

Eagle Eye 2017

NATO ammunition quality standards, in quest of the cloverleaf

Interview with Chief of NATO IMS GENAD

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATO RAPID DEPLOYABLE CORPS-ITALY



#Wearejointandcombined



**D**ear reader,  
“Everywhere Rapidly” is back with the first 2017 issue. This edition will accompany you through the different demanding activities that the Headquarters is committed to whilst facing a second year as a Joint Task Force (JTF). In fact, the staff has already started the complex planning process which is preparing the NRDC-ITA to face the validation process which will certify it as Land Component Command (LCC), a role starting next January 2018. This is why we decided to host within these pages one of the most important partners that is supporting the NRDC-ITA preparation process towards the validation, namely the Italian Army Simulation and Validation Centre (Ce.Si.Va.) of Civitavecchia (Rome), which this “ER” issue Special Insert is dedicated to. Furthermore, we have also chosen to give space to a very interesting interview conducted by Maj. Isabella Rauti, Officer of the Italian Army selected reserve and journalist serving at the NRDC-ITA PAO, with the Gender Advisor at the NATO International Military Staff, Lt. Col. (Czech Air Force) Magdalena Dvorakova. The interview provides a detailed view explaining what the gender perspective is, which kind of contribution can be added to the NATO environment and what the future challenges are. Many other topics have been included in this “ER” issue; hence I invite you to discover them, as they represent a portion of the large number of activities carried out in this HQ.

**Thank you for your kind attention, I really hope you enjoy this magazine!**

**NRDC-ITA Commander  
Lt. Gen. Roberto PERRETTI**

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Printed by : Grafica Metelliana

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## The role of the Staff Clerk in a multinational Headquarters



Cpl. ITA (A) Gianni LEOMANNI

After more than 12 years spent serving in the 7th CBRN Defence Regiment as CBRN Specialist both in operational roles and also as instructor in chemistry and biology – period during which he also took part to several peace keeping missions (Balkans and Afghanistan mainly) – Cpl Gianni LEOMANNI since June 2011 has been part of NRDC-ITA HQ staff.

Today more than ever, NRDC-ITA HQ is a NATO structure which is constantly changing, evolving and is to be prepared to deploy as a Corps, LCC or JTF HQ (land heavy) under NATO, EU or coalition command to conduct or sustain missions throughout the operational spectrum; both within and beyond NATO's area of responsibility for the collective defence of Alliance territory or in pursuit of Alliance, EU or coalition security interests.

The centre of gravity supporting this evolution is the Staff Members working every day, always available to support the Commander's Decision Making Process.

One of the key figures in our organisation is the work being done by the Clerk .....

We could imagine our HQ as a complex cinematographic building where all the Staff Clerks are people working behind the scenes; like building the scenography, preparing the environment where the movie is to be recorded, or organizing movement of the actors from set to set; where all things needed to make the big picture work are carried out thanks to the experience gained in the multinational context.

The Staff Clerk is not the main actor and he will never appear during the movie and nobody looking out of the scene will appreciate them just as no one can imagine the amount of work he conducts for the movie to be a success.

Clerks providing the organization start from the “new

comers” in-processing. Thinking of a train conductor - personnel arrives, requires guidance in order to get on board in the best condition and in the shortest time possible on this big machine that barely stops. All the while the clerk unceasingly continues to follow the objectives given so they are completed in the common interest, quickly and efficiently. Clerks ensure the movement and direction of people going to attend courses, training, carrying out missions abroad, supporting HQ Staff all the while following step by step to produce all documentation they need taking in consideration the administrative guidelines of which the mission has been approved.

The NATO Doctrine process must be supported by National rules so the biggest obstacle for the relevant actions concerning the key positions within the headquarters such as the Clerk, is the fact that the NATO doctrine and the National doctrine travel on two parallel tracks which often merge, so the requirement to think about the solution to ensure the two doctrines do not go to collide is one of the key tasks that the Clerk has to conduct carefully following the instructions given by their superiors commands.



Exercise map printing review by Staff Clerk

To accomplish the multiple roles following the afore-mentioned points, the Clerk is responsible for the upkeep of the Branch NATO library; for the maintenance of the Branch stationary store, making regular indents for new items as required to cater for normal usage as well as procuring and preparing those items required for exercise and operations; for the branch mailing system; for upkeep of the Branch training & course data base, as well as any other tasks given by his superiors.

Returning to the Train conductor, the Clerk has to be confident with NATO and NATIONAL tools and must be conversant with the procedures to ensure the personnel are moved correctly. To do this the clerk coordinates Branch transport and movement requirement.

They must be able to work confidently with many Senior Officers in an English speaking, multinational environment to ensure the correct information and details are supplied.

And last but not the least the Clerk must also be familiar with the procedures for booking and operating the HQ Conference facilities.

The project for the future will be the birth of a National Office that will be responsible for streamlining all National documentation in and out of our HQ. From my point of view, this office will be a great resource for the HQ and will facilitate the Italian team in the handling of the work of the clerk for everything related to the domestic part.

*The Clerk must have a great rapport of values and mannerisms: Responsibility, sense of duty, coordination, organization and sensitivity; endurance and courage to chase often senior personnel; in order to ensure all documentation is released in a timely and accurate manner, for approval at various command levels. All in all, the Clerk as a one of a series of tiny cogs, like a gear box, which must be engaged in order to move the vehicle in the required direction.*



## The Intelligence Support to Targeting (TARINT)



Lt. Col. ITA (A) Orio Giorgio STIRPE

NRDC-ITA operates at a fairly high tempo and as we look out over the next two years, the calendar and security environment in which we live promises more of the same. As such, those in the intelligence and planning arenas must remain vigilant, proactive and look for opportunities to improve our stance and the 'network' which will enable success in both training and any contingency.

Building the aforementioned 'network' is a critical endeavour, as any of us who have had to deploy for operations know. The 'network' is about people knowing each other before a crisis is thrust upon us. The 'network' is about mediums of communication that allow us to be in contact as a matter of routine, vice infrequent Conferences or at a time of crisis. Most importantly, the 'network' is about knowledge...shared knowledge that makes us collectively more tactically and technically sound when planning or executing operations. Operating in a multinational environment such as NATO and being reliant on National support requires good 'networks', those which allow for familiarity, good communication and shared competence.

The inaugural NRDC-ITA Intelligence Support to Tar-

geting (TARINT) Seminar, provided a first opportunity for the Intelligence, and some Fires, personnel from a number of our affiliated Units to gather in Solbiate Olona and make the first steps towards building our network. This event was notable in that our Headquarters was able to both initiate or reconnect with Divisions and Brigades that may be called to operate in any Theatre under the Command and Control of NRDC-ITA, whether we are serving as a CJTF, LCC and/or Corps, in a NATO Operation.

Amplifying the importance of building this network amongst the attendees is the well known fact that we are on the path towards serving as the NATO Response Force (NRF) and are directly supporting the preparation of the Ariete Brigade on their path towards serving as NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). When you look at those missions themselves, the importance of the Intelligence Support to Targeting Network seems critical. When you template over the reality that uncertainty abounds in both NATO Strategic Directions, having an active, maturing network is nothing short of essential.

The TARINT Seminar has proven itself an excellent

opportunity to exchange professional experience about a discipline that is quite frankly, still very young and presents challenges due to its technical, legal, ethical and political implications.

Intelligence Support to Targeting is not necessarily a new endeavour, but it is one where NATO doctrine and procedures are still developing. Personal experiences represent a significant conduit to accelerate our proficiency within the personnel. For this reason the Seminar has provided the Intelligence Support to Targeting family with an invaluable opportunity for professional growth and improved cohesion within NRDC-ITA and with its affiliated Units.

The TARINT Seminar focused on: the doctrine that exists; the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) that have proven themselves useful in both exercises and real world operations pursuant to developing targets, battlefield damage assessment, and target folders for counterinsurgency or conventional operations; the Joint Targeting System technology (JTS); Intelligence Support to Information Operations; training opportunities across the NATO environment; and examples of analytical approaches to complex crisis situations. A broad program calls for a broad audience and NRDC-ITA enjoyed the support and attendance of personnel across its own headquarters but also from a number of

Divisions, Brigades, Italian Joint Headquarters and the Italian Army General Staff.

From an NRDC-ITA perspective, a key outcome of the event, apart from establishing a network upon which to build, has been to clarify what NRDC-ITA expects from subordinate HQs in the realm of intelligence support to targeting...ranging from formats, to mediums, to clear justifications.

From a broader perspective, a key outcome was the identification of subject matter that can help us collectively, for example, asking Units Commanders to find those personnel with real targeting experience and ensuring we reinvest those experiences back into the Targeting or Intelligence Support to Targeting Enterprise. NRDC-ITA is committed to maintain and constantly improve the coordination with its affiliated Units or the 'network', not only by conducting exercises together, but also by cultivating contact between specialists engaged in the relevant spheres of the TARINT mission. Hopefully, this Seminar will set a precedent in cooperation not only between our Command and its own affiliated Units, but also between NATO HRFL HQs and the national assigned Divisions and Brigades, which represent the force and the raison d'être of an Army Corps.



Tarint Seminar attendees





## Eagle Eye 2017



Maj. GBR (A) Christopher DAVIES

While the eyes of the NATO Alliance focus on assurance and deterrence on its eastern flank, the complex challenges evident on NATO's southern flank do not go unnoticed. In order to maintain awareness in NATO of the security concerns in the Mediterranean region, a seminar, Eagle Eye 2017, was arranged by NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy (NRDC-ITA) at its headquarters in Ugo Mara Barracks on Tue 9 May 17.

This brought together experts from across academia, government and the military to address 'Crises and NATO's role in the Mediterranean'. The aim was to provide a general background on NATO Strategic Direction South – the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the Mediterranean - and to consider what NATO's role could be in order to help inform future discussion on this area.

After the opening remarks from the NRDC-ITA Commander, Lieutenant General Perretti, the introduction was given by Professor Massimo de Leonardis, Director of the Department of Political Sciences at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan. Professor de Leonardis, who was also the moderator for the event, outlined the issues faced by NATO on its southern flank. In a region that is not particularly well understood, applying assurance and deterrence, as practised in the East and during the Cold War, is not sufficient given that the threats, such as terrorism and large-scale migration, are very different. It is for this reason, to gain greater understanding of the complexities of the region, that the Southern Hub in Naples is being set up.

Professor Roland Friedrich, Senior Political Affairs Officer with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), started the series of talks by addressing 'Instability and Insecurity in Libya'. His comprehensive overview of the situation detailed the political, ideological, geographical and tribal lines of conflict as well as that caused by the competition for resources. The key drivers of the conflict in Libya are the competition for power and money as well as weak institutions and a lack of political leadership. Furthermore, the decline in the Libyan oil industry has made life more difficult eco-

nomically and is a significant contributor to the strife there.

Among the many prominent speakers NRDC-ITA was fortunate to welcome Ambassador Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, President of the International Affairs Institute (IAI) and former Permanent Representative of Italy to the European Union in Brussels. The Ambassador's talk on 'Political Crises and Regional Instability: effects on European countries' reinforced that the geopolitical landscape in NATO Strategic Direction South is deteriorating. He stated that the main source of instability in the region is Libya and that any military intervention there would be very controversial because of the NATO intervention in 2011 when NATO failed to come up with a plan for the post-Gaddafi era. Among the many interesting discussion points that arose from his talk was the point that while there may not be a direct threat of invasion from the south, there are significant economic, terrorist and humanitarian challenges.

This linked in to the content of the following talk by Mr. Sergio Valcarcel, a senior intelligence analyst from SHAPE, who informed the audience of 'Alliance Security Threats from the Southern Direction'. He focused on some of the key differences in approach of influential states in the Middle East, namely Iran and Saudi

Eagle Eye 17 Seminar Opening Remarks





# FROM THE STAFF

Arabia. In particular he noted that where Saudia Arabia spends its money on hardware such as tanks and APCs, Iran, making the most of a smaller budget, prioritises subversion and ballistic missiles.

The seminar continued after lunch with an address by Doctor Mel McNulty, Political Advisor to Commander JFC-Naples, on 'NATO adaptation measures for the South'. Dr McNulty explained that we must adapt to a very challenging and multi-layered situation with large existential threats, both military and non-military. He reiterated the vision of the Southern Hub, that it will increase NATO's understanding by being the most comprehensive source of information sharing and engagement focused on threats and challenges from the South. Additionally, he said that we have to be present and engaged in the region, rather than waiting on the border as we did in the East in the Cold War.

The final two talks of the seminar were delivered by experienced military officers. Brigadier General Arturo Nitti, from the Italian Defense General Staff, briefed on 'NATO and EU operations in the Mediterranean Sea: an Italian perspective' in which he discussed the importance of synergy between the EU and NATO in order to achieve success on the southern flank. He proposed that the EU and NATO should have a shared strategic approach, top-down, to ensure that their capabilities are

in mutual support and play complementary roles. Finally, Colonel Bill Mangan, the Assistant Chief of Staff for J2 at the NRDC-ITA, briefed on 'MENA: a Tactical Analysis'. He gave an unclassified and very informative briefing on NATO Strategic Direction South, across North Africa. This covered analysis on Tunisia, Morocco (noting Western Sahara), Libya and Algeria.

The Commander NRDC-ITA, Gen Perretti, concluded by directing his Headquarters to view NATO's eastern and southern flanks as one wide theatre, however with differences in approach and manoeuvre. Without ignoring the eastern flank he stressed that NATO can also do many things in the South such as: the implementation of the Southern Hub at Joint Force Command Naples; the building of strong partnerships; extending Security Force Assistance programmes; sharing intelligence and supporting capacity building.

Eagle Eye 2017 confirms NRDC-ITA's attention on sensitive issues such as instability and political crises in the Mediterranean Sea and MENA region. The seminar triggered much fruitful discussion on the role the UN, NATO, EU and the International Community may have in the delicate process of stabilization and security.

Sitting at the table clockwise:  
Amb. Ferdinando Nelli Feroci,  
Prof. Massimo De Leonardis,  
Prof. Ronald Friedrich



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## NATO ammunition quality standards, in quest of the cloverleaf



Lt. Col. ITA (A) Vincenzo SCHETTINI

As a soldier, a member of a combat patrol, or more simply the guard of your compound, there are few things you can really count on. The love of your family, their support and that of your country, your set of values and determination, the training you and your brothers in arms have passed through, are of course among those things, as well as the perfect working condition of your equipment and weapons. There is no doubt the performance of the assault rifle by your side is expression of the quality construction but it is not going to shoot as expected in the very

moment it is needed if the cartridges in the magazine are not responding properly. In fact, the severe conditions you may find in combat zone can have a significant impact on the performance of a weapon system consisting of soldier, the weapon itself, pointing device, and of course the cartridges. If the ability to effectively discriminate targets, and the working condition of your rifle are somehow related to the care as a soldier you give to training with and maintaining your weapon then what you really do not want is that the rounds in your magazine represent the weak link: to ensure they are not, it is up to the industry. Every single round is manufactured meeting the highest standards, so making the “magic” in your barrel happen whether it is freezing cold or the heat is intense, no matter if it has been raining for the past 72 hours or a strong transversal wind is blowing. NATO member countries agreed on a list of NATO standard weapons, and agreed on the need to have a common calibre so the logistic chain could be more affordable and easy: at the moment, there are four calibres under the “NATO” interchangeability label (see pic.1): 9x19mm for the pistol, 12.7x99mm for machine guns, 7.62x51mm and 5,56x45mm for light



Photo credit: Fiocchi Munizioni



machine-guns and portable individual long weapons.

The latest one to be adopted, 5,56mm, will be analysed further based on the requirement agreed in the “Manual of Proof and Inspection Procedures” (MOPI) which prescribes uniform test and inspection procedures for NATO, and the quality management needed to ensure the reliability of the ammunition.

The MOPI contains all the requirements of interchangeability and interoperability every single round must respond to, as well as the stringent regulations producers must comply with, so their ammunition can be “NATO qualified”.

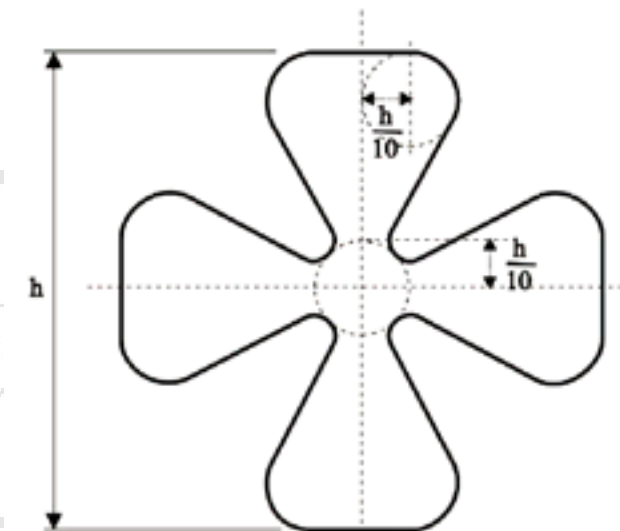
### Interchangeability Symbol and qualification process

For a nationally sponsored producer, the first step is to prove the ammunition is compliant with the relevant STANAG (Standardization Agreement) by “direct evidence” testing in front of a national commission nominated by a member state Ministry of Defence. Once “nationally certified” the producer can have access to the NATO qualification process for a lot of NATO calibre ammunitions. The ammunition is now a candidate to obtain the NATO qualification of interchangeability.

The “direct evidence” testing phase will start in one of the two Regional Test Centres certified by the Alliance: the NATO North American Regional Test Centre (for Canada and the USA, Independence, Missouri) or the NATO European Test Centre (Pendine, UK). These facilities are the only ones responsible for verifying that the requirements for NATO small arms ammunitions are met and to certify that they comply with interchangeability and interoperability standards. The ammunition has to be proved to be suitable to be used in every NATO nominated weapon and to pass several tests so that the requirements of safety, precision and terminal effect, among others, are met. Once successfully tested, the Symbol of Interchangeability (cloverleaf) can be applied to the outer pack of all ammunition subsequently produced to the exact same design (see pic. 1).

As well as the cloverleaf symbol, another mark can be observed at the bottom of the cartridges and it is the “NATO design mark” (cross inside a circle, see pic. XX) on its own: it has no official significance or defini-

tion. However, it is generally accepted that ammunition marked with the NATO design mark should, but cannot be guaranteed, to chamber correctly in a weapon. It should not be assumed though that it will produce the expected performance or necessary level of safety required by the STANAG and MOPI. The use of this mark is not the result of a positive pass in the qualification process.



Pic.1 : The NATO symbol of interchangeability

### 5.56mm Qualification Approval - A selection from the MOPI list of Applicable Tests

The list of tests the ammunition has to pass through is quite long, but some of them deserve a special mention as they are strongly linked to the expectation every soldier has for shooting effectively and safely.

The cartridges under test have to be subjected to climatic conditioning so Exposed Desert<sup>1</sup>, Continuous Heating<sup>2</sup> and Continuous Arctic<sup>3</sup> conditions are simulated. Once conditioned according to the MOPI, cartridges have to be submitted to the EPVAT<sup>4</sup> test at -54°C, +21°C, and +52°C and the prescribed performance requirements of Pressure, Velocity and Action Time have to be met both for a ball and tracer sample cartridges.

The ammunition should perform satisfactorily in the NATO Nominated Weapons listed in the MOPI at (-54°C, +21°C, and +52°C). The “Function and Casualty” test, to be conducted remotely where pos-

<sup>1</sup> 24 hours cyclic procedure: 3 hours heating to 65°C, 9 hours at 65°C, 3 hours cooling, 9 hours at 15°C for 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> The test sample cartridges shall be placed in the temperature (+65°C) controlled container and stored under the specified conditions for 30 days.

<sup>3</sup> The test sample cartridges shall be placed in the temperature (-40°C) controlled container and stored under the specified conditions for 30 days.

<sup>4</sup> Electronic Pressure, Velocity and Action Time.



sible for operator safety, has to prove firing defects do not exceed the permitted number defined for any NATO Nominated Weapon type.

Also, **“Smoke and Flash”** upon firing are tested as well as the link quality and strength, when the calibre is in use for machine-guns.

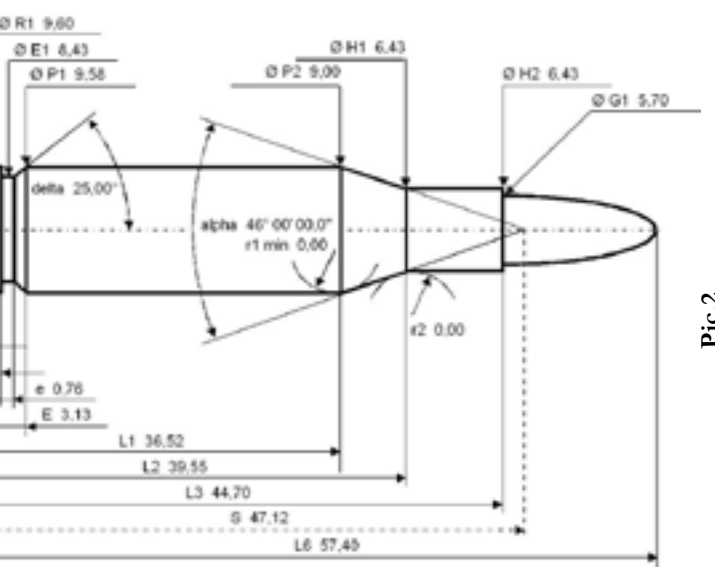
Cartridges are also subjected to the **Precision** test where the standard deviation of a sample of 90 rounds shot with three different precision barrels must not exceed the horizontal/vertical standard deviation of 200mm<sup>5</sup> at target distance of 550mt.

As a shooter you may wonder if the bullets are still effectively hitting the target after long distance, and to ensure they are, the ammunition is tested also for the terminal effects. In particular the **Terminal Effects** test procedure for a 5.56mm projectile containing inert materials (ball), shall completely perforate a mild steel plate of 3.5 mm placed at 570 m from the muzzle at 0 degree obliquity (normal to the line of fire). At least one splinter shall perforate a 0.5mm aluminium witness plate set at zero degree obliquity positioned 300mm behind the mild steel plate.

Another fundamental requirement for interchangeability and interoperability wants all qualified ammunition have sufficiently close trajectory performance to enable the armed forces to switch between ammunition sources on the battlefield with minimum sight adjustment.

As a wise soldier, you do not want the primer to be either too much sensible to start the powder when not necessary or too secure for not doing its job when needed. For this reason qualification tests want the **primer sensitivity** to correspond to MOPI requirements<sup>6</sup>.

When reloading magazines becomes difficult because of severe conditions or stress, it is important the ammunition maintains its shape, and the bullet, in particular, remains firmly mounted on the top of the case. A bullet extraction test is also in the qualification procedure: the ammunition shall be considered to have met the NATO requirements with respect to **Bullet Extraction** if the (pull) force required to remove each bullet from the cartridge case is not less than 200 Newton (for a 5.56mm). Other important requirements are of course that the cartridges are **waterproof** and resistant to the so called **cook off** test (12.7mm only): ammunition having projectiles with explosive effects shall meet NATO require-



Pic.2

ments if no projectile cooks off within twenty (20) minutes after the cartridge has been chambered in a weapon barrel heated by firing 200 rounds in one burst.

## The green requirement - room for improvement

Centuries of research in the field of organic chemistry led to the discovery of more suitable primary explosive to start the propellant powder. Over time Fulminate Mercury  $Hg(CNO)_2$ , Lead-Styphnate ( $C_6H_5N_3O_8Pb$ ) was abandoned in favour of lead-less primary explosive or “green explosive” such as Diazodinitrophenol ( $C_6H_2N_4O_5$ ) whose synthesis does not involve any toxic ingredients, consumes carbon dioxide while detonating and does not release any nitric oxides into the atmosphere when used<sup>7</sup> seeking to reduce environmental and health impacts on the shooter. The adoption of green-explosive seems to be the natural direction to follow, a new requirement for possible inclusion within the MOPI for NATO qualified ammunition.

## Quality management in a Company with 141 years experience

The NRDC-ITA conducts community and collaborative relations with the academic, cultural and business world: among this variety of actors **Fiocchi Munizioni** opened the doors of its production site to a delegation from our HQ. Established in Lecco in 1876, Fiocchi Munizioni has over 140 years of activity in the production of a wide variety of small-calibre ammunition alongside constant research. As a result of constant

improvements the Company developed an extremely reliable process which I am about to describe below.

What will be disclosed to the readers is not the recipe, but one of the possible recipes, proved to be effective in providing ammunition compliant with the most severe standards set by NATO.

First of all, the stock of raw materials has to be compliant with technical specifications and quality requirements set by the Company. They are certified by each supplier but nevertheless subject to quality surveillance by Fiocchi Munizioni.

High quality brass coils (CuZn30) are employed to form the cartridge case which requires 8 production steps to produce the desired shape. Visual inspection and dimensional checks are carried out by specialized workers and high speed cameras throughout all steps.

Brass coils are also employed for the primer manufacturing: controls are conducted by workers on the line, and by quality management on representative samples taken from homogeneous group of products. Visual inspection, dimensional and specific laboratory tests ensure the quality of the lot. Primers are ready to receive the mixture and marry with the cartridge cases. Just after, the primed cartridge cases are varnished for a perfect sealing, reliable performance and a long lasting shelf life.

Fiocchi Munizioni can also provide NATO calibres with the patented ZP primer (ZetaPi, Zero Pollution), a heavy metals-free primer having the same utmost reliability, for the benefit of soldier and environment.

In fact, due to a heavy metals-free primers and propellant, shooters can stay away from harmful emission of toxic gas. The bullet manufacturing needs three raw materials: coils of a 90% copper alloy for the jacket, lead or other adequate material wire for the core, and another copper alloy to seal the bullet at the bottom before the final assembly.

Primed cartridge cases can receive the powder, and the ball. Finally, once the appropriate packaging is received the ammunition can be delivered.

During the manufacture of a single round, more than two-hundred controls are applied: among them it is worth mentioning the visual, dimensional, (see Pic.2 for NATO 5,56X45 dimensions and ratio) weight, physical and chemical tests. The Company can then guarantee, with an acceptable level of certainty, that their cartridges are free from visual defect, compliant with the STANAG, waterproof to water and humidity, able to maintain their original performance for 10 years if properly stored, are sensitive but safe, and precise at least in all NATO nominated weapons.

Personally, I had the privilege to dig into the production line and the quality control area, and for this opportunity I am now acquainted with the tremendous effort made, at all levels, to provide soldiers with the best quality ammunition.



A Fiocchi Munizioni worker on the production line

Photo credit: Fiocchi Munizioni

<sup>5</sup> 300mm in case of a 5.56mm Tracer or Pyrotechnic bullets.

<sup>6</sup> See NATO MOPI Section 24.

<sup>7</sup> Source Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Explosive\\_material](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Explosive_material))



## Road to Exercise 'Brilliant Ledger 2017' (BRLR 17)



Maj. ITA (A) Domenico D'AMBROSIO

People normally think that an exercise is a simple event lasting between one week and one month as maximum. However, this is just the tip of the iceberg as, in reality, an exercise has its start at least 15 months before when it actually takes place. It was in Feb 2016, more or less, that I heard for the first time the name "Brilliant Ledger" but if you consider that BRLR 17 will take place in October 2017, it is a long time in advance. Why? Because "exercises" represent the highest, the most complex and productive form of education and training for every soldier. They involve not only identified participants as the main target of the training, but also Commanders, planners, administrators, logisticians, contributing Nations, controllers, observers, distinguished visitors, evaluators and data collectors. That is why an exercise is focused not only on evaluated Units but also on training for people that have to plan, control and evaluate. Moreover, an exercise is never an end in itself but it is a continuous linkage between what you have learnt during previous exercises and what you consequently need to sustain and therefore to improve. Last, but not least, an exercise must deal with the available budget.

All those bits feed (or not) the Level of Ambition of an exercise. So, many indeterminate factors influence an Exercise Planning path - changing nature, dimensions, locations and visibility of the Exercise itself - and Brilliant Ledger 2017 (BRLR 17) is no exception.

BRLR 17 is the most important Exercise being conducted by NRDC-ITA in 2017.

What is it? BRLR 17 is an enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF) Land Component Command (LCC) exercise aimed at training, exercising, and evaluating

NRDC-ITA's Command and Control of eNRF 2018 Land Forces. It will be the venue to confirm the formation's interoperability and validate readiness and capabilities of the eNRF18 nominated forces under eNRF18 LCC by exercising eNRF missions and tasks. This exercise will also allow us to demonstrate eNRF capabilities to tailor plans, prepare, deploy, and sustain forces during a high intensity warfighting operation. Part 1 will be focused on NRDC-ITA LCC NATO Certification through a Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL). Part 2 will be focused on ARIETE Brigade as Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

COM Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC BS), Lieutenant General Salvatore FARINA, is the Officer Scheduling the Exercise (OSE) while COM NRDC-ITA, Lieutenant General Roberto PERRETTI, is the Officer Conducting the Exercise (OCE).

JFC BS will act as the Higher Control (HICON) for Part 1 while NRDC-ITA will be HICON for Part 2.

The location for Part 1 will be Bellinzago Novarese (where the LCC CP with a Rear HQ are to be deployed) and La Comina/Cellina Meduna (PN) (where the VJTF CP is to be deployed). The Exercise Control (EXCON) Command Post (CP) will be located in Solbiate Olona for both Part 1 and 2 and COM Italian Army Simulation & Validation Centre (Ce.Si.Va), Major General Maurizio BONI, will act as Exercise Director (EXDIR). Recently The Exercise Main Planning Conference was conducted in NRDC-ITA. On this occasion Representatives from Sending Nations (SNs - Albania, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA) Allied HQs, Italian Army General Staff (IAGS) and many Ital-

ian Units attended the conference on 15 and 16 March 2017. Moreover, 150 Officers and Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) worked hard to coordinate their effort for the success of the BRLR 17. It was an exceptional and productive event to gather different HQs and SNs around the same table. After various briefings introducing general data and the "Status of the Art" of the Exercise, various syndicates convened in order to develop specific issues based on manning, operational and logistics, scenario, real life support (RLS) and Public Affairs topics. Finally, key questions could get an answer: thanks to the level of participation and the expertise of the attendees present in the same rooms, the conference allowed NRDC-ITA to have all the main answers and to find the appropriate solutions to pending issues as required.

Those two working days were intensive but very satisfying not only for the final products but also for my own education: planning an exercise is a long adventure that involves the cooperation of all Branches. That is the reason why teamwork is fundamental.

At the end of this adventure, each of us will have placed a stone on the road to Brilliant Ledger 2017.



A NRDC-ITA joint staff member



Gunners of the Italian Army in a live firing exercise



Soldiers of the NRDC-ITA Support Regiment ensure security control at the exercise facility entrance



## From suggestion to learning, a mission for museums

Interview with Prof. Camillo ZADRA, Director of the Italian War History Museum Rovereto  
By Lt. Col. ITA (A) Vincenzo SCHETTINI and Maj. ITA (A) (Res) Isabella RAUTI

1. The collections of the Italian War History Museum of Rovereto are the result of the donation of citizens and institutions both national and foreign. Could you pick out the items from the permanent exhibition which best characterise the role of the museum under your direction?

The museum's collections were formed over time, starting in 1921, when the museum was inaugurated. The permanent exhibitions have been reorganised and extended more than once since then. The museographic criteria have also changed and the museum's focus on the First World War has broadened to include war as a general social phenomenon.

In its first decade, the central theme of the exhibition was the Great War, with an emphasis on its international scale. Some rooms were dedicated to the nations involved in the conflict - Czechoslovakia, France, Britain, Belgium and Romania, thanks to donations of artefacts and documents from museums and public institutions in those countries. At the end of the 1920s, two rooms were dedicated to the Colonial Wars, in particular the recapture of Libya, thanks to a large body of military and government sourced materials.

The collected and exhibited artefacts include soldiers' equipment (uniforms, individual and unit-level armaments), munitions, heavy weaponry, logistics equipment (vehicles, but not exclusively), photos and both official and private documents. Our belief is that museum exhibitions should document the entire experience of war and not only military concerns. Over time, the period the museum covers and the typology of collections have increased, allowing us to document some materials comprehensively. The museum already benefits from this wealth and variety, while forthcoming exhibitions will extend to the Colonial Wars, the Spanish Civil War, the Second World War and the Cold War.

2. The Museum of Rovereto is one of the main important Italian museums on the First World War. Which items does it contain on the Great War, whose centenary is running at the moment?

Although the War Museum opened after the end of the First World War, it aims to document "all" wars and not only that conflict. Its exhibitions, therefore, range from 1500 to 1900. Currently, the exhibition area is limited due to the restoration of the castle where the museum is housed, but the exhibition is already large and varied.

The first part is dedicated to the XVI-XVIII centuries (documentation relating to previous periods - from the Neolithic Period to the High Middle Ages - includes important excavation finds and is displayed in one of the Castle's two restored towers). Soldiers' armaments are described - armour, weapons, firearms - and the transition in military tactics from the pike square to the line of riflemen. A second section is devoted to the XIX century, which looks at the revolution that saw the muzzle loaders and flintlocks of the Napoleonic armies give way to the breech-loading repeating rifles and artillery of the late 1800s. The exhibits include a selection of weapons, uniforms, documents, painted ceramics and flags. The third section is dedicated to the First World War, which examines some of its characteristics: its massive scale, aerial weapons, civilian involvement and the systematic use of largescale propaganda.

The museum is not intended as a closed space; we are engaged in the recovery and development of the large number of historic Great War sites in the Trentino region and around Rovereto. Fortresses, entrenched camps, trenches and logistics sites constitute an impressive museum space beyond the rooms where artefacts are exhibited. We suggest that our visitors take part of their "journey through time" outside our walls. The [www.trentinograndeguerra.it](http://www.trentinograndeguerra.it) site is dedicated to this type of visit.



Uniforms and Weapons of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

3. Among the rooms on the First World War there is a corner on the role of propaganda. What is in your opinion the impact of propaganda on the results of the war? And, in general terms, to what extent can propaganda influence a military confrontation?

I believe that the use of propaganda in the First World War - which was widespread and innovative - was one of the contributing factors towards the advent of modern mass society, and further evidence of the role that the war had in our time. Propaganda was organised and managed either by military institutions or civilian committees and aimed at both civilians and soldiers. It required significant economic resources and the professional involvement of many people. It also marked the transition from an authoritarian and paternalistic relationship between the state and the citizen to an approach that engaged with the "democratic" dimension of the war, in which the soldiers had to be convinced to fight rather than forced (and if the propaganda was not enough, it appealed to the discipline which soldiers were duty-bound to honour). The museum conserves extensive documentation about it.

It is difficult to evaluate, of course, the effectiveness of propaganda on the soldiers and public opinion of the time, as there are no surveys of contemporary statistics. You can, however, notice some related phenomena: the

general use of newspapers, flyers and posters during the Great War supports the theory that more soldiers were literate than believed. The "enlistment" of a large number of communicators (journalists, writers, artists, etc.) created rhetorical styles and practices that post-war political forces made use of during mass mobilisation. Finally (and not least important), the development of techniques, languages and materials for propaganda consolidated the ideological character of the war and fostered forms of mobilization that would be directly transferred to postwar civilian life. Since then, wars have always been surrounded by penetrating "communication campaigns".

4. The museum addresses a wide and varied audience. What kind of didactic initiatives – including innovative ones – are in place for the benefit of an international audience?

Like any museum, we welcome visitors of diverse age, education and geographical or national origin. We are aware of the remarkable effort to communicate what the museum offers and how difficult it is to reach satisfactory results.

In general, we attempt to offer informative and educational resources, which are short, clear and accurate even for non-specialists and with particular attention to the younger public.



Our proposals for students aim to complement what they learn in school with the museum experience. We seek to build on the general concepts taught in school by focusing on exhibits and investigating their functions. We teach the analysis of details and terminology; we encourage students to identify with the theme through the voices and accounts of protagonists, and we accompany students in the use of analytical tools. We also suggest combining the museum visit with a trip to historic sites (trenches, fortifications, etc.), to allow further reflection on what has been learnt.

We keep multimedia "under control" in the exhibitions because we believe that it should not replace the cen-

trality of the exhibits, as the museum is really "the place of objects". Our work in recent years has moved in the direction of an interactivity that envelops the material exhibit with an information apparatus. As for the foreign public, the commitment – in addition to producing language tools, whether in paper form or in the form of audio guides – is to avoid nationalistic identifications in the account of historical events. It is not always easy.

5. The Museum is part of "Rete Trentino Grande Guerra". Is the museum part of a network, either in Italy or abroad, with other exhibition centres? Is there a national system for History Museums?

Our Museum coordinates the Rete Trentino Grande Guerra, which brings together 19 First World War museums in Trentino. It is an informal and voluntary network with well-defined objectives and shared programmes, and in which there are institutions of very different scale. We also have relationships with numerous Italian and overseas museums (Slovenian, French, British, Austrian and Spanish) aimed at encouraging the lending of materials and scientific collaboration. But the real networks are very few and very difficult to keep active.

6. Museums have an educational function. In a military history museum what are, in your opinion, the most appropriate communication tools to make a step forward, so as to move from suggestion to learning? How can the museum narrative facilitate among visitors an awareness that a knowledge of history helps in avoiding the same mistakes?

Museums tell general stories through documents which often refer to individuals: a real challenge! Museums also usually speak of events which the visitors did not participate in, taking place in a very different time from the present. How can they fulfil the educational mission that they set and play a significant cultural role? Often, the temptation is to adopt a strictly pedagogical approach, inevitably simplistic, that prepares responses to each question. But I think a museum should help to ask important questions and that moderation and discretion are virtues which anyone who works in these institutions must adopt and observe, so that visitors have the freedom to form their own idea of what they see.

We attempt to achieve this by weaving together eye witnesses accounts, the contribution of historians, public engagement, official and subjective documents, binding objects to individual stories and favouring processes of empathy with the specific events. Whenever possible, we try to make visitors "touch" the objects, to put them in touch with what remains of a past from which we are distant but not separated. That history is "life's teacher" is an expression that never ceases to find champions. Yet, the time in which we live is very different from when our parents, grandparents and ancestors lived. We can certainly ask history to help us understand the mistakes of the past but not to protect us from mistakes that we make ourselves.

So, why study history and, with regard to museums, represent it? I personally believe that historical narrative helps us to understand some aspects of our past and makes us more aware of the complexity of the world in which we live. This awareness can help us to not repeat the mistakes of the past but it is especially valuable when we (as individuals, but also as a ruling class) take the decisions that concern us because - for better or for worse - our life is in our hands and is our responsibility.

7. In the future, do you foresee the possibility for the museum to host exhibitions about peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions around the world, or about civilian-military cooperation with local populations for the reconstruction phase?



Photo credit: "Italian War History Museum"





1917. Munition workers in a shell warehouse at the National Shell Filling Factory, Chilwell, Nottinghamshire. This was one of the largest shell factories in the UK. Imperial War Museum Photograph collection

We would be glad to. For our part, we try to suggest a relationship between the past and the present in our exhibitions and in the narration of the events we deal with (always concerning war) to show, wherever possible, the connecting thread. There are numerous opportunities: the experience of displaced populations due to war, civilian involvement in wars, the role of cities in conflicts, the strategic bombing of populated centres and propaganda. These issues, which may be technical, social or cultural, can be placed over a long time period. We have already organised exhibitions about the use of landmines from the First World War to the wars in the Middle East, for example, or the evolution of military radio communications until the Second World War. The link between the past and the present is delicate and represents a point of mental and emotional experience which is at the foundation of our communities, both large and small. Being involved with this as a museum means contributing to extend our perspective of the world and to overcome the illusion of a mind devoid of depth.

## Everywhere Rapidly Interviewee



Prof. Camillo ZADRA, has a degree in History and is a well experienced teacher and writer. Since 1996 Director of the Italian War History Museum Rovereto (Trento).

## Fratelli Bertoni srl

### Italian mechanical and metallic carpentry



Nitrogen pressurized containers for transport and storage of turbine rotors

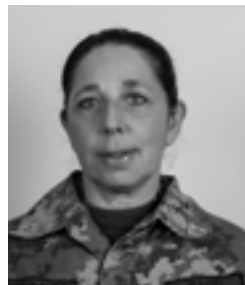
Since 1967, when it was established in La Spezia, Flli Bertoni Costruzioni Generali srl has been working in the petrochemical industry, plant design, shipbuilding and Defense, becoming a really important company in the field of metallic constructions, thanks to its long-lasting proved experience and its excellent Know how in production management. Right from the start in the 70s, the company policy has always aimed to pursue the Customer Satisfaction, trying to encourage the customer loyalty by offering reliable and certified products. At present the core business of the company is mechanical and metallic carpentry: the production process follows and manages all the phases, from the raw material provisioning to the testing of the finished products. After achieving the certification NATO AQAP 120, the company has been certified according to standard UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 by the CSQ agency, member of the international organization SINCERT. The major contractors of Flli Bertoni Costruzioni Generali srl are involved in the OIL & GAS sector as well as in Defense and Navy supplies. The company operates in one production sites: the production facility in Arcola, covers an area of 10.000sqm and an outer surface of 15.000sqm. Its manufacturing equipment includes surface treatment plants, welding, cutting and moulding systems and mechanical processing technologies.

Over the years Flli Bertoni has performed maintenance works and repairs on engines of MAESTRALE Class Frigates of the Marina Militare (Italian Navy), rudder roll hull block and rudders for ship Fremm Class. Fin stabilizers of cruise ships, tunnel thrusters and turbine casings have been realized for Fincantieri. On behalf of NuovoPignone located in Massa, the company has manufactured reactor's skirts, drain pipes for turbine PGT25 and BCL baseplates and pressurized rotor containers. It has also supplied GE Oil & Gas - NuovoPignone, GE Energy Switzerland, GE Power and water, GE Oil and Gas Thermodyn, GE Oil and Gas Inc., and Voith Turbo GmbH & Co. KG with rotor container of Gas Turbine, Steam Turbine, Bundle for Centrifugal Compressor and Pumps. Container usually are complete with nitrogen pressurization system for preservation of rotor, and are suitable for vertical storage to avoid deformation of the rotor in case of long-term. Flli Bertoni has also experience in off-shore portable unit for design, built, and testing according to international normative DNV 2.7-3 and EN ISO 12079 with design approved by DNV and test witnessed by Third Part. By Oto Melara, Flli Bertoni has been committed to do works in ballistic steel and aluminum both for Navy and land armaments.



## The largest coalition with one common approach

Interview with Lt. Col. CZE (AF) Magdalena Dvorakova,  
Head of the International Military Staff Office of the Gender Advisor



Maj. ITA (A) (Res) Isabella RAUTI

1. Back in 2007 (NATO's policy on 1325 was adopted in 2007), the international community started to build up the legal framework defining what it is now well known as the gender mainstreaming concept. The "United Nations Security Council" so far has adopted eight (UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106, 1889, 2122, and 2242) important Resolutions on women, peace and security, focusing on the implementation of gender perspectives in the field of human security and peacekeeping.

NATO adopted the "Bi-Strategic Command Directive (Bi-SC 40-1\2012) integrating UNSCR 1325/2000 and gender perspectives into the NATO Command Structure" and so modifying its structure and procedure to embrace the concept. Nowadays, both the UNSCRs and the NATO Bi-SC 40-1, constitute the international reference framework for gender perspectives. Could you take stock on the status of their effective implementation?

For the effective implementation of the principles of UNSCR 1325 – on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) – and related Resolutions, NATO has developed a structure that covers all the levels of Command. The NATO/EAPC Policy for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS and related Resolutions as well as the NATO/EAPC Action Plan for the implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy on WPS are the overarching documents used at the political-strategic level by NATO Allies and Partner Nations, making NATO the largest coalition with one common approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

The Bi-Strategic Command Directive 40-1 integrating UNSCR 1325 and gender perspectives into the NATO structure is essential to ensure that gender perspectives are implemented as a practical tool to increase operational effectiveness of the Allied Command Operations (ACO) Headquarters, Allied Command Transformation (ACT) Headquarters, as well as within the NATO Command Structure and the NATO Force Structure. These NATO documents are the embodiment of the commitment, demonstrated by the Heads of States and Governments at the 2014 Wales Summit, to implement the UNSC Resolutions throughout NATO's three core tasks (collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security) and to contribute to a more modern, ready and responsive NATO.

Within the implementation process, one cannot disregard the human factor and expertise. NATO has, over the years, developed an interconnected network of gender advisors, gender focal points (i.e. delegates for gender) and gender field advisors, who effectively work and cooperate throughout the Chain of Command, and directly report to and advise their commanders. These experts from NATO Allied and Partner Nations are there to provide the expertise and help to implement gender perspectives into daily work and tasks. Just as important is the post of the NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, established in 2012. The creation of this position highlights the importance NATO ascribes to gender issues. This high-level delegate weighs in all aspects of NATO gender-related work, and determines key agenda items to be discussed and developed.

The system in place attests of NATO's commitment to gender issues, but continuing the work and building upon what has already been achieved is essential to NATO's continued success.

2. The implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions requires also the adoption of National Action Plan (NAP). On a national level, the NAP commits single Government to identify priorities, actions and to coordinate the efforts of relevant organizations and stakeholders.

Do you have an insight on the implementation of National Action Plans adopted by NATO member countries?

Since 1999, NATO Allies annually report on their implementation of UNSCR 1325 to the Committee on Women in NATO Forces (CWINF), which has since been renamed the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP). Since 2015, the Office of the Gender Advisor within the International Military Staff (IMS) provides a comparative analysis of the reports and presents a compiled Summary of National Reports of the NATO Member and Partner Nations to the NCGP. For 2015, the average representation of women in NATO Allied armed forces was 10.8%. The aver-

age representation of women in NATO operations was 6.4%. The 2015 Summary shows a significant increase in the integration of women in the military compared to 2014. In 2015, 84.6% of NATO Allies opened all positions in their armed forces to women, which is a 14% increase from the previous year. More than 65% of NATO Allies have the same enlistment requirements for men and women, which is a 10% increase since 2014. NATO Allied and Partner Nations also reported an overall growth of work-life balance initiatives put in place to help service members balance their military duties and family life.

Additionally, further progress has been made regarding the implementation of gender perspectives in NATO operations. More than 92% of NATO Allies include gender perspectives in their pre-deployment training and exercises and 73% Nations include it in their operational planning.

By publishing its Annual Report, NATO aims to be transparent and present its progress in implementing UNSCR 1325, related Resolutions and gender perspectives. I believe this is a significant progress. National Action Plans (NAPs) have already been adopted by 19 NATO Allies and 19 Partner Nations.



Afghanistan, 2010. A US Marine Female Engagement Team (FET) during a patrol in Sangin Valley. Aimed at gaining the trust of the Afghan civilians, FETs have been proved to be a critical asset to effectively conduct counterinsurgency operations with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).



3. Resolutions establish the integration of Gender Dimensions and Perspectives within all phases of a military operation, starting from the Crisis Response Planning, up to the execution and finishing to the stabilization.

In your opinion what are the most useful and effective measures to be adopted to improve the Gender Perspective in this field?

In my opinion, the most useful and effective ways to improve Gender within all phases of a military operation is by embracing gender perspectives as a cross-cutting topic that needs to be taken into consideration in daily work. Gender perspectives are and should be an innate reflex, not an obligation. Keeping that in mind you realize how helpful gender perspectives are to cultural awareness and to NATO policies, in areas such as the protection of civilians, children and armed conflicts as well as conflict-related sexual and gender based violence.

Gender perspective can be gained by deploying gender advisors, gender field advisors and gender focal points (i.e. delegates for gender) to provide their expertise during gender-related training in pre-deployment and in theatre training. Lessons learned and best practices gained during these exercises and deployments are priceless. Leadership support and lead-by-example actions are the most influential conduits to get the message across and accepted by all.

4. The NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP) promotes Gender Mainstreaming as a strategy. The adoption of a gender (male and female) point of view is proven to be a critical factor in any choice (political, economic, military) and it is now an integral part of any military operation permeating the interactions with the local population. Why is the gender point of view necessary? What are the long-term effects of taking this point of view in due account?

The gender point of view is necessary as it is comprised of the views of men and women who make up the civilian and military populations. This is the standard applicable everywhere around the world whether you are posted nationally or deployed abroad.

Integrating gender perspective is a force multiplier, it improves operational effectiveness and also affects the public perception of the mission. Having gender perspectives can help us overcome our own gender stereotypes which are influenced by background, nationality, culture, history and religion. NATO is a coalition of 28, soon to be 29 Nations, and the diversity only makes this collaboration and commitment stronger.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that 'gender equality is not optional - it is fundamental. It allows us to respond better and smarter to the many security challenges we face today'. I believe that practicing what you are preaching is the best way to lead by example. It is not only a matter of credibility and capability but it is also one of NATO's main principles.

5. For ages rape, sexual exploitation and abuse have been considered a collateral damage suffered by women; nowadays, sexual violence is well identified as a weapon or as an inhuman tactic of war, and are prosecuted as war crimes against humanity. Do you see an increased risk in modern war scenarios for the civil population, "vulnerable groups" and women? If so, can you explain why to our readers?

Since the end of the Second World War, experts have seen a correlation between the ratio of civilian casualties and the evolution of warfare, more specifically the increase in the lethality of strategic weapons. During World War II, the civilian-combatant fatality ratio was 3:2 which makes it the most lethal war in Modern History. Later conflicts have seen ratios go up to 10:1, but the civilian and combatant casualties have never again been as high as the World War II numbers.

Civilian population has, is and will always be most at risk during times of war. In 2000, UNSCR 1325 was regarded as a paradigm shift and the first formal and legal document from the United Nations Security Council to recognize the disproportionate impact conflict and post-conflict situations have on women and girls. It also acknowledged the importance of women's participation and the inclusion of gender perspectives in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts, and maintaining international peace and security.

Since the adoption of the Resolution, this aspect of warfare has been brought to the attention of, not only the nations who have adopted the resolution, but also to international organizations, NGOs and the media. NATO is aware and understands the obligations under International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law and has done a lot within this context. By putting forward policies and guidelines, NATO continues to limit the risks of affecting the civilian population and defines how to interact when encountering such tactics in the field.

6. UNSCR1325 highlights women integration into peacekeeping and peace-building, and their role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Women of the population involved in the crisis can play a major role in the processes of reconstruction, stabilization and "resilience" in the post-conflict.

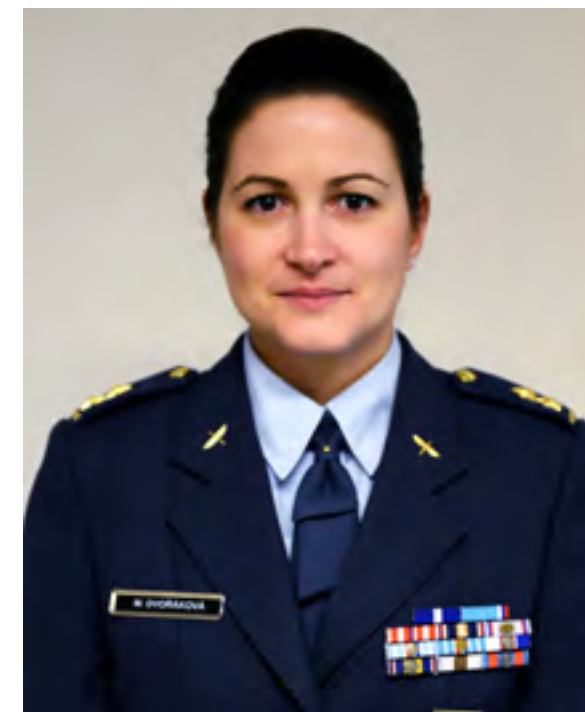
How to improve women's awareness of their role and to encourage the participation at the decision-making levels for a long-lasting peace?

In October 2016, during the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that peace accords are

35% more likely to last at least 15 years if women are at the table and he reaffirmed the statement of the UNSCR 1325. Education and opportunity are crucial to the improvement of women's integration into peacekeeping, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction, and women's awareness on their respective roles. The key is education and training, not only for women but also for men. Gender literacy is also a necessary tool for both men and women. By opportunity, I mean that nations must institutionalize this type of endeavour.

Last year, NATO HQ organized a workshop on the implementation of Military Guidance on prevention of, and in response to, Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender Based Violence. One of the speakers during the debate mentioned that the biggest mistake is to treat women as a special project but women also must take action and be proactive.

## Everywhere Rapidly Interviewee



*Lt. Col. Magdalena DVORAKOVA, Czech Air Force, Head of the International Military Staff Office of the Gender Advisor since October 2015. Experienced INFO OPS and Public Affair Officer, she served in KFOR in 2006 and 2010. Senior Officer to the military-political section of the Military Office of the President of the Czech Republic and Senior Officer/Military in the Cabinet of the Czech Ministry of Defence (MOD) are among her previous assignments. Lt. Col. Dvorakova was the Czech National Delegate for the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives from 2008 to 2015. She also took part in the Working Group on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women in the Czech Armed Forces of the MOD Personnel Division, leading initiatives in creating the Action Plan for the implementations of UNSCR 1325 on the ministerial and national level.*

Participants at a meeting of the Security Council to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security



Photo credit: UN/Cia Pak





Milan, "Duomo Square", 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017.  
NRDC-ITA personnel with families ready for the "Stramilano"



## Major Domenico D'Alò of NRDC-ITA wins the “Elizabeth Queen Mother Memorial”

After 45 years' absence of an Italian athlete from the prestigious horse race that is held every year in London at the Sandown hippodrome, on Friday 10th March Major Domenico D'Alò, of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy (NRDC-ITA), participated in and won the “Elizabeth Queen Mother Memorial” becoming the first non-British serviceperson to win the cup.

About 10.000 spectators followed the traditional “meeting” of high hurdles that comes before the week of the important horse racing in Cheltenham. During the event there are two races for military riders, the “Grand Military Gold Cup” and the “Elizabeth Queen Mother Memorial”, with both races longer than 2 miles. The

Maj. Domenico D'Alò receiving prize from Princess Anne



Maj. Domenico D'Alò and “Silverhow”



competition first took place in 1841 and was open to horses 5 years or older over a distance of five kilometres. Only servicemen that are amateur riders can participate and the horses belong to servicemen or to the Armed Forces.

The last Italian serviceman that participated in the competition was the Marquis Rolando Rovereto di Rivanazzano in 1972; the team leader was Colonel Piero D'Inzeo, a famous Olympic athlete who together with his brother formed the “invincible brothers” of Italian equitation. Major D'Alò, a Signals Corps Officer at the Support Division (J6) of the NRDC-ITA was requested directly by the Committee that organized the event based on his results in other competitions.

The horse “Silverhow”, ridden by Major D'Alò, belongs to Brigadier Christopher Price and has been trained by Sir Nicky Henderson, the best English trainer for the high hurdles. The round had 22 obstacles on undulating ground with three big ditches and some “rail fences”. Maj. D'Alò was among the first at the last hurdle when he defeated the pacemaker by getting ahead of him.

After the award ceremony, presided over by Princess Anne (the first member of the British royal family to become an Olympic athlete and a great horse lover), Major D'Alò met Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle who congratulated him on the prestigious result. The participation of Major D'Alò in the “Elizabeth Queen Mother Memorial” is an example of integration and synergy between the Italian and the British contingents

of NRDC-ITA, thanks to Major General Sir Edward Alexander Smyth-Osbourne, NRDC-ITA Deputy Commander. The activities were coordinated by Colonel Toby Bridge, Deputy Chief at the Operations Division of NRDC-ITA, and his wife Lieutenant Colonel Erica Bridge.

## Ex Eagle 17 Snow Master

Maj. GBR (A) Christopher DAVIES

Between 11 and 21 February, 67 members of the NRDC-ITA and its Support Brigade deployed to Monte Bianco barracks in La Thuile on Exercise Eagle Snowmaster 2017.

The exercise was designed to improve the individual skills of NRDC-ITA personnel in a mountainous, winter environment and through this to develop team-building and physical ability.

Activities ranged from lessons in controlled, downhill skiing to arduous ascents using skins or snow shoes.

Under the watchful eye of Alpini instructors everyone, from complete beginners to advanced skiers, was given ways to improve their skiing.

A day was spent understanding the winter environment through a series of classes and practical lessons on constructing snow shelters and conducting avalanche rescue. The week finished with a downhill race on a challenging course with everyone putting into practice their improved skills.

The NRDC-ITA Commander, Lt Gen Perretti, awarded the prizes, given for the fastest three in the advanced, intermediate and novice categories respectively.

This was a hugely beneficial exercise which enabled a significant proportion of the HQ to test themselves and learn to trust each other better as the HQ approaches an intense period in the build up to its certification as a NATO Land Component Command HQ.



Selected NRDC-ITA members conducting Ex-Eagle Snow Master 17, training in a mountainous winter environment



## NRDC-ITA presents its new Chief of Staff, Major General Maurizio Riccò

On 20th February 2017 NRDC-ITA changed Chief of Staff (COS). As Major General Giovanni Manione leaves the HQ, Major General Maurizio Riccò, former Deputy Chief of Staff Operations (DCOS Ops), takes responsibility for guiding the multinational staff of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy.

As Chief of Staff, General Riccò will guide the HQ in its transformation towards the NRDC-ITA's new role as Land Component Command (LCC) for the NATO Response Force (NRF) standby period, a responsibility to be taken by the NRDC-ITA in 2018. This transformation process was designed by Major General Riccò in his post as DCOS Ops. At the same time, he is also managing a complete functional review: a thorough revision of the structure and procedures aimed at providing a much faster deployability.

Among his command appointments, he was Battery Commander in the 185th airborne artillery Battalion, Battery Commander in the Horse artillery Regiment, Commanding Officer of the 1st/132nd armoured artillery Battalion, Commanding Officer of the 132nd Armoured Artillery Regiment and Commander of the "Granatieri di Sardegna" Mechanized Brigade. During this last appointment he also served as Commander of the Homeland Security National Operation in the central regions of Italy.

General Riccò's military schooling includes the Italian Army Staff College, the Senior Course at the NATO Defence College in Rome and the "Centre des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale" in Paris.

He has got considerable international experience which includes tours of duty abroad in Somalia, Iraq and Kuwait, Bosnia Herzegovina and Afghanistan. In addition,



he served at the Italian Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels and, More recently, he served as Commander of the Joint Task Force Sector West, based on the "Granatieri di Sardegna" Brigade, as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), as well as a period as Chief of Staff to the European Naval Force Mediterranean (EU-NAVFOR- MED) HQ in Rome.

## Albania is welcomed and the Alliance strengthens

Since 3 March the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy (NRDC-Italy) has a new contributing Nation. Albania was officially welcomed among the NRDC-Italy partner countries, and the Captain of Frigate Edion Hoxhaj - Navy Albanian – represents the new contingent.

Albania joined NATO on April 4th 2009 and was the most recent country, together with Croatia, to join the Alliance (Fifth Enlargement).

The addition of the two Balkan countries – confirmed during the NATO Summit in Bucharest - brought to 28 the number of Alliance members.

The participation of Albania at NRDC-Italy brings further international and interservice experience to the HQ and confirms its position as a multinational hub in the area, with an extensive network of relationships.

The arrival of the Albanian contingent increases the number of contributing Nations in "Ugo Mara" Barracks, Solbiate Olona, to 13: Italy, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Spain, USA, Turkey, Hungary.

The foreign personnel from 13 of the 28 NATO Nations come from countries that host major NATO

Commands, countries with relevant international institutions and those with military representatives. NRDC-Italy can therefore be defined as a "window on the world", a privileged observatory of geopolitical and military dynamics.

This high degree of diversity – a natural result of the varied geographical origins of the personnel – can be considered a real benefit for the Corps. Diversity is inherent in a multinational Command and, when properly fostered, brings an intangible legacy of experiences.

The Command can use this in the best way possible for institutional purposes as well as taking advantage of it in its attempts to build effective relationships and reach collaborative agreements with the local academic and business communities.

Albania's presence in NRDC-Italy is even more significant as the HQ assumes the new role of Land Component Command (LCC) - the responsibility to be taken in 2018 – as part of the eNRF, the "enhanced" NATO Response Force (eNRF), one of the measures of the Readiness Action Plan, which aims to respond to the changes in the security environment and strengthen the Alliance's collective defence.





# VISITS & EVENTS

## NRDC-ITA Commander visits JFC Naples



On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Lieutenant General Roberto PERRETTI, NRDC-Italy Commander was received by Admiral Michelle HOWARD, Allied Joint Force Command - Naples (JFC-NP) Commander. Recently identified - during the NATO Defence Ministers meeting (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017) - JFC Naples will be the base of the “Hub for the South”, a centre to be established as one part of the Alliance’s response to threats stemming from the Middle East and North Africa.

During the visit, General PERRETTI remarked on the will to maintain a high readiness for the NRDC-Italy HQ as well as its

capability to operate in the full spectrum of NATO missions, as Corps, as Land Component Command (LCC) or Joint Task Force (JTF) HQ with peculiar competence in the field of “Security Force Assistance” (SFA) and “Stability Policing” (SP).

## The Defence Senior Course of the Hungarian National University of Public Service visits the NRDC-ITA

Prof. General (Ret) Zoltán Szenes, Professor of Security and Defence Studies and former Chief of Defence of Hungary, together with 17 students of the Senior Course of the Hungarian National University of Public Service visited on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy, welcomed by Lieutenant General Roberto Perretti, Commander NRDC-Italy, and Major General Sir Edward Alexander Smyth-Osbourne, NRDC-Italy Deputy Commander. The Institute of Hungarian



Military Leadership Training aim is to conduct high quality military leadership training at both bachelor and masters levels for the Hungarian Home Defence Forces, as well as conducting research and development in all issues related to the employment of Military Forces in the framework of national and NATO-EU relations. The members of the Hungarian Home Defence Forces met with their fellow countrymen including General Erno Peter Siposs, Hungarian Senior National Representative at the “Ugo Mara” barracks and NRDC-Italy DCOS Influence and attended a briefing on the working procedures and structure of the NRDC-ITA and an insight on its future commitments in view of the certification as Land Component Command (LCC) of the (enhanced) NATO Response Force (eNRF), role to be assumed in 2018.

## NRDC-ITA in “STRAMILANO 2017”

Milan, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 410 runners from the NRDC-ITA and subordinate units participated in the 56th edition of the STRAMILANO, a traditional event Milan organize for running enthusiasts.

The running competition was kicked off by the traditional cannon shot of the Artillery Regiment “Voloire”. About 60.000 participants ran the 10km (Stramilano) or the 5km (Stramilanina), dedicated to families. Professional runners had the chance to complete in a half marathon (21, 0977km).

The NRDC-ITA Running Club contributed to Stramilano 2017 with 30 runners for the half marathon distance and among them, OR9 Carlo ESPOSTO, from the NRDC-ITA Support Regiment, deserves a special mention since he won the prize for finishing first amongst the HQ runners with the time of 1h 25’50”.

OF5 Stefano CASELLI (ACOS J8), as representative of the NRDC-ITA Commander, presented the special award “NRDC-ITA STRAMILANO” to OR9 ESPOSTO during the award Ceremony in “Arena Civica” of Milan. “Running the “Stramilano” is a great opportunity to strengthen our relation with the local community and to remind the importance the military gives to physical training and to running in particular, which ensures we are always ready to accomplish every mission”- said Major General Maurizio Riccò - NRDC-ITA Chief of Staff.



## Solidarity Easter eggs in the fight against cancer



7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 more than 2000 Easter eggs have been bought by NRDC-Italy Morale and Welfare Agency in support of the solidarity campaign “Cerco un Uovo amico”, (looking for a friendly egg, n.f.t), sponsored by the Italian Defence Forces and organized by the Italian national association against Neuroblastoma, a serious form of paediatric neoplasia.

Prof. Sara COSTA, President of the Association, received a symbolic 19.500€ check, the amount collected in the initiative and donated. The Italian association against Neuroblastoma is a non-profit entity aimed at raising money to boost research for a cure to this particular form of cancer.



## NIWIC fundraising for the Hippotherapy Centre

On February, 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, the NRDC-Italy Women's International Club (NIWIC) organized - at "Ugo Mara" Barracks - an important solidarity initiative in favour of the Equestrian Centre "La Stella".

NIWIC – a club animated by wives or partners of members serving NRDC-Italy, as well as by female staff on duty there – often organizes activities and fundraising events, for the aim of solidarity and charity.

The initiative represents the conclusion of a process started by NIWIC in December 2016; NIWIC donation is the amount reached following to fundraising events such as the Christmas Market and Lottery.

The Horse Centre "La Stella" received a contribution to enhance equestrian rehabilitation activities – launched in the Centre at the beginning of the 90s - practised daily for the disabled.

The Equestrian Centre is affiliated to the Italian National Association of Equestrian Rehabilitation (A.N.I.R.E.) and for a long time it has been engaged in activities such as hippotherapy and equestrian rehabilitation. The Centre offers a range of therapeutic and rehabilitative in-

terventions directed to people with physical, mental or sensory impairment.

Hippotherapy - as a system of playful, recreational and educational activities - is widely used, especially with children; hippotherapy aims efficiently at the functional recovery of those concerned, improving the quality of their lives this initiative in favour of "La Stella" confirms NIWIC's concrete commitment and vocation to solidarity and attention always vigilant to the needs and initiatives of the area surrounding the NRDC-ITA Command.



Representative from "La Stella" Association receives the donation from NIWIC



## Solidarity donation to Paediatric ward



NRDC-ITA Women's International Club

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, the NRDC-Italy Women's International Club (NIWIC) organized - with the support of the Morale & Welfare Activities Office (MWA) - a donation of toys in favour of the children, in the Paediatric Ward of Busto Arsizio Hospital, one of the health care facilities of the ASST- Valle Olona, the local health service company, represented by Mr Giuseppe Brazzoli, CEO. The event has involved children and young patients (0 -18 years); the initiative took place in the presence of Mrs Mariella Perretti – NIWIC Honorary Member – and of medical personnel of the Paediatric Department and children's parents, in an playful atmosphere. The Paediatric Ward of Busto Arsizio Hospital has a games room and "reading room fables" and involves the patients in a range of playful and recreational activities such as clown-therapy and pet-therapy.

The initiative in the Paediatric Ward confirms NIWIC's concrete commitment to solidarity and strengthens the relationship with the community of the Olona Valley. In this very special event, NIWIC and the NRDC-ITA wanted to help in lifting patients' moods with an action as simple as giving toys to children. Happiness and joy are proved to be very effective in providing a positive benefit both to patients and their families.



NRDC-ITA Chief J-MED/ MEDAD greeting patients and staff









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