



NRDC-IT Magazine



Issue n. 6 - Summer 2005



**EX EAGLE
ACTION**



**EX EAGLE
THUNDER**



**READY FOR THE
MISSION**



HQ NRDC-IT Trains to Deploy as HQ ISAF VIII

After months of preparation, HQ NRDC-IT has finally begun its main preparatory exercise for assumption of Headquarters ISAF. Exercise EAGLE ACTION 05 will be held in "Ugo Mara" Barracks and will continue until 13 May 05.

The Exercise will train and test the officers and soldiers of HQ NRDC-IT who are destined to deploy to Kabul in August in order to man the NATO-sponsored ISAF mission.



Exercise Programme

The Exercise has been designed in close cooperation with the NATO operational Headquarters directing the Afghan mission, Joint Force Command Brunssum. The programme, based on the real situation in Afghanistan and dealing with contemporary issues, will familiarise the Staff with all of the operational, political and cultural situations they could encounter, including crises. As well as focusing on the support of the Afghan Government and NATO's expanding role in the country, the Staff will have to plan around accidents and natural disasters which make the country such a challenging theatre of operations.





Scope of the Exercise

The Staff will be trained in a specially constructed mock-up of HQ ISAF, representing all the branches and advisory cells of that command centre. The CP has been built over the past month by the Corps' Signal Brigade, providing the 220-strong training audience over 300 computers, satellite communications and all the command facilities they need to carry out their role in theatre, giving access to the latest information about the country.

In order to allow such comprehensive training, HQ NRDC-IT has planned Exercise Eagle Action since last autumn. The crucial aspect to direct the training is the Exercise Control, with over 100 staff. Experts from NATO units, JFC Brunsum and HQ ISAF VII have a close interest in assisting training with contributions from HQ ARRC and NATO CIMIC Gps North and South. German and Canadian MOD presence along with the US Southern Europe Task American Force and Vicenza-based Battle Command Training Centre bring real theatre experience from outside NATO, alongside experts from International Commission of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). National contributions from Italy in the form of the 28th "Pavia" Regiment and the Taurinense Alpini Brigade complement UK media trainers from Defence Media Operations Centre.



Getting a flavour of ISAF Mission

By Lt Col R. CRISTONI, Chief PIO

NRDC-IT reconnoiters visited Afghanistan

As part of preparation for the mission the Key leaders of ISAF VIII rotation conducted a detailed reconnaissance of the Afghan theatre to better inform its preparation and training. The visit comes at a crucial time for NATO, as the Alliance prepares for expansion and a greater role in rebuilding the country, and Afghanistan as it gears up for crucial regional elections in September.

The recce began with a series of staff talks at the NATO's controlling Headquarters for the operation, Joint Force Command Brunssum in the Netherlands.

Here the key leaders of HQ NRDC-IT met with their counterparts in the higher Headquarters, discussing the long term planning for the mission, expansion of NATO's role and the approach to the crucial regional elections in September. Then the team, under Lt Gen Del Vecchio, travelled to Kabul for a week of "Key Leader Training",



ISAF HQ main building

with the aim "to prepare ISAF VIII Key Leaders for their responsibilities in the ISAF mission and contribute to its success, including...preparatory training".

The deployment was conducted through the NATO air bridge moving from Cologne, Germany, to Termez, Uzbekistan, and finally to Kabul.

The team was composed by the member of NRDC-IT Command group and was also joined by ISAF VIII designated Deputy Commander, Major General Jaap S. Willemse, current Deputy Commander CAOC 2 in Kalkar and by Brigadier General LUSNI, who will be ISAF Air Task force Commander.

In theatre they received the latest information on the security and tactical situations from the current ISAF VII Commander, Turkish Army Lieutenant General

Ethem Erdagi, Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNb) and Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT).



Lt Gen Del Vecchio paid a visit to the Combined Joint Task Force -76 Hq in Baghram, that is provided by SETAF – Vicenza for one year tour of duty; during the visit he was briefed about the US led Provincial reconstruction Team organization and the challenges for the future expansion of the mission in the southern part of the country. Gen

Del Vecchio and his team had also the chance to meet HE Ettore Francesco Sequi, Italian Ambassador to Afghanistan and General Bismullah Khan, Afghanistan Chief of Army General Staff.

In order to ensure all the issues identified were correctly addressed for future planning the team returned to JFC Brunssum for an ISAF seminar. In addition the key leaders will use this experience and the info gathered to conduct the major training exercises, Eagle Action and Eagle Thunder in May and June in the most appropriate way.

The training then continued with a lot of meetings and visits with the main agencies involved in assisting the Government of Afghanistan, from the US-led Coalition Force Command –Afghanistan (CFC-A) Commander, Lt Gen David W. Barno, to the United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA).



Exercise "Eagle Thunder" Images

By WO1 F. CIVITELLI / LCPL S. PICONE NRDC-IT PHOTOGRAPHERS



Exercise "Eagle Thunder"

By LtC P. LAMACCHIA, SO2 G7 Standardization



As known, the responsibility for the ISAF mission has been delegated, by SACEUR, to the Joint Force Commander Brunssum. This HQ gives all the directions and guidance for the deploying HQ ISAF. Therefore we were also given, in January, our Training Directive, which contains all the activities to be executed in order to achieve the certification as "Mission Ready".



The Joint Force Commander training concept consists of a series of blocks of activities, to be conducted progressively, aimed at achieving some operational standards. The culmination of such activities is the so called "Mission Rehearsal Training" (MRT). It is a kind of major exercise where five training blocks are executed under the supervision of the Joint Force Commander. It generally takes place a couple of months before the deployment and the location is the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) in Stavanger, Norway. The JWC is one of the NATO "centres of excellence", a facility equipped with all the assets necessary to provide a valuable training to such a complex structure as the HQ ISAF.

Particularly what we did during the MRT, which we called Exercise Eagle Thunder just to remain in our Eagle series, was the completion of the Mission Specific Training (MST), the Functional Area Training (FAT), the Battle Staff Training (BST), the

Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) and the Key Leader Training (KLT).

The MST was aimed to complete the familiarisation of our Staff and our augmentees with the Afghan environment; we had very high-level briefings and presentations given by Subject Matter Experts coming from every corner of the world including Afghanistan itself. The FAT purpose was to enhance at the maximum level the Branches cohesion allowing also the integration of the augmentees who met for the first



time their mates. The BST, on the other hand, targeted the Staff as a whole aiming at the Branches interaction and interoperability. The KLT was a specific, very high level, training focussed on those who would play key roles in Afghanistan; it consisted of negotiation techniques, media handling and political presentations. Finally, the MRE was a complete rehearsal of the typical ISAF working environment where the Exercise Controllers, basically the Joint Force Command and Joint Warfare Centre members (supported by the Subject Matter Experts), challenged our HQ with a progression of "injects" (problems based on real situation occurred in



Exercise "Eagle Thunder"



Afghanistan). It produced the desired result, the Staff was totally absorbed by the situation and, for five days, all the people hardly realised to stay in the deep North of Europe rather than in the President Karzai's country.

The twelve days exercise passed very quickly, all the participants didn't have a break in their Afghan full immersion, all the challenges were tackled very effectively

and, at the end, we achieved a public recognition of our efforts. Both JFC and JWC expressed their satisfaction



on the work HQ NRDC-IT had been able to produce; the Staff dealt with the exercise in a very professional way showing both competence and high-grade maturity.

It is to say, however, that such a result has been possible because of the huge amount of training we had in Solbiate before Exercise Eagle Thunder. As a matter of fact the Eagle Focus series and the Eagle Action allowed us to go to Stavanger with a solid background that made the big difference.

A mention is worth also for the real life arrangements. Our ac-

commodation was in a very comfortable barracks belonging to the Norwegian Navy, it was located in Madla, just ten minutes driving from Stavanger downtown.

On the only free day we had also the opportunity to breathe the magic atmosphere of the Norwegian Fjords; a boat trip was organised and we explored from the sea, which gives the best perspective, this very impressive area of the world.

Last, but not least, there was also room for some relax in the lovely (and lively) Stavanger downtown where we very often enjoyed the worldwide famous "Midnight Sun"...

It is therefore possible to say that Exercise Eagle Thunder has been a great success; it gave us the opportunity to enlarge our culture working with very high-professional colleagues and the possibility to visit a marvellous country; furthermore, and this is the most important aspect, it gave us the self confidence that is the necessary asset to cope with such a delicate operational tour as the ISAF one.





FOREWORD

Dear readers,

finally our headquarters and its staff have deployed to Kabul and we have started our first operational tour as International Security Assistance Force VIII rotation. This is the result of a long preparation and training started many months ago and we are now in Kabul as part of a 36-nation multinational force led by NATO to support and assist the government of Afghanistan in the reconstruction of the local institutions.

This mission represents the first priority for NATO and there are many challenges ahead of us; among them the parliamentary elections, the first in the country for more than 30 years, represent a fundamental step in the democratic process of a country devastated by 30 years of war. We will be here and we will be part of an historic moment for the future of this country. In addition our headquarters will be engaged in the preparations for the expansion of the mission to the south, taking over responsibility from the forces of the coalition.

The headquarters will remain in Afghanistan till May 2006 when it will hand over the lead of ISAF to HQ ARRC. NRDC-IT staff and personnel will stay in Afghanistan for nine months and you will read more about us in the coming issues of this magazine.

Best regards

Riccardo Cristoni
Ltc. IT Army
Chief PI



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Front page:

LTC Del Vecchio receives the ISAF flag from the hands of LTC Back.

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Commander Foreword

Lt Gen Mauro Del Vecchio

As foreword for this magazine, on the eve of deploying to Afghanistan to assume the command of ISAF VIII; I thought I would share with you all some of my thoughts for our duties and challenges of the upcoming tour.

From the first days of August, This Headquarters will be fully responsible for supporting the provisional government of Afghanistan in the reconstruction of its country.

Our Corps will provide the majority of the Headquarters for that operation, almost 200 staff officers and NCOs, and a support and communications contingent for a total of 800 men, of which a sizable number is already deployed in theatre.

The Italian contribution to the mission will also incorporate the Taurinense Brigade, as the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) and civil and military initiative "Provincial Reconstruction Team" (PRT) deployed to HEART.

The Corps will relieve its Turkish counterpart and will operate under Joint Force Command Brunssum in the Netherlands.

We are full aware that it will not be an easy task that faces us, in a country characterised by a complex social structure, devastated by the war and destruction that have plagued it for over a quarter of a century.

To illustrate my point, I would share with you a few figures about the country: as a result of the conflict, 42% of the population is made up of children under 15 years old. The country is in dire economic condition, and the population suffers from lack of life's basics. Barely 35%

of the population possesses a basic level of literacy. Infant mortality is 15% and the life expectancy of the average Afghan citizen is less than 46 years.

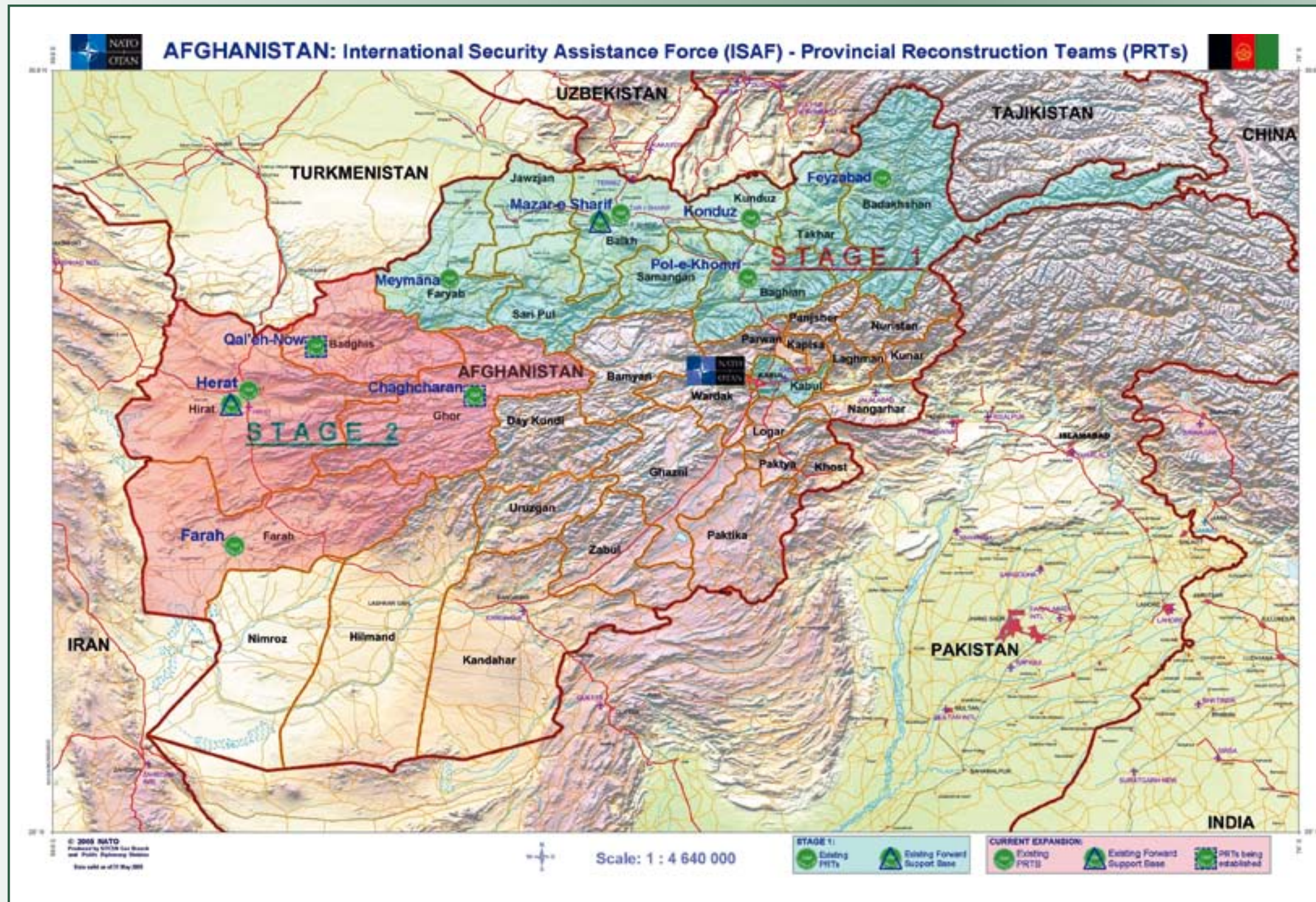
You will see that there is no shortage of work for us, but I have faith that our mission will benefit from the contribution of our capable and highly motivated personnel and will enjoy excellent support as a result of our intensive preparation in the last six months, both in Italy and abroad under NATO's guidance and with national support.

But our Corps will not be reliant only on its own preparation and expertise; we will be able to count on the efforts of all the contributing nations, within NATO and otherwise, which, notwithstanding the historical, cultural and religious leaning of the country, will help Afghanistan support the process of democracy and the improvement of the lot of a beleaguered people.

I can personally promise, and will demand of you all that HQ NRDC-IT will uphold its principal rule of engagement of our tour; to put ourselves at the service of another people.

In a recent engagement, a local dignitary exhorted that I ensure that we "be able to look to the long term....." Well, I believe, that the real objective of our mission in Afghanistan is just that. We will try to look to the long term for the good of the whole international community.





PRIMARY ROLE

The primary role of ISAF is to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in providing a safe and secure environment within Kabul and its surrounding areas, which will assist in the reconstruction of a new Afghanistan.

In carrying out this mission, ISAF conducts patrols throughout the 16 different police districts in Kabul and its surrounding areas. Over a third of these patrols are carried out jointly with the Kabul City Police.

On a political level ISAF works closely with the Afghan authorities, United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), UN agencies, International Organisations, and Non-Governmental Organisations. As part of this process, ISAF has established liaison teams in all departments of both the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and UNAMA.

ISAF currently runs Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects throughout the city, focusing on assessment of the provision of basic human needs such as fresh water, electric, power, and shelter, and by improving the existing infrastructure destroyed by more than 20 years of conflict. CIMIC is also involved in the rebuilding of medical facilities and the renovation of schools.

OPERATIONS

ISAF is operated under the auspices of NATO with Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum in charge of the overall operations.

ISAF was established, to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in maintaining security within the ISAF Area of Responsibility (AOR) so that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as the personnel of the United Nations (UN), can operate in a secure environment in order to enable the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan the build up of security structures in Afghanistan in accordance with the Bonn Agreement and as agreed in the Military Technical Agreement (MTA).

The ISAF Commander's intent is to:

1. ensure a safe environment
2. reconstitute Afghan authorities
3. improve capability of Afghan police and armed forces
4. operate Kabul International Airport (KAIA) and maintain an Air Liaison Officers Cell (ALOC)
5. ensure force protection measures and improved situational awareness

AFGHANISTAN FACT SHEET

Location: Central Asia

Country: Republic; following December 22, 2001 Afghan interim authority and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan presided over by President Hamid Karzai since

national elections in November 2004; both governed by the United Nations Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Borderlines: China to the North – East (76 kilometres), Iran to the West (936

kilometres), Pakistan to the East and South (2,430 kilometres), Tajikistan (1,206 kilometres), Turkmenistan (744 kilometres) and Uzbekistan to the North (137 kilometres)

Languages: Pashtun (35%), Dari (50%), Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen, 11%), 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai, 4%)

Climate: continental with cold winters and dry, hot summers

Religion: Sunnite Muslims (84%), Shiite Muslims (15%), other (1%);

Ethnic groups: Pashtun (38%) Tajik (25%), Hazara (19%), Uzbek (6%) and smaller ethnic groups (12%);

Flag: vertical black, red and green bars covered by a coat of arms



Starting the ISAF training

International Security Assistance Force – Afghanistan; readying itself for the assumption of ISAF VIII duties is the number one priority of NRDC-Italy. To meet that priority the Headquarters has undertaken a very ambitious series of exercises to prepare itself. This preparation began many months ago, in early October 2004, with the formation of the Exercise Development Team (EDT). The EDT is a small discrete staff group with the mission of planning and coordinating the conduct of these preparatory exercises under the guidance of MG Roger Lane, Deputy Commander of NRDC-Italy and the Officer Conducting the Exercises (OCE).

The first of these preparatory exercises was EAGLE FOCUS I, conducted from the 25th to the 28th of January 2005 right here in Solbiate Olona. The aim of this portion of the training was to provide the strategic and operational

Our programme of guest speakers started with Mr. Daniele Riggio, NATO Information Officer and Former Political Advisor to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan. He provided very insightful presentations on the Political Perspective in the area and on functions that stretch from the Strategic to the Operational level of the ISAF mission. These presentations were the perfect lead into the next group of briefings provided by LTC Gaylord Thomas, JFC Brunssum J5, and LTC Mark Wenham, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Director for ISAF VI. They facilitated discussions on functions from the Operational through Tactical level, including the Operational Roadmap and, PRTs and their role in expansion of the ISAF mission. This was followed by an intriguing presentation on the Threat to the Mission by Mr. Horacio Ureta, Chief of Political-Military

level context in which ISAF operates, in order to set the scene and the foundation from which to expand subsequent training. This was accomplished with a series of briefings on a wide variety of subjects associated with the overall mission in Afghanistan. We had the pleasure to host many visitors who provided a great deal of expertise during this week.

Getting on board



Affairs for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. We then had a very informative day of presentations and, question and answer sessions revolving around four of the five pillars of Security Sector Reform. They included: Mrs. Lesley Pallett, Head of the United Kingdoms Department of Drugs and International Crime who discussed Counter Narcotics; Minister Anna Della Croce Di Dojola, Italian Special Envoy for Afghanistan of the Minister of Foreign Affairs who provided information on Judicial Reform; MAJ Ralph McCullough, Strategic Planner for Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan J5 who spoke about Training the Afghan National Army; Dr Monika Schmitt-Vockenhausen, Head of the Department of International Police Affairs in the German Ministry of the Interior who related information on Training the Afghan Police Force. The following morning MAJ Doyle Gillis, CFC-A J3, and MAJ Rich Carney JFC-Brunssum addressed us on the relationship between CFC-A and ISAF, and CIMIC operations. Our programme for EAGLE FOCUS I ended with Lt. General Gotz Gliemeroth, former ISAF Commander, who provided us with the benefit of his experience in the Afghan Theatre of Operations. EAGLE FOCUS I provided a solid foundation of information on Afghanistan and ISAF, which the Headquarters can build on to ensure success for ISAF VIII. EAGLE FOCUS I was soon followed by EAGLE FOCUS II from the 7th to the 11th of February, again here in Solbiate



Olona. The aim of this portion of the training was to ensure that individuals understand the environment in which they will collaborate and operate with other branches and divisions in order to provide appropriate command support.

Syndicate work was chosen as the vehicle for training. The staff was separated into four distinct groups. Each group contained a wide variety of expertise from across the staff. Each group and was then asked to tackle a series of demanding topics involving key and contemporary issues related to the ISAF mission. During the week each group was provided a topic and a list of questions to be answered on that topic. This was followed, in each case, by an intense period of study, research and collaboration within the group to answer the questions. Then all groups returned to present their findings to the Command Group. This method of training not only presented an excellent opportunity for the members of the Headquarters to become more familiar with Afghanistan and the ISAF mission but it also fostered an environment in which the staff realized how to better work together across all disciplines to achieve solutions. During the training period the staff took on such issues as NATO's PRT expansion policy, ISAF assistance to G8 SSR in the Disarmament Demobilization and Re-integration process, ISAF assistance to United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in the achievement

of its mission, Kabul International Airport threats and expansion, ISAF assistance to the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) in establishing and maintaining SSR, Reception Staging and Onward Movement issues, and Time Critical intra-divisional issues. The training week concluded with a review of the lessons learned. EAGLE FOCUS II continued to solidify and build upon the knowledge gained in the previous exercise.

The first series of preparatory training exercises ended with exercise EAGLE FOCUS III. This exercise was also conducted in Solbiate Olona in the newly constructed "Rock-drill Theatre" from the 21st to 24th of February. The aim of EAGLE FOCUS III was to analyze key contemporary issues affecting the ISAF mission. This training was accomplished through a series of presentations and vignettes followed by open discussion on several dynamic topics including: RSOM & Movement, Stage 3 expansion, Air Operations, Interoperability with CFC-A, Clearance of Fires and, Parliamentary Elections - ISAF support during elections. Another goal of the training was to continue to build on the previous exercises and to continue to build cohesion and teamwork within the Headquarters. The use of the Rock-drill Theatre had an additional benefit with its large maps of the Area of Operations (both Afghanistan and a separate map of Kabul) in that it allowed many members of the command to become familiar with what will be their home for several months in the near future.



Overall the EAGLE FOCUS series of exercises was a success; however, we all know the training is not over. There are still many opportunities for Individual Training to come so that we can hone our individual skills making certain we survive to accomplish the mission. In the near future we have EAGLE ACTION. This will be a MEL / MIL driven Command Post Exercise conducted in early May allowing us a chance to practice as a Headquarters and build on the training we have had. This will be closely linked to the Mission Rehearsal Training (MRT) conducted in Stavanger Norway in mid to late June as JFC-Brunssum certifies us for the mission. We are only as good as our training and we only get from the training what we put into it.



Medical support

According to Italian national health law you must first consult your family doctor to obtain medical assistance. However, you can call for assistance and be directed toward other medical advice if necessary.



Information meeting

The FSC is going to act as a point of contact which is able to create a link between deployed personnel and their families, therefore we will hold periodical information-meetings to update families regarding the situation.



Social events

The FSC, in accordance with the Morale and Welfare Policy, is also planning some social events, whose aim is to provide a good occasion for all families to meet and to make new friends



Location

Information-meeting and social events will take place in either the Barracks Clubs or in The Garrison Briefing Room. We will inform you through your NSE, e-mail and with advertisement that you'll find in the Clubs.



N.B. If you want to be contacted by e-mail, send us an e-mail and you will be put on our mailing list.

Declaration of responsibility underwriting

The undersigned _____
(name, surname and rank if military)

DECLARES THAT

This box/parcel/envelope number _____

sent to _____
(name of recipient)

does not contain the following types of material:

- money and valuables;
- weapons;
- explosives;
- flammable objects;
- perishable foodstuffs;
- items liable to Customs taxes.

Place: _____ Date: _____

The Declarer

(signature)



Free postal service for parcel

NRDC-IT Operational Moral and Welfare SOP foresee a free postal service for parcel up to 3 kg for personnel posted to NRDC-IT Group (HQ NRDC-IT, Signal Brigade, Support Regiment, Signal Regiment and Garrison HQ) and deployed for ISAF VIII mission. According to MWA Council decision it's possible to send 1 parcel per deployed per shift on MWA funds reimbursable base. Dependants can send the parcel, through any Italian Post Office (Quick Pack Europe Fare € 22,75) to the following address:

Rank, Name, Surname, Branch
ISAF HQ AFC
D-64298 Darmstadt

The size of the parcel cannot exceed 225 cm (h+l+w) and longest dimension cannot be greater than 120 cm in length. Remember that it's forbidden to send money and valuables, weapons, explosives, flammable objects, perishable foodstuff and items liable to Custom taxes. In order to obtain the reimbursement dependants have to fill the claim request, available also on the NRDC-IT web site (www.nato.int/nrdc-it) and send to the following addresses:

- **"Ugo Mara" Barraks.** Quartier Generale NRDC-IT Family Support Centre,for the people posted to HQ NRDC-IT, Signal Brigade and Garrison HQ;
- **"Ugo Mara" Barraks.** Reggimento di Supporto NRDC-IT, Ufficio Maggiorità e Personale, for people posted to Support Regiment;
- **"Santa Barbara" Barraks.** Reggimento Trasmissioni, Ufficio Maggiorità e Personale, Piazzale Perrucchetti n.°1, 20147, MILANO for people posted to Signal Regiment.

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RA FSC	0331-346601 0331-346604 0331-624691 0331-624691fax 0331-678346fax 11 7 6601 mil 11 7 6604	Reception Agency OIC casezagric@itahqnrdc.esercito.difesa.it Families' Support Centre (FSC) fsc@btrasm.esercito.difesa.it HQ IT Duty Officer 0331-346642
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USA NSE	0331-329349	george.hunter2@us.army.mil daniel.fouts@us.army.mil

OPENING TIMES FOR FSC

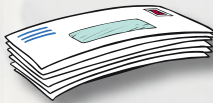
Monday	08:00-16:30	Open
	16:30-08:00	Response Cell
Tuesday	08:00-16:30	Open
	16:30-08:00	Response Cell
Wednesday	08:00-16:30	Open
	16:30-08:00	Response Cell
Thursday	08:00-16:30	Open
	16:30-08:00	Response Cell
Friday	08:00-12:00	Open
	12:00-24:00	Response Cell
Saturday	24h	Response Cell
Sunday	24h	Response Cell

Note: For off-duty hours a "Response Cell" service will be on call. It will be activated by calling Quartiere Generale Italiano (Italian HQ) Duty Officer (Telephone number: 0331-346642 or 0331-346635).

ADDRESSES / TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NRDC-IT Ugo Mara Barraks	Via per Busto Arsizio 20 21058 Solbiate Olona (VA) Switchboard 0331-631237
1°SIGNAL RGT Santa Barbara Barracks	Piazzale Perrucchetti 1 20147 Milano Switchboard 02-48703340 02-48703643

Mailing



Mail from Italy

OPERAZIONE ISAF VIII

To: Ltc Jack RED
HQ NRDC-IT
Ufficio Postale-Polo Grandi Utenti
56100 PISA

Envelop front

Sender : Sara RED
Via Rossini 14
20100 MILANO (ITALY)

Envelop back

Mail from Afghanistan

OPERAZIONE ISAF VIII

To : Sara RED
Via Rossini 14
20100 MILANO (ITALY)

Envelop front

Sender: Ltc Jack RED
HQ NRDC-IT
Ufficio Postale-Polo Grandi Utenti
56100 PISA

Envelop back





ISAF

کوتاه او همکاری





A Taste of International Food



By Maj E. KAMILOWICZ, SO2 G5 Plans

POLISH CUISINE

Poland have own cuisine tradition that was built through the centuries. Evolution of our cuisine was caused mainly by geographic and historic factors. Poland as a state exists more than one thousand years and during such long period some cooking traditions was handed down to next generations. Many elements of present Polish cuisine were intercepted and adapted from other European countries. Result of this can be visible if go to our restaurants, which in its menu quit often offer such dishes like *Greece fish, Spaghetti Bolognaise Roman roast, Russian pierogi, Italian ice cream* (I have never seen that kind of ice cream in Italy) and others. Of course it is easy to guess that as a result of evolution those dishes at the Polish restaurants could be slightly different from originals of the countries that they belong to. Of course there are many restaurants, especially at the biggest cities that offer typical cuisine of different countries but this is another issue. Due to favorable geographic location and climate most of products at the Polish table have Polish origin. It is worth to highlight that due to traditional technology of production, the products sold by Polish farmers do not contain chemical pollution moreover they are not modified genetically and for those reasons they are the very highest quality. It is popular belief that because of climate Poles eat fatty. But this view is inaccurate.

Polish cuisine is characterized by variety of dishes from which some of them may contain more or less grass. They are composed of different ingredients, prepared by different ways and actually it is very difficult to find differences in this respect compare to other countries. Generally speaking our cooking is very similar to German.

MEALS IN POLISH TRADITION

Poles eat three main meals a day: breakfast, dinner and supper. Breakfast used to be heavy meal prepared at home, before going to work and could be composed of eggs/sausage/cheese/ham/jam/honey +bread with butter+ tea/milk/cacao. The main meal is a dinner, eaten early afternoon (if possible) or directly after come back from work (usually around 16:00). Typical dinner is composed of soup+main dish (usually meet with vegetables)+desert+kompot or juice. (Kompot is a drink from boiled fruits plus some sugar). Last meal is a sapper. Normally should be light and finished at least 2 hrs before going asleep. Typical composition of the sapper: yogurt+ honey/jam/nutella+ bread with butter + tea/milk. Of course reality can be different. Depend on situation and individual customs Poles quite often

abandon the rules described here. In principle Poles do not have at work time dedicated for lunch. Instead having lunch there is a custom to eat during a short break so called second breakfast, usually sandwich prepared at home, or small appetizer available at the buffet.

POLISH ALCOHOL

Polish alcohol. It is common belief that Poles consume very big quantity of vodka. While Polish vodka does not required recommendation and production of strong alcohol bring significant benefit for our budget, actually consumption of this kind of alcohol tends to decrease. According the resent statistics about 10% of adults Poles prefer vodka as alcohol drink. It is usually drunk in its pure form in very small glasses and this is combined with eating herrings, sausage, pickled cucumber or other sharp pickles on the side as snacks. In spite that vodka still remain in Poland main alcohol for many occasions such as for instance wedding feast or celebrity after promotion, customs on drinking alcohol are changing because younger generations prefer soft drinks, mainly beer. Polish have big tradition in production of good quality beer and nowadays companies producing this

kind of alcohol have real renaissance. Very popular became also drinking of mulled beverages, mainly wine and mead. This kind of drinks came to us from Scandinavia. Most of pubs and clubs in my country offer mulled drinks.

Particularity

Names of the most famous dishes:

- *kotlet schabowy* – fried chop pork with potatoes and sauerkraut
- *bigos* – dish based on boiled sauerkraut with some additives like sausage, meets, mushrooms, herbs and others.
- *pierogi* – similar to Italian ravioli stuffed with meat or cottage cheese or sauerkraut with mushrooms
- *goląbki* – stuffed cabbage
- *karp* – carp, fish that absolutely must be prepared for Christmas.
- *makowiec* – leavened cake stuffed with poppy seeds prepared especially for Christmas
- *Mazurek* – cake prepared especially for Easter

Ingredients

- 1 kg of sauerkraut,
- 300 g of pork-butcher's meat (each type of sausage can be used),
- 300 g of boiled meat (beef or veal - optionally),
- 2 Cykoria Bay Leaves (3 small or 1.5 of big one),
- 5 grains of Cykoria Allspice,
- salt,
- Cykoria Smakosz Extra,
- tomato concentrate,
- ketchup,
- Cykoria Ground Black Pepper

Bigos

Preparation

- ◆ Squeeze sauerkraut out of its juice and rinse it with tepid water on a strainer.
- ◆ Put sauerkraut into a pot, pour cold water and boil it.
- ◆ Strain again, sauerkraut cannot be very sour.
- ◆ Pour water again and boil for about 1 - 1,5 hours.
- ◆ In the meantime add Bay Leaves, Allspice, cubed meat, and sausage.
- ◆ At the end of boiling, add a pinch of salt or Smakosz Extra to enhance taste.
- ◆ Next add about a 1/3 glass of tomato concentrate, 2 spoonfuls of ketchup, a pinch of Ground Black Pepper.



Duck Pierogi on Spinach

Ingredients:

- 1 duck breast
- 2 shallots
- 100 g blanched spinach leaves
- 1 small clove of garlic
- 100 g butter
- 1 yolk
- 2 spoons of cream 36% salt, pepper bison grass

DOUGH FOR PIEROGI

- 250 g wheat flour
- 2 eggs salt, pepper milk

Preparation:

- ◆ Knead flour with eggs, salt and pepper.
- ◆ Add small amounts of milk till the dough has consistence.
- ◆ Put into the fridge.
- ◆ Mince duck meat, add chopped shallots and chopped garlic. Season with salt and pepper.
- ◆ Add 1 yolk and cream.
- ◆ Mix together.
- ◆ Make pierogi with dough and stuffing.
- ◆ Put them, with a drop of olive oil, into the salted boiling water.
- ◆ Fry blanched spinach in butter (50 g) with some chopped shallots, garlic, salt and pepper.
- ◆ Melt the rest of the butter with bison grass.
- ◆ Fry cooked pierogi.
- ◆ Serve on spinach pored over with the ubrowka butter but take the bison grass out of the butter before pouring.





Afghan children
in Chaghcharan

The Eagle soars high on the mountain

The Eagle left her nest to reach the mountain. This year, HQ NRDC-IT conducted its annual winter training "Exercise Eagle Snowmaster 05" in La Thuile, in Valle d'Aosta, with the instructional and logistic support of the Italian Alpine Training Centre.

The exercise took place from 7 to 14 March 2005 involving 80 personnel from HQ Staff and Signal Brigade, with the aim of developing teamwork and individuals' qualities in a challenging winter mountain environment. Officers, NCOs and soldiers from the contributing nations participated. The exercise consisted of two main activities: march and ski training.

The marvellous winter environment of La Thuile offers a splendid scenario for very exciting excursions. Accompanied by Military Instructors of the Alpine Training Centre, NRDC-IT personnel completed two marches. In the first one, retracing the route of Hannibal's elephants 2000 years ago, we



braved snow covered paths and trees eager for the coming spring.

In the second one we tested our fitness on a 630 metre climb to reach the ruins of an old Savoyard fort that dominates the entire area of La Thuile.

Our diverse group, representing all military arms, had the presence of a rescue team, composed of expert alpine soldiers, equipped to face any emergency during the march.

The skiing took place in the large splendid area above La Thuile - 150 km of ski runs where, divided in classes of different skill level, we had lessons from both military instructors and civilian ski teachers. Beginners, intermediates and experts improved their personal capability on skis. In particular, the beginner class received the praise of the ski teachers for their rapid progress on the basics; attaching 2 strange planks to their feet on Wednesday, wondering why they had left their stable chairs at the Headquarters, by Saturday they were able



to descend all kinds of ski run, fancying themselves as incarnations of Alberto Tomba or Herman Mayer.

The weather made a great contribution to the success of the exercise; although a strong cold wind blew all over the plateau, causing the closure of some ski lifts one day, the sunshine shone all the time over the ski runs giving our party the chance to conduct all the activities scheduled on the programme and, at the same time, to enjoy the beauty of the mountain environment.

NRDC-IT personnel were hosted in the "Monte Bianco" Barracks. The facility, built in 1934 for the Italian Border Troops deployed on the Western border, is now the seat of the 88th Alpine Coy who provided excellent support. The old style of



the barracks, its exterior unchanged since its construction, gives an atmosphere of frontier, taking us back to days when soldiers were alone to face their personal challenge with the mystery and perils of mountains.

In this atmosphere the NRDC-IT eaglets nested for a time getting familiar with the winter mountain environment, savouring the freezing air of the Alps and occasionally looking ahead to the East, where the Hindu Kush is already awaiting for the next flight of the Eagle.



Battlefield Tour '05 – Operation HUSKY

Eagle Tour 05, the yearly NRDC(IT) battlefield tour (BT), took place in Sicily, throughout the provinces of Catania and Syracuse facing the Ionian Sea, the province of Ragusa facing the Mediterranean Sea and the province of Enna in the Centre of the island. The BT, the only one planned for 2005, lasted 6 days (travel included), from the 8th to the 13th of March, a Tuesday to Sunday Tour organised by the Engineer Division, as by tradition in HQ NRDC(IT).

The training audience was composed by 50 officers, both Senior and Junior from the NRDC(IT) Staff.

The aim of the exercise was to study and tour the Allied Campaign of 1943 (Operation Husky, 9 July - 27 August) in order to prepare the Headquarters staff for combined and joint operations and exercises. In addition to that, Eagle Tour 05 was designed to demonstrate some of the enduring characteristic of conflict. Whilst we shall study historical events within a wide political and military strategic context, the focus of the exercise was to draw out relevant lessons for contemporary operations at the operational and high tactical levels of war, including consideration of the land-air and land-maritime interfaces. Specific battlefield tour objectives were:

- to consider the military strategic and operational level dimension of command decision making and resource allocation;
- to highlight the application of the principles of war and practice of operational art during the campaign, major operations and battles under study;
- to illustrate the significance of the environmental and component factors in the planning and conduct of major operations and battles;
- to stimulate the conduct of original research,

expanding knowledge of military history at the strategic, operational and high tactical level of conflict;

- to consider the relevance and lessons of military history for operations today;
- and to take into account the impact of technology on the conduct of war.

World war II was the largest and most violent armed conflict in the history of mankind.

Highly relevant today, WWII has much to teach us, not only about the profession of arms, but also about the military preparedness, global strategy and combined operations in the coalition war against fascism.

The battlefields today are largely similar to what they were 62 years ago. Apart from the fact that new roads have replaced some of the old ones, the

countryside of Sicily has changed

hardly at all since the battle. It remains an attractive tourist and farming area, visited regularly by veterans of both sides, although very few now, and military students, either alone or in organised tours, such as ours.

NRDC(IT) group left Solbiate Olona on Tuesday March, the 8th (DAY1) and reached Catania by plane and from there Modica by coach, the most appropriate means of transportation throughout the entire battlefield tour. The beautiful city of Modica was our base while on the island, it was where our hotels were located. Truly, while landscapes are close to the ones in 1943, we found little trace of the fortifications, as they have been largely replaced by renewed countryside and urban infrastructure. Moreover, it is understandable that little memories of the battles still remain and as a

matter of fact we didn't see as many monuments and WWII-related topology as we did last year in Normandy. On DAY 2 we visited the US landing sector at Scoglitti, where the US II CORPS under Bradley fought the IT 18 COASTAL BDE. The two historians, Dr. David Hall and Dr. Niall Barr (the same ones who guided us through Normandy), illustrated how an operational lodgement on a hostile shore was secured by the Americans. That was a campaign decisive point and provided a stimulus for discussion on amphibious assault techniques, past and present. Later in the morning, at the border between the Ragusa and the Caltanissetta provinces, we focused on the airborne operations by US 82 AB DIV against the Axis defensive positions passed the Dirillo bridge, on the Allied Avenue of Approach (AA). In the afternoon we took a chance to visit (guided tour) the amazing village of Ibla, now a block of the city of Ragusa.

DAY 3 started with a lecture by our historians, before moving to Pozzallo. It was one of the principal landing beaches used by the 1 CA INF DIV of the XXX BR CORPS under Leese during its assault on the Sicilian shores on July the 10th, 1943. The thin Italian defences were manned by elements of the 206 COASTAL DIV. In contrast to their determined efforts against the American

landings further to the west, Axis forces did not intervene effectively against the British-Canadian assault forces, even though effective defensive



positions were in place, such as the bunkers and the pillboxes we visited on the hill overlooking the shores to control road-junctions. In the afternoon we moved towards Syracuse and more is to be taken into account when considering the strong Fortress Area defending the ports of Augusta and Syracuse. The coastal batteries didn't play the role they were given by the Axis Commanders and the British assault operations (XIII BR CORPS under Dempsey) were actually not affected by any real Axis effort.

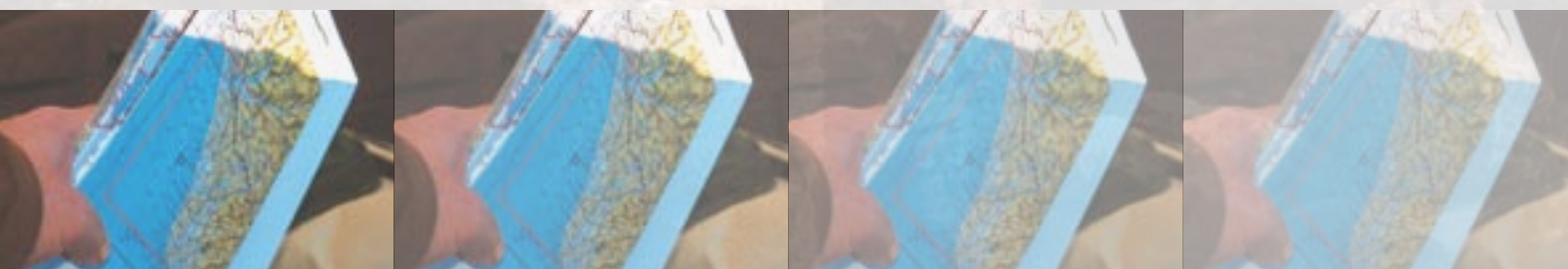
DAY 4, Friday, started with a visit to Augusta, that was the northern part of the Fortress Area toured the day before in the South part of it, base of the IT 83rd NAVY Hydroplane RECCE GROUP. There again, none of the Axis troops seriously opposed the British landings. The next stand said a different story. It was located on the side of 'Johnny 1', a British parachute battalion objective that was designed to secure the southern approach to the Prompsole Bridge. The now famous crossing (the original



bridge no longer stands) over the river Simeto was the objective of the British air assault (Operation FUSTIAN) on the night of 13-14 July to capture and hold the final key crossing on the road to Catania. The German airborne reinforcement (12-17 July 1943), the XIII BR CORPS failure to link up quickly with the 1 BR Parachute BDE at Primosole Bridge on July the 14th and the heavy fighting in the vicinity of Primosole dashed Montgomery's hopes for a quick and easy end of the campaign. That stand illustrated the importance under a JFLCC perspective of recognising and securing key terrain and, as such, achieving a decisive point in a battle. Before lunch we had a chance to honour the fallen in the invasion of Sicily by having a small wreath ceremony in Syracuse, at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemetery. In the afternoon we had a guided visit to the Island of Ortigia, the ancient part of Syracuse.

DAY 5 was the Cultural Day and the group moved to Piazza Armerina to enjoy the beauty of the mosaics of an ancient Roman villa, where a tourist guide told us a lot about our past everyday life habits. Finally, on Sunday (DAY 6) the battlefield tour ended with the group returning to Ugo Mara barracks, a bit tired, but having gained a lot out of the exercise ET05.

In fact, HQ NRDC(IT) had a unique chance to review the setting of the liberation of the first piece of European soil from the Nazi-Fascism dominion: the Allied invasion of Sicily was a large scale landing operation which offered a lot of lessons to be learnt to all functional branches.





On 2nd March 2005 a meeting between the Command Group and some NIWIC Representatives was held in the Headquarter. It was a great opportunity for the ladies to present to the Command Group and all the SNRs the Constitution of the Club. On that occasion we got also some replies to some questions raised during a previous meeting in January with DCOM.

NIWIC (NRDC-Italy Wives' International Club) is an essential point of reference for the varying nationalities involved in the NRDC-Italy in particular when the HQ is deployed.

Some of us have already had the experience to join a Club abroad, like we have here. It was very important to have friends when our husbands were deployed.

For that reason the Club has prepared a draft of activities

for the next months long:

- **APRIL:** Italian Lunch;
- **MAY:** Visit to Turin at the Egyptian Museum and Royal Palace of Savoy; International Day with raffle;
- **JUNE:** Visit to S. Caterina del Sasso; NIWIC Dinner with husbands;
- **SEPTEMBER:** Visit to Sacromonte of Varese.

For those who are interested to join the Club, membership fees are collected during our bi- monthly coffee mornings (first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month).



On July 1st, 2005, "NATO RAPID DEPLOYABLE CORPS (NRDC)-ITALY Wives' International Club (NIWIC)" was given the opportunity to hand over a charity cheque amounting to 550 to the future Commander International Security Assistance Force VIII for Afghanistan (ISAF VIII), Lieutenant General Mauro Del Vecchio. The donation is intended for a school project, i.e. to buy a tent and/or other equipment to build up a school in Kabul.

As Mrs. Marilena Chiapperini, the NIWIC chairwoman, stressed out during her handover speech, NIWIC's objectives are to foster the relationship between the different nations at Headquarters NRDC-IT in Solbiate Olona and, doing so, collecting money for charitable purposes. Giving the first donation to a childrens' project in Kabul, NIWIC wanted to show their particular sympathy for the work of their husbands and their international colleagues in Kabul, who are doing a great job for the international community in Afghanistan now and during the next nine months.



Charity handover ceremony on July 1, 2005, at Caserma Ugo Mara, Solbiate Olona, with NIWIC representatives

From left to right:
Mrs. Concha Alonso Búrdalo, Mrs. Marianne Kräft-Grünebach, Mrs. Marilena Chiapperini, LtGen Mauro Del Vecchio, Mrs. Daniela Mahoney, Mrs. Pina Restaino, Mrs. Marian Merino, Mrs. Dora Cavallaro

Introduction

The Italian-led Headquarters NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy (NRDC-IT) assumed the command of the International Security Assistance Force VIII (ISAF VIII) at the beginning of August 2005, succeeding NRDC Turkey.

36 countries, with a total of 8000 soldiers, are involved in the mission, which will end in May 2006, when NRDC IT will transfer the Authority to the British-led HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC)

We in HQ NRDC IT are very aware of the disruptive effects on our families during a deployment, and also at the end of the mission, therefore a Families' Support Centre (FSC) has been created with the aim to try to reduce the problems and minimise the strains to which our families are exposed.

The FSC will establish useful links to help and acquaint people with the existing support facilities, programmes and activities.

This guide is designed as an "Aide Memoire" for the families of all personnel which are posted to, or deployed from HQ NRDC-IT.

Who we are

The FSC is a "First Point of Contact" and a "Coordination Centre" whose aim is to provide advice to assist families to solve any kind of technical and bureaucratic problems that occur.



What we can do for families

If the FSC is not able to intervene directly to solve your problems, we can work to get you in touch with skilled workers, firms and specialized agencies; especially in an emergency regarding:

- Accommodation
- School
- Health
- Administration
- Exchange of information
- Incidents
- Social activities

N.B. Concerning expenses for services, the customer might be liable to pay tax for those not generally provided by either Public or Military Administration.

Where we are



Where the NSEs are



How to get in touch with us

You can get in touch with us by phone, mail, fax and, when convenient, you can come to visit us in our office located in the map shown above. You can also contact us through your NSE or your Regimental Family Support Group. This procedure is strongly suggested particularly for relatives of personnel of 1^o Signal Regiment. You will find all the useful telephone numbers, e- mail addresses and opening time of FSC at the last page

Facilities

We have been recently building up a list of facilities which you are free to use. All you need to do is to send us an e-mail to receive a list by return list. Alternately, you can look it up on our web page (under construction).

Religious support

For religious support you can directly contact our military chaplain through the FSC. For non-Catholic personnel, please contact your NSE who will inform you about the nearest church of your own religion.

