



COMMANDER'S FOREWORD

by LT GEN Giuseppe E Gay

This will be the third and final NRDC-ITA magazine to be published during my time in Command. As I prepare to handover command of the corps it is time for me to reflect on what has been achieved over the past year. For me personally my time as the Commander of the NRDC-ITA has been hugely rewarding. Working in a multi national environment is challenging, yet at the same time immensely satisfying; in the Contemporary Operating Environment these challenges and rewards are increased. Over the past year the Headquarters has been tested at all levels, and faced many changes in the way that we conduct our business. We have exercised at Land Component Command (LCC) level, provided augmentees to ongoing NATO commitments and prepared ourselves for future deployments. At the same time we have embraced the diverse nature of our makeup and ensured that we have changed to reflect the ever diverse nature of global conflict. For me the multi national dimension is a strength, and a strength to be exploited. Those detractors of NATO and her associated organisations must understand that our diversity is the bedrock of what we do and gives credibility to the organisation as a whole. We have achieved much, but there is still more to do and it remains the responsibility of all to ensure that we continue to grow. Whilst we can be well satisfied with our achievements, it is important to reflect and establish where we can improve in order to maximise our potential. We have made great progress in understanding and embracing the effects based approach to operations, we can and will do more but must, at the same time understand the need to retain the fundamentals and train for "a war, not the war". We must strive to be more holistic in our approach to the very modern challenges of a very modern battlefield. The training of our personnel at the tactical, operational and strategic levels will be key and will remain the responsibilities of commanders and individuals alike. Our expeditionary ethos must continue to develop both in thinking and in practical application and our training must reflect this requirement. We must utilise the INFO OPS and PAO spheres to ensure that we approach each and every scenario with the influence piece at the foremost of our thinking. We must continue to assess our collective performance and ensure that our strengths are such that we can not only understand the modern battlespace, but also become masters of it. Above all we must train and develop our people, without them the future will be bleak. We live in uncertain times with an uncertain future. I feel confident that the NRDC-ITA has the ability to continue to evolve in order to meet these ever changing and volatile times. There will be many more testing times ahead and our deployment on ISAF 09/1 and assumption of the NRF 16 will be challenges for all concerned. This magazine is, and should remain a testament to the men and women of the Headquarters who make what we do possible. I commend it to you and wish you luck and every good fortune in your future careers.

