

MULTINATIONAL CIMIC GROUP



History

20th
22
anniversary from foundation

“Whatever we call these operations, Peace Enforcement or Peace Keeping, they will require a civilian component and a civilian-military interface. That’s been the case in all of these operations in the past and most certainly in Bosnia, and it will be one of the key lessons learned for the future”

*Bosnia – 1995
Nils Daniel Carl Bildt*

*Formerly Prime Minister of Sweden (91-94)
EU Special Envoy to former Yugoslavia (since June 95)
Co-chairman of the Dayton Peace Conference (Nov 95)
High Representative for BiH (Dec 95-97)*

In 1997, following the peace support operations in the Balkans area, NATO recognized the need for a civil-military cooperation capability to interface with the civil environment and facilitate the accomplishment of its mission.

Consequently, NATO decided to create a specialized unit solely responsible for civil-military cooperation. Italy took in the demand for this specialized unit and promoted, as framework Nation, the creation of the “CIMIC Group South” (CGS) in Motta di Livenza, on 1st January 2002 with the participation of Greece (letter of Intent in 2002), Hungary (letter of Intent in 2003) and Portugal (letter of Intent in 2003).

In 2004 the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the representatives of the four Participating Nations: Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, in the presence of a representative from SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Power in Europe). In 2005 CGS was nominated NATO-assigned Force to SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe).

In 2006 Romania signed the letter of Intent as well and in 2009 the “CIMIC Group South”

denomination was changed to “Multinational CIMIC Group” (MNCG). Finally, in March 2012, the unit was officially affiliated to SHAPE and in 2014 Slovenia joined the MNCG by signing the MoU.

MNCG is a dedicated CIMIC capability that supports the chain of command to which it will be assigned during operations – from Joint HQ (Operational level) down to Brigade Command (Tactical level) – to enhance the effectiveness of military operations and to serve as an essential forum for CIMIC consultations and as Centre of expertise for CIMIC related matters. MNCG depends from a Coordinating Committee which is made up of a Chairman, a Secretary and the representatives from the 6 Partner Nations. The Coordinating Committee is the main multinational body for guidance, oversight and decisions on all matters concerning MNCG.



2004
Signing of the first
Memorandum of Understanding

Contact with external entities

20th₂₂

anniversary from foundation

“CIMIC has three core functions: civil-military liaison, support to the force, support to non-military actors and the civil environment”

The MNCG has strong interactions with external military and civil entities, ranging over from different Centres of Excellence, some of these located in the USA, Canada, The Netherlands and Italy.

Among them, MNCG provides support to the Stability & Reconstruction course at the Post Conflict Operation Study Centre (Turin), to the CIMIC training for US Civil Affairs & USMA (US Military Academy in West Point), to the CIMIC Module inside the action plan of “The 5+5 Defense Initiative”, to the LUISS University Summer School, to the Peace Support Training Centre (Canada), to the Forward Project with the University of Siena, to the NATO School of Oberammergau (NSO), to the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Unit (CoESPU) in

Vicenza, the UNOCHA Civil-Military Cooperation Section in Switzerland.

In addition, Multinational CIMIC Group contributes annually to support Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) and European Battle Group (EUBG) with the Italian CIMIC Unit.

The Multinational CIMIC Group has also established two “Memorandum of Working Agreements” (MoWA) with the University of Trieste (2017) and Verona (2019) for collaboration and mutual support in civil-military research, development and teaching. In particular, the Memorandums set the conditions for an increasingly close osmotic confrontation between experts and trainers, guaranteed by the constant and genuine sharing of the expertise acquired in their respective fields of employment.



2008
US CACOM
Commanders Conference

Operations

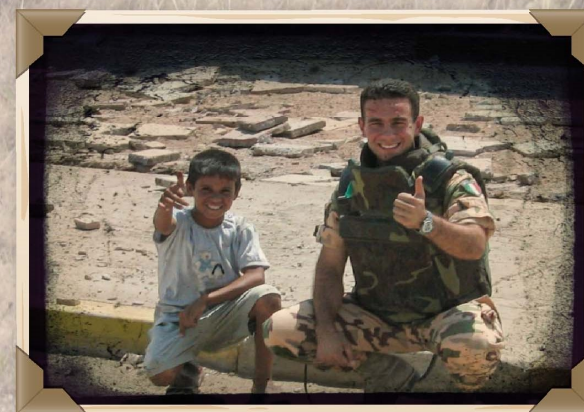
20th
22
anniversary from foundation

“CIMIC personnel provide both NATO Commanders and civilian institutions with the indispensable expertise to create the conditions necessary to bridge the civilian-military gap during not only crises but also during wartime”



MNCG operators are deployed in several parts of the world. Deployments include Balkans area with Kosovo, East and Middle East with Lebanon and Iraq, Africa with Somalia, Djibouti and Niger. MNCG soldiers are also deployed within the framework of EUNAVFORMED - Operation (in Rome HQs). MNCG is also capable of deploying Mobile Training Team (MTT) when a country requests support in term of doctrine and education. Actually MTTs have been deployed to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Lebanon, Portugal, Ukraine, Turkey and the USA. The unit is also called to support the Italian homeland security operation named “StradeSicure”.

Multinational CIMIC Group has, in addition, a unique capability called Remote CIMIC Support (RCS). Remote CIMIC Support is the ability to support CIMIC units, deployed in military operations, from the Motherland. This support is reflected in the analysis of the civil dimension of the Area of Interest, through a pool of experts included CIMIC Functional Specialists (CFS) and Subject Matter Experts (SME) from industries, universities and other agencies whose knowledge and expertise is spanning across all CIMIC areas of interest. This support is guaranteed by CIMIC operators trained over the years, through courses, tutorials and continuous deployments in Theatres of Operations.



2003
Iraq Antica Babilonia Operation

Links with NATO

20th₂₂
anniversary from foundation

“Joint and combined: these are the essential elements that permit to be stronger together”

Multinational CIMIC Group (HQ) is a NATO Affirmed Force to SACEUR affiliated to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Power in Europe (SHAPE). SACEUR will give, on a case by case basis, operational control (OPCON) to its subordinate Commanders with which MNCG will establish working relationship for training, evaluation, exercises or/and operations. Within this assignment, MNCG HQ and/or one of its earmarked units will be under the OPCON of a subordinate Commander, as soon as the state of readiness is declared in accordance with NATO procedures.

In case of Article 5 Operations, foreseen by the North Atlantic Treaty, MNCG HQ will be under the OPCON of SHAPE and its designated subordinate headquarters.

In NATO Non-Article 5 Crisis Response Operations, the MNCG HQ, or its elements, will be under the OPCON of the Force Commander in accordance with the Force generation process.

The structure enables the Multinational CIMIC Group to operate under operational control of a Joint Force Command (JFC), a Joint Task Force or other appropriate force Commanders at operational level. The MNCG structure is designed to exercise command and control also over CIMIC Units belonging to other NATO Member States as well as from non-NATO nations and entities in accordance with direction and guidelines provided by the Coordinating

Committee and as long as they comply with NATO Force Standards.

NATO will have the first priority on the use of MNCG when operational requirements arise. Moreover MNCG has two coordination links with both the JFCs (Brunssum and Naples), in term of training and exercises.

Multinational CIMIC Group is also a constant contributor for the NATO Response Force (NRF). The NATO Response Force is a high readiness force comprising Land, Air, Sea and Special Forces units capable of being deployed quickly on operations wherever needed. The purpose of the NRF is to provide a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to support NATO missions as required.

During the 2014 Wales summit NATO leaders agreed to establish a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The VJTF is to be a high-readiness “Spearhead Force” able to deploy at short notice to threats against NATO. MNCG has also assets to support VJTF in case of activation and annually it supports NATO needs by preparing his soldiers to be ready for any kind of possible deployment.



2008
Admiral Mark P. Fitzgerald
U.S. Naval Forces Europe and
Allied Joint Force
Command Naples Commander

Events

20th₂₂
anniversary from foundation

“The strong bond with the territory is the sign of a deep mutual respect”

The MNCG has continuous contacts with local authorities, associations, organizations and media, not only for representative or convivial activities, but also by involving some representatives of the aforementioned bodies in the internal courses, as role players, to have an output closer to reality in favor of the students. In addition, International Organizations (IOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGOs) representatives are participating as mentors and Subject Matter Experts on the MNCG annual exercises.

The aim is to enhance awareness on the potential of the institution beyond the proper military sphere.

An example of the strong links with the territory is also symbolized by the participation of 16 gonfalons (heraldic flags) in the Change of Command Ceremony. The 16 banners represent the cities of Vittorio Veneto (decorated with gold

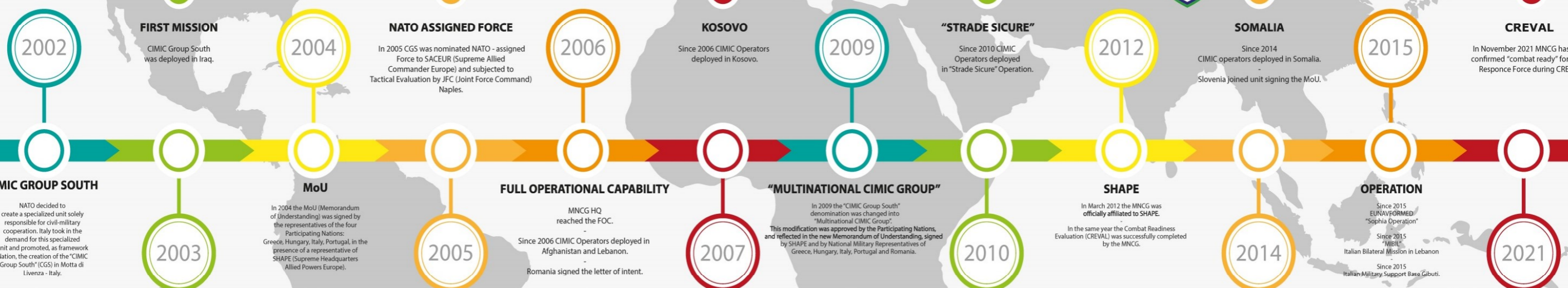
medal for military valour, cross of war and cross of merit of the Army), Motta di Livenza (decorated with bronze medal to military valour and cross of war), Oderzo (decorated with a cross of war), Conegliano (decorated with a cross of military valour), Cessalto, Chiarano, Fossalta di Piave, Gorgo al Monticano, Mansué, Maserada, Meduna di Livenza, Ormelle, Ponte di Piave, Povegliano, Portobuffolé and St. Stino di Livenza.

These relationships with territory have been enhanced by several activities carried out by CIMIC Operators over the years involving citizens, local commercial activities, cultural associations, sport clubs and school groups: i.e. the Multinational Run, the Barracks “open days”, the Exhibition on the First War World, the collective blood donation during the pandemic, books presentations and the CIMIC Units Commanders' Conferences, just to mention some of them.



2006
1st CIMIC Fun Run

2022 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



2002
FIRST MISSION
CIMIC Group South was deployed in Iraq.

2004
NATO ASSIGNED FORCE
In 2005 CGS was nominated NATO - assigned Force to SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) and subjected to Tactical Evaluation by JFC (Joint Force Command) Naples.

2006
KOSOVO
Since 2006 CIMIC Operators deployed in Kosovo.

2009
"STRADE SICURE"
Since 2010 CIMIC Operators deployed in "Strade Sicure" Operation.

2012
SOMALIA
Since 2014 CIMIC operators deployed in Somalia. Slovenia joined unit signing the MoU.

2015
CREVAL
In November 2021 MNCG has been confirmed "combat ready" for NATO Response Force during CREVAL

CIMIC GROUP SOUTH
NATO decided to create a specialized unit solely responsible for civil-military cooperation. Italy took in the demand for this specialized unit and promoted, as framework Nation, the creation of the "CIMIC Group South" (CGS) in Motta di Livenza - Italy.

2003
MoU
In 2004 the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed by the representatives of the four Participating Nations: Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, in the presence of a representative of SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe).

2005
FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY
MNCG HQ reached the FOC. Since 2006 CIMIC Operators deployed in Afghanistan and Lebanon. Romania signed the letter of intent.

2007
"MULTINATIONAL CIMIC GROUP"
In 2009 the "CIMIC Group South" denomination was changed into "Multinational CIMIC Group". This modification was approved by the Participating Nations, and reflected in the new Memorandum of Understanding, signed by SHAPE and by National Military Representatives of Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Romania.

2010
SHAPE
In March 2012 the MNCG was officially affiliated to SHAPE. In the same year the Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) was successfully completed by the MNCG.

2014
OPERATION
Since 2015 EUNAVFORMED "Sophia Operation". Since 2015 "AMBL" Italian Bilateral Mission in Lebanon. Since 2015 Italian Military Support Base Gibuti.

2021



Veterans

20th₂₂
anniversary from foundation

"No one dies on earth as long as he lives in the heart of those who remain"

On 13th February 2008, Warrant Officer Giovanni Pezzulo, from the CIMIC Group South and part of Task Force Surobi, was killed in a firefight claimed by the Taliban, about 60 kilometers from Kabul, in the town of Rudbar, during a civil-military cooperation activity.

The flags' square has been named in his honor. Every year Multinational CIMIC Group staff recalls his memory with a small ceremony held at the cemetery of Oderzo (Treviso) attended, also, by the family, on the 2nd November (recurrence of deaths) and every 13th of February.

"It is said that no one dies on earth as long as he lives in the heart of those who remain and Giovanni is still here with us. Every year we respect his memory by commemorating him as today. Second Lieutenant Pezzulo has done and continues to do something great. It gives us the opportunity to come together and reflect on the volatility of life and the essence of being military. There is no doubt that this will always be his second home." (MNCG Operator)

30th Maj 2011

The Taliban exploded a car outside the gate of a NATO base in the western Afghan city of Herat, setting off a gun battle as a bomber blew up amid a downtown crowd. The car bomb targeted the Provincial Reconstruction Team office, which coordinates the coalition's support for development and governance in the province. The Italian defense minister said five Italian soldiers were wounded. No one amongst Multinational CIMIC Group operators were effected seriously by the explosion.



1980
Pezzulo's military career begins

Training & Education

20th
22
anniversary from foundation

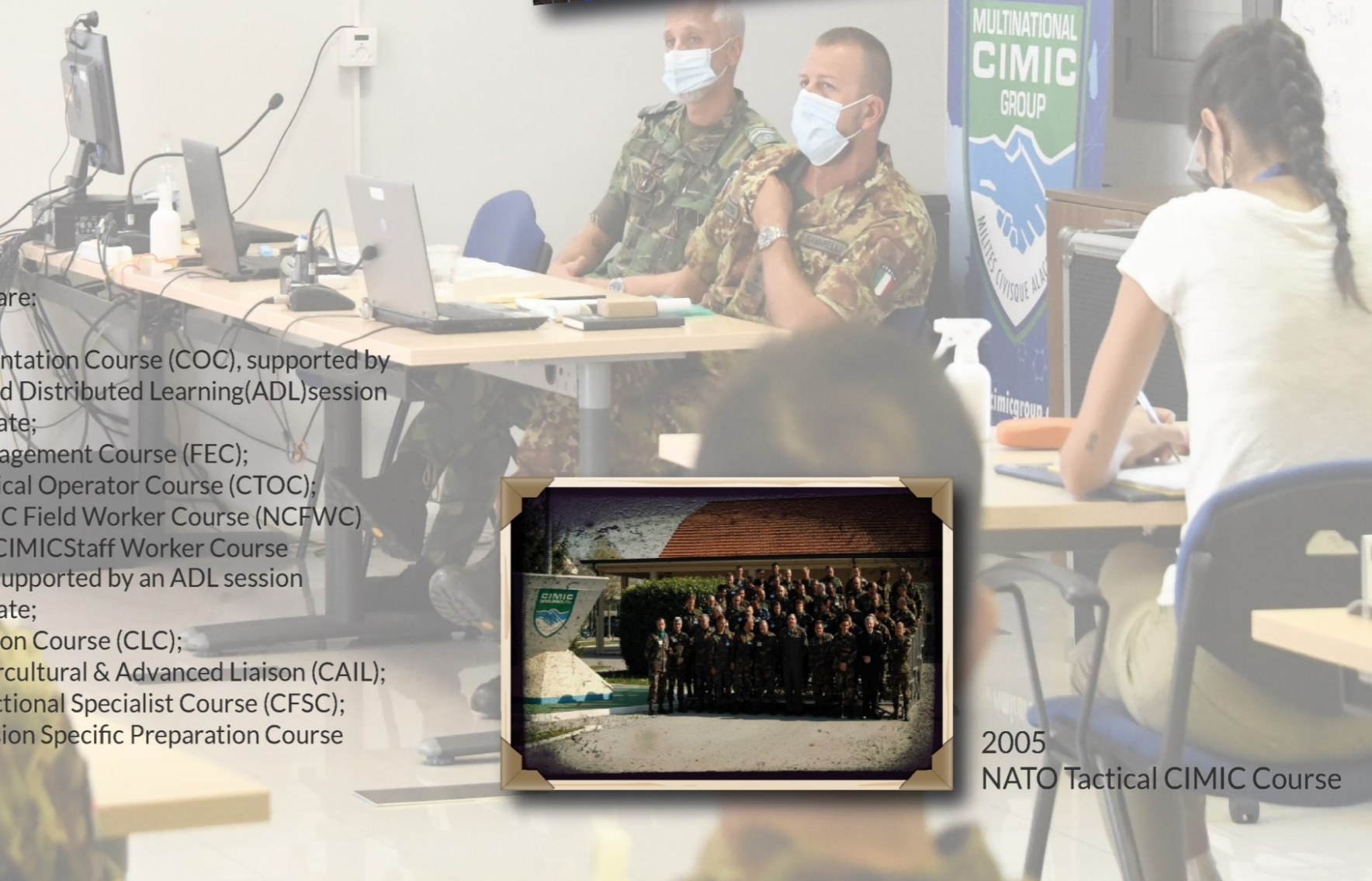
“The organization of the CIMIC Courses enables the development of a virtuous cycle by implementing what has been learnt into CIMIC classes into military operations” and teach into CIMIC classes what has been learnt in mission”



MNCG provides CIMIC training and education at the Operational and Tactical levels for military personnel and civilians, to enhance the CIMIC capabilities of Multinational CIMIC Group soldiers, participating nations representatives, cooperating nations members and other organizations personnel interested in the matter. MNCG run training and educational activities, both individual and collective. The educational bid includes 9 courses that can be accessed by both military and civilian personnel, from Participant Nations and other nationalities. Courses are delivered by subject matter experts and experienced instructors and comprise formal lectures, panel discussions and syndicate works.

The courses are:

- CIMIC Orientation Course (COC), supported by an Advanced Distributed Learning(ADL)session as appropriate;
- Female Engagement Course (FEC);
- CIMIC Tactical Operator Course (CTOC);
- NATO CIMIC Field Worker Course (NCFWC) and NATO CIMIC Staff Worker Course (NCSWC), supported by an ADL session as appropriate;
- CIMIC Liaison Course (CLC);
- CIMIC Intercultural & Advanced Liaison (CAIL);
- CIMIC Functional Specialist Course (CFSC);
- CIMIC Mission Specific Preparation Course (CMSPC).



2005
NATO Tactical CIMIC Course

Infrastructure

20th
22
anniversary from foundation

*“CIMIC is an incredible tool
approaching the nowadays
scenarios”*



A very important symbol of the unit is represented by the historic building of “Villa Veneta”. The building, which was the first of the current military complex, is the residual part of the palace “Condulmer” (XVIII sec.), which was one of the biggest palaces in Motta di Livenza. The central body was located where the Livenza river flows nowadays, just upstream of the walkway, in line with the outliving building. The whole palace was surrounded by high walls, topped with statues and closed by large and beautiful iron gates.

After the Second World War the building was the seat of the local secondary school until it was moved to another venue (1955) so all the land and the buildings were handed-over to the Ministry of Defense. Starting from 1956 different Engineers Corps were quartered within the premises of “Mario Fiore” barracks. By the years “Mario Fiore” barracks changed its look becoming one of the most modern and complete military infrastructure in Italy: a flagship within the Armed Forces.



2003
The old flagpole

Religious symbol

20th
22
anniversary from foundation

“If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are”

(Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

On September 2021 Saint Teresa of Calcutta became Multinational CIMIC Group patron. The event, chaired by Eminence Santo Marciànò, Ordinary Military Archbishop for Italy, represented the goal of an authorization process that lasted six years, in which the military and ecclesiastical authorities collaborated in order to achieve this historic result.

The decree, in fact, delivered on 21st July 2021 at the Military Ordinariate by Eminence Marciànò to the Commander of the MNCG, Colonel Mattia Zuzzi, was signed by the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Monsignor Arthur Roche and by the Undersecretary, Father Corrado Maggioni.

The formalization ceremony, held at the Mario Fiore Barracks in Motta di Livenza, was attended by various political and institutional positions in the Treviso area, as well as CIMIC operators, cyclically deployed in all operational scenarios in which the Armed Forces are called to intervene. Mother Teresa's life was dedicated to helping the

poorest, valuing the dignity present in every person, even in the most extreme conditions of hardship. Her goal has always been to overturn the traditional asymmetry of assistance practices which, often conducted with movements from top to bottom, proved to be humiliating and demotivating for those receiving support. In her view, the relationship between the giver and the recipient had to be equal, based on mutual understanding and respect, also through the sharing of styles and conditions of life. Mother Teresa has repeatedly reiterated that she loved all religions and has always been considered a symbol of union and aggregation even between different cults. For the mentioned reasons, the Saint was chosen as the symbol of the Multinational CIMIC Group. In fact, CIMIC operators are asked to cooperate and support the populations of the areas in which they are deployed and to create a bond of understanding and collaboration respecting the traditions and culture of a specific country in order to support the objectives of the mission itself.

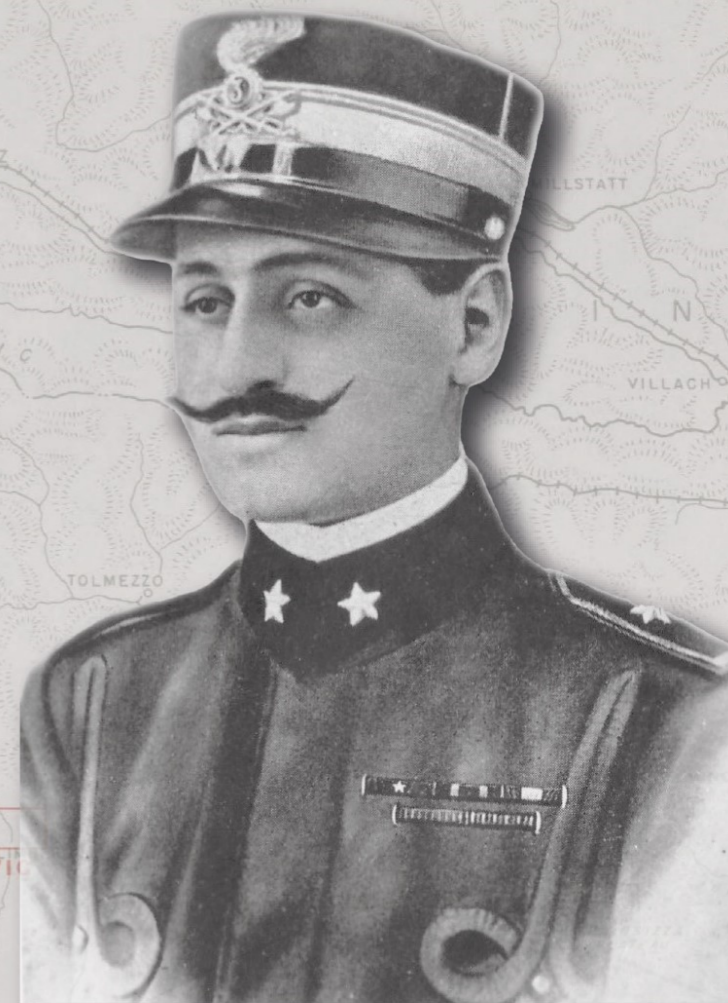


MNCG Chapel during one of the first ceremony

Historical symbol

20th₂₂
anniversary from foundation

*“Success isn't always about greatness.
It's about consistency. Consistent hard
work gains success. Greatness will come”*



The historical symbol of the unit is represented by the figure of Major Mario Fiore, after whom the barracks was named.

Mario Fiore was born in Naples in 1875 and, starting his military career with the royal army with the rank of Captain, participated in the Italian-Turkish war in Libya in 1911-12. In 1918, he was a superior officer of the Engineers Corps and the Commander of the 79th Engineers Battalion, whose headquarters were established at “Casa Rossi”, between Visnadello and Spresiano, and whose task was to strengthen the defensive works of the railway levee from Spresiano to Ponte della Priula, in an area on the edge of the bloody fighting and subjected of sporadic cannon shots and sub-guns carried out by enemy aircrafts.

The standstill situation ceases abruptly on the morning of 15th June 1918, when the Austro-Hungarian infantrymen began the assault and within few hours overwhelmed all defenses in the area from Giavera del Montello to Nervesa della Battaglia. The 79th Engineers Battalion was

called up to halt the advance with troops unprepared for infantry combat. On 17th June 1918, at around 3 p.m., after two days of bitter fighting, dismissing the advances of the very prepared Austro-Hungarian assault troops, Mario Fiore did not hesitate to intervene in person to eliminate the threat posed by a section of machine guns infiltrated near the Italian line. He launched himself to the attack along with his men, but was stopped by a deadly close-range barrage fire that killed him on the spot. In the following days, his soldiers, driven by the example of their Commander, would not withdraw from the position, deserving a quote in the war bulletin of 21st June 1918: “The 79th battalion, fighting alongside the Infantry, once again confirmed the spirit of sacrifice and the value of the Engineers Corps.”

Mario Fiore was awarded with the highest reward to the military valour, as the plaque indicating his grave recalls at the entrance to the cemetery of Camalò.



Grave of Maj. Mario Fiore located in Camalò (Treviso)

CAMPAIGN IN ITALY

BATTLE OF THE

Situation 15 June and Gains to 6 July

SCALE OF MILES

CIMIC operator

20th
22
anniversary from foundation

*“Readiness is not a status.
It is a state of mind”*

The civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) operator is a soldier who has passed complex and highly qualifying training steps. In fact, the operator, before becoming such, passes through a series of courses, field activities and experiences that allow him to become an expert in his field. At the base of the qualities of a CIMIC operator there are undoubtedly the skills that every soldier must have to be defined as such but, in addition, the operator is a specialist in negotiation and communication techniques, a connoisseur of cultural awareness, principles of mediation, the holistic approach and good financial management techniques. The CIMIC operator is the subject matter expert of the local culture in which the tactical assets are deployed, he is the link between the military and civil spheres, he represents the advisor of the commander regarding decisions that serve to minimize the impact of the military effort on the civilian environment and to maximize resources within the area of operation. In fact, the CIMIC operator is the one who, having daily contacts with

International Organizations (IOs), Governmental Organizations (GOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is able to identify areas of collaboration, cognitive and qualitative gaps that allow to have a deep knowledge of the society and to intervene in support of non-military actors in order to sustain the mission itself.



2003
First activities of CIMIC
operators in Iraq

The Coat of Arms

20th
22
anniversary from foundation

“Maximize resources and harmonize all stakeholders’ effort: this is the goal”



The coat of arms of the Multinational CIMIC Group, from 2002 to 2009 CIMIC Group South, was born from the collaboration with CIMIC Group North, now transformed in CIMIC Centre of Excellence (CCOE). The coats of arms of the two units were originally similar in graphics and, in part, in the use of colors. Today at the top of the coat there is the inscription “Multinational CIMIC Group”, below which appears a handshake, a gesture elected as a symbol of humanitarian aid and cooperation. The green color expresses the hope that regiment must bring to civilian populations in crisis areas. The white and blue represent the colors of the robe (sari) of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the patron saint of the unit. The motto of MNCG is “Militescivisquealacriter” and refers to the goal of the Multinational CIMIC Group, which is to reduce the distance between the military and the civil sphere in a synergistic, rapid and voluntary way.



2002
NATO decided to create a specialized unit solely responsible for civil-military cooperation. Italy took in the demand and promoted, as framework Nation, the creation of the “CIMIC Group South” (CGS)

Commanders

20th₂₂
anniversary from foundation



Col. f. (b.) t. SG Luciano TROGU
from 12 dec 2003 to 07 march 2006



Col. f. spe. RN Celestino DI PACE
from 08 march 2006 to 13 nov 2008



Col. a. (ter.) t. ISSMI Mauro D'UBALDI
from 14 nov 2008 to 09 sep 2009



Col. a. (ter.) t. ISSMI Antonello VESPAZIANI
from 10 sep 2009 to 10 oct 2011



Col. g. (gua.) t. ISSMI (E) Fabiano ZINZONE
from 11 oct 2011 to 08 sep 2013



Col. a. (c/a) t. ISSMI (E) Uberto INCISA di CAMERANA
from 08 sep 2013 al 23 jul 2015



Col. f. (G) t. ISSMI (E) Liberato AMADIO
from 24 jul 2015 to 21 jul 2016



Col. c. (li.) t. ISSMI (E) Marco LONGO
from 22 jul 2016 to 08 jun 2017



Col. f. t. ISSMI Francesco GRECO
from 09 jun 2017 al 11 oct 2018



Col. a. (c/a) t. ISSMI Luca VITALI
from 12 oct 2018 to 15 oct 2020

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... "from regional to global" ...