



# Exercise “PEGASO”

## NRDC-ITA in Computer Assisted Exercises

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AOSTA Bde and its 5th RGT carried out a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) as Primary Targeting Audience (PTA), at the Simulation and Validation Center (Ce.Si.Va) in Civitavecchia (Rome) from 16 to 27 Feb '09. The aim of this exercise was to train the units to operate in a Crisis Response Operations (CRO) Scenario (KOSOVO) through the use of Simulation assets. AOSTA Bde, in fact, is due to take-over responsibility of the Multinational Task Force West (MNTF-W) in Kosovo, in April.

I was involved in the exercise as one of the Observers/Controllers Team (O/C) for Combat Service Support (CSS) functional area. HQ NRDC-ITA provided also 1 INFO OPS Staff Officer (Maj. Massimo Di Pietro).

The organization of the activity comprised:

- Directing Staff (DISTAFF) of the exercise, the Higher Control (HICON), Lower Control (LOCON) as well as the representation of International Organizations (IO) and Non-Governmental

Organizations (NOG), were all reproduced in a very effective manner by Ce.Si.Va.

- The O/C Team was composed of Augmentees from our HQ and from Italian Land Forces HQ.
- Two phases: 1 week dedicated to the planning and 1 week for the execution phase.
- After Action Review and final Report were performed at the end of the exercise, with the presence of all participants as well as the Command Group of Ce.Si.Va.



The main task for the O/C Team was to observe and report to the (DISTAFF), within our specific competence, on the following aspects of the performance of the Aosta Bde and its sub-unit:

- Implementation of the NATO Operation Planning Process (OPP) and NATO Procedures.
- Use of the SIACCON (Automated System of Command and Control).
- Management of the internal/external communication flow.
- Reaction to the numerous realistic situations simulated by the Simulator System and/or injections originated by the HICON.

DISTAFF focused high attention to the specific integration of the Tactical Effect Cell (TEC) within the Bde CP, in the planning and executing phase. As a matter of fact, most of the injections were meant to test and assess the Non-Kinetic activities, such as: Civilian/Military Cooperation (CIMIC), Information Operations (INFO OPS), and Psychological Operations (PSYOPS), Public Affair Operations (PAO).

As for the CSS functional area, I worked in conjunction with the G4 Rep at HICON. The focus was kept on the relevant procedures used for log activities (Medevac, Sustainment, Movements, Recovery/Maintenance, etc.) aiming at assessing the ability of using NATO procedures and standards (Logistic Reports, Logistic Assessment Reports), as well as the prompt reaction to the injections.

The activity was very interesting and the performance of all actors, especially the



PTA, was highly professional. It is worth mentioning that the Bde Commander, Brig. Gen. Roberto Perretti, has spent years in international contests, and his last appointment was as ACOS G3 at our HQ. So he has been transferring his great experience onto his staff.

Moreover, most of the PTA personnel have been already deployed abroad, mainly in Kosovo region. There were Staff Officers going to perform their third or fourth mission to Kosovo, and this aspect is a great insurance in the hand of the Commander: experience is more knowledge; and “knowledge is power”, as our CSS motto says.

This has been a positive experience and should be repeated, from time to time, sending different personnel from our HQ, to share their knowledge out of our barracks. In fact, the participation of specialized personnel HQ NRDC-ITA was very much appreciated and enabled the achievement of the training objectives of the exercise. Furthermore, our participation in the activity contributed to confirm the effective support in terms of expertise that we HQ can offer at the national level in specific fields. This cooperation with Ce.Si.Va. should continue.

