

Ex Allied Action '04

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Allied Action 2004 (AA04) was a Command Post Exercise (CPX) designed to certify Joint Force Command – Naples and its Component Commands (air, land and maritime) to assume responsibility as the NATO Response Force.

WHO

The first phase of the CPX training was based around the NATO Response Force. Exercise Allied Action was a training event for both of the NRF Command Posts, manned by all branches of the NRDC-IT staff. The Italian Taurinense Alpini Brigade participated as the NRF Brigade, this Brigade along with the newly formed Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Defence Battalion, a Hungarian Civil-Military (CMIC) Company and the Italian Friuli Brigade form the nucleus of the land forces for NRF-3. The NRDC-IT Operations Center (OPSCEN) monitored developments from Solbiate Olano and allowed the NRF Main Command Post and RSC Forward Command Post to 'reach back' to the remainder of the staff.

During the final phase of the CPX, the entire NRDC-IT staff deployed as a High Readiness Force (HRF) staff under a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF).

Deployment to training areas throughout Italy allowed supporting elements of the HQ to train. The Signal Brigade, Support Regiment and the 1st Signal Regiment (with the "SPLUGA" and "SEMPIONE" Battalions) deployed to provide live support to the Headquarters and its associated land forces.

Exercise Control (EXCON) was extensive; representatives from both the Italian 1st Infantry Division and the Hungarian Division, the Taurinense Brigade, the MEC TF, ARTY RCST TF, National Support Elements, ISTAR Brigade, Civil-Military advisors, the MSU, Engineer Brigade and the Air Defence Battalion



Italian CHOD, Adm DI PAOLA, SACEUR, Gen J. L. JONES and JFC Naples Commander, Adm JOHNSON attending the Press Conference

populated the Land Component LOCON and provided input and expertise to the HQ to enable the exercise to run smoothly.

Last, but not least, the exercise involved essential augmentees who were processed into the HQ and trained along side their full time HQ counterparts.



DJTF in Persano



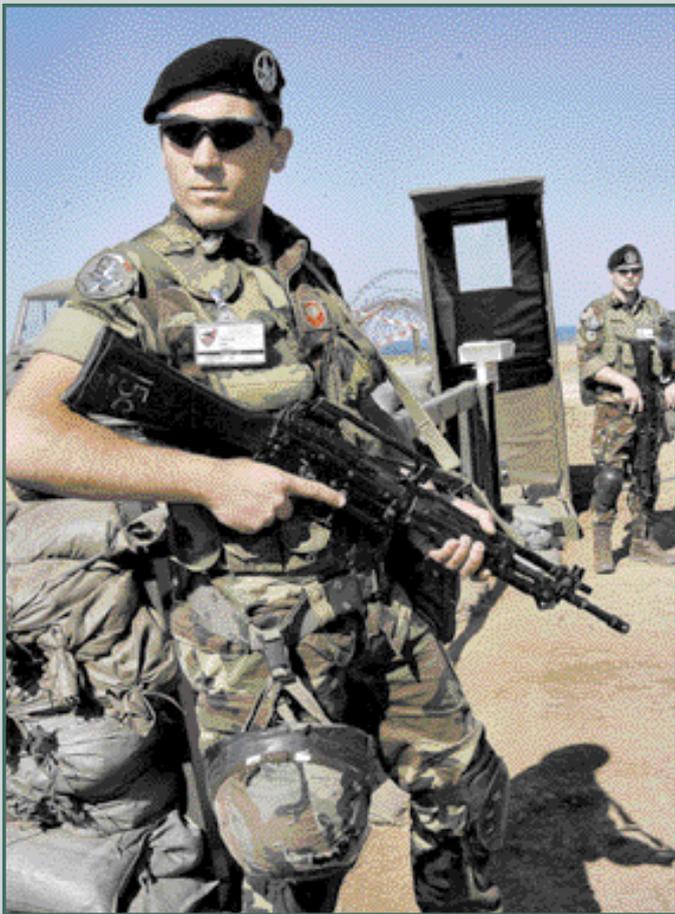
The Commander gives his direction



Lt Col Smellie with external observers from Stavanger



Ex Allied Action '04



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

WHAT

Exercise Allied Action was the culmination of the training to assume the NATO Response Force mission. The exercise was designed to maximise the interaction between the Joint Force Commander and the Air, Land and Maritime Components.

The scenario for Allied Action was based on a fictional island in the mid-Atlantic called Jewellery. The island is home to four nations with a mix of ethnicities. Besides the conventional armed forces of two belligerent nations, the scenario included refugees, terrorist activity, propaganda, poor infrastructure conditions, environmental issues, simulated medical emergencies, local and international media, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and civilian and military organizations with independent agendas.

WHEN

The first elements of the Headquarters to deploy were from the Rear Support Command. They deployed by "plane, train and automobile" beginning on the 17th May. The RSC deployment demonstrated the utility of a special train capable of housing a staff and the com-

munications package necessary to control operations while conducting a deployment.

Pre-CPX training was conducted from 25-27 May. This training consisted of a general information day, a func-



The sun sets over the Signal Bde



Offloading the HQ at Civitavecchia



The G2 battle picture



Ex Allied Action '04



Ambassador Moreno and Gen (USMC) Jones welcomed by CZ CBRN COM

tional area-training day and a mini-CPX training day for all participants.

The CPX started in the morning of the 29th May 04 and ended on 7th June 04. It was divided in two phases.

Phase 1 of the CPX was from the 29th May to 2nd June. During this phase the NATO Response Force was certified. The Deployable Joint Task Force (DJTF) and all of

(THE NRF)... "IS VALIDATING A CONCEPT THAT IS VERY TRANSFORMATIONAL IN NATURE AND WILL SERVE THE ALLIANCE EXTREMELY WELL IN THE FUTURE"

GEN JONES, SACEUR

the NRF components (land, maritime and air) conducted Initial Entry Operations to the fictional island of Jewellery. The mission of the NRF was to deploy quickly and establish the conditions for a follow-on Peace Force deploying for a two-year Peace Keeping Operation.

The 3rd June was an operational pause between the two phases. That day was used to adjust the scenario from a pure NRF environment to a transitional NRF to High

Readiness Force (HRF) environment in the CPX. The remainder of the NRDC-IT staff deployed to the training areas while the NRF staff conducted Lessons Learned.

Phase 2 of Allied Action was from 4th to 8th June. In this phase the entire NRDC-IT corps staff

was deployed as the LCC for the Peace Force to command the employment of two divisions and many separate Corps troops. During Phase 2, the CJTF conducted a joint, Crisis Response Operation (CRO) and simulated the execution of Non-Combatant Evacuation (NEO) and Counter-Terrorism operations on the island of Jewellery.

WHERE

The Exercise was conducted mainly in Italy with the Joint Force Command (JFC) and Air Component Command (ACC) operating from their permanent headquarters in Naples, while the Deployable Joint Task Force (DJTF) HQ along with the Maritime Component Command (MCC), portions of the Psychological Operations Component Command (POCC), and Exercise Control operated from the Persano Training Area, close to Naples. NRDC-IT participated as the Land Component Command (LCC) and operated from a Training Area near Civitavecchia, north of Rome. The NRF Main Command Post set up at S. Agostino while the RSC was deployed to Monte Romano.



Gen Jones in the Main CBRN Bn CP

The CPX took place in the following different locations:

- JFC Battle Staff and ACC - Naples
- DJTF, EXCON, ACC FWD and MCC - Persano (Salerno)
- LOCON for LCC's units - Solbiate Olona (Varese)
- LCC, NRF BDE and CBRN Bn - CIVITAVECCHIA (Rome)
- AOC and CAOC 7 - Larissa (Greece)

WHY

This exercise was the culmination of the training of the NRDC-IT command and staff as the Land Component HQ for the NRF-3. The HQ was certified and assumed the NATO Response Force mission from NRDC-Turkey on 1 July 2004 for six months. The exercise allowed us to do many things:



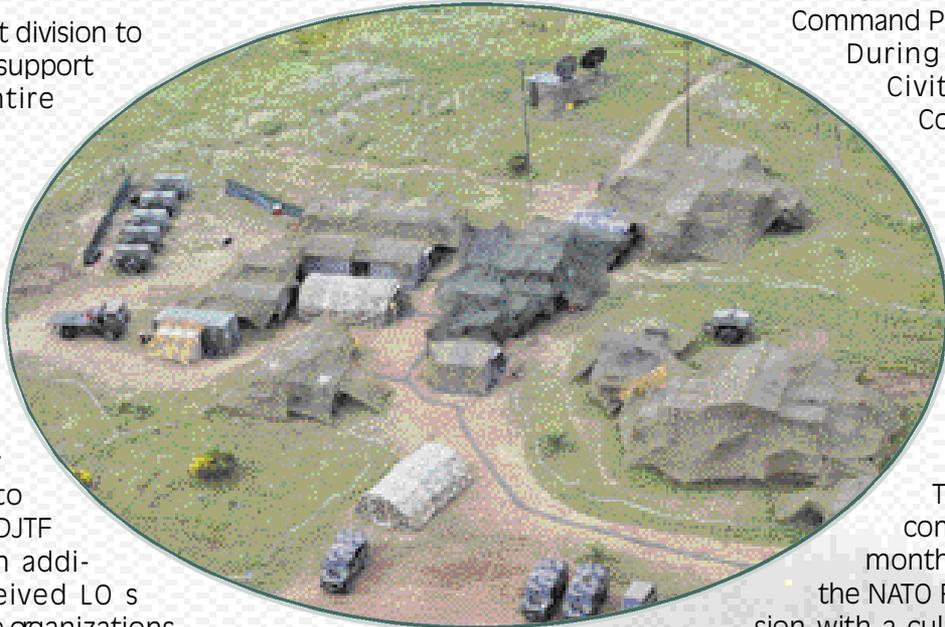
Adm (US Navy) Johnson visiting the HQ



Ex Allied Action '04

- Confirm NRF Command Posts set up and manning.
- Establish an Effects-Based Operations Group and Joint Effects Cell to coordinate Corps operations.
- Hold press conferences and practice commanders and staff in media handling.
- Allow the support division to conduct real life support for the entire deployed HQ.
- Test HQ force protection measures and procedures, provided by the Signal Bde.

Liaison officers were deployed to the other Component HQs, to EXCON and to the DJTF and CJTF staffs. In addition, our HQ received LO s from many of these organizations.



NATO, Ambassador Maurizio MORENO for Italy, and Ambassador Bodgan MAZURU for Romania. The visit was divided in two days, the first in Persano visiting the Deployable Joint Task Force Command Post and the second in Civitavecchia visiting the NRDC-IT, NRF Brigade and CBRN Battalion Command Posts.

During the visit to Civitavecchia a Press Conference was organised, attended by SACEUR, Italian CHOD and JFC Commander in the presence of local, national and international media.

WAY AHEAD:

The NRDC-IT staff completed a busy, six-month training period for the NATO Response Force mission with a culminating CPX called Allied Action. The lessons we learned from our internal (EAGLE) exercises and Dynamic and Allied Action will enable NATO and Joint Forces Command-Naples to improve the training and certification process for the German-Netherlands Corps who will replace us as NRF-4 in January 2005.

Next on the calendar for us after summer leave is Exercise Destined Glory, where SACEUR will demonstrate the Interim

Operational Capability (IOC) achieved by NATO in developing the NRF concept. This exercise will be in October 2005 and occur mainly on the island of Sardinia.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS (DV) AND MEDIA DAY

The Exercise represented an unique opportunity to show NRF "state of the art" to Allied military commanders. The DV day was attended by about 100 guests from the North Atlantic Council, NATO Headquarters, other High Readiness Force headquarters and Ministries of Defence. The top military authorities were represented by SACEUR, General James L. JONES, by the Italian Chief of Defence (CHOD), Admiral Gianpaolo DI PAOLA and by Joint Force Command Naples Commander, Admiral Gregory JOHN-SON; while among the Permanent Representatives to

"NATO IS THE HUB OF TRANSFORMATION: THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL THE NATO ALLIES SPEAK TOGETHER, TO MAKE NATO STRONGER AND SOLID."

ADM GIANPAOLO DI PAOLA, IT CHOD



COM and DCOM NRDC-IT during comds update



Ready for battle in OPSCEN Main



Live feed on the VTC

