

International Security Assistance Force

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NRDC-IT Designated to assume ISAF 8 Mission



NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy (NRDC-IT) will assume the leadership of NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from August 2005. Last November NATO

countries agreed on a schedule for commanding the Alliance-led operation between 2005 and 2007. This decision will give continuity and stability to the ISAF mission at a stage where NATO is preparing to further expand the mission to the West of the country.



NRDC-IT Headquarters will provide the Commander, Lt Gen **Mauro DEL VECCHIO**, about 1/3 of the six

hundred strong staff and around six hundred men for logistic and CIS support; the overall contribution will amount to eight hundred men for a tour of duty of nine months. ISAF mission currently numbers 8,000 troops from 37 NATO and non-NATO nations.

The appointment of the Italian-led High Readiness Forces Hq confirms the growing commitment of Italy in the fight against International terrorism and in support to Afghanistan stabilization and reconstruction. In addition this designation is part of the UK- Italy proposal to assume the leadership of the missions in Bosnia and Afghanistan in 2005 and 2006.

ISAF



NRDC-IT will replace the Nato Rapid Deployable Corps - Turkey and will operate under Joint Force Command - Brunssum, based in the Netherlands.

This is the first NRDC-IT operational commitment since its foundation in 2001, but has gained a lot of experience taking part in many international exercises and most recently it assumed the role as Land Component Command for the third rotation of the NATO Response Force (NRF 3) from July 04 to Jan 05.

The overall NRDC-IT staff is more than 400 men, those that will not be deployed in Afghanistan will guarantee a reach-back capability in order to support and assist the Corps during its mission.

NATO has decided to utilize resources, capabilities and expertise already present within its force structure by rotating the six High Readiness Forces headquarters that achieved the Full Operational Capability in 2002: the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Rheindahlen, the German-Netherlands Corps in Munster, EUROCORP in Strasburg, the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Spain in Valencia, the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey in Istanbul and the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy in Solbiate Olona.

ISAF IS STRUCTURED INTO FOUR MAIN COMPONENTS:

- **ISAF Headquarters:** commands the Kabul Multinational Brigade, co-ordinates PRT activity and conducts operational tasks in its area of responsibility. It liaises with and assists in the work of UN, the Afghan Transitional Authority, and governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- **Kabul Multinational Brigade:** ISAF's tactical headquarters, responsible for the planning and conduct of patrolling and civil-military cooperation operations on a day-to-day basis;
- **Kabul Afghan International Airport:** ISAF assists the Afghan Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in the overall operation of the airport;
- **Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs):** Teams of military personnel working in Afghanistan's northern provinces to extend the authority of the Afghan central government and to facilitate development and reconstruction.

