

G3 OPS: Presentation of the Branch

The mission of NRDC-ITA is to contribute to deterrence of aggression against NATO through establishment and maintenance of a capability to deploy in support of NAC (North Atlantic Council)-approved operations. Additionally, we shall be prepared to conduct defensive, offensive, peace support, humanitarian support, and other operations throughout NATO territory and beyond NATO's AOR as directed by the appropriate NATO mission commander. HQ NRDC-ITA will deploy 'in the capacity as either a Land Component Commander (LCC) or a Corps Commander in the context of NATO operations'.



A Corps level HQ is a complex machine that has the responsibility to transform

Commanders' vision into guidance to facilitate actions conducted in the field by tactical units. Without clear guidance and efficient staff processes, the translation of the Commander's desires is not possible. There must be a way, a core inside the HQ that is able to create a connection between the Commander's guidance and direction and the resulting actions on the ground.

This is impossible without a synergic effort between all of the divisions in the Corps HQ but OPS Div, and in particular G3 OPS, plays a critical role in this process.

OPS Division provides planning, direction, coordination, integration and task execution to the core branches of the Corps in order to meet peace and wartime needs. During operations, OPS Div role is to control the current battle and plan future operations. This will involve the coordination of all the headquarters functions and their interface in the Corps plan and actions across the operational spectrum.

The heart of the OPS Div is the G3 OPS branch. G3 OPS is composed of 6 main sections, each with a critical role during operations. BG Perretti (ACOS G3) and his multinational staff perform the following specific functions with the following teams:

- Current OPS (Force Protection, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN), Systems, Report and Returns, Current Planning).
- Operations Coordination.
- Liaison Cell.
- Special Forces.
- MSU and Military Police (MP).

G3 Ops' mission is to ensure the synchronization, integration and coordination of deep, close and rear operations (decisive and shaping) for the execution of COM NRDC-ITA's concept of operations.

As said before, OPS Div, and in particular, G3 Ops has the responsibility to synchronize all action and performs the following tasks:

- Force tracking.
- Force integration.
- Tactical movement control.
- Operational synchronization.

- Deployment.
- Special Operation coordination and deconfliction.
- Orders dissemination and reports exchange.
- Battle space management.
- Military liaison coordination.
- CBRN Defense in term of protection and consequence management phase.
- Force Protection (included C-IED section).
- Planning refinement.

As you can see it is a complex mission with many moving parts. During operations, G3 Ops plans and coordinate operations in the immediate to 96-hour timeframe.

But where are the events and operations tracked and monitored in real time and immediately translated into input for the Commander and for the subordinate and affiliated units? All this work is done within the OPSCEN and the Ops Coord Cell. Within this austere environment, G3 Ops, augmented with subject matter experts from across the headquarters and external agencies, can control up to 4 divisions. This translates to approximately 50,000 soldiers! NOT TOO BAD for a section with an organizational structure of around 30 individuals.

The ACOS G3 and his subordinates must be able to track all events in the Corps/ LCC Area of Operations and pass relevant and timely data and information timely from subordinate units to the Command Group and vice versa. The OPSCEN is where all phases of an operation are tracked and coordinated from the initial plan to RECCE TEAM deployment all the way to redeployment.

During operations, the OPSCEN is where the commander is apprised of the situation of units on the ground on a 24/7 basis. It is also where he communicates with these subordinate units and where his guidance is relayed. This is why the OPSCEN in the field is configured with a representative from each branch and division of the Corps HQ in order to transmit and elaborate timely information coming from the commander and to synchronize operations.

Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIRs) are indicators that are always connected with a critical decision and these are also monitored and assessed within the OPSCEN.

Ensuring that the OPSCEN is supplied with the relevant, accurate information in a timely manner is the work of G3 Ops Coord.

This small team operates from 24 to 96 hours out when they hand the operation over to the OPSCEN. Ops Coord ensures that all subordinate and affiliated units are apprised of the 'big picture' of operations about to happen in the Corps'/LCC AO and that they are all coordinated, synchronized and deconflicted.

This allows OPSCEN to proceed with any operation in the knowledge that all units are fully aware, briefed and prepared to play their parts if required.

Finally, G3 OPS is family where Officers, Warrant Officers and Soldiers work together in a friendly environment as a TEAM!

