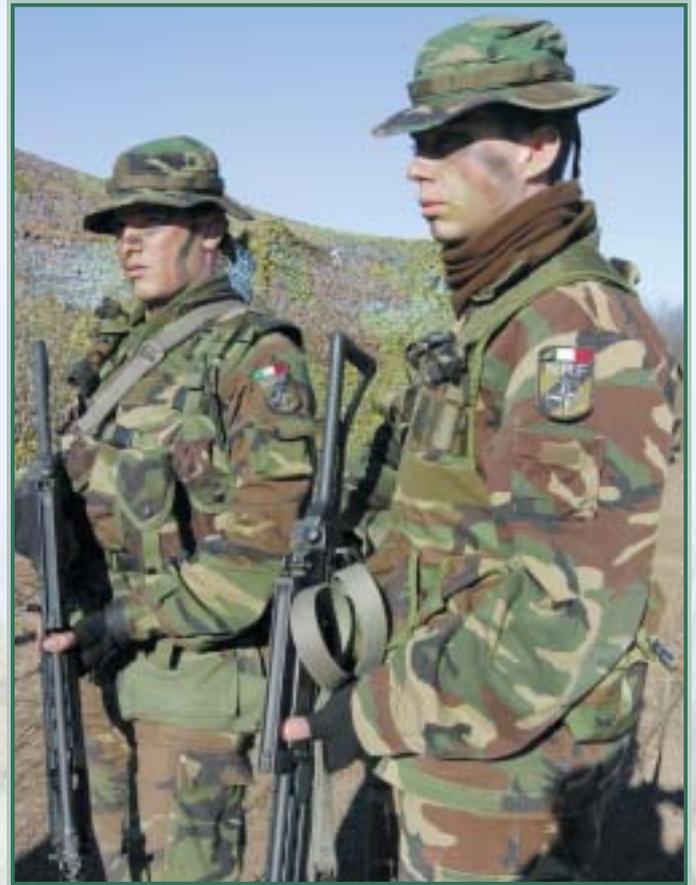
Post, the Rear Support Command Forward, the NRF Brigade Early Entry Command Post deployed to the Conigliera Area of Caserma Ugo Mara Barracks for a two day deployment exercise designed to test procedures, systems, and equipment and to practice the deployment of initial command and control and forward operating logistics functions. The deployment exercise allowed the staff to check the availability and proper function of all physical assets to include command and control systems, computer information systems, and support systems. The exercise also provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Command to check their own personal readiness. Members that belonged to an Early Entry Command Post and to the Rear Support Command were subject to inspection of all of their personal combat



Ex Eagle Entry

equipment and deployment records (immunization records, orders, etc..) prior to deployment. Overall, this phase of the exercise provided opportunity for all members of the Command to visualize the requirements of this phase of deployment. It provided an illustration of the architecture and operation of the NRF Early Entry Command Post within the NRF Concept and provided a great opportunity to improve existing architecture, systems, and procedures.

Overall the exercise generated some positive results. During the exercise it was determined that requirements to move the Early Entry Command Post were too great and that the size of the physical architecture should be reduced. As a result, the NRDC-IT will change the physical architecture of the Early Entry Command Post to a smaller and more agile one. After operating under the exercise scenario for just one day, the Headquarters also identified the need to improve the battle rhythm for the commanders and staff. The battle rhythm will be revised to ensure vital information is shared at appropriate times throughout the conduct of operations without exceeding the capability of the staff. The Headquarters also validated some systems that worked well. For example,



Soldiers of the NRF Taurinense Bde on guard to the EE CP.

the Headquarters' video teleconference (VTC) capability proved to be very effective tool for sharing information among all command posts and allowed for excellent interaction with the Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters. The VTC was integral to successful coordination and interaction between each echelon of command.

In January the NRDC-IT completed the first part of the Eagle Exercise Series: "Eagles Nest 04". With the lessons learned from both "Eagles Nest and now Eagle Entry 04", the NRDC-IT is prepared to take on its next challenge and culminating exercise within the Eagle Series: "Eagle Landing 04". This exercise will focus on operations after our forces have entered into a specified Theater of operations. It will take place in conjunction with Exercise Dynamic Action 04 that will be used to conduct Operational Planning Processes at JFC and NRF CC's levels. The final step will be represented by Allied Action 04, designed to certify the JFC and the CCs for the next NRF rotation and to validate the CJTF capability. These exercises together will provide training, experience and lessons learned that will be instrumental in confirming the NRDC-IT's ability to implement the NATO Response Force Concept. "Eagle Landing 04" is scheduled for 20 March- 2 April 2004.



Mounting the camouflage nets for the EE CP.



Italian and Spanish NCO, working together.



2004 An Intense

by Maj S. COX, UK Army G7 Training



Updating the situation map during Exe Sharp Dagger '03.

TRAINING CALENDAR

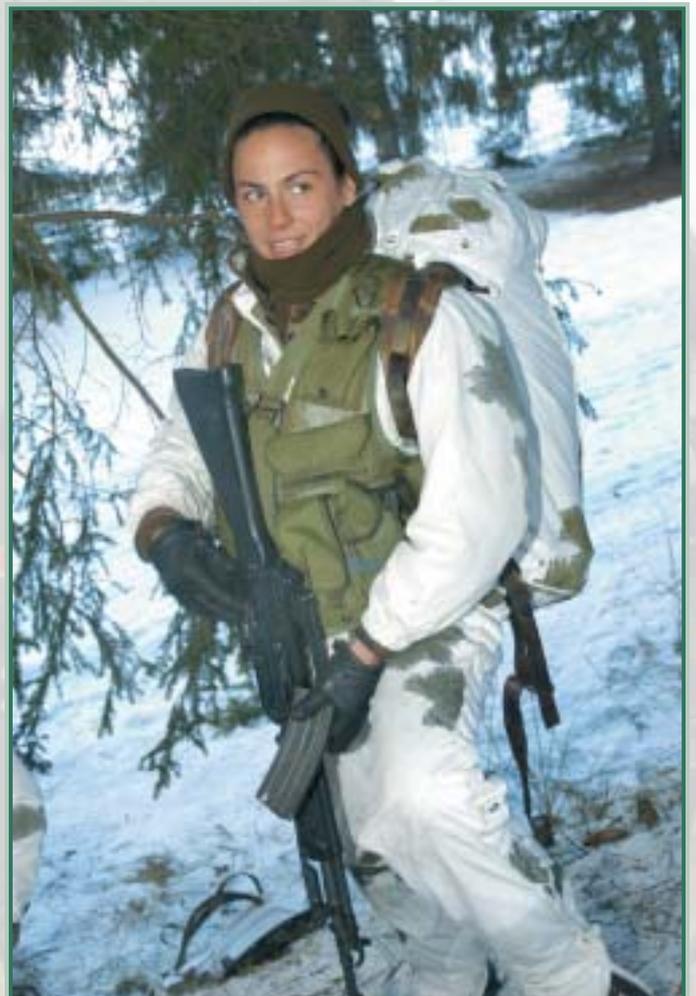
When I was asked by Media to write an article about the HQ's Training Programme, 2 questions immediately sprung to mind. Firstly, as I had at the time just received the Commander's training guidance for 2005, I wondered which year they were referring to. Secondly, if they indeed wanted an article that covered 2004, everything was contained in the Commander's Training Directive for this year. But 2004 it is, and I therefore offer the following.

I am sure that we all returned from a well-earned Christmas holiday, ready to embark on the progressive programme that would lead us into our NRF Standby period. The theory was that the series of EAGLE exercises (NEST, ENTRY and LANDING) would flow from one to another, with us as the Primary Training Audience (PTA) almost imperceptibly gaining in our knowledge of NRF operations as we travelled along the conveyor belt of education that had been laid before us. Better still, opportunities would be provided for us to break away from the central path offered by the EAGLE series to consider special-to-branch issues, then reconvene collectively in order to get our teeth into the next major training task. To cap it all, just in case all this cerebral activity would be too much for us to bear, our route was to be punctuated with events such as a skiing exercise in Passo Tonale, a battlefield tour in Normandy and various Ugo Mara Cup sporting events.

So much for the theory. Unfortunately, in true military fashion, a number of challenges had also been placed in our way, presumably as reminders that no plan survives contact with the enemy, and that we must there-

fore remain flexible! These included the change of command, the move from our current offices to the "Starship" (is this what trainers mean by a "building block approach"?), the transformation from an insecure LAN to CRONOS, and various NRF certification commitments.

I am assured by Media that, as this magazine hits the streets, Ex EAGLE LANDING will be behind us, and that we shall therefore be contemplating how we can perform even better on Ex ALLIED ACTION. I have no idea what our "Lessons Identified" during EAGLE LANDING will be, but I am sure that we shall conduct a re-appraisal of our short-term training priorities so that we can develop our internal procedures. Following ALLIED ACTION, we shall have opportunities for further development during Ex EAGLE NEST 2 and for the culmination of our readiness preparations during Ex EAGLE PREENING as the critical date of 1 July approaches.



A female Corporal of the Support Regiment during the winter training.



Training Year

This will by no means allow us to stop training. As the old maxim goes: "Unless you are going forwards, you must be going backwards." And in the words of ACOS G7: "Training is the engine that never stops!" In order to maintain our NRF readiness during our Standby period, the themes that started at the beginning of the year will continue: a second EAGLE ENTRY and a third EAGLE NEST (in the best traditions of successful films!), with even more branch study periods (including a study of the implications of Effects Based Operations). Again, recreation and fun will not be overlooked, with more adventure training and sport scheduled for the summer and autumn.

The injection of Ex DESTINED GLORY, which is expected to involve our Early Entry (EE) and Rear Support Command (Forward) (RSC (Fwd)) HQs, plus the EE CP and an entire Battle Group from the NRF Brigade, in a "live" demonstration of the NRF's Interim Operational Capability (IOC) during October has forced a re-think of our training programme. This is likely to involve the bringing forward of Ex EAGLE ENTRY 2 in order that we can rehearse and develop our internal procedures beforehand. Towards the end of the year, we shall again send a team to join HQ ARRC, one of our mutually supporting HQs, on their capstone exercise, ARRC-DE FUSION.

At the time of writing, this all seems to be relevant and accurate. However, I would be one of the first to recognise that, as professional soldiers, we must always expect the unexpected, and that all planning must therefore be subject to change. The very nature of our NRF Standby commitment reinforces this point, and I would be surprised if we reached the end of the year without further amendments to the training programme. However, it is largely through the programme itself that we intend to prepare to meet our NRF commitments. I hope that those readers who have made it to the end of this article have enjoyed the journey!



NRDC-IT Staff operating in NBC environment.



A GPM nest during the winter training.



Operational briefing at the Rear Alternate and Step Up (RAS) Command Post during Exe Light Ship '02.



Ex Eagle Winter

by Maj P. LA MACCHIA, IT Army G7 Training

Snow Master 2004

In the last mid February a big group from HQ NRDC-IT Staff, Signal Brigade and its subordinate Regiments, attended a training week in Passo del Tonale area. Aim of the activity, named Snow Master 2004, was to introduce the personnel to the mountain winter environment practising both the snow terrain movement and the alpine skiing.

In the morning of Monday 16th February the group left Solbiate ready to face the new challenge, a lot of them did not ever see a pair of skies... The arrival at Passo del Tonale was really impressive, a wonderful sunny day full of light with the white snow produced a postcard landscape.

The first day passed very quickly for the equipment set up even if the first contact with the "terrific" snowshoes scared someone.

The morning after all were ready to start the game, a march was scheduled and on the map it didn't appear so demanding... the weather was wonderful and the entire conditions ideal to test the enemy. The first part of the itinerary was quite easy but, after a while, the snow conditions changed dramatically and the tragedy begun. The snowshoes that fit perfectly in the barracks seemed to have changed dimensions, after few steps

they untied from the boots forcing people to stop and to rescue them under half a meter of snow...

But the very strong determination of NRDC-IT heroes allowed winning the battle even if the valley echoed with bad words in several languages.

The first step was done, in the evening the morale was very high because of the day after the skiing activity should start. And so, in another blue-sky day, our braves were ready, and fully equipped, to emulate Alberto Tomba's performances. The "experts" started very proudly to show the others the secrets of skiing, the "beginners" (most of them absolute) started their personal battle with the treacherous pieces of wood...

Anyway everything went well, the civilian ski instructors who cooperated with us gave their experience and, at the end of the day, everybody could appreciate the skiing pleasure... fantastic!

But nothing so perfect could last too long... the morning after, another march was scheduled, a surprise welcomed the group at wake-up. The weather remembered that it was mid February and changed dramatically, a real snowstorm was ongoing in the Tonale area. After a couple of hours of waiting the situation didn't change and the activity of the day was cancelled. A mix-



Following the ski instructors on the slopes.



Patrols on a snow track.



Checking the snow equipment before starting the daily activity.



Ex Eagle Winter

ture of feelings pervaded the crew, sadness for not enjoying the mountain pleasures and, on the other side, happiness for the avoided fatigue. However the spare time was exploited for delivering some lectures on the



A lot of snow really.



Morning meeting at the IT Army Logistic Base of Passo del Tonale.



An amazing sight of the winter training area.

mountain environment and specific winter aspects focussing on dangers, WO Beikircher had the opportunity to show his knowledge and professionalism on the topic.

The other three days are history, the weather remained unchanged until the end of the exercise but the activity didn't stop. Every morning our heroes went skiing despite the zero visibility, the 100 Km hrs speed wind, and the absolute impossible snow conditions... everything was against us!

At the end it is possible to say that the objectives were achieved, all the participants had a better comprehension of what is the mountain winter environment and which preparation, training and equipment are necessary to cope with it specially in bad weather conditions and so, tired but completely satisfied, everybody came back to Solbiate happy of this experience.



Ready for a glorious downhill ski run.

Division



Brigades ("SASSARI" Brigade, "AOSTA" Brigade and "Julia" Brigade) and Divisional Troops for combat and combat service support.

In order to accomplish the assigned mission HQ "Mantova" Division has two different levels of establishment depending on the situation:

- PEACE,
- CRISIS.

Till now only the PEACE establishment has been approved by IT Army General Staff.

Since its constitution the HQ Division has been tasked to provide cells for different exercises. In particular, during the exercise "DRAWSKO 2003" the Division Staff had the first opportunity to test the deployment of the Division CP in terms of vehicles, computers and communication systems. The last exercise, chronologically speaking, has been the "ARRCADE FUSION 03" where the Division participated either in the planning activity and the exercise with a team of Staff Officers that has been sent as angmentees for the HQ "AQUI" Division that was directly involved in the exercise as training audience.

As part of this important training process, some officers of this HQ have been and are currently deployed in Iraq (in the Multinational Division S-E in Bassora and in the National Contingent Command HQ) and in Kosovo (in KFOR HQ in Pristina).



command change just for NRDC-IT that is under OPCOM of NATO HQ. In case of deployment for operations the Division will receive under OPCON three



by Lt Col D G PROCTOR SO1 G6 Ops/HQ Sports Activities Coordinator

INTRODUCTION AND FACILITIES

In an earlier edition of this magazine, the Secretary of the HQ Sports Board, Maj Marco Stoccutto, produced an excellent article explaining the role of the Sports Board as a focus for activity coordination and a catalyst for facilities and event development. That has continued to be our main thrust and was certainly what we hoped to achieve in 2003. Unfortunately for Maj Stoccutto much of his time in 2003 was spent in Iraq and so, in my capacity as the Activities Coordinator, the task falls to me to pen a few words.

Firstly, it is fair to say that we probably achieved our main outputs of developing activities and facilities. In the case of the latter, the internal structure of the gymnasium now provides an excellent cross section of what one would expect in a first class complex. Individuals can use running and cycling equipment,

weight rooms and a large, well appointed main hall for indoor volleyball, football, basketball or tennis. If you slide back the large, exterior doors to the building you can do all of this in the shadow of Monte Rosa! Outside the work was completed on putting down 2 astroturf surfaces in the old tennis courts and refurbishing their perimeters. Both tennis and 5 a side football are now possible when the weather is good, which it is most of the time, and we still retain the undersized grass pitch which is used very regularly by the football squad. Their full sized pitch is due for laying in 2004.

In terms of activities, we have concentrated on jointly supporting individual competitions within the Ugo Mara Cup and the weekly events that have gone from strength to strength; Golf, Running, Cycling, Football and Basketball.

Individual Activities



Golf by LTC *Ouerwerling OIC Golf*

On Wednesday 22 Oct 2003 at Le Robinie Golf Course, adjacent to Ugo Mara Caserma, we held the 3rd Ugo Mara Barracks Golf Tournament. 17 Golf players (including one Lady) of 5 nations played in a 18 hole competition for the Ugo Mara Golf Trophy.

Again the weather was beautiful and the first flight started at 12:15 hour. The weather and the wonderful condition of the course challenged the players and remarkable scores were made. At 16:45 hour all flights were again back in the clubhouse and the final scores calculated. 2 players finished with the same score but after a count back LTC Ouerwerling (NL) was announced as the winner. The prizes were presented by the COM NRDC-IT, General Castagnetti, who also participated and played a very good round. After a drink everybody returned home with a satisfied feeling of having had a wonderful afternoon at the Golf course.

The 4th tournament in 2004 is currently planned for the 5 May, and we hope to have even more participants.

Football OIC – SSgt Coles PA to DComd

Football continues to go from strength to strength, with training and practice games run on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly. A nucleus of over 20 personnel regularly attend this training, and due to the generosity of the fund manager, they now have a suitable strip and equipment. To provide a focus for 2003, the team was invited to travel to Rheindahlen to play our opposite numbers in the HQ ARRC. The trip took place at the end of November and, surrounded by a busy



A scene from the soccer game between NRDC-IT vs. ARRC.



Activities

programme of activities and social training games, the NRDC(IT) HQ team won 3-2 in a close fought game. For 2004, on the departure of the current OIC, SSgt Coles UK A, who has done an outstanding job in his 2 years to provide the platform for this activity, the responsibility will fall to Sgt Parry UK A to continue the momentum.

Basketball Coordinator – SSgt Krappas GR

Each week the basketballers go quietly and regularly about their business. In just a short time they have created a thriving group of players who can use the excellent facilities in the gymnasium. In 2003 they were undoubtedly enhanced by the arrival of the majority of the USA contingent to the headquarters, a country that really knows how to play the game. More recently, through the efforts of Captain Giovanni Boggeri, they also now have new strips. The plan for the forthcoming year is to compete externally.



NRDC-IT Volley-ball team practicing in the HQ Gym.

UGO MARA COMPETITION

The backbone of our sporting activities has undoubtedly been the Ugo Mara Competition. This involves 7 teams; Ops Div 1 and 2, Engr Branch, Sp Div, RSC, Central Staffs, and G6/HQ 1 Sig Bde, competing in a variety of events including Swimming/Water Polo, Football (Indoor and Outdoor), Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Triathlon, and Cross Country. In 2003 our work programme placed a burden on what we could achieve and as a consequence only Football, Volleyball and Basketball were competed for, and the swimming result of late 2002 was taken into consideration for the final result. In the end the league table looked something like this:

Position	Team	Points	Events Won
1	Support Div	23	Volleyball
2	Operations Div Team 1	22	Basketball
3	Central Staffs	19	Football Outdoor
4	Operations Div Team 2	18	Swimming
5	Engr Branch	14	Football Indoor
6	G6/HQ 1 Sig Bde	13	
7	RSC	7	

Unfortunately the first event of 2004, Football 5 a side, had to be postponed as it came at the start of the move to our new headquarters building. This is re-planned for the 27/28 April. The remainder have been spread across the calendar and published widely through a poster campaign. The intent, as for last year, is to present the Ugo Mara Trophy at the Commander's Christmas presentation in December.

In conclusion, the facilities exist and the structure is there for excellent sport. The will to compete and enjoy the activities is also undoubtedly there. Most importantly, we have the nucleus of volunteers to provide the planning, administration and coordination of all those events and opportunities. To them we are very grateful.

**UGO MARA CUP
COMPETITION 2004**

- Indoor Football - 5-a-side 16/17 Feb 04
- Basketball - 03/10 Mar 04
- Cross-Country Run - 07 Apr 04
- Volleyball 11/12 May 04
- Triathlon - 16 Jun 04
- Tennis 07 Jul 04
- Swimming / Water Polo 21/22 Sep 04
- Outdoor 5-a-side Football 28/27 Oct 04

Note:

1. Aim: To provide HQ Divisions with a platform for competitive, healthy competition.
2. Teams: Opert, Opstl, Engr, RSC, Sp, Central Staff, G6 and 1 Sig Bde.
3. Coordination: Individual volunteer DCA.
4. Result: Team Trophy and Winners/Runners Up trophies.
5. Objective: Competing in and winning the Ugo Mara Cup.



Rear Support Command

by **BG N. GRAMMATIKOPOULOS, GR Army RSC Commander**

The Rear Support Command (RSC/G9) Division comprises the RSC Branch and the CIMIC-G9 Branch of the HQ NRDC-IT. In barracks, it performs the normal staff functions of a staff division, contributing to the development of operational planning and capability across the full spectrum of mission sets. Manned at just 48 officers and soldiers, the staff is both multinational and multi-functional, with Brigadier General N Grammatikopoulos (Hellenic Army) as Division chief, and staff members from Italy, Greece, UK, Hungary the Netherlands and Spain. We are a colourful team, as shown in the photograph. On operations, the Division splits to produce a Rear Support Command CP – comprising the Operations, Logistic and Movements Coordination Cells, with an embedded CIMIC-G9 team – and also produces the CIMIC cell for the Main HQ. It is a reflection of the importance of Civil – Military Cooperation in emerging operations that the very small staff is in high demand in both Command

REAR SUPPORT COMMAND CP HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING THE PROCESS WITH ANY HOST NATION AND THE NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENTS OF THE TROOP CONTRIBUTING NATIONS

Posts...and is likely to play a leading role in the majority of mission sets for the NATO Response Force.

When deployed the Rear Support Command plays a central role in preparing the Corps for operations. First In, Last Out is our motto...we arrive as part of the Early Entry package, and leave once the Corps is safely redeployed to home locations. Early arrival in a

Theatre of Operations is essential if the Divisions and Brigades of the Corps are to be received, staged and onward moved in a timely, efficient manner, and the Rear Support Command CP has the responsibility for coordinating the



*Brig Gen Nick Grammatikopoulos
RSC Commander.*

process with any Host Nation and the National Support Elements of the Troop Contributing Nations. Of course, the work of the RSC CP is not limited to Reception Staging and Onward Movement. As the only LCC CP in the Joint Rear Area, the Rear Support Command has the responsibility to represent the LCC (NRDC-IT) Commander's interests in the area, as well as dealing with the Media, implementing the Information Operation for the JRA, sourcing contracts in coordination with the National Support Elements, ensuring that the Air and Sea Ports of disembarkation are working to capacity in support of the deployment plan, and even

seeking to promote multinational logistic solutions between the Troop Contributing Nations. More over, as

an operation concludes, the Rear

Support Command must plan and coordinate the extraction of the Corps from the Area of Operations as well. In delivering this primary function all staff cells of the Rear Support Command must operate as a single, integrated whole. The CIMIC-G9



Rear Support Command

team has to integrate the capabilities of the civil authorities, Host Nation, IOs/NGOs, with the efforts of the Movements and Logistic teams who work to coordinate the National Support Elements, while the Operations team produce the framework for intelligence collection and force protection. Not least, and most challenging, is the requirement to work in close cooperation with Host Nation authorities and all International

ners-up in the Swimming, Volleyball and Football competitions...and we still make time for work!

Interpreting the feelings of my personnel, I get the impression that all we need now is 'this HQ undertakes a mission to any of the crisis areas'.



RSC Staff working on board of the Rapid Reaction Train.



RSC Staff receive the last details before boarding the Rapid Reaction Train.

Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations that will be present in the Joint Rear Area – a number running routinely into hundreds! In all, a considerable task for a small – if highly motivated – staff!

The RSC Division also enthusiastically supports a number of social events, other HQ activities, like the HQ sports program, producing the Ugo Mara golf champion and coming close run-



GEO Branch

by Maj NOZZOLI, IT Army Engineer DIV

The Geo Branch is part of the ENG Division within HQ NRDC-IT. The section is led by the Chief Geographic Officer who is responsible for briefing COMNRDC-IT on effects of the terrain in the AI/AO during the "Mission Analysis" phase of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). This is done using the three sections within the branch, these are, Terrain Analysis, DATA Collection and Map Supply. Its overall Aim is to provide Geographic support to all branches within HQ NRDC-IT.

Terrain Analysis.

Terrain Analysis (TERA) is the most important function for the GEO section. It is a dynamic process of collecting, analysing and evaluating geographic information on the natural and man made features of the terrain, together with its interpretation, to provide predictive information and advice about the effect of the terrain on military operations.

Capabilities.

To support this analysis the Geo section can provide the following products:

1. Cross Country Movement (CCM). The terrain is assessed and classified as one of the following;
 - a. "Go"- Areas of good off-road movement.
 - b. "Slow Go/Restricted"-Areas of which could possibly reduce the speed of vehicle movement off-road.
 - c. "No Go/Severely Restricted"-Areas of which there is very little if any possible off-road movement.

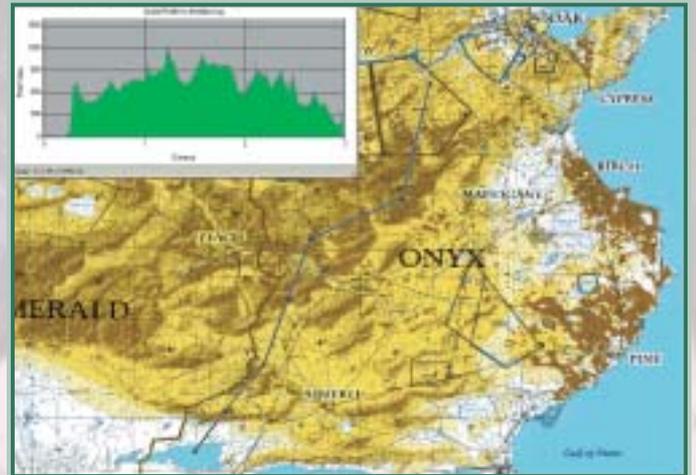
It must be noted that the above classifications refer to armoured formations and not to singular vehicles.

CROSS COUNTRY MOVEMENT (CCM).



2. Obstacles. A Database of all known obstacles either manmade or natural such as, rivers, canals, built-up areas, embankments and minefields (both enemy & friendly) etc, is to be maintained. This can then be plotted every 24 hours or as required in the form of an overlay and distributed as necessary.
3. Battlefield Damage Assessment. A Database of all known Air strikes and Artillery strikes (both enemy & friendly) is to be maintained. This again can then be plotted every 24 hours or as required in the form of an overlay and distributed as necessary.
4. Task Specific. Site assessments such as concealment for harbour areas, river crossing sites, beach landing sites, airdrop zones, helicopter landing zones, together with visible area determinations such as masked area plots, line of sight analysis, perspective and oblique views and virtual fly throughs.

SPATIAL PROFILE.



PERSPECTIVE/OBLIQUE VIEW.





Geo Branch field equipment.

Data Collection.

To enable the production and upkeep of all the above the Geo section must collect data to create and update a Geo Database from various sources which may include raster images (maps, satellite and aerial photography), vector data (VMAP) and matrix data (DTED/DTM). This database will include all or some of the following information:

- a. Vegetation-type: assessment on coverage, density, thickness, height, etc.
- b. Surface configuration-soil type, gradient, effects due to weather, etc.
- c. Communications-road & rail network.
- d. Manmade features-urban areas, dams, bridges, airports, etc.
- e. Hydrography-rivers, canals, width, depth, flow rate, flood prediction, etc.

Map Supply.

The Geo Section is also responsible for coordinating map supply to the HQ and to its subordinate formations. To aid the supply to the HQ a map store is being built up, initially it will hold stocks of any area the HQ is

tasked to monitor, at the following scales; 1:1 000,000, 1:500,000 and 1:250,000. There is no intention to hold smaller scales however these can be obtained in order to support specific mission related products where the level of detail is critical.

Equipment.

Within the barracks the Geo sections equipment consists of three standalone workstations with ARCVIEW GIS 3.3 and ERDAS IMAGINE 8.6 software together with an A0 scanner, two A0 plotters and one GPS receiver hand-held.

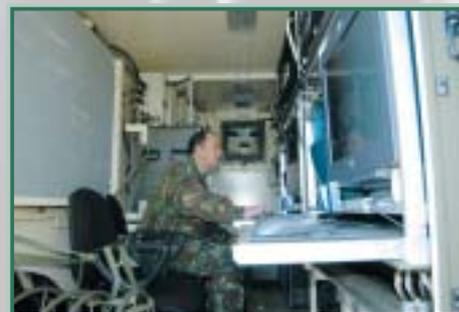
The field deployable Geo system is known as "GEO TAC PRINT", consisting of two flatbed vehicles with NBC protected box bodies mounted on the back together with a tow able generator. One contains two workstations together with two A0 plotters (UNIX based); the other contains one workstation, A0 scanner, A3 and A4 plotters (Windows based). All the workstations contain the same software as the office bound equipment and are linked by fibre optic cables.

Summary.

Above is only the main tasks that the GEO section does, it is capable of a lot more, products can be tailor made for almost any requirement or scenario. If you have any questions no matter how trivial or major they may be please contact the GEO section who will be only to glad to answer them. _____



Geo Shelter



An inside view of the working positions on the GeoTac Print Shelters.

New Building Completed

by Ltc R. CRISTONI, Chief PI

Ugo Mara Barracks – Work In “Great” Progress!!!!

When in 2001 the High Readiness Force Hqs was established at Ugo Mara Barracks in Solbiate Olona a lot has to be achieved, in particular from the infrastructure point of view.



The base had been hosting the 33rd logistic regiment for many years and its infrastructure and facilities were ideal for a small staff but not for satisfying a Corps head-quarter staff, a Brigade staff and a Support regiment: a community of about 1400 people.

Now, thirty months later the new headquarters building, named Star Ship, has been finally completed and all the staff has already moved in. Now we can enjoy new offices, better working spaces, all the NATO CIS services and most of all the fact that we are located in one building under the same roof.



This is just a portion of all the projects achieved; the first one was the light building for the Signal Brigade headquarters and the national support element (NSE): a modular structure with about 200 offices that was com-



The main entrance of the new HQ building “Star Ship”.



New Building Completed

pleted in six months only, thanks to the ability of the Air Force Engineer detachment; then the full renovation of the Officer's club, nick name "little White House", now capable of hosting parties and official and social events, a nice place where families can stay together.

The latest work completed is the new entrance, a double gate system that allows easy and fast in-out movement and an increased security.

Very soon another important project will be ready to be inaugurated: a parking lot for 600 vehicles that will grant parking to all the personnel working at the Ugo Mara barracks.

This is the state of the art for "Ugo Mara" barracks waiting for the biggest challenge to start, as soon as possible: the Monterosa village; a 200 independent houses complex that will completely change the image and the life of the barracks.



The corridors of the new building.



Information board.



MSU Multinational

by Maj CC T. MOTT, NRDC-IT HQ SPOA

MSU, the 3rd Millennium Force



The NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy is the only NRDC HQs to have received since the very beginning of its life, one MSU unit as affiliated one; MSU is the acronym of Multinational

Specialized Unit. In such context, NRDC-IT owns two dedicated offices to let MSU execute all tasks received by COM NRDC-IT at its utmost: SPOA branch and G3OPSMSU cell. SPOA branch (Security and Public Order Advisor) is responsible to liaise between COMNRDC-IT and COMMSU during deployment of the unit and to set up the conditions for MSU to fully accomplish its mission by assisting in the writing of agreements. During deployment

CAPABLE OF FACING HIGH RISK SITUATIONS COMING FROM CIVIL DISORDER, DURING POST-CONFLICT OPERATIONS AND PEACE SUPPORT OPERATION

SPOA branch is in charge to liaise with police and civil departments, IO NGO and other agencies in of which MSU may provide support. The branch must also provide advice to the COMNRDC-IT and to the staff, about matters involving public order and public security. Within Operation Division G3OPSMSU cell represent the operative harm of the commander how to best use MSU. It is not by chance that a Carabinieri officer is running this cell. The extreme specialization of the unit and the likely sensitive impact on both the Force and environment in

which it is operating, request personnel coming from its own hart, capable of assessing in real time likely consequences over fore coming operations. The cell also joins the SPOA branch in spreading throughout NRDC-IT and subordinated Units the MSU capabilities and in particular the concept of operation depicted on the ground by the **blue box** concept. This implies the predominance of the specialization over the rank. Within such area (Blue Box), MSU unit commander has the full command of all units eventually supporting its personnel. Outside this area, MSU unit is under the area commander.

The history of MSU lies during the war in Bosnia, in February 1998, when some Foreign Ministers from NATO, decided to build up a multinational specialized unit (MSU), made of police forces, militarily organized, capable of facing high risk situations coming from civil disorder, during post-conflict operations and Peace Support Operation. Italy was the leading Nation and the CARABINIERI Corps was tasked to organize and provide the first MSU Unit at regiment level, depending straight from the Force Commander. Other nations joined the MSU and today the unit is operating in Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq.



Mr SOLANA former NATO Sec Gen, Gen Clark, former SACEUR, with BG Leonardo LESO, first MSU Commander.

The unit, at Regimental size, consists of police forces with military status that performs police duties including civil disturbance operations. MSU companies and platoons perform tasks such as crowd control operations, information gathering and presence patrol. A SWAT team is suited for special operations including hostage rescue, anti sniper activities etc...

Maneuver unit performs special information gathering and police investigations, Parachutist squads are spe-



Specialized Unit



A MSU representative discuss the security situation with a member of the Staff.

cially trained troops who normally provide security and support for the companies and the SWAT team during their operations; Police dogs teams are trained for explosive or drug detection or defense and attack against designed individuals.

Italy as framework Nation has experimented in the Balkans and in many other countries the original MSU formula, a military Force in possession of police capability. It is still operating in many areas by contributing to a military presence and assisting in promoting or maintaining Public Security.

It is really the 3rd Millennium Force.



Shoulder badge adopted by all MSU Units and Formations.



MSU while patrolling a road in AN NASSIRYA in southern IRAQ.



Visits and Events



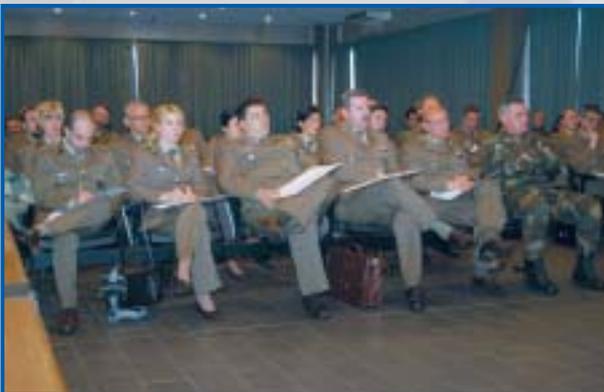
18th November 2003

Remembrance for the Italian fallen soldiers in IRAQ



17th December 2003

Visit of BG (P) Ricky LYNCH,
AFSOUTH J3



2th December 2003

Officers delagation of the IT Army Selected Reserve



15nd January 2004

Visit of Gen Henri BENTEGÉAT, French Chief
of Defence accompanied by IT CHOD



16st December 2003

Visit of Maj Gen Thomas TURNER, US A,
SETAF Commander



2nd February 2004

Visit of Mr Giovanni BRAUZZI,
NRDC-IT Political Advisor



Visits and Events



3rd February 2004

Visit of Lt Gen Nikolaos NTOUVAS,
GR B Corps Commander



28nd February 2004

Carnival celebration for the families of the corps



5th February 2004

Visit of Mr Douglas McElhaney,
US Consul in Milan



10th March 2004

Visit of Gen Bernard THORETTE, Chief of the French Army



9th February 2004

Visit of Lt Gen Norbert VAN HEYST,
GE-NL Corps Commander



11th March 2004

Spanish flag at half pole to commemorate the
victims of the terrorist attack in Madrid



A Recipe of

Greece is located in south-eastern Europe, protruding into the Mediterranean Sea east of Italy. About one fifth of the land that makes up Greece is islands. Almost the total population is ethnic Greek.

Although there are cross connections between the food of Greece and other Middle Eastern countries, Greek cuisine has stubbornly survived. It stands alone today as a strong, vibrant cuisine, — a testament to endurance.

Like the people, the cuisine of Greece is unique. Regional gastronomic differences do exist in this country; but experts do not draw culinary delineations throughout the Greek countryside as they do in other Western European countries. The Greeks are proud of their national cuisine as a whole.



Typical food from Geece.

The Greeks are credited with laying the foundation for the culinary arts. The first Greek chefs were highly regarded, developing original cooking techniques and initiating the dining experience. They are also credited with the introduction of the toque -- the chef's hat.

Greek cuisine, whether frugal or bountiful, has molded and developed along with the customs, and traditions of the Greek people. It is characteristic of the Greeks to celebrate their joys, to sweeten their sorrows, and to assuage their struggles by eating and drinking in the company of family and friends.

Customs also are tied closely to the distribution of special edibles, such as Koufeta (Candy Coated Almonds) at baptisms and weddings, or Koliva (Boiled Wheat) at funerals. Each important feast during the year, such as Christmas, the Annunciation, Easter, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, has its own specialty. Orthodox Greeks, as devout people, eat specific foods on fasting days during the year depending on the season (winter, spring, summer, autumn) and depending on what Greek soil has to offer at that particular time of the year.

Before Lent, during Carnival time, preparations begin for the most important period of fasting. Meat is allowed during the first week which is referred to as "Kreatinis". Only milk products are allowed during the second week called "Tirinis". A sweet smell of cheese and milk pites permeates the air of the homes of Greek housewives who prepare the pites according to the tradition of their forefathers.



Typical food from Geece.

Fish and seafood can be eaten during the Annunciation and Palm Sunday, which fall during Lent. Keeping up the tradition, during the feast of the Annunciation, in most Greek homes housewives prepare Bakaliaro Pasto Tiganito ke Skordalia (Fried Salted Cod and Garlic Sauce) for the holiday meal.

On Holy Thursday the custom is to color Easter eggs and bake Tsoureki (Easter Sweet Bread). Out of the kitchens a smell of vinegar fills the air since vinegar is necessary for the color to set on the eggs. Some of the colored eggs are used to decorate the Sweet Easter Bread. The others are placed in glass bowls or in baskets on the living room table, filling the house with the spirit of Easter. Another custom which housewives still observe is to refrain from lighting a fire or cooking on Good Friday. The meal, prepared the day before, is quite simple, usually consisting of lentils boiled in plain water, vinegar, and oregano, and served with olives, scallions, and halva, all considered fasting food.

Nowhere else in the world can the spirit of the Holy Resurrection of Christ be felt as it is expressed in Greece. All the preparations for Easter: the characteristic foods of this important holiday, the Red-Colored Eggs, the Arni sti Souvla (Lamb on the Spit), the Kokoretsi (Lamb Entrails Grilled on the Spit), the Mayeritsa (Easter Soup), together with the cheerful tolling of the bells, the liturgy in church, the pure white candles with their flames dancing in unison, all this and more, make one feel from within the uniqueness and magnificence of this feast. Easter is the feast that, more than any other, makes the migrating Greeks return to their homeland to roast the lamb on the spit and to crack the red Easter eggs with their families.



International Food

On August 6th, Transfiguration Day, today in the village churches, one still can see worshippers carrying baskets overflowing with grapes which they bring to be blessed and which later are distributed among the congregation. Before that day no one yet has tasted the sweet fruit.

In September, when the grapes are crushed and the must starts to ferment, the housewives in every home bake Moustokouloura (Must Biscuits) and Moustalevria (Fresh Wine Must Pudding).

On December 4th, the feast of St. Barbara, many housewives still keep the old custom of distributing among neighbors Varvara, a pudding-like cream made out of wheat, sprinkled with walnuts and cinnamon.

Christmas is the most important feast of Christianity after Easter. Throughout the centuries Christmas also has been linked closely to traditional Greek cooking. All sweet shops decorate their windows with mounds of Kourabiedes (Holiday Butter Cookies) and Melomakarona (New Year Cookies). A delectable aroma fills the air of every home kitchen where women make Kataifi, Baklava, Diples, Christopsomo, the traditional Roast Lamb with Potatoes and the Savory Turkey stuffed with chestnuts and pine nuts.

A few days before the Christmas holidays are over, preparations begin for New Year's Eve. One of the few customs which is kept just as alive today as in the past in all Greek homes is the cutting of the Vasilopita (New Year's Bread). In the past, despite the fact that people were poorer, the coin in the Vasilopita was always a gold one. Today the gold coin has been replaced by a small, common metal coin. However, each one of us believes in the good fortune that the coin will bring if it happens to be in our slice of Vasilopita. On New Year's Eve, after eating, every housewife sets her table with scrumptious foods -"Kaloudia"-, foods such as Greek pastries, fresh and dried fruits, and a variety of nuts. This is done so that St. Basil (the Greek Santa Claus) will pass by, taste, and bless the food. His blessings will help keep an abundance of food all through the year in the home.

These and many more customs, customs such as the sharing of the "Artoklasia", (the five loaves of bread that the worshippers bring to church to be blessed on their name day), the "Fanouropita" kneaded by the unmarried daughter in the family, who takes the pita to church on the feast day of St. Fanourios, with the hope that he in turn will enlighten her as to her fortune, and the formal dinners celebrating the joys of each family, prove how closely Greek tradition is linked to Greek cuisine.

Mousakas

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lb. Potatoes
- 1 cup Olive Oil
- 1 1/2 lbs. Ground Beef
- 1 finely chopped Onion
- 1 minced Garlic
- 1 1/2 lb. Aubergines
- 2 tablespoons Butter
- 3 peeled and chopped Tomatoes
- 2 teaspoons Salt
- dash of Pepper
- 2 tablespoons, toasted Breadcrumbs
- 3 Eggs
- Parsley
- Béchamel Sauce
- 1/2 lb. Cottage Cheese
- 1/2 cup Kefalotiri Cheese



Method:

- ◆ Cut aubergines into 1/3 inch slices. Heat oil in a large frying pan and fry aubergine slices a few at a time, until slightly browned. Do the same with the potatoes.
- ◆ Sauté the meat, onion, and garlic in the butter. Add tomatoes, salt and pepper. Cover and cook, over a low heat, for 30 minutes. Remove from heat and add breadcrumbs, 1 beaten egg and chopped parsley.
- ◆ Prepare béchamel sauce; add remaining eggs and cheeses.
- ◆ Butter a baking dish and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Put one layer of potatoes into the baking dish. Cover with half the meat mixture. Alternate aubergine and meat mixture. Top with béchamel sauce and bake.

