



# NRF Brigade

by HQ "Taurinense" Brigade

## The "Taurinense" Alpini Brigade

The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade was formed in Turin in April 15th 1952.

The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade derives its military traditions from the TAURINENSE and "Cuneense" Alpini Divisions, both established in 1935 and disbanded at the end of World War II.

During WWII the two divisions fought on the Western Front, in the Balkans and on the Eastern Front. They received the highest military acknowledgements for their courage and bravery.

Currently the TAURINENSE Brigade consists of regiments and battalions which took part in all the campaigns fought by the Italian Army from 1885 to 1945, in the Horn of Africa, the Balkans, Russia and Italy, deser-

ving many of the highest Military awards.

In 1963 the TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade was assigned permanently to NATO Immediate Reaction Forces; such forces took part in all AMF (L) exercises together with other Allied Nations in several European training areas.

The Brigade was one of the first to be professionalized in order to reach higher professional stands and be ready to carry on peace and security missions abroad.

The Italian Army has chosen the TAURINENSE Brigade as NRF Brigade thanks to the experience gained through more than forty years of commitment to the Land Component of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF).

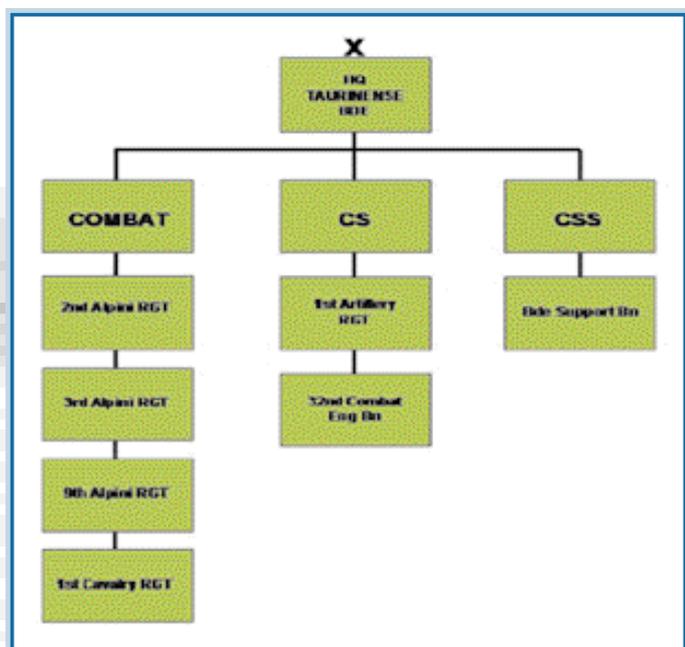


# NRF Brigade

## CURRENT ORGANIZATION

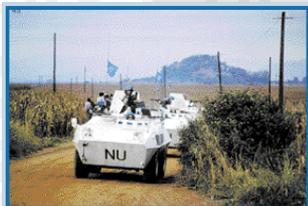
The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade is a Light Infantry Unit trained to operate in arduous environments. Its Units are trained in rock climbing, cross country skiing, and especially to survive and fight in mountain areas. The strength of the Brigade HQ and its units is approximately 4000 men.

The TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade is made up of four Combat Units, two Combat Support Units and one Combat Service Support Unit.



Since the early nineties, the TAURINENSE Alpini Bde has been deployed in a number of overseas missions, in particular:

- in 1991 in Northern IRAQ Operation "PROVIDE COMFORT", conducted to deliver humanitarian relief to the Kurdish population;
- in 1993 in MOZAMBIQUE, Operation "ONUMOZ", with a UN mandate;
- from January 1996 to April 1998 the Brigade was employed in Bosnia, on Operation "CONSTANT GUARD";
- in 1999 it was deployed in ALBANIA, on Operation "ALLIED HARBOUR", the first



NATO – led humanitarian mission;

- also in 1999 the 3rd Alpini Regiment of the TAURINENSE Bde was detached to the "ARIE-TE" Armoured Brigade, to take part in Operation "JOINT GUARDIAN" in KOSOVO;
- from 1999 until December 2000 its Airmobile Field Hospital contributed to the efforts of the Italian Field Hospital in Durres, within "COMMZ WEST" in Albania,;
- from July to November 2000 the Brigade was employed on Operation "JOINT GUARDIAN" in Kosovo and the HQ took responsibility for the Multinational Brigade (West);
- from November 2001 to March 2002 the Brigade was again deployed on Operation "JOINT GUARDIAN";
- in 2002 and 2003 two Regiments were deployed to "ISAF" in Kabul;
- in 2003 TAURINENSE Alpini Brigade constituted the Italian Contingent deployed in Afghanistan on Operation "ENDURING FREEDOM";
- two units of the Brigade, namely the SUSA Battalion and the 1st Mountain Artillery Regiment, are currently detached to ISAF in Afghanistan



## NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO NRF

In 2004 the Italian Army General Staff selected the TAURINENSE Brigade as national contingent framework for the Italian NRF. A significant contribution to the implementation of NRF 3 has been made by the Staff and the 3rd Regiment together with an artillery battery and one engineer coy.

The NRF project represents SACEUR's highest priority and is the NATO response to the challenges of the 21st Century following the review of NATO Forces.

For the implementation of NRF, the TAURINENSE Alpini Bde has taken command of the following additional assets in order to meet the requirements fixed by NATO:



# NRF Brigade

- an Airborne Infantry Battle Group based on the 183<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Regiment;
- a Mechanised Infantry Battle Group based on the 8<sup>th</sup> Bersaglieri Regiment;
- a Field Artillery Battalion based on the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment;
- An air defense capability based on the 17<sup>th</sup> Air Defence Regiment;

In addition the following international assets have been assigned to the Bde:

- One Spanish recce coy;
- One Greek air manoeuvre coy, assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alpini Regiment;
- Two Turkish staff officers.

The structure of the NRF Command Post reflects that of a Light Infantry Multinational Brigade CP, able to deploy to any theatre at short notice and able to perform missions such as:

- Initial entry operations;
- Embargo operations;
- Non combatant evacuation operations;
- Crisis response operations;
- Show of force ;
- Support to counter terrorism operations;
- Support to crisis consequence management;



## TRAINING

In accordance with NATO procedure, all the units assigned to NRF are required to conduct a cycle of six months training, followed by a six month "stand-by" phase. The Brigade's preparation began with Exercise PEGASO, a computer assisted exercise conducted at the Italian Army Simulation School in Civitavecchia, where the Brigade was certified by Italy as ready to start the training phase together with the Land Component Command, based on HQ NRDC-IT.

The six months training phase was very intense and based on a variety of exercises; firstly in January, Exercise EAGLE NEST, a study period and MAPEX focussing on the NRF concept; in February Exercise EAGLE ENTRY saw both NRDC-IT and TAURINENSE Bde deploy their Early entry Command Post in order to verify their capabilities; In March, Exercise EAGLE LANDING, a Command Post exercise where the NRDC-IT was certified as LCC-ready and took the opportunity to improve its Command and Control of the NRF Bde; in May and June the major NRF exercise, Exercise ALLIED ACTION 04, took place, where the whole NRF capability was certified by SHAPE.

The last hurdle of the training phase will take the form of Exercise DESTINED GLORY 04, a LIVEX to be conducted in Sardinia in the middle of October. The exercise will signify the achievement of initial operational capability of the NRF.

