

# CIMIC Conference

by Cpt V. DE BELLIS, SO3 G9 OPS

## NATO CIMIC Key Leaders' Conference

The 4<sup>th</sup> NATO CIMIC Key Leaders Conference was held in Solbiate Olona on 02 and 03 Dec '04. The Conference, which is hosted on a rotational basis by one of the participating NATO HQs, represented the top level of CIMIC meetings in the Alliance.

Earlier this year, NRDC-IT ACOS G9, Col Nemeth (HU-AF), was kindly asked by J9 ACO (SHAPE) to host this CIMIC Key Leaders conference and after Chief of Staff approval, the request was of course warmly accepted.

Just before this main event on 30 Nov and 01 Dec '04 Chiefs/representatives of 5 NRDC's CIMIC

Branches took the opportunity to have a pre-meeting in order to discuss NRDC specific CIMIC issues. This event, called "NRDCs CIMIC Chief Branch meeting", anticipated the Key Leaders Conference of 02 Dec - 03 Dec '04. During this pre-meeting, five of the 6 NRDC

CIMIC Branch Chief/Reps participated; NRDC-TU was absent due to their preparation activities for ISAF VII. Chairman of this pre-meeting was NRDC-IT ACOS G9, Col Nemeth (HU-AF).

The purpose of the NATO CIMIC Key Leaders Conference on 02 Dec - 03 Dec '04 was to discuss NATO CIMIC policy and doctrine developments and CIMIC in current NATO operations. Chiefs and Representatives from

CIMIC Divisions/Branches in all major NATO Headquarters, like Brussels (BE), Naples (IT), Brunsum (NL), Norfolk (US), Lisbon (PO), and also representatives from CIMIC Group South (IT), North (NL), Civil Affairs

(US) (in total 24 persons) took part in this conference. DCOM NRDC-IT, Maj Gen Lane, opened the conference and Col Jansen, Deputy Chief CJ9 ACO (SHAPE), was the

Chairman of the two days event. Key topics in the agenda were CIMIC in NRF (by HQ GE/NL Corps), CIMIC in EBO (by HQ ARRC), CIMIC in IRAQ (by CIMIC Group North) and various updates on CIMIC activities carried out by other main NATO HQ's.

These CIMIC conferences have been considered by all participants as an important step forward to enhance the unity of the CIMIC effort and the under-

standing of NATO CIMIC at the strategic, operational and tactical level.

These conferences also strengthen relationships among all key CIMIC positions of the NATO HQs. They enforce a common view on the development of CIMIC

publications, doctrine and procedures, setting new goals and steps for the future. Attendees left Italy with a robust awareness of the results achieved and a positive impression about the warm and well-settled hospitality provided during the Conference. At the end of the day it represented a big effort for the entire HQ and particularly for the G9 Branch Project Team: they have a feather in their cap.

EURO Corps in Strasbourg will host the next conference, in September next year.



*CIMIC Key Leaders group photo*



*International staff attending one of the presentations*

