

# NRF 16, Mission Accomplished!



Story by Lieutenant Colonel ITA (A) Stefano Sbaccanti, PAO

The 30th of June 2011 signed the end of tour for NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy as Land Component Command (LCC) for the 16th rotation of the NATO Response Force (NRF).

On page 5 of this issue there's a summary of the formal hand-over of the NRF flag held in Istanbul on 12 July 2011, when Lieutenant General Giorgio Battisti, Commander

NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy relinquished responsibilities for the Land Component of the NATO Response Force to Lieutenant General Hulusi Akar, Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Turkey.

"The NATO Response Force", said Major General ITA (A) Leonardo di Marco, NRDC-ITA Chief of Staff, "provides a mechanism to generate a high readiness and technologically advanced force package made up of land, air, sea and special force components that can be deployed quickly on operations wherever needed. Our Headquarters provides the Land Force HQ element to the NRF on a rotational basis with other Commands."

NRDC-ITA conducted a number of exercises in close coordination with higher, parent and subordinate/affiliated Headquarters. Needless to say,



the whole Staff greatly benefited from this experience.

Brigadier General ITA (A) Roberto Perretti, NRDC-ITA Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations added, "With the NRF16 rotation NRDC-ITA took another step forward along the way to learn how to cope with today's operational challenges

that demand proficiency, speed, agility, and flexibility across all aspects of headquarters operations. The actual stand-by period lasts six months, but is preceded by a six-month NATO exercise programme in order to integrate and standardise the various national contingents. Generally, nations carry out a pre-training period in preparation for the NATO exercises of between 6-18 months. Once the overall preparation

period of as much as 24 months has been accomplished.

In our stand-by period, the Corps headquarters, and portions of the Italian Support Brigade, were ready to deploy to virtually any part of the world on very short notice, under the command of the Joint Forces Command (JFC) based in Naples" concluded the General.



LtGen ITA (A) Giorgio Battisti (right) shaking hand with LtGen TUR (A) Akar (left) after passing the NRF (L) flag on to him

From the Staff