



# NRDC-ITA THE 63<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

■ by CAPT (ITA A) Gianluigi Arca & SGT (GBR A) Joanne Hammick

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of June of 1946, after more than twenty years of a fascist dictatorship and a war that had affected almost all the aspects of the Italian society, Italian people chose the Parliamentary Republic as government to form the Country. To pay tribute various NATO members, International Military Organizations, friend nations and Italian Troops have been invited to parade in Rome, this year to celebrate the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Italian Republic.

The Italian President, Giorgio Napolitano, the Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, and other dignitaries (Italian political and military authorities and Military Attachés from NATO and friend Countries) attended the parade. NRDC ITA was invited to attend the parade as a flag party consisting of 4 personnel. This was lead by the Italian Captain Gianluigi Arca (PAO), the US Sergeant Daniel Barr (G3) acting as flag bearer, and 2 escorts, a Hungarian Warrant Officer Balasz Farkas (G5) and a British Sergeant Joanne Hammick (RSC).

The parade was scaled down this year in order to donate the saved money to the reconstruction of buildings, facilities and various infrastructures damaged by the earthquake that affected the central Italian region of Abruzzo last April. 6500 troops, 492 horses and numerous vehicles attended the parade.

Rehearsals took shape on the military airfield of Guidonia, outside of Rome, and began for some participants 2 weeks before the parade but for NRDC ITA 6 days before the event. The activity was conducted with a huge logistical coordination, which was very successful. There was also a nighttime rehearsal on the actual parade route, which was around the Coliseum down the main route that runs along the “Fori Imperiali” past the “Vittoriano”, a big monument situated in Venice Square and dedicated to Vittorio Emanuele II of Savoia, first King of Italy.

This obviously took a massive amount of coordination and manpower to close down the roads to all civilian traffic and public transport. Troops were very patient while this process was being carried out and entertainment was sought in the form of a sing off led by the Band of the Sassari Bde and Troop,

spirit and moral was very high and a feeling of proudness engulfed the parade.

There was a rest day before the parade and a little time to take in the sights of Rome. The weather unfortunately decided to rain rather heavy for 24hrs prior to the parade, the morning of the parade and it was still a down pour by the time participants arrived in Rome and began to take up positions the sun was breaking through and continued to shine down on this wonderful occasion. ■