



TRJR 15 logo by Erinc Öz, JWC

BACK COVER STORY

NRDC-ITA achieved NATO certification as a Joint Task Force HQ

■ ■ **TRIDENT JAGUAR 15 (TRJR 15):** NATO's High Readiness Force Headquarters, NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy (NRDC-ITA), achieved Full Operational Capability as a land-heavy Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters for Small Joint Operations (SJO) following the conclusion of the 13-day exercise in Stavanger. TRJR 15 is a command-post/computer-assisted dual exercise sponsored by Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and directed by Major General Reinhard Wolski, Commander of Joint Warfare Centre (JWC). It aims to certify both NRDC-Italy (April) and ARRC (May) in a JTF HQ role, planning and conducting a land-heavy Crisis Response Small Joint Operation, involving war-fighting capabilities in the early stages.

It is also the first exercise to use SKOLKAN 2.0 training scenario in conducting a land-heavy SJO — additionally, for the first time, a Joint Force Commander from JFC Naples served as the Officer Conducting the Exercise (OCE) for a NATO Force Structure exercise. Admiral Mark Ferguson,

Commander JFC Naples, earlier explained that TRJR 15 was "one of a number of national, bilateral and multinational NATO exercises taking place across Europe, the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean that are building enhanced national and Alliance military capacity, capability, readiness, responsiveness and joint interoperability."

The Admiral also stressed that with any joint multinational exercises on this scale, NATO continued to demonstrate its commitment to its Allies on Collective Defence in a dynamically changing and complex security environment.

Preparations for exercise TRJR 15 started in February 2014. At the end of the exercise in April, NRDC-ITA achieved Full Operational Capability as a JTF HQ, able to provide an immediate military response in reaction to the traditional and asymmetrical threats associated with a fictional failing state in northern Europe as part of the JWC-created SKOLKAN 2.0 training scenario. "NRDC-ITA is paving the

way for a new series of NATO exercises, which indicates the new NATO approach towards new international challenges," an article on NRDC-ITA website said.

TRJR 15 involved approximately 1,100 NRDC-ITA civilian and military personnel. JWC's Officer of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for TRJR 15, United States Army Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Sachariason, highlighted the significance of the exercise, saying that the SKOLKAN 2.0 scenario provided the depth and complexity required for this level of exercise. He then added: "Specifically, this is an excellent opportunity for NRDC-ITA and NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ), but also for the JWC and the Host Nation. NRDC-ITA and the Special Operations Component Command Core (SOCC-CORE) get to practice deploying and operating in remote locations and the JWC and the Host Nation get to showcase the outstanding facilities and capabilities they have to offer to conduct operational level exercises."

NRDC-ITA is commanded by Italian Army Lieutenant General Riccardo Marchiò. When asked about the significance of the exercise, Lieutenant General Marchiò said: "This exercise is our milestone event, the final step of our Full Operational Capability validation process as a Task Force Headquarters, land-heavy for Small Joint Operations." He then added: "TRJR 15 represents the outcome of more than three years of commitment of the twelve contributing nations of NRDC-ITA. This effort will allow our HQ to comply with the NATO Level of Ambition and will test our readiness to deploy worldwide in response of any crisis under the NATO umbrella." NRDC-ITA is one of the first NATO HQs to complete transformation into a Joint Task Force Headquarters, following NRDC-Spain last year.

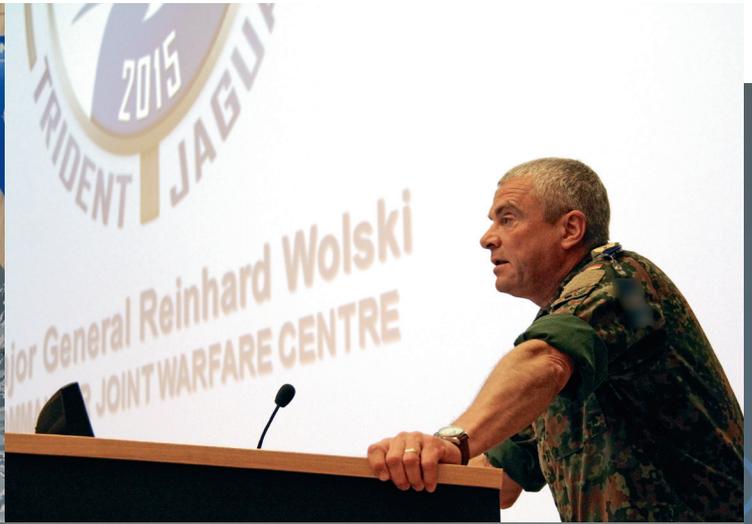
(JWC website article by Inci Kucukaksoy, JWC PAO)



Lieutenant General Riccardo Marchiò.
Photograph by JWC PAO.



Major General Wolski with Lieutenant General Mark O. Schissler, Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee. Photograph by JWC PAO.



Major General Reinhard Wolski
JOINT WARFARE CENTRE



JWC's "Opposing Force" (OPFOR)
Photograph by JWC PAO.



Major General Wolski
welcoming
General Mirco Zulfiani,
Deputy Supreme
Allied Commander
Transformation,
to JWC.



Situational Awareness Briefing.
Photograph by NRDC-ITA PAO.



JWC exercise Situation Centre (SITCEN).
Photograph by NRDC-ITA PAO.



Lieutenant Colonel Thomas
Sachariason, TRJR 15 OPR.