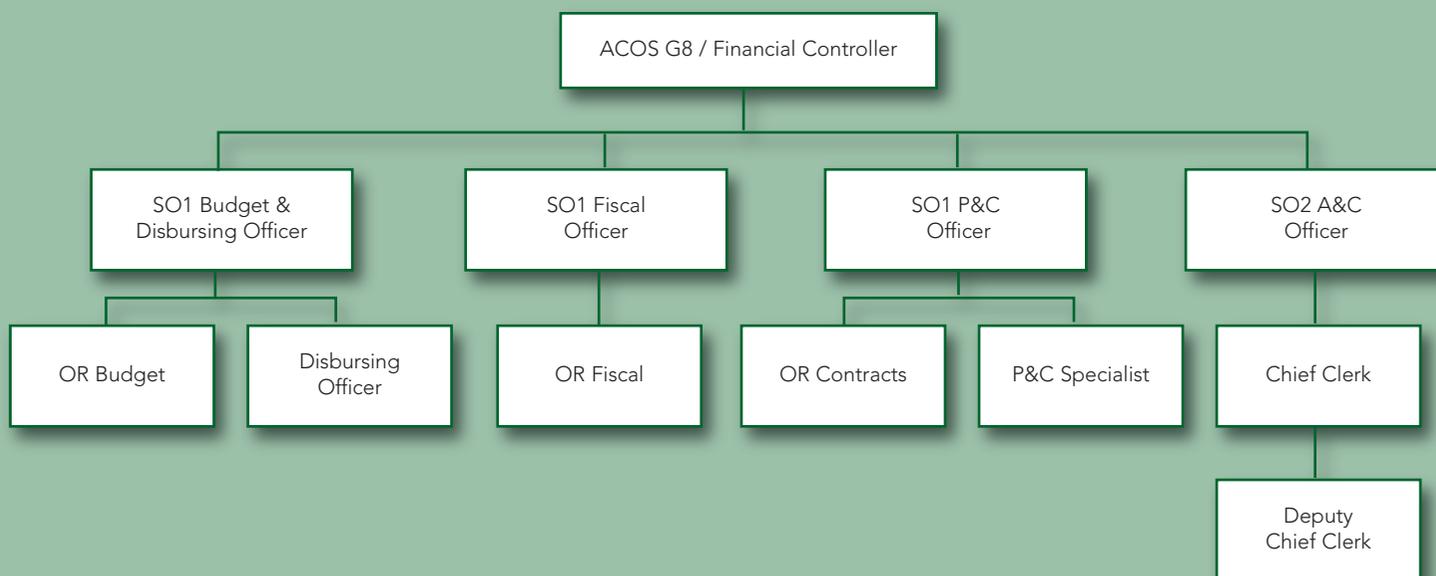


# G8 Branch Budget & Finance

## Presentation of the Branch

*by Col Rosario Romano*

G8 members represent 4 different nations: Italy, Hungary, Romania and the United Kingdom. During the "Functional Review" our structure and subordination were changed and are as follows:

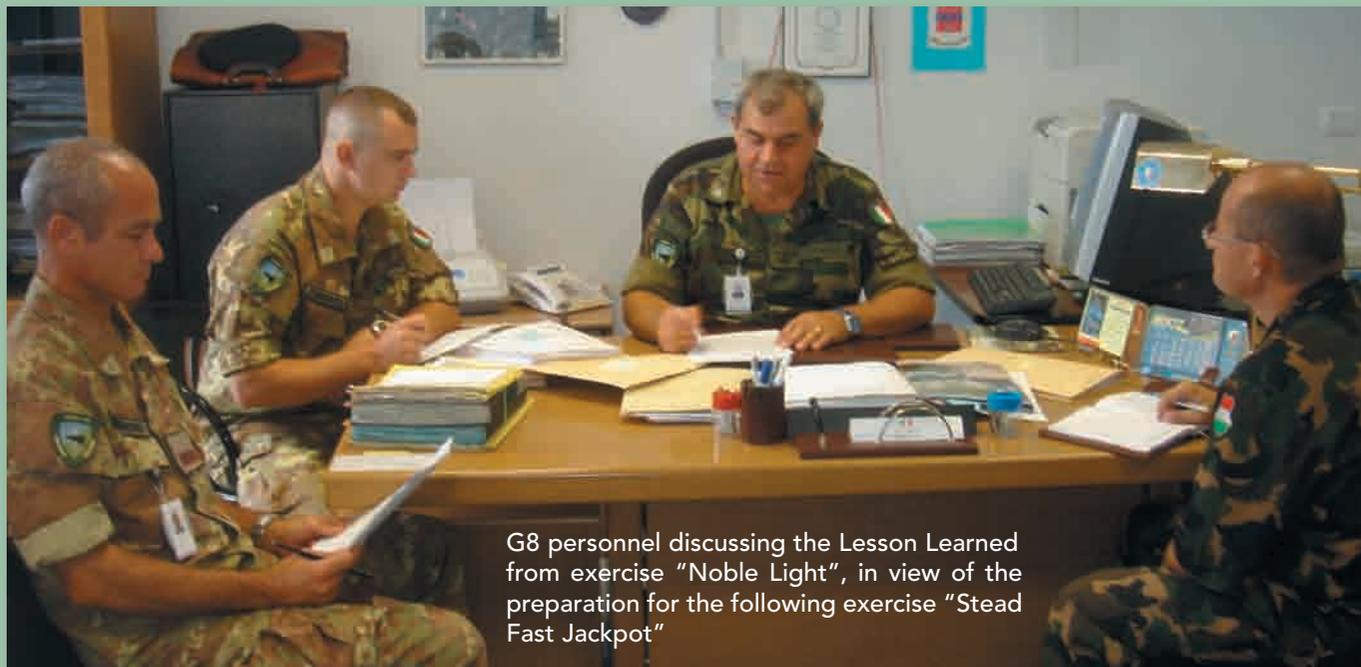


The G8 Branch is composed of four separate, but integral parts:

- Budgeting and Disbursing (B & D) runs the HQ budget as approved by the Senior Resources Committee (SRC),

- maintains the books and ensures that suppliers are always paid on time;

- Fiscal approves all commitments if they are in line with the funding levels and well justified by the requestors



G8 personnel discussing the Lesson Learned from exercise "Noble Light", in view of the preparation for the following exercise "Stead Fast Jackpot"

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and, moreover, takes care of the financial accounting system;

- Purchasing and Contracting (P & C) is responsible for the acquisition of goods and services. In accordance with NATO Rules and Regulations only P & C officials are entitled to enter into negotiation with contractors;
- Audit and Clerical covers internal auditing, liaisons with the International Board of Auditors for NATO (IBAN) and SHAPE Auditors as well. It is also responsible for the administrative issues of the Branch.

The ACOS G8/Financial Controller directs all Budget and Finance (BUDFIN) Staff. For the functions as Financial Controller he has direct access/recourse to the COMNRDC-ITA under ACO Directive provisions. He is personally responsible for the correct application of all multinational appropriated funds.

Since the establishment of NRDC-ITA, G8 personnel have been working in accordance with their mission, namely "According to the NATO Financial Rules and Procedures and ACE Directives, the G8 Branch provides quality finan-

cial management (budgeting, financing, contractual and internal review) to the HQ NRDC-ITA".

Keeping in mind the mentioned mission, G8 members have participated in all of the main tasks of NRDC-ITA regarding:

- The Full Operational Capability;
  - The NATO Response Force 3 from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and NATO Response Force 9 starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.
  - All the internal and external exercises of the Corps.
- During the period from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2005 until 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006, NRDC-ITA assumed the leadership of the NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul (Afghanistan). During this mission G8 Branch assumed a Combined Joint Structure (CJ8) and was responsible for the management of a specific NATO budget, which was delegated by the Joint Force Command Brunssum for the execution of the mission.

When at home, G8 Branch is responsible for fulfilling the HQ's requirements using the yearly budget of NRDC-ITA,



ISAF VIII CJ8 members welcoming ARRC Financial Controller, incoming ISAF IX CJ8 Branch Chief



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which is called "shared or multinational budget". It means the cost of the HQ is shared among the fifteen Participating Nations in accordance with an agreed "Cost Sharing Formula". The above mentioned budget is approved by the SRC composed of one representative from each participating nation.

Apart from the "shared or multinational budget", there can be three more sources available for NRDC-ITA, which are:

- NATO Funds: an Activation Warning Order (ACTWARN) from SHAPE and an employment not below a Land Component Command (LCC) level are required to be eligible for NATO common funding in case of a real operation;
- National Funds, necessary for covering all the specific requirements determined by the Participants, such as allowances, salary, special national training;
- Framework Nation Funds, which are the most relevant part of the HQ and cover all remaining costs associated with running an HQ at Corps level (infrastructure, vehicles, equipment, services, etc)

During the preparation phase of any kind of budget not only the budget section is involved. The Fund Managers (FM) of the different Divisions/Branches play an active role, especially the FMs of CIS and TRADOC Divisions, since they plan more than 70% of the total budget.

All FMs have to send their budget planning contributions to the Budget & Disbursing Section which is responsible

for reviewing, scrutinizing and consolidating them in the official budget estimate document, which will be presented to the SRC for discussion and approval. During the execution phase the FMs are responsible for that part of the budget, which has been allocated/delegated to their Branches/Divisions.

For the first time, the International Board of Auditors for NATO (IBAN) audited NRDC-ITA in March 2007. The Auditors spent two weeks at the Corps examining the books, registrations, financial and accounting system, and at the end of all the specific activities they were very satisfied with the job that has been performed so far.

In conclusion, during the five year existence of the Corps, the G8 Branch has proven to be completely dedicated to serving the NRDC-ITA mission anytime and anywhere by using the best knowledge on the financial field and supporting the HQ's activities on the basis of ACE/ACO Directives and NATO Financial Rules and Regulations. Thanks to that and the previous experiences (ISAF VIII, NRF 3 and 9), all G8 members are familiar with the appropriate procedures as well as able to switch at short notice from the rules regarding the Multinational (shared) Funding into the ones of "Common Funding" applicable in case of a NATO led operation far from the home base.

G8 personnel discussing the outcomes of the IBAN audit

