

► SFA Seminar 2023

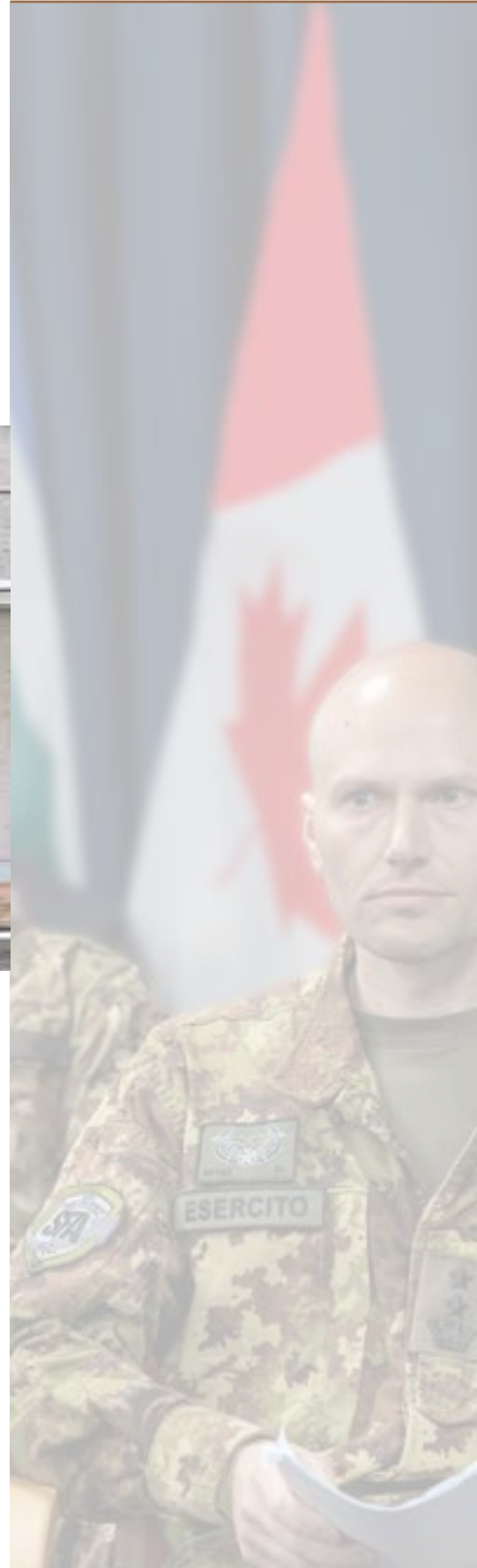
Security Force Assistance within continuum of competition

The NRDC-ITA Security Force Assistance (SFA) Seminar 2023 was held at the Ugo Mara barracks in Solbiate Olona (Varese) on 10 May 23, with external guests allowed to attend. The focus was on “SFA within the continuum of competition”. The aim of the seminar was to share knowledge and encourage a deep-dive discussion on the SFA’s role in relation to NATO three core tasks: deterrence and defense, crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security. The seminar supported NRDC-ITA’s recalibration process to a Warfighting Corps HQ while it simultaneously contributed to maintaining its readiness as a JTF HQ.



NRDC-ITA Commander, LTG Lorenzo D’Addario, who delivered the opening remarks, chaired the seminar and DCOS COMM, BG Laszlo Gangler, who welcomed all the external guests and participants, spoke after him. The seminar was divided into two panels, where Panel 1 paved the way and laid a common basis of academic and doctrinal knowledge, while Panel 2 included lessons learned and best practices from NATO operations and exercises. Both panels allowed time for questions and open discussion moderated by Prof. Fabrizio W. Luciolli from La Sapienza University in Rome and President of the Italian Atlantic Committee. The list of briefers included NATO SFA Centre of Excellence instructors as well as both NATO and Italian MoD command SMEs, specifically, JFCNP Section Head at Partnerships and Defense Capacity Building Section at NSD-S Hub, Multinational Cimic Group Commander, Center Studies Post Conflict Operation head of study and doctrine department, and Number 2 Company of 1st Battalion Irish Guards, GBR Army.

Lieutenant Colonel
ITA Army
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Lectures covered the concepts underlying NATO 'Projecting Stability' and the important role of NATO SFA. The SFA concept is included in broader strategies such as Defence and the related Security Capacity Building Initiative. NATO programs help partner countries to develop their own defence and security institutions and forces. The future vision of the Alliance in which "prevention is better than intervention" highlighted the importance of training forces, which is the core task of the SFA. The training audience of the SFA Seminar included NRDC-ITA personnel, partner HQs and representatives from affiliated units, and subject matter experts, who attended both in presence and via VTC.

SFA activities are applicable at all levels of operations: military, strategic, operational, and tactical, and contribute to a strategic end-state in line with the continuum of competition. The SFA Framework is a non-linear process; this is why it is an adaptable and flexible tool in the hands of the military instrument of power, able to provide any type of assistance to strengthen security as part of the 3 NATO Core Tasks and the 3 Strategic Core policies. Providing assistance means providing a good pool of advisors with certain skills, such as being a good communicator, a good listener for Project Stability, and strengthening security outside of NATO territory. The pathway for support depends on the stage of a crisis and its intensity.

