

# HQ NRDC-ITA Personnel

## Mission Rehearsal Exercise 28 Nov-12 Dec 2008

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As a part of the build up training for HQ NRDC-ITA personnel deploying on ISAF 09/1 120 members of the Headquarters deployed to the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) in Stavanger at the end of November. The aim of the training was twofold, to provide background information and expert analysis of the operational theatre and to rehearse specific procedures and planning processes relevant to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

The training was conducted over a two-week period and during the first week saw NATO personnel currently deployed in Kabul, return to the JWC to provide Subject matter expertise and background briefings. The second week was the Mission Rehears-

al Exercise and allowed NRDC personnel to get into role by undergoing mission specific training. The scenario used throughout the exercise was based on current events in theatre.

The JWC is a vital component within the NATO command and provides the ability to analyse and transform NATO's performance in all operational theatres. During this particular exercise the staff of the JWC under the command of Lt Gen Wolfgang Korte (Ger-A), provided expert advice and up to date training, based on the analysis of lessons learnt in theatre.

The training not only focused personnel on the current situation but also allowed

the training audience to bond as a team ready for the challenges that lie ahead. Wing Commander Simon Jessett (NRDC-ITA SO1 ASFAO) was particularly impressed with the structure and attention to the realism of the scenario. "This sort of training is crucial if we are to succeed as a headquarters. There are so many different nations involved in this operation that continuity and relevance of training is essential. This two-week package has allowed us to identify problem areas and begin to learn ISAF procedures. It has also allowed us to build relationships with augmentees from other nations and headquarters so that we are all able to work as a team".

Although busy, there was time to explore the beautiful town of Stavanger and to sample some of the local culture albeit briefly. Stavanger is currently one of the European Capitals of culture and has a fascinating history and cosmopolitan feel.

It is very much hoped that members of the HQ NRDC-ITA will return to the JWC later this year to share their knowledge and experience of ISAF with their colleagues from the GE/NL Corps who will be



forming the basis of the HQ ISAF 9/02. There will be many challenges ahead of us in 2009 and the mission in Afghanistan will be tough. Thanks to the help of the JWC and the diligence of its staff, the personnel deploying have been well prepared and prepared to meet these challenges head on.

