

Exercise Noble Light '10 Transfer of Control



Story by Captain ITA (A) Ivan Iacca, Org&Coord

Exercise “Noble Light 2010” was a key training event to the NATO Response Force 16 preparation cycle and it served as a platform to conduct the HQ Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) activities under Force Command Madrid responsibility. One of the key issues performed by NRDC-ITA staff personnel during the Exercise was the Transfer of Control (TRANSCON) from HQ NRDC-ITA Main Command Post (MAIN CP) to the Alternate Command Post (ALT CP).

The Main CP was located in Bellinzago Novarese into “Babini” barracks’s military compound. The Alt CP was located in Candelo Masazza “Cascina Pelata” military compound.

The preparation of the activity started months before the NRDC-ITA Primary Training Audience’s (PTA) deployment. Different training activities were conducted, ranging from documentation preparation to training on the field. In particular one of them was the rehearsal of the TRANSCON conducted on 27 September 2010 inside “Ugo Mara” barracks.

In accordance with the Exercise documentation and CREVAL criteria, NRDC-ITA and Support Brigade units conducted a routine TRANSCON. Due to this configuration the staff was divided into different groups:

- Skeleton party (for the Alt CP),
- Activation party,
- Main Body 1,
- Main Body 2,
- Operational Planning Group,
- Command Group,
- Work party.



Following is a quickly definition of the mentioned staff groups:

Skeleton Party. MAIN (ALT) was permanently manned with a Skeleton Party covering all functional areas in the CP and capable of full data and information replication. It was responsible for maintaining commonality of all information and data with the MAIN CP;

Activation Party. The task of the Activation Party was to establish commonality of information between MAIN and MAIN (ALT) within each functional area. The Activation Party was not supposed to be routinely

required, although flexibility to be use it was retained. Each functional area was responsible to ensure that essential supplies (minus CIS equipment) were available to Activation Party members to perform their duties. It was up to each functional areas to decide where their area would send a representative with the Activation Party, observing the following criteria:

- (1) Consideration of Commander’s Intent and current Corps mission priorities.
- (2) Activation Party personnel, derived from off-duty shift, must be fully conversant with the current situation and future intentions prior to departure.
- (3) When the Activation Party must be made up of on-duty shift personnel, their positions must be back-filled from the off-duty shift, where possible prior to their departure.

Main Body 1. It was the balance of one shift that moves to MAIN (ALT) to establish an on-duty shift prior to TRANSCON.

Command Group and Operational Planning Group. The movement of the Command Group and OPG (if convened) would be situation dependent and may take place before or after TRANSCON.

Main Body 2. It was the on-duty shift at MAIN prior to

From the Staff



TRANSCON. They moved from MAIN to the MAIN (ALT) after TRANSCON, and in principle became the off-duty shift there.

Work Party. It remained at MAIN to clear staff areas of equipment and, if necessary, load it onto the transport earmarked to move to the new MAIN site. Individuals within the Work Party will join the staff at MAIN (ALT) or stay at MAIN dependent upon the length of time before MAIN opens. Once the Italian Support Brigade (IT Spt Bde) confirms that equipment can be moved to the new Main location, the Work Party will converge on the deactivated MAIN site to accompany the move of the equipment to the new location. All of them moved with a dedicated tactical military vehicles (organized by C2 STF) in order to reach the ALT CP (the new command post). In the meantime of the planned movement all the personnel started to leave the flexibility to transfer control between MAIN

CP and the MAIN (ALT) CP may be required either in response to an increased threat, or to maintain communications over extended lines of communication. HQ NRDC-ITA will deploy on operations with the MAIN CP and the MAIN (ALT). MAIN (ALT) will be deployed in the STEP UP/ALT mode (default setting). It will be fully set up in terms of CIS and C2 equipment. MAIN (ALT) will be manned by a skeleton party tasked to maintain commonality of data and information between MAIN and MAIN (ALT). The activity was performed in the smoothly way, by the main road that connected Bellinzago Novarese to Candelo Masazza; when the order was clearly made



the first staff groups started to move in order to reach the MAIN (ALT) CP in Candelo Masazza. At the scheduled timeline all the others staff groups continued to move and left the MAIN CP – Bellinzago Novarese. The security along the itinerary was guaranteed by the escort of the Security COY and Military Police (Carabinieri), everything was run in the right way and all the staff groups' convoys arrived on time and without any kind of problems in the new MAIN CP location. The full capability and control by the new MAIN CP in Candelo Masazza was declared at 0400 p.m. .

The TRANSCON ran smoothly and concluded its activity within the arrival of the staff described before. The new MAIN CP started to function without problems and it continued to guarantee the full command and control of the NRDC-ITA HQ till the end of the exercise.

