



# NRDC-ITA Welcomes New Commander

*Story and Photos by NRDC-ITA PAO*

Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti, of the Italian Army, assumed command of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy during a change of command ceremony which took place on

June the 30 2011, at Caserma Ugo Mara in Solbiate Olona, Italy.

With the flags of the 15 countries contributing to NRDC-ITA strength flying proud in the morning breeze, the ceremony marked an historic day for the Alliance in Italy.

Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers from NRDC-ITA and the NRDC-ITA Support Brigade participated in the change of command ceremony.

The ceremony was also attended by regional, provincial and city Labara, Ganfalons and Veterans Associations including Lombardia region, and the cities of Milano, Varese, Busto Arsizio and Solbiate Olona.

The ceremony followed the traditional Italian military protocol and was presided over by Lieutenant General Francesco



*The passing of the NRDC Italy flag*

Tarricone, Land Forces Commander. Lieutenant Generale Giuseppe Valotto, Chief of the Italian Army General Staff was also present. During the ceremony General Chiarini addressed those participating before passing the NRDC-ITA flag to General Battisti, the traditional military way to symbolise a change in command. General Chiarini, an Italian Tank Corps officer, has commanded NRDC-ITA for three years since assuming command on 27 August 2008. Under General Chiarini's command NRDC-ITA has conducted numerous operational and training activities including a deployment to Afghanistan in 2009 (January-July) when over 200 staff personnel from NRDC-ITA

contributed to the manning of the ISAF HQ in Kabul. Recently the Headquarters has conducted three major exercises and has provided the Headquarters of the land component of the NATO Response Force from January to June 2011.

General Chiarini assumed the role of the Italian Military Representative to the EU and NATO in Brussels during September 2011.

Prior to assuming command of NRDC-ITA Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti was the Chief of Staff of the Land Forces Command in Verona. He assumed command at a busy time as NRDC-ITA personnel begin their final preparations for a major exercise in October 2011. In 2012 NRDC-ITA will train in preparation for the Headquarters providing over 200 staff for the ISAF Intermediate Joint Command in Afghanistan during 2013.



*Flag bearers during the Change of Command ceremony*