



NRDC-ITA

magazine

Issue n. 9 - 2008



CONTENTS

Major General D A Capewell Obe NRDC-ITA Deputy Commander	1
Eagle Snowmaster 2008: The Never-ending Challenge	2
NRDC-ITA Participation in the 60th Italian Mountain Troop Ski Championship - CASTA 2008	4
HQ NRDC-ITA Completes Exercise Eagle Recce 2008	6
EAGLE TOUR 2008	7
NRDC-ITA Hosts Special Operations Course	10
7th International AOCC Conference	11
Effects Based Approach to Operations (EBAO) 2008 NRDC-ITA Seminar	12
HQ NRDC-ITA Holds Operations Seminar	13
NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Italy) Hands Over Land Component Command of the NATO Response Force	16
HQ NRDC-ITA Hosts a Visit by Consular Representatives	18
HQ NRDC-ITA's Double Promotion	19
Civil Military Cooperation Seminar Eagle CIMIC Fidel Supporter 07	20
Intrepid Brits Hit the Mountains with Italy's Famous Alpini	22
The UK Contingent Celebrates Burns' Night with International Colleagues	24
Netherlands Contingent Invites HQ NRDC-ITA to Queen's Birthday Celebrations	25
G3 OPS: Presentation of the Branch	26
UK Contingent Bids Farewell to Major General Bill CB	28

Chief Public Affairs:

LTC Roberto Martinelli

Public Affairs Office:

MAJ Graham Cable
MAJ Marian Predoica
CPT Giorgio Buonaiuto
WO1 Cosimo Argentieri
WO1 Francesco Civitelli (Chief Photographer)
1°CM Salvatore Picone (Photographer)
1°CM Marina Dore (Clerk/Photographer)-

How to contact NRDC-ITA PAO:

Phone: +39 0331 345110-3-4
Fax: +39 0331 634505
E-mail: hfr.media@libero.it
Internet: www.nato.int/nrdc-it

NRDC-ITA Magazine is the authorized official publication of NRDC-ITA; editorial content is edited and prepared by the Public Affairs Office staff from submission sent to them. PA staff may be contacted on telephone ext. 5110 (Chief PA); 5113 (SO2 Media Ops); 5114 (SO2 Media Plans) or by calling commercial +39 0331 345110-3-4. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the Official views of NRDC-ITA and NATO.



MAJOR GENERAL D A CAPEWELL OBE NEW NRDC-ITA DEPUTY COMMANDER

David Capewell joined the Royal Marines in 1979. Ten years of regimental duty followed, which included three Operation BANNER deployments and a tour with BMATT Zimbabwe. He attended the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in 1991.

On promotion to Lt Col in 1994 he was appointed to the British Military Advisory and Training Team South Africa as a Military Advisor to the transitional Mandela government. Thereafter he served at the Maritime Warfare Centre which included authorship of the "UK Approach to Amphibious Operations". After a year commanding Sp Coy in 42 Commando RM, he returned as Chief of Staff, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines (1998 to 2000), which included deployment on Operation LADBROOK (Congo) as Chief of Staff to the Joint Force Commander. He assumed command of 40 Commando RM in March 2000. His tour in command included operations in West Belfast, Spearhead duties and Operation ORACLE/VERITAS (Afghanistan) for which he was awarded the OBE.

Appointed as Chief of Staff, UK Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) in January 2002 he was deployed as the Chief of Operations and Intelligence to the UK National Contingent Commander for Operation TELIC (Iraq). Returning to the UK he then led JFHQ planning for Operation CORAL (Congo) and led a review of the UK approach to Campaign Planning. He attended the Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC) in January 2004 and was promoted Brigadier in September 2004. Thereafter he was appointed to the Pentagon as the UK Chief of Defence Staff's Liaison Officer to the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. He assumed duty as ACOS J3 (Operations) in the PJHQ in May 2005, running national operations for two frenetic years. Assuming command of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines (the UK NL Landing Force) in June 2007 he oversaw preparations for Op Herrick 9 and led a Brigade deployment to Norway. Promoted to Major General, he was appointed to the role of DCOM NRDC-ITA in May 2008.

He has been married to Deborah for 26 years and has two daughters. He is President of Royal Marines Rugby League and a terrified Kite Surfer.



EAGLE SNOWMASTER 2008

The never-ending challenge

by Maj Lorenzo Guani – CSS Div / G4 Plans
WO1 Cosimo Argentieri – PAO / Media Ops

The Exercise

Snowmaster is an annual mountain exercise. The aim is to develop teamwork capability and the individual qualities of the participants throughout numerous training activities in a challenging mountain environment.

The participants, coming from the different Divisions, are divided into teams according to their physical fitness and their ski skills. Therefore it's clear that in this kind of exercise the highest results come from the "team building" point of view.

You can see, for example, people from Ops Division, RSC and CIS who are together working hard, but also having fun.

People who, sometimes, know each other only by name, now are shoulder to shoulder facing and overcoming the harsh difficulties of the mountains.

The results are exceptional: today we reach the top of the mountain together; tomorrow I've got one more friend on whom I can rely both during an OPG meeting and on the streets of Kabul.

The Alpine Training Centre

80 NRDC-ITA soldiers attended Snowmaster 2008, divided into two groups during the period 14 to 27 of January.

LTC Pietro Caporello, LTC Antonio Tonarelli and Maj Lorenzo Guani organized the exercise, carried out with the logistical and operational support of the Italian Army Alpine Training Centre in Aosta. The training area used for the exercise was Pila (1800 metres, 20 km from Aosta)



and surrounding area and Crevacol (1400 metres) at the foot of Great San Bernardo Pass. Pila is also accessible by a cable car starting from Aosta centre.

The Alpine Training Centre accommodated us within the "Testafochi" barracks, which is the Alpine Training Regiment HQ. So, we give our special thanks to the Regiment Commander, Colonel Giorgio Romitelli, and to his deputy, LTC Pierpaolo Lamacchia a former NRDC-ITA staff officer.

All the training activities have been carried out with success thanks to its skilled instructors, led by the outstanding WO Fabrizio D'Incà, and thanks to its contribution in terms of first quality materials and technical equipment that the Centre provided us for the occasion.

The training activities

The exercise program foresaw for each group two travel days, 4 ski training days and one survival training stage

in snow covered terrain. That stage included some additional activities such as classes on search and rescue of personnel missing under avalanches and on ski movement in a winter, snowy environment. The personnel, divided into teams, conducted the activity under the leadership of military instructors who gave their best to ensure we achieved the training objectives.

In reality a lot of participants were amazed to succeed in such a mission, thanks to our efforts, determination and the power of the group.

The visitors

Snowmaster also provided an occasion to receive visits from very special guests.

During the first week Colonel Gruenebach and the official NRDC-ITA Ski Team kept us company. They performed their ski training in preparation for the CaSTA competition (Italian Army Mountain Troops Ski Championship) in the same areas used for our exercise.

During the second week we welcomed the NRDC-ITA Commander, Lt Gen Giuseppe Emilio Gay, and the Deputy Commander, Maj Gen David Bill with their assistants, for two days' ski training.

We were very pleased and proud to host our Commanders and to show them our will power and determination in the face of the harsh alpine conditions.



Conclusions

We believe that everyone will remember what they saw and what they did during these days, and how much they suffered and how much they enjoyed their experiences in such beautiful and fascinating mountains.

It's very difficult find the right words to describe these hours and these feelings. In this case we have only to let the pictures speak, we hope they give justice to those who participated for their efforts and to those whom stayed at home for their patience.but don't worry, your turn is coming soon, Snowmaster never ends and it's waiting for you in 2009 with new challenges!



NRDC-ITA participation in the 60th Italian Mountain Troop Ski Championship - CASTA 2008

by LTC Sandonnini Punzi

nrdc - italy

casta 2008



In January 2008, after its excellent performance of the previous year, HQ NRDC-ITA was again invited to take part in the Friendship Trophy within the Italian Mountain Troop Ski Championships, a set of ski races among national military teams and multinational NATO HQs.

The cross country training started during November 2007 in S. Maria Maggiore and Val Formazza (Verbania Province), and in Pila (Aosta) for the downhill training.

Christmas stand down came and went, but the training kept continued. By New Year's Eve the team was confirmed: for the downhill event; LTC Robin Carrow USA-Army, LTC Pierluigi Costa ITA-Army, LTC Giuseppe Musico' ITA-Army and Maj Francesco Sorvillo ITA-Army.

For the cross country event the team

was trained by Maj Roberto Mastrotto ITA-Army, who pushed the following to their limits: Col Peter Grunebach DEU-Army, LTC Fabio Sandonnini Punzi ITA-Army, Maj Francesco Sorvillo ITA-Army (again!) and Maj Steve White GBR-Army.

After all this training, the team at last reached S. Candido, (Alto Adige Province) in the far northern-eastern corner of Italy, where the competitions took place, to be met by plenty of snow and good weather.

30 Jan 08, Race Day 1 (15km cross country): The name "cross-country" could mislead the reader, letting him think of a vast, flat area with beautiful pine trees in the distance. Nothing could be more wrong. The track started with a bridge to cross -the wrong way- after 200 meters, and it went on and on uphill-downhill-uphill again for fifteen kilometers. The uphill parts caused pain in the legs and lungs, while the downhill portions were hard on your body, especially with the parts of your body you smashed on the snow when falling. Anyway, all of the team completed the event, much to the satisfaction of Maj Steve White who would never believe this possible with only two months and 20 hours of training.



31 Jan 08, Race Day 2 (Giant Downhill Slalom and Cross-country Team-Sprint): Downhill we scored well, no falling nor big mistakes, so we finished only eight seconds after the first-placed team. In the team sprint both Col Grunebach and Maj Mastrotto were initially slow, but the Support Team swiftly replaced the batteries of both and the speed improved.

1 Feb 08, Final Race Day (Patrol): 25 km of cross country ski with a shooting in the middle. The start was fast, the uphill never-ending. After some 20 km, the team reached the range and fired the rifles they were carrying on their backs from the departure line. We did not perform too well, with only one target hit out the three necessary. Possibly the hard panting and gasping played some part in it. However only 5 km after that, the finish line was in sight, and the team sprinted (...) with all its might for the last 80 meters.

Well, all good things come to an end, and the same afternoon the NRDC-ITA team proudly paraded in the main square of S. Candido for the closing ceremony, to receive the applause of the fellow competitors and the cheering crowd. We had enjoyed a perfect occasion to foster good relations with other HQs and units from all over the world, and we proudly flew the flag. The Support Brigade provided the team with excellent support for the whole training phase and the competition, with transportation and a professional driver all the way.

COMNRDC-ITA, who was present on the last competition day, was also proud of the effort, and even our score was not that bad: 10th out of 15 competing teams. Taking into account that most of the national teams counted young and professional athletes, the performance was actually rather good! In a future our team could perform even better if we had fresh legs for each event.

See you next year for the CASTA 2009!



HQ NRDC-ITA completes Exercise EAGLE RECCE 2008

by Maj. Graham Cable

Staff and troops from HQ NRDC-ITA and its Support Brigade have spent the last week training in the Italian Army's Candelo Masazza training area, near Biella.

The aims of the command post exercise were to deploy the HQ's Recce Team and test its capability to report back to and interact with the HQ's Permanent Operations Centre and Operational Planning Group; to activate and deploy the follow-on Early Entry Team; and finally to deploy the Rear Support Command and test its ability to conduct Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) operations.

The HQ's Evaluation Team has closely monitored the exercise, particularly as this deployment has differed from other training activities in a number of respects.

"Unlike most exercises this HQ conducts, EAGLE RECCE 08 tested our ability to plan for, recce and set the conditions for rapid deployment right from the outset of an operation.



"This was a large undertaking in terms of the fact we tested diverse, yet significant elements of our deployed and permanent staff structures.

"In so doing, this was a complicated exercise to develop, which involved immense effort from all elements of the HQ and Support Brigade in bringing it to fruition.

"The results have been impressive, but of course the purpose of the exercise is also to identify areas that we need to refine. This is what my team has been focusing on", says Colonel John Rouse, the Evaluation Team's chief.

Deploying on Thursday 10 April, the Recce Team handed over to the Early Entry elements two days later, to be followed by the Rear Support Command on Monday 14 April 2008.

The scenario upon which all phases of the exercise was based was NATO operations in Afghanistan from 2003 – 2006. This enabled all elements to test their ability to deploy during the relevant stage of an operation, as well as refresh the HQ's ability to prepare for future operations in the country.

This same scenario will be used for the HQ's next major exercise, EAGLE ACTION 08, in June this year.

Speaking at the end of the exercise, the Commander of the Rear Support Command, the HQ division involved in the final phase, Brigadier General Finokaliotis said "RSOM is a mechanism to deploy forces into an area of operations and this is a very demanding and complicated process.

"Generally speaking this exercise has been a success for us, particularly as it the first time we have delved into this difficult and complicated area".

EAGLE TOUR 2008



EAGLE TOUR 2008

by Cpt. Andrea Cubeddu



The Commander, the Deputy Commander, the Chief of Staff of the Head Quarters NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy (NRDC-ITA) and a group of 40 officers belonging to all the Contributing Nations participated to the Exercise Eagle Tour 2008, the yearly Battlefield Tour, that took place in the island of Crete, Greece, during the period 12th – 16th May 2008.

The aim of the exercise was to study, on site, "Operation Mercury" during 2nd WW in Crete, in order to prepare HQ NRDC-ITA key leaders for large-scale operations and train them in decision-making. The main training objectives of the Exercise Eagle Tour 2008 were to identify enduring

lessons relating to joint operation planning with reference to LCC level, to study the nature of high command and leadership in the battle (with particular reference to the Battle of Crete, 1941), to provide Commander HQ NRDC-ITA with the opportunity to train his staff key leaders in decision-making.

It was a valuable training event, highlighting the challenges of conducting large-scale multinational operations, a particular pertinent theme for a HQ staff composed of personnel drawn from 15 Contributing Nations.

With reference to the Tours run in the past, the format of the Exercise has been reshaped to a Staff ride, more concentrates on the analysis of the operations rather than on providing an historical narrative.

Also a Training Exercise Without Troops (TEWT) with a modern hypothetical scenario conducted on actual terrain, employing contemporary operational arts, techniques, tactics and procedures, has been submitted to the audience in order to train them in decision-making.

So, looking at the German Airborne Assault and the Allied Operations in 1941, all the participants have been involved in work-group discussions regarding the historical facts occurred during those 2nd World War days in Crete, trying to analyse the decisions taken by the Allied and German Commanders at operational and tactical level and how and why the Allied were so rapidly defeated by the German invaders.

Syndicates analysed also the importance of a so large scale Airborne Operation, the first in history in which an island was taken by an airborne assault.

During the week several activities have been carried out in the area of Chania, where the group was hosted.



On Tuesday 13th May the Commander of the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) located in the Souda Bay area welcomed LTG Gay and his staff to the officers' club where a briefing and a video regarding all the international activities of the range have been shown to the NRDC-ITA personnel. After that the group has been hosted on a tour of the Bay aboard of a Greek Military boat and the places where several

facts occurred during 2nd World War. Some visits have been performed to the major locations where the battle of Crete was fought in 1941. The first was on the Top of Hill 107, just in front of the airfield of Maleme took by German after one day of fighting and where the Allied lost the chance to defend their positions. The other historical stand visited was the top of Cemetery Hill in Agia Valley (also called Prison valley, due to the presence of an old jail, still active, took by the German troops during the Battle). In the programme were also inserted three simple ceremonies in which three wreaths were dedicated to the soldiers died in those days: the first in the Maleme German Cemetery (located on Hill 107) to commemorate the German deaths and the second and the third done in the Greek Cadet Monument in Kolimbari and in the Commonwealth Cemetery in Souda to commemorate the Allied soldiers.

In the evening of 14th May, a social dinner was organised in the NAMFI officers' club and three local Commanders has been hosted by LTG GAY to familiarize each other and to thank them for all the support offered during the tour to HQ NRDC-ITA. The Commander of The NAMFI, Major General Georgios TSARTSARIS, the Commander of the Naval Base of Crete, Commodore Stilianos FENEKOS and the Commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade, Brigadier General Stavros DERMATSAKIS, took part to the event in which a dancing folk group showed to the participants the old and traditional Cretan dances.



NRDC-ITA hosts Special Operations Course

Solbiate Olona, 20 Mar 08. From 10 to 20 March 2008 NRDC-ITA hosted the NATO SOF Orientation Course for PfP and the NATO Combined Joint Force Special Operations Component Command (CJFSOCC) Staff Officer and Planning Course (run by the NATO SOF Coordination Center).

The event represented a unique opportunity to forge a close relationship between the NRDC-ITA and NATO SOF Community as well as to demonstrate the capability to optimise efforts and achieve the necessary synergy among different NATO HQs.

The activities began with an informal social event at the Officers' club and an introduction given by the NRDC-ITA Chief of Staff, MG Antonio Satta.

Getting down to work, the attendees, from 12 Nations, were fully tested and exercised in a "real world" scenario. This presented the opportunity to improve interoperability techniques and gain confidence and familiarity with the type of environment they are likely to face in the near future.

To this end, both realistic and the latest tools to enhance interoperability and integration with the conventional operations were utilized, and the results were regarded as outstanding.



7th INTERNATIONAL AOCC CONFERENCE

by Maj. Graham Cable

The 7th International AOCC Conference was hosted from 5th to 8th of May at NRDC-ITA Headquarters in Solbiate Olona. The Conference, which is held annually in one of the NATO countries, was a great success. Its aim is to gather all of the AOCCs and NATO Air Force Commands to meet and discuss issues related to the highly topical subject of Air/Land force integration. To give a flavour of the "International" nature of the event, 23 different nations were represented from the various HQ's who attended.



During the course of the 4 days, Air Command & Control issues were covered all the way down to the tactical level, allowing a rare opportunity to share the benefits, experiences and different perspectives among the NATO Air Community. In conjunction with the Conference, a cultural event also took place, with a visit to one of the most famous weapons factory in the world, the "BERETTA" Company. Whilst there, some of the group even enjoyed the offer to hone their skills on the factory's state of the art shooting range.



EFFECTS BASED APPROACH TO OPERATIONS (EBAO) 2008 NRDC-ITA SEMINAR

by B.G. Bruno Bucci
Col. Rupert Robson



INTRODUCTION

Combat Support Division hosted HQ NRDC-ITA's 2008 EBAO Seminar from 19 to 22 February 2008. The aim of the Seminar was to reach a common understanding of the available knowledge and experience of EBAO and its associated concept development across major NATO HQs, civilian organizations and Italian national units. Starting with a series of briefings from the major organisations present, a long list of discussion points for syndicate work sessions demonstrated how this concept is developing inside NATO and how much expertise exists already across the Alliance.

CURRENT SITUATION

The pace of development of the EBAO concept differs markedly from one HQ to the next. At strategic level there appears to be particularly fast progress, attempting to integrate or challenge the comprehensive approach. In general terms it proceeds slowly at tactical level, with the absence of a common approach and a wide disparity between national interpretations. For example, in order for HQ ARRC to preserve the development of this new concept, that HQ has already dismissed the term "effects" from its vocabulary, preferring to speak of "influence". This ensures that a single branch is not seen as responsible for a concept that should be pursued and developed by all areas of the HQ. The recent publication of the EBAO pre-doctrinal handbook has given a helpful start to understanding what EBAO is and how it might be used.

WAY AHEAD

The EBAO concept outlined in the pre-doctrinal handbook is now under scrutiny from the majority of NATO HQs. Most participants at the Seminar foresee a need for more training to implement fully what all agree is a new way of thinking at the operational and tactical levels. Clearer doctrine and procedures will also be key to ensuring common understanding and acceptance across a variety of different HQs. Structures and organisations will also need to take the implementation of EBAO into account at all levels.

CONCLUSION

The 2008 HQ NRDC-ITA EBAO Seminar proved most useful in summarising to a single audience how the implementation of EBAO is progressing. It has been suggested that such a seminar should be made an annual event for the whole of the EBAO community in NATO. All HRF(L)s should be invited to host the Seminar in turn. This would permit the creation of a consolidated EBAO tactical forum where all possible issues regarding the development of the EBAO concept could be discussed.



HQ NRDC-ITA Holds Operations Seminar

by Maj. Graham Cable

Solbiate Olona, 13 Mar 08. HQ NRDC-ITA concludes its Operations Seminar today.

HQ NRDC-ITA hosted an Operations Seminar at its Solbiate Olona base this week, aimed at bringing HQ staff and affiliated commands and units together for four days of presentations and discussions.

The seminar began on 10 March and throughout the four days participants enjoyed a series of briefings on such issues as planning, deployment, force integration and battle-space management.

Aside from the ability to focus on key issues, the occasion provide an opportunity for attendees, both internal and external, to put names to faces. As Major Steve White of the Operations Coordination Branch says "the seminar enabled all those from outside our HQ's Operations Division to attend and find out a bit more about what we do, as well as meet some of the personnel they will be dealing with".

The event was opened by HQ NRDC-ITA's Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, B.G. Roberto Perretti, who welcomed all those attending and highlighted the importance of the occasion.

Closing the seminar, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Colonel Anthony Puckett, concluded that the event had been a huge success. He later thanked all his staff for their contributions, and particularly Captain Stefano Miorotti and his Registry team for all their hard work in coordinating the occasion.

Major White believes this will "hopefully be the first of many such seminars, both here and at our affiliated commands and units.

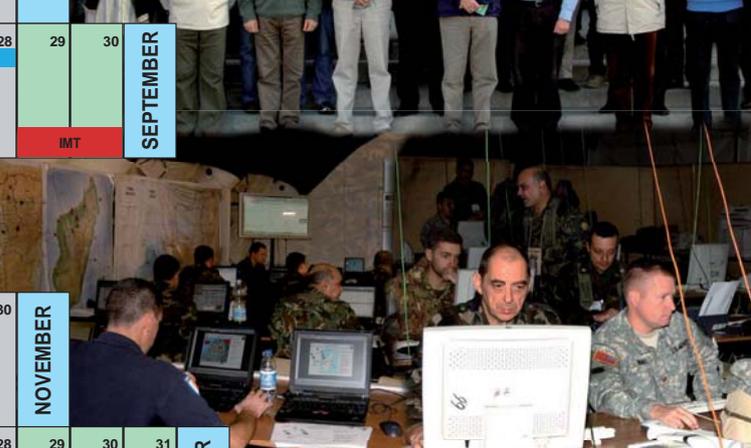
"It was an extremely useful exchange of ideas and tools" he concludes.



YABLE CORPUS - ITALY

LENDAR 2008

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		
3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	JANUARY						
EAGLE SNOWMASTER (RSC) 14-27 JAN							ARRCADE GUARD 1 (ENG) 21-23 JAN (DEU)							RRC-FRA RSC SEMINAR						
9th GRF (L) D&P MEETING (CDD) 22-24 JAN RRC (FRA)							9th CIMIC D&C WG													
EAGLE FIRE 1 SEMINAR (FCOORD) 20-22 FEB							EAGLE SUPPORT 1 STUDY PERIOD (RSC) 25-28 FEB							FEBRUARY						
EAGLE FORWARD STUDY PERIOD (RSC) 19-20 FEB																				
THEATRE AIR MISSILE CONFERENCE 18-20 MAR (DEU)							NRDC G9 CHIEFS MEETING							MARCH						
OFF.COURSE G3 10-20 MARCH							MINIMUM MANNING													
THODE SIGEX CIS 14-25 APR (ESP)							EAGLE BUDGET MEETING (G8) SHAPE TBD							APRIL						
CI&SY CONF. 22-23 APR SHAPE							VISIT TO INTEL FUSION CENTRE G2													
							SHAPE TST CONFERENCE FCOORD (ITA) TBD													
							GORDIAN KNOT'08 (G7)							MAY						
IMT							AFGHANISTAN ANNUAL COLLECTION MANAGEMENT G2 POLAND TBC							ESP						
ARRCADE INDICO PAO																				
ARRCADE CRICKET SEMINAR CDD																				
LAND OPS WG CDD 19-23 MAY NATO HQ														ISAF XII VISIT TO NRDC-TU G4 (TUR) TBD						
HUN																				
ACTION LIGHTNING (G7) 10-20 JUN							SVN							HOLDFAST TRAINING ENG 30 JUN 04 JUL (DEU)						
ARRCADE BRIEF STUDY PERIOD LEGAL (DEU) 18-19 JUNE																				
NATO LOGISTIC CONFERENCE (G4) 19-22 JUN SHAPE TBC																				
							MINIMUM MANNING							JULY						
JFC-N EBAAO CONFERENCE FCOORD TBD							ISAF													
							VIGILANT DRAGON I & II G3 NBC 25-29 AUG (DEU and FRA)							AUGUST						
							ASSEGAI EYES, G3 SOF, 25 AUG-07 SEPT, LOC, TBD													
														TUR						
STEADFAST INDICATOR G2 15-28 SEP (ROM)							CRYSTAL EAGLE (G7) 18-25 SEP (DEU)							SEPTEMBER						
ARRCADE CHARGER STUDY							10th GRF (L) D&P MEETING CDD, MNC-NE (POL)													
EAGLE FOCUS 2 (G7) 15-19 SEP							COM NRDC-ITA COMMANDERS' CONF							IMT						
EAGLE SUPPORT 2 STUDY PERIOD (RSC) 20-24 OCT							GRB GRC TUR							OCTOBER						
BI-LCC CONF - TBC							EX CONTRACTOR 08 TRAINING (G8) SHAPE TBD													
11th CIMIC WORKING GROUP							HUN													
EAGLE FOCUS 3 ISAF (G7) 20-24 OCT																				
DEVELOPMENT & EXPERIMENTATION 13-17 NOV CDD (USA) TBD							COM CONF.CE TBC							NOVEMBER						
							NRDC FINANCIAL CONTROLLER MEETING													
							5th AD RGT VISIT G3 AIR (ITA) TBD													
							JOINT VENTURE 08 LIVEX G3													
							ASIAN EAGLE 2 - ISAF (G7) 24-28 NOV													
							ISAF													
							MINIMUM MANNING							DECEMBER						



PHONE +39 0331 345111

FAX +39 0331 670331

WEB SITE: www.nato.int/nrdc-it

E-MAIL: hff.media@libero.it

NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Italy) hands over Land Component Command of the NATO Response Force

by Maj. Graham Cable

Solbiate Olona, 16 Jan 08. NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Italy) (NRDC-ITA), based in Milan and Solbiate Olona, today hands over Land Component Command of the NATO Response Force (NRF) to the German-Netherlands Corps, based in Muenster, Germany.



The official hand-over took place at Ugo Mara Barracks in Solbiate Olona, where the NRDC-ITA Commander, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay placed the NRF flag in the hands of the German-Netherlands Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Tony Van Diepenbrugge of the Royal Netherlands Army.

Headquarters NRDC-ITA has undertaken the Land Component Command role of the NRF during its six-month rotational period during the latter half of 2007.

The NATO Response Force is made up of land, naval and air forces. Its particular strength is its rapid deployability to wherever the Alliance requires it. Furthermore, it is able to

operate across the entire spectrum of mission types, from evacuation operations and assistance in times of natural disasters to anti-terrorist and early-entry operations. Counting on up to 25,000 personnel, it can deploy within only 5 days, operating independently for up to 30 days.

This is not the first time NRDC-ITA has been at the forefront of NATO missions. The Corps Headquarters first undertook the role of NRF Land Component Command in 2004, and then from August 2005 to May 2006 led NATO's foremost mission, ISAF VIII in Afghanistan, thereby honing its capability and acquiring valuable experience on the ground.

Apart from the lead Nation, Italy, the Solbiate Olona-based headquarters also comprises personnel from 14 other Atlantic Alliance Nations and undertakes numerous training activities in Italy and abroad, which continue to enhance the professional skills and preparedness of the staff. NRDC-ITA is truly a high-readiness force, ready to deploy anywhere in the World in just 30 days.





HQ NRDC-ITA hosts a visit by consular representatives

by Maj. Graham Cable

Solbiate Olona, 14 Dec 07. Lieutenant General Gay and senior officers welcomed representatives from the consulates of contributing nations to Ugo Mara Barracks today.

Recognising that HQ NRDC-ITA's power lies in the blend of talents, expertise and experience afforded by its international make-up, LTG Gay wishes to further build on the strengths this multinationality provides.

He therefore invited representatives from those consulates located in the region who also have military personnel deployed at HQ NRDC-ITA, to visit him at Solbiate Olona.

As well as seeing their compatriots at work in the Headquarters, the visitors received a



briefing on the roles and activities that HQ NRDC-ITA undertakes before retiring to the Officers' Club to exchange Christmas greetings and enjoy a buffet lunch.

"It is at this time of year that we reach out to family and friends" says NRDC-ITA's spokesman Major Graham Cable. "We have undertaken a number of activities with the local community recently, and today we

have focused not just on local links, but international ones also.

"Our strength lies in our multinational framework and also in the support we receive, both from the local community and also the international organisations that are represented nearby.

"As we look forward to 2008, we also look forward to further strengthening these links, and this is what this month's visits have been about" he concludes.



HQ NRDC-ITA's double promotion

by Maj. Graham Cable

Solbiate Olona, 7 Jan 08. Two HQ NRDC-ITA officers received good news upon returning to work this New Year.

The Chief of Staff, now Major General Antonio Satta, was formally promoted from Brigadier General by NRDC-ITA's Commander at a special ceremony today. Upon handing over the new insignia, Lieutenant General Gay paid credit to General Satta's achievements in his former rank, particularly those he undertook whilst on operational duties abroad.



Also receiving a New Year's gift was Lieutenant Colonel Mark Rosenstein, who was formally promoted from the rank of Major. Colonel Rosenstein currently works as a Grade 1 Staff Officer in HQ NRDC-ITA's Communication and Information Systems Branch, but will be leaving the Headquarters to take up battalion command.



Civil Military Cooperation Seminar EAGLE CIMIC FIDEL SUPPORTER 07

By LTC Math Weijers

On 13 and 14 Nov 2007, G9 Branch organized its annual Civil Military Cooperation seminar, this year called: EAGLE CIMIC FIDEL SUPPORTER 07. Guests and participants represented HQ SHAPE, NRDC TUR, Polish Central CIMIC Centre, NDC GRC, RRC FRA, CIMIC Group South, CIMIC Centre of Excellence, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Netherlands Defence Academy and

reconstruction and civil planning”.

The outcome and conclusions were clear: Military intervention always needs a decent civil plan to cope with the situation after the intervention. Close cooperation between military and civilians is for that reason a must. Professor Sjo Soeters from the Netherlands Defence Academy explained from a theoretical point of view

the importance of networking. His advice or message to the audience was: Talk with everyone and not only communicate with those who are easy to handle. After lunch, Mr Bas de Haan, working for the Cultural Affairs and Information Section within the Netherlands Army Staff, delivered a very interesting and useful briefing on



the Italian Military Red Cross Society from Legnano. The aim of the seminar was two-fold: firstly, to increase CIMIC awareness among HQ NRDC ITA Staff Officers as well as among the civilians who were attending the seminar. Secondly, to start preparations for a better understanding of the Afghanistan Theatre of operations.

After a very pleasant icebreaker on Monday 12 November, the seminar activities began during the morning of Tuesday 13th November. The work was opened by DCOM NRDC-ITA, Major General Bill CB who focussed on the importance of CIMIC in today's operations and the need for a good understanding of civil military cooperation.

The first briefer of the day, LTC Peter Houdijk from the CIMIC Centre of Excellence, began proceedings with an overall picture of what CIMIC is and what it is not. Ms Floor Plikaar who followed LTC Peter Houdijk delivered a lecture considered very challenging and maybe for some people provocative about "Regime change,

cultural awareness.

A lot of very useful *does* and *don'ts* were passed to the audience aiming on being better prepared to deal/discuss and work with the Afghans. The last briefer on the first day was Ms Caterina Pino from the NATO School Oberammergau.

Ms Pino focussed on the importance of Media and how and what CIMIC could contribute to spread the master message. After a long but very interesting day in which theory and practice was combined, the evening was spent to further increase the networking between all participants while enjoying a very good dinner in the Officers' Mess.

The second day of the seminar was mainly focussed on practical related briefings. Ms Tanja Carbone opened the day with an extremely interesting lecture on tribal issues. She highlighted the role and the importance of tribes and their interference in Afghanistan and the audience's interest was demonstrated by the many relevant questions addressed to the lecturer on the

issue. After that Lieutenant Colonel Gianpaolo Sordini from CIMIC Group South (CGS) informed the audience about CGS' experiences in Lebanon and Kosovo.

The lessons learned/observed by personnel from CGS showed once more the importance of having enough trained CIMIC personnel during deployments and how local reality can deeply affect operations. These lessons include: number of IO/NGOs to cope with in location, distances to be covered by CIMIC personnel to meet their counterparts, regional border crossing problems etc, which are just few examples of the huge amount of problems that can arise from the local situation. Col Hans van Griensven, Chief of Staff 13 (NLD) Mechanized Infantry Brigade, briefed the audience about his experiences as the second 1 (NLD/AUS) Task Force URUZGAN Commander: Some of his suggestions to take into consideration are: its all about the Afghan people, think Afghan style, build where possible, fight where necessary. Above all it was a very clear and comprehensive briefing with very useful hints.

Major Ronald van Essen continued the Task Force U R U Z G A N experiences from the CIMIC perspective. One of the most important issues raised was the increased attention paid by IO/NGOs to URUZGAN

province. Cultural awareness and the use of local interpreters are essential to deal with the situation accordingly. Following this, Captain Rob Ebbers informed the audience about his experiences as a

CIMIC member within the PRT. A very positive message was that several deficiencies experienced in 2005 were since then implemented. Furthermore, in the current PRT organisation the civilian body, responsible for development and reconstruction, was working very well. Lieutenant Colonel Sordini (CGS) closed the seminar activities with CIMIC Group South lessons learned. The main points raised were: there is a huge need for CIMIC liaison and planning capacity in the field; functional specialists are often employed for a very limited time in the theatre, too few in number and there is also a strong need for integrated Force protection teams in support of CIMIC personnel. At 17.30 hours the seminar came to an end. For those who took the opportunity to participate it was a very useful seminar thanks to the high quality of briefers providing their technical experience on a series of very interesting topics. The success of this year's seminar will be taken forward for future workshops. Representation of IO/NGOs in order to gather extremely useful information and hints from them will be incorporated in a next workshop. For those who could not join us, this was a missed opportunity to increase the CIMIC awareness as well as a lost chance to pick up useful information with regard to the future deployment to Afghanistan.



INTREPID BRITS HIT THE MOUNTAINS WITH ITALY'S FAMOUS ALPINI

by Maj. Graham Cable

Monte Belvedere (Italy), 29 Feb 08. Five intrepid Brits from HQ NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Italy) (HQ NRDC-ITA), based near Milan, have just completed a week's training with the Italian Army's famous Alpini.

The Alpini, meaning "Alpines", were originally formed in 1872 to protect Italy's northern mountainous borders and are the Italian Army's elite mountain warfare troops. Famous not just for their distinctive Alpine headdress and eagle's feather, Alpini units have served with distinction both in Italy and abroad.

Throughout the First World War, known to the Alpini as the "war of snow and ice", these troops occupied every hill and mountain along Italy's northern border. Forty feet of snow was not unusual during the winter of 1915/16 and thousands of soldiers died, not just in combat, but also in avalanches.

Originally destined for Norway, it occurred to the exercise organizers,

Col John Rouse and WO2 Sean Goldsworthy, that it would make far better sense for "Exercise Eagle Telemark" to take advantage of this local wealth of experience and challenging geography.

Five members of the UK Contingent at HQ NRDC-ITA therefore agreed to accompany two highly experienced Alpini mountain warfare instructors on an introduction to winter mountain-survival in the north-western Alpine hills.

The work involved a beat-up day of downhill skiing, clad in military attire, in order to accustom the participants to the use of the specially adapted skis. This they achieved, but no-one quite got used to the fact that they were skiing down La Thuile's fashionable pistes under the gaze of incredulous civilians.

The serious business of leaving the comfortable ski lifts behind and embarking on two days and nights of uphill skiing, accommodation in snow-holes, and avalanche and evacuation drills began thereafter.

This was a new experience for all participants, except for SSgt Nick Pickering, who tried to keep quiet about the fact that he had undergone similar training in Norway some years before. Challenging it certainly was, but aside from the benefit of the new skills acquired, the itinerary took in the peaks of Monte Belvedere and Colle Del Piccolo San Bernardo with wonderful views across the Alps to Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.

This experience was not without incident though. Maj Graham Cable tried blow a hole in his arctic accommodation through errant use of his gas cooker, and Maj Paul Leslie enjoyed an unintended off-piste experience due to experimental night skiing.

The valiant members of HQ NRDC-ITA's UK Contingent have proven, however, that they can survive the winter mountains. As the exercise drew to a close, they fought off the vestiges of cold as they toasted their instructors, WOs D'Inca and Esposito, with a glass of "vin brul e", thoughtfully provided by their magnificent Alpini hosts. You know what they say, "When in Rome...".



THE UK CONTINGENT CELEBRATES BURNS' NIGHT WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES

by Maj. Graham Cable

The UK Contingent invited international colleagues to join in the annual Burns' Night celebrations on 24 January.

Robert Burns (1759 - 1796) is one of Scotland's most celebrated poets. Each year, on the anniversary of his birth (25 January), he is remembered with a supper comprising of the traditional Scots "haggis", whisky, music and speeches.

This is not a celebration that is uniquely held in Scotland. Scots all over the world, and a good deal of non-Scots who like to join in the celebrations, get together to remember this great "bard". HQ NRDC-ITA's home base at Solbiate Olona was no exception this year.

Building on the success of last year's event, Major Steve White of the UK Contingent and a true Scot, ensured that the spirit of Burns' poetry and traditional Scottish fare was sampled by more than just the UK members of the HQ. Around 60 HQ members and their families from around the international community joined him for a night of good food, whisky, Burns-based poetry and Scots dancing. This was the first occasion that many of the international guests had sampled haggis, but their inhibitions were washed away with the ample supply of whisky as they tucked in to the traditional Burns supper.

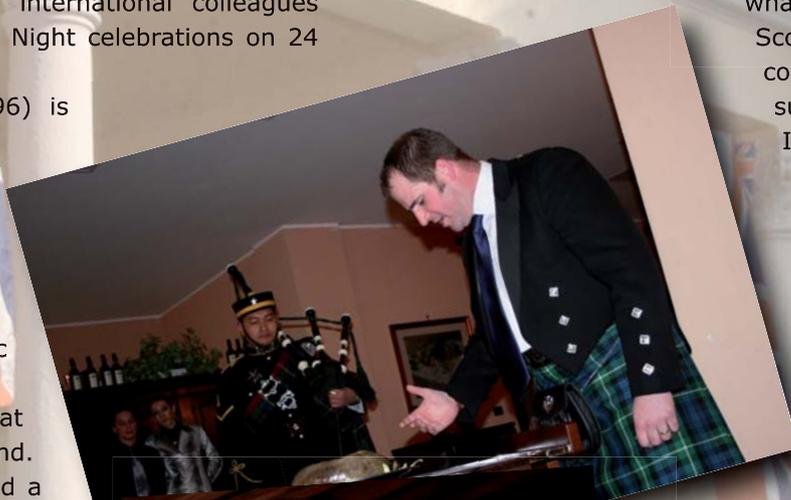
For Major Marian Predoica of Romania, this was a unique occasion. "It was a good opportunity for me to savour the famous British humour at first hand in the form of some witty poems and jokes. "I thought the joke was on me however, when someone explained

what haggis and Scottish dancing comprised of. To my surprise though, I really enjoyed both and I'm very grateful for the experience".

The night also provided an opportunity to say goodbye to two members of the UK

Contingent who are leaving not just the HQ, but also the British Army very shortly. Those assembled joined NRDC-ITA's Deputy Commander, Major General David Bill CB, to say goodbye to Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Caley, and also Major and Mrs Monteith. During his

speech General Bill recalled the two officers' lengthy careers and on behalf of the Army thanked them and their wives for their many years of dedicated service.



For more information on Robbie Burns, please see www.rabbie-burns.com.



NETHERLANDS CONTINGENT INVITES HQ NRDC-ITA TO QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

by Maj. Graham Cable

Solbiate Olona, 23 Apr 08. Members of HQ NRDC-ITA joined Lieutenant Colonel Bert Pellegrino and his Netherlands Colleagues in celebrating the official birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix.

An occasion that gives rise to great celebration all over the Netherlands was also enjoyed at HQ NRDC-ITA today.

The Netherlands Senior National Representative and his colleagues gathered members of HQ NRDC-ITA together to enjoy traditional Dutch liqueurs and aperitifs as well as formally toast Her Majesty.

Speaking before the toast, Colonel Pellegrino explained the background to the event and its symbolism before playing the national anthems of both the Netherlands and the host nation, Italy.

Following this official ceremony, all present were invited to sample the fine national cuisine on offer and enjoy the rest of the afternoon.



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.

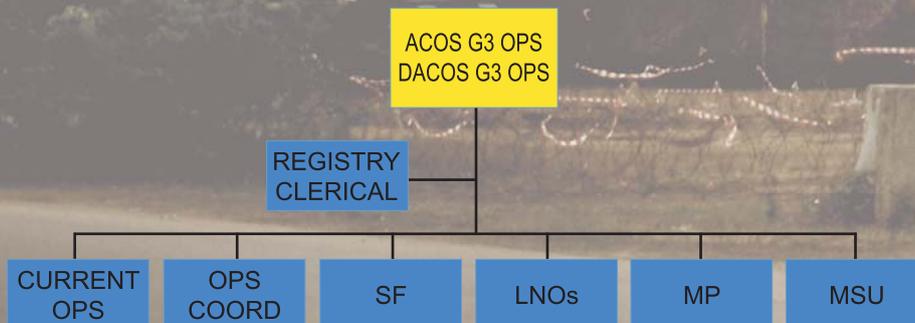
Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIRs) are indicators that are always connected with a critical decision and these are also monitored and assessed within the OPSCEN.

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!



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.



0291 0291
02 02 02
02 02 02

