NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-ITA

Public AffAirs Office

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As a NATO Corps level high readiness command and control node, NRDC-ITA’s primary focus is at the highest tactical level where we provide the link and interface between the operational level and our subordinate tactical formations. We accomplish this function in the contemporary environment, which continues to be characterized by a range of non-state actors as much as monolithic opponent or its armed forces. As demonstrated by the ongoing operations in Afghanistan, we do not face a binary choice of either major combat operations (MCO) or stability operations. Rather, we must be agile enough to address a combination of the two that constantly changes in proportion as a campaign matures over time.

Operations initiated to resolve these situations will continue to be complex, multi-national and interagency, requiring a comprehensive approach that has yet to be adequately defined for the tactical level in NATO doctrine. The last year has truly been a challenging period characterized by our commitment in Afghanistan as contributing HRF to the ISAF HQ, followed by exercise Eagle Blade 09 where the HQ was trained as a Corps in a war fighting (Art. 5) scenario.

We are now culminating Corps training in exercise Eagle Meteor 10 in which we will test our capability to manage a Transitional operation; afterwards the HQ will be deeply involved in the Certification process as NRF 16. Both activities will be tested during exercise Noble Light 10 in October and finally the NRF package will be validated during exercise Steadfast Juno in December.

The road in front of us is paved with difficulties, but the training we must accomplish is a process and a continuum that pushes and develops every soldier to attain their best. Individual personal preparation and collective training is a must and everyone must exploit any opportunity to train and practice their skills. In the future, in addition to unforeseen contingency operations, NRDC-ITA will be involved with both the NRF Stand-by and the ISAF missions in 2011 and 2013 respectively. These missions are not new to us; however, both have recently undergone revision in scope, rotation plan, or both. These changes may necessitate periodic assessment and revision of our training plans to ensure we remain prepared to complete these evolving NATO missions. I am sure we will strive for excellence by combining the talents and professionalism, vested in individuals from the many nations serving here, to accomplish our mission.

Our national diversity is a great strength that, I believe, must be capitalized upon. I am fully convinced that we have been, and we will continue to be, successful because we have been and will continue to be working together as a team.

The history of our insignia goes back to the 3rd Celere Division, which during WWII bravely fought in the Yugoslav campaign (1941) and in Russia (1942) within the Italian expeditionary Corps.

In 1957, the 3rd ITA Corps was established in Milan, with three Divisions and Support units under its control. The Corps played a key role in contributing and supporting the Italian Contingent deployed in Lebanon in 1982. Furthermore, its units participated in Operation IBIS in Somalia in 1993/4.

Finally, in 1997 the Corps assumed the Command of Alba Mission in Albania, the first multinational Italian-led mission ever. Fifteen Contributing Nations brought humanitarian aid to a country that was in a dramatic economic and political situation.

In 1998, in the wake of the restructuring of the Italian Army, the 3rd ITA Corps was transformed into the Projection Forces Headquarters (FOP) in command and control of three Brigades which were characterized by high mobility and deployability.

In 2001, following NATO’s request to provide a High Readiness Force Headquarters, the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Italy) (NRDC-ITA) was formed and adopted an emblem with a shield divided into two with a sword and an eagle head imposed on it. The sword represents the one adopted by the CELERE Division during WWII. The eagle head symbolizes the HQ’s high deployment capability. The colors are the same as those used by the Projection Forces HQ. The shield is surrounded by another green shield bearing the Corp’s name NRDC – ITA and the motto “UBIQUE CELERE,” which is Latin for “everywhere rapidly.”
Lieutenant General Gian Marco CHIARINI was born in 1952, in Ferrara. After attending the 153rd Military Academy Course (1971-1973) and the Military School of Application and Specialization in Turin (1973-75) he was assigned to the Tank Corps and commissioned First Lieutenant.

In 1991 Gen. CHIARINI took over command of the 1st Tank Battalion “CRACCO”.

On 1 January 2001 he was promoted Brigadier General and in May he was appointed as IT Rapid Reaction Corps Chief of Staff in Solbiate Olona (VA), keeping the post until the Corps was certified by NATO.

In the following tour of duty (1 March - 1 September 2003) he was the Commander of Multinational Brigade-SE (Salamander) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In October 2003 he took over command of the 132nd “Ariete” Armoured Brigade. His command included the deployment as IT JTF IRAQ Commander in Nassiriyah, during the operation “Antica Babilonia”. While serving in IRAQ “Ariete” Brigade was involved in the know fights of 6 April and 14 May 2004 with the Shia rebel forces of the Ansar al Mahdi.

From 6 December 2005 to 5 December 2006 he was appointed as Commander EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He assumed the post of Deputy Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Rheindahlen (Germany) on 5 March 2007. He assumed the Command of NRDC-ITA on 27th August 2008 and he was promoted Lieutenant General (1st January 2009).

He attended Turin University where he graduated in History in 1987 and in Military and Strategic Science in 2000.

Lieutenant General CHIARINI is married to Mrs Claudia and they have one son, Andrea.

Major General Tom Beckett was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars (QRIH) in 1984. After four years as a tank and recruit troop leader he was seconded to The Parachute Regiment with which he served in Aldershot and Northern Ireland. He rejointed QRIH in 1990 for Op GRANBY, the first Gulf War.

On completion of the Advanced Command and Staff Course he served for two years as a desk officer in the Directorate of Military Operations, Ministry of Defence.

In 1996 he rejoined The Queen's Royal Hussars as a tank squadron leader and in 1998 he returned to The Parachute Regiment serving as 2IC 2 PARA. Over this period he completed two more operational tours in Northern Ireland. Following a one-year MSc in Global Security, he was posted to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone where he was the MA to the Chief of Staff. He transferred to The Parachute Regiment in 2001 and took command of the 1st Battalion in 2002. The Battalion deployed to Kuwait in February 2003 and took part in Op TELIC, the liberation of Iraq.

On relinquishing battalion command in December 2004 he was promoted to Colonel and attended the Higher Command and Staff Course before assuming the appointment of Deputy Director Higher Command and Staff Course. This was followed in 2007 by a five-month deployment to Baghdad where he was Deputy C2, Multinational Forces – Iraq). He took command of the 20th Armoured Brigade in December 2007. The Brigade deployed on Op TELIC 13 from December 2008 to May 2009, where it was the last UK Brigade to serve in Iraq.

He became Director Commitments, Headquarters Land Forces, in June 2009 until promotion to Major General in July 2010. On promotion he assumed the appointment of Deputy Commander of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy.

He is a recipient of the US Legion of Merit (Order of Officer), and was appointed as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2010 for services in Iraq in 2008/09.

He is married to Fiona and has three daughters, Anastasia, Rosalind and Eleanor.
Major General Leonardo di Marco was commissioned into the artillery upon graduation from the Military Academy in 1976. His early military career was spent at Regimental duty with the 3rd Lance Battalion, during which time he commanded at both platoon and battery level. Upon completion of various staff appointments, he also went on to command the 33rd Field Artillery Battalion and 5th Air Defence Regiment.

In a wide and varied military career, Major General di Marco has occupied a multitude of staff appointments that have included the operations staff of the 3rd Missile Brigade, the Army General Staff in Rome and as the Chief Fire Coordination/Joint Effects Cell at the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps. He has also served as Chief of Doctrine Branch on the Italian Defence General Staff and as Chief of Staff of the 132nd "Ariete" Brigade. In the summer of 1998 Major-General di Marco was appointed as ACOS Fire Coordination at HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Germany until August 2000. A successful graduate, Major General di Marco’s studies have included the Junior Division of the Italian Army Staff College as well as the USA Army Command and General Staff College from May 1990 to August 1991. His military studies culminated at the Italian Army Senior Staff College and the gaining of a Double-Degree in the spheres of Strategic and Political Science.

Operational duty has taken Major General di Marco from the Balkan mountain ranges to the dunes of both Iraq and Afghanistan. As ACOS, Joint Implementation Commission, initially in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, later followed by deployment to the Kosovo campaign, Major General di Marco was awarded both COMKFOR’s Commendation and the Italian Army Silver Cross.

Upon returning to Italy in January 2006 he was appointed as Commander of the Italian Army Artillery Brigade. In September 2007 Major General di Marco was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff Support, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). He was responsible for Finance and Acquisition, Manpower, Medical, Communication and Information Systems and Logistics in support of Allied Command Operations (AOC) across all levels of command for all NATO operations. He was controller of the NATO military budget, chairman of the Crisis Management Requirements Board (CMRB), Deputy Chairman of the Bi-Strategic Capability Board and co-chairman of the Bi-Strategic Capability Package Board.

Major General di Marco was appointed as Chief of Staff NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Italy (NRDC-ITA) in September 2010. A keen scholar, Major General di MARCO has written several published articles on the Effects Based Approach to Operations. He is also regularly invited to lecture Senior Officer courses on the same subject by the NATO School in Oberammergau.

Married to Luisella for 30 years, his spare time is filled by jogging - in the hope of one day winning a half-marathon - gardening and financing the studies of their two children Alberto and Laura through University.

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HQ NRDC-ITA is a multinational HQ based in Solbiate Olona (VA), close to Milan, with Italy as the framework Nation; Italy provides 70% of personnel, and the remaining 30% are made up of Officers and NCOs from other nation contributing to the project.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the other contributing nations, the Commander will have the authority to take other nation’s units under command assigning them tasks for accomplishing the assigned mission (Operational Control-OPCON).

Indeed, the success of any NATO operation throughout the last decade has been based on the “multinationality” of the headquarters and the different nations operating on the ground. The new, complex international environment makes it undesirable for any nation to conduct unilateral military actions due to the lack of support from the International Community and also because of the limited amount of resources available and the increased cost of such operations.

Therefore, the multinational environment is the key-factor that enables the NRDC-ITA to operate effectively. The project now involves 15 Nations: Italy, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, The United Kingdom and The United States.
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Contributing Nations

- Germany 8
- Bulgaria 1
- Greece 12
- Hungary 14
- France 5
- Italy 307
- Netherlands 2
- Poland 2
- Romania 2
- Portugal 1
- Slovenia 1
- Spain 10
- U.K. 23
- U.S.A 19

Total 409
The HQ NRDC-ITA is located in Lombardy (Northern Italy) in the town of Solbiate Olona not far from Milan and Varese (about 25 and 23 Km respectively).

**AOCC**

**Air Operations Coordination Centre (AOCC).** The AOCC is an air force agency which provides the essential link between HQ NRDC-ITA and the NATO Air Component Command/Combined Air Operation Centres (CAOCs). By connecting HQ NRDC-ITA with the NATO air force organizations and units, the AOCC provides COMNRDC-ITA with the air support and information necessary to conduct his mission.

Through the AOCC the NRDC-ITA can coordinate the entire range of air missions in support of land operations. The AOCC is an essential part of joint operations at the Corps and Land Component level. Even if the AOCC is subordinated to the Air Component Command/CAOC, it is fully embedded into the NRDC-ITA organization and exercises its functions within the Corps area of responsibility.

**MOCC**

The MOCC (Maritime Operation Coordination Center) advisor provides expertise to COMNRDC-ITA and his staff, through Deputy Chief of Staff OPS DIV, on all maritime related issues including: maritime operations in support of NRDC-ITA, maritime law and Sea Point of Embarkement (SPOE) and Sea Point of Disembarkement (SPOD) management. Liaise with maritime organizations/headquarters in order to maintain updated capabilities/knowledge.
The **Central Staff** performs a series of functions in support of NRDC-ITA in order to facilitate the accomplishment of the mission. The **Division guarantees** the continuity of the link between the Command Group and the Staff by disseminating orders and guidance and coordinating and directing the execution of assigned tasks. It also has the lead on all Info Management issues and provides the NRDC-ITA HQ with support on a variety of matters including: Public Affairs, Protocol, legal issues, specialized clerical support.

**ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION BRANCH**

**Org & Coord** is the branch responsible for Info Management processes; it also organizes and coordinates the provision of specialized clerical support to HQ NRDC-ITA. The centralized management of these services includes production of classified/unclassified documents, management and dissemination of classified/unclassified information and Mission Critical Information through the NRDC-ITA Registry Dispatches Courier, management of NRDC-ITA duty personnel, travel booking as well as provision of stationery and selected clerical equipment. The Branch acts in support of the **Command Group** as a focusing point for the management of the permanent logistic interactions with Support Brigade to NRDC-ITA (HQ).

**PROTOCOL**

The **Protocol** is the agency responsible for Public Relations and all protocol matters, including protocol lists and overall coordination of VIP visits, parades, ceremonies, and formal social events; this includes the organization and coordination of major conferences, management and forecasting of centralized shared and national funds.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**PA** performs the operational functions of planning, directing, coordinating and synchronizing Public Affairs (PA), Media Monitoring, Analysis and all NATO Public Affairs related activities in peace and on operations in order to support the successful fulfilment of COM NRDC-ITA’s mission.

**LEGAL OFFICE**

Legal Office consists of **Legal Advisors** whose role is to give advice to COMNRDC-ITA and all branches within his Headquarters on all matters affecting the NRDC-ITA during planning, preparation and execution of NRDC-ITA operations. This includes the provision of advice in peace and crisis on the application of the **Law of Armed Conflict**, agreements and NATO policies, procedures and regulations.

**Operations Division** provides planning, direction, co-ordination, integration and execution of the following branches/cells and their functions: G2 Intelligence; G3 Operations; G5 Plans; CDD; GLE; MSU and G7. In order to formulate correctly NRDC-ITA contingency planning and execution of intelligence and operations to meet COM NRDC-ITA peace and war time needs. This will involve the coordination of the above functions and the functions related to FIRECOORD, TARGETING, G3 AIR, INFOOPS, ENGINEER and G9 branches and their interface in the Corps plan across the operational spectrum and including deep, close and rear operations (decisive and shaping operations).

**G2 INTELLIGENCE**

The intelligence branch plans, directs, collects, processes and disseminates intelligence on the threat and environment to perform intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB) and the other intelligence tasks. A critical part of the IPB involves collaborative, cross-BOS analysis across echelons and between analytic elements of a command. The branch mission is to provide timely, targetable and relevant intelligence to the Commander and subordinate formations, during planning and on operations.

Other intelligence tasks include:
- Situation development/battlefield visualization;
- Target development and support to battle damage assessment;
- Indications and warnings;
- Intelligence support to battle damage assessment;
- Intelligence support to Force Protection and Counter-IED;
- Leverage national and joint intelligence capabilities to fill gaps in information.

The desired end state is full dimension Protection, Collection to cover information gaps, Integration of all intelligence and non-intelligence sensors to build the relevant RED and GREY picture. Analysis to transform data into information and Presentation of knowledge in a format and manner that imparts immediate understanding.

**G3 OPERATIONS**

**G3 Operations** is to ensure the synchronization, integration and co-ordination of deep, close and rear operations for the execution of COMNRDCITA’s concept of operations. G3 performs the following core functions: force deployment; tracking & integration; tactical movement control; operational synchronization; special operations co-ordination and de-confliction; co-ordinate NBC protection; standardization of procedures; force protection; hasty planning & planning refinement and MSU & MP coordination.

**G5 PLANS**

**G5 Plans** is responsible for leading the HQ NRDC-ITA Operational Planning Group (OPG) in the development of operation and contingency plans for all the headquarters’ crisis response operations and exercises. Its planning horizon is normally 72 to 96 hours for Corps level operations and exercises. Its planning horizon is normally 72 to 96 hours for Corps level operations while its focus is likely to extend
to the whole campaign in the wider context of a Land Component headquarters. The branch also provides operational analysis (OA) support to the command group, multidisciplinary groups and branches. The branch is headed by an Assistant Chief of Staff (ACOS) and comprises three operational planning teams, an operational analysis cell and a coordination cell. Collectively, at full manning, the branch has the capacity to operate 24/7 (less OA) with only limited capacity to work on more than one OPLAN concurrently.

**CDD (Concept Development Doctrine)**

CDD Branch is responsible for the identification of engaging doctrinal and conceptual issues and for development and implementation of new doctrine. Identification and statement of the issue, research and data collection, interpretation of data, evaluation of alternative solutions and development of the new concepts and doctrine are the main activities. It is also the guarantor for the consistency and conformity of NRDC-ITA internal operating procedures and instruction with the NATO doctrine. Its work includes extensive coordination with Lessons Learned, G7 and all other Branches in the HQ.

**GLE**

The Ground Liaison Element (GLE) represents COMNRDC-ITA at either the Air Component Command (ACC) HQ and/or the Air Operation Centre (AOC) at Combined Air Operation Centre (CAOC) level during a time of crisis and on operations/exercises. Liaison with ACC/(C) AOC is granted by GLE, who facilitates ACC/(C)AOC ground picture comprehension. The mission of GLE is to clearly articulate COMNRDC-ITA’s intent and scheme of maneuver to the Air Component/Air Operation Centre. In parallel, GLE must ensure that NRDC-ITA’s requirements for Air support, are accurately reflected in the Air Component’s plans; thereby facilitating Air/Land co-ordination.

In addition GLE monitors and evaluates land forces’ situation and development in order to advise and inform ACC/(C) AOC. When NRDC-ITA is employed as Corps HQ under a LCC, GLE will be detached to (C) AOC only; on the other hand, in case of employment as LCC, NRDC-ITA will detach GLE, splitting it in two elements, to ACC HQ and (C) AOC.

**G7**

G7 develops and implements HQ NRDC-ITA training and exercise policy and advises on the balance of the exercise objectives and exercise sustainability with the use of all assets available to HQ NRDC-ITA.

It evaluates training requirements and establishes the tailoring of training activities in order to prepare NRDC-ITA for operations and exercises, refining operational techniques and procedures.

**MISSION**

**Combat Service Support Division** provides planning, direction, co-ordination, integration and execution of the following branches:
- Fire Coordination (FCORD);
- G3 AIR;
- ENGINEER;
- G9;
- G6;
- Information Operations (INFOOPS).

In operations Combat Service Support Division unifies and synchronizes the assigned assets in order to achieve the desired Operational End: State in accordance with DCOS Ops Division directives and guidelines. In addition, CS Div has the Lead in spreading the EBAO (Effects Based Approach Operations) concepts within the HQ and on its implementation on Ops/Exercises.

**G3 AIR BRANCH**

Through its Sections: Aviation Plans, Aviation Operations and Air Space Management/Air Defense, G3 Air enables the Commander to have the full command and control of all land forces, Army aircrafts (fixed and rotary wings), Air Defense Systems (ADA – Air Defense Artillery and SAM – Surface to Air Missiles) and to supervise other particular means used to survey the battle space (such as UAVs – Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). In particular, the Branch plans, synchronizes and co-ordinates the efforts provided by the RW assets, AD and ASM in order to minimize conflicts of priority, duplication of effort and fratricide and employ effectively all air assets allocated to NRDC-ITA.

**G9 CIVIL MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC)**

The immediate purpose of CIMIC is to establish and maintain the full co-operation of the NATO Commander and the civilian authorities, organizations, agencies and population within the Commander’s area of operations in order to allow him to fulfill his mission. This may include direct support to the implementation of a civil plan. The long-term purpose of CIMIC is to help, create and sustain conditions that will support the achievement of Alliance objectives in operations. The aim of Civil-Military Liaison is to provide the co-ordination necessary to facilitate and support the planning and conduct of operations.

**FIRE COORDINATION BRANCH**

Fire Co-ordination (FCORD) Branch is responsible for the co-ordination of all lethal and sources throughout the Corps Area of Responsibility in support of the Commander’s intent. It integrates and synchronizes field artillery in the planning, refining and execution phases of an operation and coordinates the application of Naval Gun Fire (NGF), Offensive Air Support (OAS) and Attack Helicopters (AH) as well as...
sources such as **Electronic Warfare** (EW) and Psychological Operations (PSYOPS). The Branch is also responsible for carrying out NRDC-ITA's targeting function. This is done in conjunction with the G2, G3, G3 Air and Info Ops Branches inside the HQ and with the operational level HQ and all the other Component Commands involved in joint operations. Targeting is a complex process that, through a joint approach, selects targets and matches the appropriate response to them taking account of operational requirements, capabilities and limitations in order to achieve the Commander’s objectives.

The Faction Liaison Section in FCOORD Branch performs a crucial role during Peace Support Operations. This section is responsible for establishing and maintaining contact with opposing factions and civilian elements in order to influence their military elements and civilian assets during any other Military Operations Other Than War. FCOORD Branch is also responsible for co-ordinating the HQ’s Effects Based Approach to Operations on behalf of the Commander.

**INFORMATION OPERATIONS BRANCH (INFOOPS)**

The availability of information worldwide and reliable information systems have created a situation in which no action can be undertaken without first considering its potential impact in the evolving information domain. **Information Operations Branch** (IOB) is therefore responsible for the core activities of Electronic Warfare, Computer Network Operations, Psychological Operations, Military Deception, Physical Destruction and Operations Security. In concert with related capabilities such as Intelligence, Targeting, Civil Military Cooperation, Public Affairs and the Political and Legal Advisors, these activities seek to focus on adversary audiences in order to affect their perceptions, attitudes, decision cycles and information based processes, while exploiting and protecting one’s own.

**G6**

Is in charge of conducting all CIS (communications and information systems) activities required across the operational spectrum in accordance with the NRDC-ITA concept, in order to guarantee the connectivity with higher and collateral echelons and the command and control of subordinate formations.

**SYSTEMS AND SECURITY SECTION**

Systems and Security Section is responsible for the application of security measures to protect information processed, stored or transmitted in communications, information and other electronic systems against loss of confidentiality, integrity or availability, whether accidental or intentional, and to prevent the loss of integrity or availability of the systems themselves.
MISSION

Combat Service Support Division (CSS DIV) grants logistic support to HQ NRDC-ITA mission in order to enable the conduct of operations and the fulfillment of assigned tasks with the minimum of CSS limitation. This support is granted by ensuring the appropriate level of readiness and training. CSS DIV maintains a high level of effectiveness through the active participation in the making decision process of HQ NRDC-ITA and through internal and external co-ordination. Combat Service Support Division is composed of the following specialised branches.

G1 PERSONNEL

G1 Personnel is in charge of all the personnel-related issues and co-ordinates two major areas: support to the Commanders and Units (manning) and support to the personnel. This branch also issues advice and guidelines on multinational personnel policies and the creation of specific support programs (i.e. welfare, discipline, personnel attitude, morale) following the Commander’s directives. On Operations, G1 is also responsible, in coordination with MP, for all personnel-related issues concerning the Prisoners of War.

G4

G4 Branch is composed of the following sections: Current Ops, Ops Coord, Movement & Transportation, Supply, Maintenance and Host Nation Support. It conducts and manages NRDC-ITA logistics policy by, on behalf of DCOS CSS. It provides the direction, integration and execution of the NRDC-ITA logistic effort by coordinating the outputs of these sections, in order to permit NRDC-ITA Commander to direct operations with no CSS restrictions. G4 OPS Branch is primus inter pares in CSS Division in peace and on operations. G4 PLANS provides planning, coordination and integration of logistic operations in order to enable NRDC-ITA Commander to conduct operation within CSS capabilities and to achieve efficiency and economy of scale. It is mainly responsible for planning and coordination of supply, maintenance and M&T, while it acts as a collector for other specific-related issues (medical, services, HNS, etc.) working as an integrator, receiving specific inputs from directly involved Divisions/Branches/Sections in order to publish requested comprehensive CSS Documents. It initiates and develops all activities related to CSS DIV policy, standardization and interoperability.

MEDICAL

The Medical Branch plans and coordinates all the aspects of medical support for NRDC-ITA operations. It is responsible for provision of medical advice to NRDC-ITA Commander, development of medical plans, setting the policy for all medical and health matters including medical force protection (for the maintenance of health and prevention of disease and nonbattle injuries), control and coordination of the Land Component Command assigned medical units. On operations, it coordinates all medical operations, in particular the MEDEVACs (medical evacuation of casualties), is also responsible for contact and the coordination with local Health Authorities and is responsible for contact and coordination of health matters with local Authorities and non-governmental organizations (IOs). The Medical Branch also provides a contribution in the coordination of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

G8 BUDFIN

G8 Budfin coordinates and advises all NRDC-ITA assigned organizations on financial matters related to operations. The Financial Controller (Chief G8 BUDFIN) HQ NRDC-ITA, on behalf of NRDC-ITA Commander, is responsible for the preparation, control and execution of budgets both for NATO (SHAPE exercises and missions) and Shared Funds (peacetime). FINCON is in charge of the daily financial management in support of the Commander’s mission.

FORCE PROVOST MARSHALL

The Force Provost Marshall encompasses a wide range of MP activities in favour of the Commander and his staff. The main effort and focus is on providing him with functional advice on overall MP related matters. The FPM is the main actor in the MP organization at Corps level and he has the co-ordination authority of MP assets both national and multinational driven. During peace time he is also the link to the local security authorities; and he is also the Commander focal point on all police activities.
RSC

RSC is an HQ Staff Division in peace, which forms a self-sufficient, separately deployable stand alone Command Post responsible for a wide range of tasks in support of NRDC ITA while on operations. A wide range of operations may be envisaged to be within RSC capacity (from HRF to NRF as well), including the ability to execute Theatre level responsibilities and tasks when properly directed. While retaining Corps responsibility for the Rear Support Command Division (RSOM) on CJTF operations, the recently defined new logistic structure for NRF operations (JLSG concept), relegates RSC to provide only a contribution to the JLSG Agency within means and capabilities available.

RSC will be asked to be the main NRDC ITA and/or NATO Agency within the Joint Rear Area/Joint Enabling Area (if established) while exercising mainly coordinating authority for RSOM operations providing both allocation and sharing of assets and routes in order to achieve operational priorities and to meet RSOM requirements. In order to be able to develop planning and to provide capabilities ranging from G1 to G9 at short notice, RSC is appropriately manned and trained on a routine basis during peacetime.

On deployment the HQ, composed of Commander, Staff and C2S (Command and Control Support), forms a number of Command Posts (CP). Prior to deployment, as part of the overall planning process, HQ NRDC-ITA will conduct a C2 assessment coordinated between G3 Ops and G6 to determine the most appropriate CPs configuration. NRDC-ITA can operate up to 4 CPs simultaneously.

Early Entry (EE) CP

The NRDC-ITA EE is a multi-functional HQs designed to allow HQ NRDC-ITA to deploy to the AOO as early as possible. The prime function of EE CP is to provide rapidly deployable C2 facilities (must be air portable), capable of limited, tactical and/or operational level command, control and liaison.

Its organization is modular and envisages three different equipment and personnel packages suitable to perform its function in accordance with the necessary package to perform the mission balanced against strategic movement capabilities. Early Entry C2 capability is required to provide the means to exercise command and control over leading elements of assigned formations and units as they arrive in the NRDC-ITA Area of Operation (AOO). EE CP will typically deploy by air. EE CP is self-sufficient for Command Support (CIS and Life Support) on austere scales.

MAIN Command Post (CP)

NRDC-ITA MAIN is the principal Command Post. It provides the Commander with the staff and resources required to exercise command and control over the deployed forces. The functions of MAIN CP are: Force Integration; Planning of Shaping, Decisive and Sustaining Operations, Coordination of current operations, Coordination of combat support, Targeting, Information Operations, Intelligence, Battle space management, Civil-Military Liaison and Cooperation with civilian agencies, local authorities and leaders, Command and Control of logistic assets.

MAIN (Alt) CP

HQ NRDC-ITA requires a CP that can undertake different roles, depending on the operational situation. The roles that this multi-purpose CP might be tasked to undertake are: REAR to provide a GSS focused CP, ALTERNATE (Alt) to backstop the MAIN if it is out of action and STEP-UP to maintain C2 while the MAIN is moving. MAIN (Alt) CP is activated if MAIN becomes inoperable for any reason, whether catastrophic or temporary. It is smaller than MAIN but nevertheless supports all of the staff functions required to exercise command and control over the Corps or LCC.

Furthermore MAIN (Alt) also achieves the HQ need to possess the ability to move while continuity of C2 is maintained. In this case the MAIN (Alt) is in STEP-UP mode thus its structure remains unchanged. The time for which MAIN (Alt) in the STEP-UP mode would be required to operate is governed by the time taken for MAIN CP to teardown, move and subsequently set-up. The MAIN (Alt) CP default setting is the ALT role.

TACTICAL (TAC) CP

TAC CP may be deployed if Commander perceives that there is advantage in the close coordination of a particular phase of operations. This usually means deploying forward to have COMNRDC-ITA in a more favourable position to control close operations and from where his accompanying staff can provide update of the situation to the MAIN CP; TAC CP generally deploys forward into a Divisional Area.
Command Post

It is deployed only for discrete phases of an operation, qualified by time, space and purpose. Equipment and C2/CIS assets to activate TAC CP are available at MAIN ready to be deployed should the need arise. TAC CP has a robust C2 capability. In particular, the main possibility to be connected with the other CPs, a Mission Secret WAN Connection with the MAIN CP via a suitable bearer, a secure VTC connection, a connection to the HF Radio Command Net.

Rear Support Command (RSC) CP
The RSC is tailored to conduct the Reception Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) of NRDC-ITA assigned forces (personnel, materiel and equipment) from points of entry into NRDC-ITA area of operation, provide sustainment of these forces during operational phase and conduct redeployment when mission end state has been achieved. Although COMNRDC-ITA has only coordinating authority in the JEA, he will wish to influence operations there in order to provide the most effective support to his own operations. RSC provides this co-ordination ensuring communications with several organizations (IOs, NGOs, NSEs, etc.) that are likely to be within the JEA and that could influence the NRDC-ITA’s deployment and operations.

It usually deploys exploiting local infrastructures when available, however it possess the means to deploy into field locations. Summarizing the RSC covers a wide range of responsibilities such as: Reception, Staging and Onward Movement of assigned forces, Liaison with National Support Elements, IOs and NGOs, operational support to assigned forces, liaise, co-ordinate and co-operate with host nation authorities and institutions and with higher HQs, preparation for recovery or redeployment of assigned forces and supplies, development of a theatre support infrastructure.

From the 1st of January 2011 to the 30th of June 2011, NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy once again assumed the role of Land Component Command (LCC) within the NATO Response Force (NRF) structure. This is a high profile engagement that focused the Corps training activities during 2010. This six-month “stand-by” is a period during which the Corps headquarters and portions of the Italian Signal Brigade must be ready to deploy to a NATO Joint Operational Area on very short notice, under the command of the Joint Forces Command (JFC) based in Naples.

1. NRF Background
The formation of the NATO Response Force, NATO’s rapid reaction capability, is one of the most important transformation decisions taken by the leaders of NATO’s member countries since the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. At the NATO Prague Summit held in November 2002, the NATO Heads of State agreed to the concept of a robust, rapidly deployable and credible force. NATO leaders recognized that modern, flexible, rapidly deployable, “joint” (meaning sea, land and air) forces are required to meet and defeat today’s asymmetrical threats, the most notable being terrorism. The NRF is the centre-piece and an engine of change for the Alliance as it transforms to security and stability in the 21st Century.

2. NRF: At the Centre of NATO Transformation
The NRF is a coherent, high readiness, joint, multinational force package, technologically advanced, flexible, interoperable and sustainable. It will be tailored as required to the needs of a specific operation, and able to move quickly to wherever needed, but is not a permanent or standing force. The NRF is able to carry out certain missions on its own, or serve as part of a larger force to contribute to the full range of Alliance operations; it can sustain itself for up to one month and remain operational for longer if re-supplied.

The NRF will comprise of national force contributions which will rotate through periods of training and certification as a joint force, followed by an operational “stand-by” phase of six months. Allied Command Operations (ACO) will generate the NRF through force generation conferences and be responsible for certification of forces and headquarters. Allied Command Transformation (ACT) will develop future capabilities and further refine the NRF concepts based on Joint Lessons Learned.

But, the NRF will also be a key catalyst for focusing on and promoting improvements of Alliance military capabilities, in very close relationship with the national and multinational elements of the “Prague Capabilities Commitment” and NATO force planning overall. It will thus form an essential element of the
NRF: NRDC-ITA. In the role of LCC

Alliance’s transformation agenda. Moreover, all Allies see the NRF and the European Union’s Headline Goal Force as fully compatible and mutually reinforcing initiatives.

3. Missions
The overarching purpose of the NRF is to provide an immediate military response to an emerging crisis as part of the Alliance’s comprehensive crisis management system for both Article 5 or Crisis response Operations, thus the NRF mission is: “To provide a rapid demonstration of force and the early establishment of a NATO military presence in support of an Article 5 or Crisis Response Operations”.

To this end, the range of tasks, for which the operational commander of the NRF should prepare for are: Contribute to the preservation of territorial integrity, Demonstrative package of forces, Peace support operations, Disaster relief, Protection of civil infrastructure.

4. Force composition
Though tailor able to any mission, the core force size of an NRF will consist of 21,000 multinational soldiers. The NRF will have dedicated fighter aircraft, ships, vehicles, combat support, logistics, communications and intelligence, constituting a capable, ready, and capable force.

5. Command and Certification Oversight
In terms of the NATO command structure, Allied Command Operations (ACO) at SHAPE has the operational lead for the NRF. This includes standards and certification of the forces and exercise.

6. Continuing Challenges
The need to make revolutionary changes has been recognized and accepted by the leaders at Prague. However, the cost of effecting appropriate change and deciding what to do with outdated equipment and infrastructure, so closely tied to national economies is a challenge. Moreover, to institute and implement a decision-making criteria process within NATO that can effect the transition of authority for forces from several countries to the NRF Commander, and then launch a highly capable, high readiness force within five days will require determined political commitment. And, always present are the Communications and Information Systems (CIS) incompatibilities and different levels of understanding of emerging tactics, techniques, and procedures such as the Effects Based Approach to Operations.

NRF at a Glance
- NRF is a product of NATO member commitment to transformation and Alliance relevancy.
- Concept approval given by Heads of State at the 2002 Prague Summit.
- Six-month rotations for multinational forces voluntarily committed by member countries that provide their niche capabilities to better enable the force packages.
- NRF Commander during the NRDC-ITA ‘stand-by’ period is COM JFC-Naples.
- Force package is trained and ready for global deployment within 5-30 days, and self-sustainable for 30 days to stabilize emerging threats and to contain crises.
The Support Brigade

The Support Brigade is the support unit of the HQ. It provides command support, allowing COMNRDC-ITA and his staff to exercise command and control over the assigned divisions and Corps troops.

The Signal Brigade consists of the 1st Signal Regiment based in Milan and a Tactical and Logistic Support Regiment and the Post HQ based in Solbiate Olona. Command support includes the provision of communications and financial support, the transport and building up of the NRDC-ITA’s deployable command posts (CPs) and the establishment of a combined radio and satellite communications network.

The Support Brigade’s main tasks are to guarantee the Corps staff life support by deploying, moving, feeding, accommodating, administering and protecting it.

The 1st Signal Regiment

The 1st Signal Regiment is based in the Santa Barbara Barracks in Milan and it is articulated in two Signal Battalions, the “SPLUGA” and the “SEMPIONE”. The Regiment provides NRDC – ITA HQ with Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) support both in peace time and operations.

In order to fulfil this task, the “SEMPIONE” Battalion is committed full-time to the provision of Communications and Information Systems support at Rear, Alternate, Step up, (RAS)/Rear Support Command (RSC) CPs, while the “SPLUGA” Battalion covers the CIS requirements of NRDC-ITA HQ Main CP. The Regiment has already deployed in operations for C4 support in 1997 to the Multinational Protection Force (MPF) Command in Albania and in 1999-2001 in Kosovo and Bosnia.

The Tactical and Logistic Support Regiment

The Tactical and Logistic Support Regiment was set up on 16th June 2002 after subsequent transformations of the Regiments starting its duty as a supporting unit of the former 3rd Army Corps, and later on as HQ of the Rapid Reaction Operational Forces. The Support Regiment is a unit that provides the tactical and logistic support to NRDC-ITA either in garrison for everyday life or on operations. Its main duty is supporting the HQ for all the aspects linked with the real life support in peace and on operations, and the logistic support for every day life providing the vital services needed for garrison support, the tactical and logistic movements in order to transport personnel and materials to/from POE/POD and the possible movement to effect the step up between MAIN and the Command Posts. The S1 morale and welfare Branch is engaged with personnel matters and welfare. The S3 cell is in charge of planning and controlling operations and training activities and exercise.

The S4 deals with logistics in order to fully guarantee the operative capability of the Unit, while the S5 cell manages Regimental financial aspects. On a subordinate level the Logistic and Support Company provides the general services for the Regiment Command Post, particular this Company has one Service Platoon, one Maintenance Platoon, to whom the workshop belongs, one Medical Platoon, one Transport Platoon and one Organization Platoon; while the Support Battalion with its companies is the real operational instrument of the Regiment.

The Security Company is responsible for providing security and defence of the Command Posts within NRDC-ITA and on operations, takes care of the Communication Centre and all he logistic areas.

The Rifle Company conducts armed escorts for sensitive materials and convoy movement support either on operations or on exercise.

The Quartermaster Company provides the real life support during operations and exercises. This is a multifunctional unit equipped with bakery, laundry, butchery and kitchen shelters, and is able to satisfy all the real life needs of NRDC-ITA and its subordinate units at a rhythm of about 500 people per hour for feeding. The Engineer Company prepares the area for building up the compound; company’s role is to conduct ground stabilization works, is to provide electricity and maintenance of the compound structure. It is also in charge of setting up defence works for the protection of the compound. The Transportation Company provides the mobility of all the components necessary for the deployment of the command post and transports also water, gasoline and explosive materials with specialized drivers. In addition the Support Regiment is able to set up a first aid centre with dentistry facilities. Employing all the components just described, the Support Regiment can give the life to an HSG in both NRF and HRF configuration of NRDC-ITA.

This has been done with full success in 2005- 2006. For nine months the Support Regiment has been active as HSG in Afghanistan during ISAF VIII operation and provided the Italian Unit for ITALFOR XI mission. The Support Regiment has fully accomplished the engagement in the NRF III and IX missions.

The POST HQ

The Post HQ is responsible for managing and maintaining the infrastructure of Ugo Mara Barracks as well as for providing assistance to newly assigned personnel and their families while settling down in Solbiate Olona and its surroundings. The Reception Agency is in charge of dealing and co-operating with civilian agencies such as schools, local administrations and the National Health Service.
A view of the building “Star Ship” where the HQ is located.

SPT Brigade

“Palazzo Cusani”, HQ facility in Milan.

The mess

A view of the Infirmary.
Facilities

- A view of the Main Entrance of the Officers Club
- The Chapel
- The Pizzeria
- The Kindergarten
- The Laundry
- One view of the “Gymnasium”
- An other view of the “Gymnasium”
- The Library
- The Travel Agency, The Bank and the Barber Shop
- Internet Point
- The Library
- The Kindergarten
- The Laundry
- The Travel Agency, The Bank and the Barber Shop
MILAN

Milan is located in the west of Lombardy between the Ticino and Adda Rivers, is Italy’s most populated province. Milan’s importance dates back to antiquity, when Mediolanum, was capital of the Western Roman Empire for more than a century. Most of the Province’s historical and artistic heritage is found in the city of Milan. Although not normally considered an “art city”, Milan is home to many great artistic treasures from both ancient and modern times. Its magnificent Gothic cathedral

VARESE

Varese is among Lombardy’s most beautiful provinces. It borders Lake Maggiore and takes in rolling green hills with views of the Province’s seven lakes and the Alps dominated by Monte Rosa. Varese’s capital, also known as the “garden city” because of its splendid 18th-century villas with their extensive grounds, is a bustling city that preserves many fine works of art.