NATO NETWORK ENABLED CAPABILITY CONFERENCE

Gen. Vincenzo Camporini
I am very grateful to the organizers for choosing Rome to hold such an important event. The conference will explore the key themes underpinning the development of an information superiority. Information superiority is the state of relative advantage in the information domain achieved by getting the right information to the right people at the right time in the right form whilst denying an adversary the ability to do the same. Information management is one of the enablers for achieving information superiority.

My brief introductory speech is meant to give an update about the Italian vision on the transformation process and the information management. The Nec concept represents the necessary vehicle to enhance effects in military operations. It represents the key enabler element for the operational community as it can support the collection, fusion, analysis and sharing of information in a seamless and robust way.

Initiatives to build up capability by progressive development of existing network programmes, jointly across the services and between allies in partnership, are well considered into concepts, doctrine, training, organisation and logistics. The related commitment, lessons identified and ability in achieving the power of the network enabled era creates the thread that runs throughout this conference focused on the “Right” management of the information (E.G. integrity, availability, non repudiation).

The Italian strategic vision and concept

New risks and threats, as well as Nato and European Union Security and Defense Policies evolution, require a deeper and continuous transformation of armed forces and their related concept of employment. The final goal remains a successful outcome in the new evolving operational scenarios. The Italian mod is fully involved in a net-centric operation process to meet future challenges, coherently with the national level of ambitions and assuring also the applicability to homeland security purposes. The strategic vision and concepts outline the conceptual reference framework for the planning, preparation and employment of armed forces, as well as the implementation of the political-military guidelines, contained in the ministerial directives.

According to the vision and concepts, armed forces, although reduced in size, must be able to express well defined operational capabilities, qualitatively comparable to those of the major allied nations. The capabilities considered fundamental to carry out the entire spectrum of missions assigned to the military instrument are:

- C4-ISTAR;
- Deployment and mobility (I.E. Rapidity of Intervention and Action);
- Precision and effectiveness of engagement;
- Survival and protection of the forces;
- Logistical sustainability and general support.

In this light, national military commitments must be constantly evaluated, in order to make them consistent with new requirements and changing scenarios. The planning and execution of the transformation process must not have a negative impact on the legacy operational systems; on the contrary, they must enhance them through a progressive and evolutionary integration of newly-acquired capabilities with existing ones (“Operating While Transforming”).

The new approach to drive the transformation process is mainly based on:

- A new centralized approach, made possible through the creation of the defence innovation center (for concept development and experimentation) alligned with C4I & transformation departement responsible of both: developing the future architecture and defining plans for transformation;
In apertura: un AWACS della NATO in volo
Sopra: due Eurofighter Typhoons del 4º Stormo accompagnano un AWACS della NATO nello spazio aereo italiano
Sotto: un elicottero della marina militare atterra su Nave Aliseo
• A new standard process for the architecture definition and validation, through automated tools and Modelling & Simulation;
• The creation of Defence/Industry Integrated Project Teams (activities started since 2006).

The role of defense industry in this context is relevant.

A close co-operation has been established among mod Italy and industry to cope with the challenges of ambitious project, e.g. our defence information infrastructure (DII) and the relevant preliminary directive on the information management. Partnerships with both national and international leading companies is envisaged in order to increase the know-how, better fulfil the defence requirements and reach “The best value for money”. The nature of our mission, which has been significantly changed in the past few years, will continue to be highly dynamic in nature.

Such dynamics require a continued process of adaptation of forces, doctrine and capabilities, coherent with similar processes begun both within the framework of Nato and the European Union, and by those nations with which Italy maintains strong ties of cooperation, so that Italy will be in a position to respond to future threats without disruption and in a timely and efficient manner.

The following initiatives across the multinational defence community have been joined by Italian mod:
• Active layered theater ballistic missile defence (ALTBMD) programme and integrated test-bed;
• Pilot project on integration of maritime surveillance in the Mediterranean sea and its Atlantic approaches (bluemassmed);
• Information management key subjects in Nato, EU and nations: policies and organization are under development, new authorities have to be considered, and so on.

In order to give concreteness to the military instrument transformation process, the following programs have already been started:
• The creation of three integrated land brigades by 2020, as the first applications of the transformation process;
• The defence information infrastructure (DII) and connected initiatives;
• Satellite communications (SICRAL) and earth observation (cosmos/skymed);
• The joint modelling and simulation centre and the Nato modelling and simulation centre of excellence (NATO M&S CoE).

To get increased effectiveness to the defence-specific operational and administrative information systems, a new secure military infrastructure, fully owned by the Italian mod having the potentiality to become an inter-operational platform between governative users, has been initiated.

DII (defence information infrastructure) main objectives are:
• Granting connectivity and information services to both joint branches and armed forces units, in our country or abroad where military forces presence is required;
• Creating a soa-model integrated structure capable of automated processes in operations, logistics and management environments;
• Distributing the on-the-way acquired know-how among government key agencies/institution in order to grant interoperability, security, cost-effectiveness and on a large scale costs’ cuts.

As already said, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (IM) is considered a key element to reach the information superiority.

In order to improve situational awareness and achieve decision making process faster and more effective within armed forces and with Nato, EU, coalitions and their respective communities of interest, we need to enable a timely availability of information to authorized subjects in a correct way, impeding opponents’ hostile operations.

The way-ahead to allow the needed information sharing is outlined in the following steps:
• Developing the Italian mod information management policy (accordingly to the Nato information management policy – the NIMP) to
make information visible, accessible, understandable and trustable;

- Reviewing the Italian MOD information management organization to implement a clear, concise and comprehensive direction and guidance of information sharing balanced with need-to-know constraints;
- Instituting the Italian Defence Chief Information Officer (CIO) to address the development of entrusted strategies in both the national and multinational environments;
- Implementing the preliminary information management directives.

All the above-mentioned steps, therefore, are strictly taken into account in the defence information infrastructure. In fact, its development was inspired by the need to reorganize the federation of systems aimed at optimizing legacy systems. In particular, applications have been reviewed and are to be organized in order to maximize information sharing throughout information management.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, missions assigned to Italian Armed Forces in the framework of the national constitution and international law, are mainly related to:

- "Home" security, which encompasses not only the defence of the national territory, air space and sea loc's integrity, but also protection of country's vital interests and Italian nationals living abroad;
- Contributing to collective defence in the framework of the Washington and Lisbon treaties;
- Contributing to peace and international security and stabilization;
- Military assistance to national civil authorities, including contribution to internal security and provision of specialized services, as well as support in case of emergencies to civil protection department operations.

Italian armed forces, performing these missions and the broad spectrum of related roles, act as an essential national security asset and allow our country to play an important role in the international community as one of the prime contributors to peace and security initiatives in the framework of international organizations such as EU, UN, and NATO.

Notwithstanding the global economic crises and the reducing funds in the defence budget, as perhaps in every country, the Italian MOD is making a great effort to maintain and follow the transformational implementation plan achieving the information superiority through its enabler information management.