

## 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment Wins Soccer Tournament

by LT Giuseppe Sardella

What an exciting afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment Football team who played in the final of the "13<sup>th</sup> Inter-forces Soccer Tournament". Having challenged the best Armed Forces soccer teams across Lombardia including the Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, Polizia di Stato, Aeronautica, and Polizia Penitenziaria, the

1<sup>st</sup> Signals Regiment proved to be the winning team. From the start the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment was a strong contender and represented the best that the Italian Army and NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy had to offer. The win was even more remarkable given the tempo of commitments facing the regiment. At the same time as playing in the tournament, the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment were engaged on Exercise Eagle

Action '08. Despite this multi tasking the regiment not only participated in the tournament but also brought home the trophy and title of the best Armed Forces soccer team in Lombardia. The 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment started by beating the Polizia Penitenziaria team, before thrashing the Guardia di Finanza team in the semi-finals. The final, against the Carabinieri team was conducted in the Libertas Sport Center and proved a nail biter from start to finish. Sadly only one team can win and despite a brave performance the Carabinieri were beaten 5-4 on penalties. It was a draining game for players both physically and emotionally. After the Carabinieri team missed their first kick in the penalty shoot out, Giorgio Raccuglia (1<sup>st</sup> Rgt) missed his as well. Unfortunately for the Carabinieri team they missed the fifth kick and the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment had the chance to steal the title away from their rivals. When Salvatore Aliberti (1<sup>st</sup> Rgt) stepped up to take the final penalty to decide the result, tension was high. The 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment supporters cheered themselves hoarse when he calmly put his shot into the back of the net. There was huge satisfaction for players and supporters alike and especially for the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment Commander, Colonel Alfonso Miro. The Commander, who participated both as a supporter and player, was delighted at his units win. Despite the tempo of the workload on the shoulders of the 1<sup>st</sup> Signals Regiment they proved without doubt that they are indeed the Champions of the Inter-forces football league within Lombardia.



*Left, stand: OR4 Argano, OR4 Alaimo, OR5 Giuffrida, OR9 Geraci, OR4 Taranto, OF4 Lippolis, OF5 Miro, OR4 Minervino, OR4 Di Somma, OR4 Ascione, OR4 Mariniello, OR5 Di Russo.*

*Left, crouch: OR4 Buccino, OR4 Aliberti, OR4 Bellia, OR4 Palumbo, OR4 Tilli, OR4 Zuccaro, OR4 Pinna, OR4 Raccuglia.*