

UK CONTINGENT BIDS FAREWELL TO MAJOR GENERAL BILL CB

by Maj. Graham Cable

Solbiate Olona, 22 Apr 08. The 23-strong UK Contingent at the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Italy) gathered with their spouses to bid farewell to their Deputy Commander and Senior British Officer today.

Coinciding with the annual UK Ladies' Dinner Night, the Contingent gathered at a country restaurant in Varese, not only to treat their spouses to a night of fine Italian food and wine, but also to say goodbye to three members of their community.

Major General Bill CB, who departs in preparation for his



next appointment as a Lieutenant General and the UK Military representative to NATO and the EU in Brussels in two weeks, has been HQ NRDC-ITA's Deputy Commander since August 2006.

The Contingent also said goodbye to his wife, Mrs Gabrielle Bill and thanked both for all their support, kindness, friendship and leadership over the last two years.

Also being dined out was Captain James Jennings, who will continue to serve as General Bill's Aide de Camp in Brussels.



THE COMMAND GROUP BIDS FAREWELL TO THE DEPUTY COMMANDER

On Monday 21st April 2008, the Commander of the NRDC-ITA hosted a dinner in honour of the Deputy Commander Major General David Bill CB. The dinner was held in order to commemorate the General's time in the headquarters and to thank him and his wife for all their support and dedication over the past two years.

The dinner was held in the glorious surroundings of the Palazzo Cusani near Milan by kind permission of the Cusani Garrison Commander. The twenty nine guests including the Commander, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Senior National Representatives were treated to an extremely well organised evening with excellent food and wine throughout. Signor Villa the Mess Manager and his staff were gracious and attentive and ensured that all guests were well looked after.



Brigadier General Nagy spoke on behalf of the Senior National Representatives and thanked Major General Bill for his support and assistance in his capacity as Dean of the Senior National Representative Committee.

He presented the General with a silver plate to commemorate his time at the NRDC-ITA. The Chief of Staff spoke on behalf of the Command Group and commended the General on his outstanding efforts and approach to the Command Group and NRDC-ITA as a whole. He paid tribute to the General and in particular his development and understanding of the multi-national environment. The Commander of the NRDC-ITA praised the General for his strategic vision, his contribution to the development of the Headquarters and thanked him for his valued friendship. The Deputy Commander thanked the Commander and all present for their kind words and support and presented the Commander and Chief of Staff with a Kukri each to commemorate their time serving together within the Headquarters.



The evening was a great success and a fitting tribute to recognise the achievements and contributions that Major General Bill has made to the Headquarters and the NRDC-ITA over a busy two years.