



## Public Affairs Office

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# Welcome Aboard



Highly Capable  
Rapidly Deployable  
Multi-National  
Community Oriented

# Historical Background

**Commander**  
Lieutenant General ITA (A)  
Giorgio BATTISTI

**Deputy Commander**  
Major General GBR (A)  
Thomas BECKETT

**Chief of Staff**  
Major General ITA (A)  
Leonardo di MARCO



**Chief Public Affairs Office**  
Colonel ITA (A)  
Francesco COSIMATO

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Infantry battalion, the Logistics battalion of the Legnano Mechanized brigade, and, finally, in 1995, the 33rd "Ambrosiano" Logistics regiment.

In 2000, Italy decided to join the NATO High Readiness project, and UMB was officially designated to host **NRDC-ITA**, due to its excellent existing infrastructure and convenient location. It is, in fact, situated only 30 Km from Milan, 15 Km from Malpensa international airport and 1 Km from the A8 highway. On 1 November 2001 **NRDC-ITA** was officially born.

It is worth devoting a few words to the person after whom our workplace is named. If one looks on the on the wall at the entrance, the one near the main gate, there is a plaque of Second Lieutenant, Italian Army, Ugo Mara. Hailed from Busto Arsizio, Ugo Mara served as an Infantry officer during WW1 at Gorizia, near the Slovenian border, where he fought bravely distinguishing himself for valour and raising to the post of Battalion commander. Ugo Mara died on 28 January 1918 and was posthumously awarded a Silver medal and a Bronze medal for military valour.



Hangar dietro la palazzina-comando, lo storico capannone della 5<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia di Francesco Baracca. Dal 1956 diventerà area parcheggio degli automezzi militari. Anno della foto 1913

The overall classification of this document is NATO UNCLASSIFIED RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC

# Ugo Mara Barracks

**U**go Mara Barracks (UMB) has been an important part of Italy's defence system since 1913. Today, the buildings of Ugo Mara Barracks house the **NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy (NRDC-ITA)** and its Support Brigade, giving it an important role in the defence system of all NATO countries.



Ugo Mara Barracks's history dates back to the beginning of 1900, when it was initially used as internment camp for prisoners of war, during WW1. In February 1913, the Italian Ministry of Defence, then called "Ministry of War" accepted a request from the then Mayor of Busto Arsizio and decided to turn it into an Air Force base, home of the 5th Air Force Wing (the one where Francesco Baracca served). Eventually, UMB became an Army barracks and an Artillery depot.

Chronologically, it provided home for the 3rd Armored battalion and the 4th and 20th Bersaglieri battalions. In 1976, following a Force structure review, the Italian Army decided to base at Ugo Mara Barracks the 4th "Passalacqua" Armoured battalion and the 10th Bersaglieri battalion, then the 67th



# Foreword

**O**n behalf of the Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen and Carabinieri at **NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Italy**, I would like to welcome you all to our Headquarters!

This handbook is designed to give you some information and help you gain an understanding of the environment.

**NRDC - ITA** is one of the Alliance's seven Rapid Deployable Corps Headquarters, and is one of the two high profile NATO organisations based in Italy.

We are a multinational NATO Headquarters with more than 2000 military and civilian personnel coming from 15 NATO nations, based in Solbiate Olona, close to Milan. We pride ourselves in our diverse and talented work force.

Our is a military community that includes the families of **NRDC - ITA** personnel and encourages their participation in the Headquarters daily life, through a variety of clubs and organisations supported by dedicated welfare facilities.

At **NRDC - ITA** we feel privileged to live in and be part of the local Italian communities, in which our members also play a key role supporting local schools, clubs and organisations.

Again, welcome to the **NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Italy Team!**

**Giorgio Battisti**  
**Lieutenant General, Italian Army**  
**Commander of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Italy**

## Lieutenant General Italian Army Giorgio Battisti Commander, NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy



**L**ieutenant General Giorgio Battisti was born in Mantova, Italy in 1953. He is a graduate of the 154<sup>th</sup> course at the Italian Army Military Academy, the Italian General Staff Course and Advanced General Staff Course for senior Officers.

General Battisti was commissioned into the "Taurinense" Alpini Brigade in 1976. Once promoted to the Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded the "Conegliano" Artillery Group, of the "Julia" Alpini Brigade. In 1997, upon promotion to Colonel, General Battisti returned to the Italian Army Military Academy, as the Commander of the Cadets' Regiment.

General Battisti has extensive experience both as a staff officer and an operational Commander. He has a wide-ranging background that includes operations in coalition environments, at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. In fact, he deployed to Somalia in 1993, Bosnia in 1997 and three times to Afghanistan, in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Promoted to Brigadier General, in 2002 he assumed command of the "Taurinense" Alpini Brigade. Throughout his career, General Battisti has held several appointments at the Army General Staff, serving in various capacities.

In 2006 he was promoted to Major General, and from May 2008 to June 2011 General Battisti served as the Chief of Staff at the Italian Operational Land Forces HQ in Verona.

General Battisti was promoted Lieutenant General in January 2011 and assumed command at NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy on 30 June 2011.

Amongst his many distinctions he has twice received honours from the Ordine Militare d'Italia for outstanding service in Afghanistan. He firstly received the Croce di Cavaliere for the ISAF Mission and was then awarded the Croce di Ufficiale for Operation Enduring Freedom. He was also awarded the Italian Commemorative Cross for UNOSOM Operation in Somalia in 1993. Additionally General Battisti received the US Bronze Star Medal for the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2003 and the Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite of the French Republic, the UN Medal, the French and Polish Commemorative Medal and the Spanish Distintivos de Operaciones de Mantenimiento de Paz for the ISAF Mission in 2007.

General Battisti and his wife Simonetta have three sons, Alessio, Umberto and Filippo, and a daughter, Cecilia.

NRDC-ITA operates at the highest tactical level and within a against a backdrop of a the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE) of complex, multinational and interagency operations. It is operationally experienced and well adapted



to meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Approach. Through sustained and robust training, deep professional knowledge and efficient and effective decision making processes NRDC-ITA is NATO's premier Response Force.



The joint capability of NRDC-ITA is given by the presence of Navy and Air Force coordination cells. The Headquarters is not only able to Command and Control military Operations, but also to operate, trough his skilled professionals, with non-military actors of any crisis scenario (governative organizations, non-

governative organizations, humanitarian aid agencies, etc.) following the NATO concept of *Comprehensive Approach*.



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# Background Notes

Following a review of its force structure, in 2001 NATO decided on the parameters of a new structure to provide the Alliance with rapidly deployable, mobile, sustainable and flexible multinational forces and their command and control capabilities. Following NATO's requirements for High Readiness Forces, the Italian Ministry of Defence formed the **NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Italy**.



NRDC-ITA is an organization with a committed, confident and experienced multinational staff working in a cohesive and structured team and using well developed doctrine for multinational and joint operations at the land component level.

NRDC-ITA is a multi-national Headquarters comprising of personnel from 15 NATO nations with Italy as the lead nation. English is the working language and the Headquarters encourages and utilises the different experiences and approaches of its personnel.



# Mission Statement

NRDC - ITA is to be prepared to deploy as a Corps, Land Component Command or Combined Joint Land HQ for land-centric operations under NATO or, when authorised, EU 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.



# Commander's Vision

NATO's premier High Readiness Force Headquarters that is adaptive, deployable and able to successfully conduct operations across the full military spectrum. A unique challenging and rewarding environment that empowers, motivates and fulfils its members to be part of a winning team.

# Contributing Nations



**N**RDC-ITA is a multi-national Headquarters based in Solbiate Olona, Varese, close to Milan. Italy is the framework nation, providing 70% of personnel, and the remaining 30% is made up of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers coming from the other nations contributing to the project.

The multi-national environment is the key factor that enables NRDC-ITA to operate actively. The project currently involves about 400 military personnel coming from 15 contributing nations: **Italy, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, The United Kingdom and the United States of America.**

Including the Support Brigade and subordinate units, the population at Ugo Mara Barracks is approximately of 2000 individuals.

# The Emblem

**T**he history of NRDC-ITA insignia goes back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Celere Division, which during WW II bravely fought in the Yugoslav campaign (1941) and in Russia (1942) within the Italian Expeditionary Corps.

In 1957, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Italian Corps was established in Milan, in control of three Divisions and various support units. During almost 40 years of activity the Corps, amongst the others, played a key role in contributing and supporting the Italian Contingent deployed in Lebanon in 1982. Furthermore, its units participated in Operation IBIS in Somalia in 1993/4. Finally, in 1997 the Corps assumed responsibility for the “Alba” Mission in Albania, the first multinational Italian-led mission ever. Fifteen contributing Nations brought humanitarian aid to a country that versed in a dramatic economic and political situation.

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

In 2001, following NATO’s request to provide a High Readiness Force Headquarters, the Italian Ministry of Defence reshaped the FOP forming the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy (NRDC – ITA).



A shield in two parts with a sword and an eagle head. The sword is historically based on the one adopted by the “Celere” Division during WWII. The eagle head represents the strength and the Headquarters’ ability to quickly deploy. The colours are the same adopted by the Projection Forces HQ. The shield is framed by another shield, which is green and carries the international acronym NRDC – ITA and the motto “Ubique Celere”, which is the Latin for “Everywhere Rapidly”.