The President's Word

Even though I refuse to organise the many catastrophes, wars, tragedies, countless acts of violence and the ever-increasing human misery that have plagued our planet in 2001 into any kind of hierarchy, there is little choice but to agree that the 11 September attacks on the United States and their fallout will leave a permanent mark on how history sees the past year. And these events have affected CISM's activities quite dramatically, as the Spanish government has declared its official intention—out of concerns for security—to give up the organisation of the 2003 Military World Games in Madrid. This decision is not new but no less surprising and unexpected. Indeed, not only has Spain confirmed the holding of all the other civilian sporting events it is committed to organising but the Spanish authorities do not seem to give weight to the fact that having its Armed Forces organise the MWG would provide an additional guarantee of safety and security.

As President of CISM, I have no choice but to accept this decision by the Spanish government, even though it cancels an official commitment enacted by the General Assembly in Aix-les-Bains. Unfortunately, the Spanish government does not seem to have understood the symbolism of the Military World Games and the ideals of CISM, whose ultimate aim is to establish that it is possible, and perhaps even more important in times of turmoil, to talk the language of peace and rapprochement between peoples. The General Assembly in Opatija will take all relevant decisions regarding the organisation of the 2003 MWG, bearing in mind the fact that this sports rendezvous is a major happening that contributes substantially to our organisation's recognition at international level and to our visibility worldwide.

This decision by the Spanish government casts a late shadow on an otherwise outstanding record in 2001. Despite a very depressed economy and in spite of the restructuring processes that some of Member countries' Armed Forces have undergone—which have meant that some of their financial and human resources have been cut, leading to the amputation of part of their sporting potential—our calendar of sports and other events is well stocked indeed. Last year, we also adopted the new Rules and Regulations—drafted in record time—that will equip CISM with the structures it needs to speed up the development of its activities.

But there is another problem that needs addressing as a matter of urgency, i.e., the imbalance that exists between our Member countries and continents, in terms of both their participation in and organisation of events. If the latter become the private hunting grounds of the more affluent countries, we might as well renounce immediately our status as a global organisation, not to mention our Membership Charter and our solidarity ideals. The proportion of CISM members is far too high and entries in our world championships are often limited to European countries—and the same is true of most of the events, sporting or otherwise, that we organise. Your President is committed to representing all continents. This is why we need to review our calendar of sporting events and enhance our technical assistance and solidarity programmes by strengthening our financial resources and also, as was done in 2001, by developing and promoting synergies with major international institutions and sports federations.

An important chapter in this Annual Report is dedicated to a review of our action and underscores the growing interest shown in our organisation by various international bodies including the International Olympic Committee, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and Olympic Aid. These large structures have identified our organisation's huge potential, namely when it comes to solidarity actions, for which they are even contemplating regular consultations with us with a view to initiating joint projects.

The very legitimacy of an organisation such as ours, with its desire to promote a rapprochement between peoples and to contribute effectively to world peace as enshrined in its Membership Charter, is growing by the day. At a time when the four corners of the world are trembling with the crash of weapons firing and bombs exploding, CISM, as a military sport organisation, is one of the only voices of common sense when it raises high the standards of "Friendship through Sport" and solidarity.

These are principles that are promoted through the humanist values enshrined by all our Member Armed Forces upon signing CISM's Membership Charter. And this is the message that I call upon you, Members of CISM, to deliver even more vigorously in 2002.
The Secretary General

From my personal point of view, the General Assembly in Algiers was certainly the main event in 2001, as CISM's delegations voted there to elect our organisation's new Secretary General, and was greatly honoured to be chosen. I took office in May, taking over from Colonel Bernard Hurst, who left his position as CISM Secretary General after a four-year term.

As I mentioned in several electoral speeches, Secretaries General come and go. Each contributes his ideas and personal style and character. But they also have to discharge their office within the limits of, and in compliance with, the clear line of conduct defined by the Board of Directors and the General Assembly's decisions, themselves taken pursuant of the new Rules and Procedures voted in Algiers and of the Membership Charter that all our member nations have signed since 1997. This Charter contains a very precise definition of CISM's philosophy and I regularly refer to its text to ensure that the General Secretariat's policies fully comply with the principles it contains. So you could say that the Membership Charter is a document I know like the back of my hand. Another important document, which I am eagerly awaiting, is the strategic plan, which the Planning Commission was set up to draft. This strategic document will be a useful addition to the range of documents that could the Secretary General and his staff with the means to make steady progress on clearly marked out paths.

Continuous Improvement of the General Secretariat's Internal Operation

The General Secretariat's aim and mission consist in serving our organisation and the delegations of all its Member nations. My objective in this field was to improve the operational efficiency of our internal procedures in order to meet the needs of our "clients" even better while developing, within the confines of our budget, our human, material and financial resources.

Having an efficient staff requires providing them with a working environment that is conducive to happiness and therefore effectiveness. When I took office, the House of CISM, prestigious as it was, was in such a state of disrepair that it both disvalued our real estate and undermined our status as an international organisation. Moreover, major works were no longer an option as the independent audit that I ordered showed that some of our...
equipment failed to meet minimum legal safety requirements. The amount of the first estimate of the cost of the works required—performed before I took office—was simply astronomical. Therefore, we decided to adopt a practical approach and the works will be conducted for a much more reasonable amount (less than an quarter of the initial bid) that falls within budget constraints. Work started in October 2001 and since I do not want to bore you with a detailed account of all the alterations involved, I shall only report that three months into the works, the House of CISM is hardly recognisable. It is already back to its original prestige—well, mostly—and I can assure you that when the renovation is complete, our superb House will comply fully with all safety standards.

Another of my main concerns has been to improve the General Secretariat’s IT platform. Following a detailed review performed by a specialist—on free secondment by the Belgian Armed Forces—our IT services supplier’s contract was renewed for another four years. The installation of new hardware started late last year and should be completed in January. At that time, the General Secretariat will be equipped with up-to-date computers, which should ensure continuity and stability for at least four years.

A brand new telephone switchboard—that meets the needs of an international organisation, at last—was installed in August 2001 and is fully operational.

I agree that it is important to modernise the General Secretariat’s infrastructure but in my opinion, it is equally crucial to function better as CISM’s headquarters. This involves strengthening our human resources, as despite the full commitment of six soldiers and five civilians, they are patently inadequate to face the enormous workload and deliver the services that we want to offer our delegations. The process of recruiting new staff is now underway due consideration for our limited financial resources and the administrative procedures to follow, which both limit our recruitment prospects, whether in military circles or on the open labour market. Having said that, it is an area that will receive my full attention because we need brains and legs to deliver on all our commitments.

With the existing staff’s full co-operation, we have also developed new working methods and a more efficient structure. This is for example how I delegated—as promised in my manifesto—part of the Secretary General’s traditional tasks to my three section heads. This empowerment is the prerequisite of motivation. Of course, the ultimate responsibility for all actions remains mine but individual initiatives and creativity now have currency in the many consultation and information meetings that are organised. My ambition is to inspire genuine team spirit in the staff and I must say that I have enjoyed the full co-operation, loyalty and support of the entire staff. This can only encourage me to forge ahead in the direction I have set for myself. I must also underscore that the staff’s competencies and skills have impressed me.

Colonel Robert Eggemont and Lt General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chief of the General Staff of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces.

Combining strict adherence to CISM’s Rules and Procedures with flexibility in their enforcement

The new Rules and Regulations resulting from the review conducted by a team of skilled specialists and voted during the General Assembly in Algiers provide a solid reference framework. I know full well from the start that enforcing these new rules in day-to-day practice was going to require a rather lengthy transition and adjustment period—which, by the way, is far from over.

I will spare you a detailed list of the cases in which the Secretary General, while keen to abide by the new rules, enforced them somewhat creatively. I must also recognise that our delegations’ comprehension and co-operation have helped us greatly in offering this much-needed degree of flexibility.

Promoting sound, trust-based relations with the Member Nations’ Delegations by means of direct contacts and frank and open communication

As part of the total quality approach that I am trying to promote within CISM’s House, information and communication are key concepts in which I believe very much and which are gradually becoming natural to the staff. But CISM was not built in one day, and neither will the General Secretariat.
Contacts between our staff and the Member nations have grown exponentially and both our telephone switchboard and our respective e-mail boxes have been overflowing with messages from the four corners of the world—messages which are all answered diligently, of course.

Personally, I have endeavoured to intensify direct contacts with our Delegations and Liaison Offices as well as with the Presidents of our Commissions and Technical Committees. Unfortunately, even though it is essential for me to stay abreast of developments in the field and despite having delegated a substantial share of my work to my staff, I can hardly afford to leave the office for extended periods of time. So far, I have visited the Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Barbados on official business and these trips have provided me with many opportunities to make contacts and become acquainted with the reality of some of our delegations’ work. I am committed to visiting other regions but I must also strike a balance between indoor and outdoor activities. Furthermore, there is a need to improve our external communication with international institutions and sport federations. In 2001, these efforts included my presence at Council of Europe and GAFIF meetings in Strasbourg and Singapore respectively.

Reducing bureaucracy and the administrative burden by promoting more practical and operational procedures in favour of our Member Nations and our Organisation as a whole

This has become a motto for operations within the General Secretariat. Granted, there is no escaping administrative tasks or drafting documents. But we are trying our best to accelerate the production and circulation of our documents. To do this, we have had to develop new procedures. At the last Board of Directors, for example, we tested a new layout for the minutes that allowed all Board Members to leave Barbados with their own precious set in their luggage. Whether in terms of the format or contents, we are trying to produce more interesting and exhaustive documents. We are labouring hard on working methods that enable us to avoid straying from essentials, thereby saving time for creative, innovative ideas.

Fighting the emergence of a two-tier CISM with increased Solidarity between Countries, Regions and Continents

believe that this spirit, which is CISM’s strength and one of its hallmarks, emerges from a genuine organisational culture that needs to pervade all activities at our headquarters themselves.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Colonel Gianelli Gola (Italy)
President of the Communications and Marketing Commission (ad interim, March 2002)

SECRETARY GENERAL
Colonel Robert Eggermont (Belgium)

VICE-PRESIDENTS
Colonel M. Kalaba (Cameron)
Colonel L. De Wulf (Belgium)
Colonel M. Al Khateeb (Kuwait)
Brigadier General I. Popowycz (Canada)

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Colonel M. Motshahadi (Botswana)
Colonel P. Jenoure (Switzerland)
Lt-Colonel H. Traoré (Burkina Faso)
Niery Capt. B. Nylander (Sweden)

OTHER MEMBERS (cont’d)
Lt-Colonel M. Saint-Bonnet (France)
Major General Y. Chen (China)
Colonel M. Metref (Algeria)
President of the Solidarity Commission
Colonel J. Da Silva Ramos (Brazil)
Brigadier General M. Ali Sabour (Iran)
Colonel E. Rodríguez (Venezuela)

TREASURER GENERAL
Colonel A. Thery (Belgium)

OTHER PRESIDENTS OF COMMISSIONS
Air Commodore Huib van Dillen (the Netherlands)
President of the Discipline Commission
Li-Colonel S. Russo (USA)
President of the Regulation Commission
Brigadier General Albert Jansen
President of the Planning Commission
56th General Assembly

CISM in Seventh Heaven

For its 56th first General Assembly, the first of the 21st Century, CISM touched port in Algiers, the capital of a country it has tended to visit quite often over the last five years. The Board meeting was held in 1996 and the 2000 edition of the world military cross-country championship had enabled the Algerian delegation to provide ample guarantee for the smooth running of this General Assembly, an event that CISM expected to be memorable in a variety of respects. Claiming that our organization came out of its Algiers meeting with all the results it expected is definitely not an exaggeration or an overstatement.

This achievement is in great part due to the Algerian delegation and its dedicated efforts to accommodate and assist in every possible way the delegates of the 84 delegations present. The seaside hotel that accommodated all delegates as well as the Menton, Commission and Board meetings was both functional and splendid. Equally wonderful—and offering all the amenities required for international conferences—was the Palais des Nations that hosted the sessions of the General Assembly. Transport services were also available in quantity and quality to ferry delegations between the various venues in a very flexible and timely manner.

Nothing is ever absolutely perfect, of course, but it must be said that the organizing committee—masterminded by Colonel Metret, who also acted as member of the Board of Directors and head of the Algerian delegation—never spared its efforts and solved any problems as they emerged, with diligence and good will.

This General Assembly was also an opportunity for CISM to meet with high-ranking Algerian officials. The Board meeting, for example, received several distinguished visitors: General Lamiri, Chief of the General Staff of the Algerian Armed Forces, Mr. Abdermalek Nourari, Wali of Algiers, Mr. Abderrahim Sellal, Minister of Sport and Youth and General Senior, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence. Such meetings are essential to promote our organization’s recognition by political and institutional authorities worldwide. The programme of the General Assembly also presented CISM with an opportunity to visit some of Algeria’s many cultural treasures. Rest assured that the members of the Board of Directives will never forget their fascinating trip to the Taghtl oases. As for the GA delegates, they will fondly remember their visit of the Tipaza Wilaya.

The Board of Directors with the chief of the Algerian Armed Forces General Staff, General Lamiri

The most momentous occasion at this 56th General Assembly was certainly CISM’s quasi-unanimous adoption of new Regulations and Rules, which will equip our organisation with new and modern structures that will contribute to the development of its activities.

One of the points that participants were particularly looking forward to was the election of CISM’s new Secretary General. As usual, it was packed with suspense right until the result was proclaimed and the outcome was so uncertain that no bookmaker would have dared bet a cent on either candidate. This successor to Colonel Hurst, who received universal praise for his work throughout his four-year term, is Colonel Eggpinig. He is our organization’s third Belgian Secretary General—following Chevalier Mikel and General Heesteept.

What else is there to report about this General Assembly? Well, discussions were lively and the various presentations over more professional and interesting; our programme of sport events for the next few years is sufficiently copious to stanch the thirst for action of the most demanding observer; twenty-seven new heads of delegations attended their first General Assembly (they were spared the usual practical jokes); Colonel Al Khatheeb (Kuwait) and General Popowycz (Canada) were co-opted for a year as Vice-Presidents for Asia and the Americas respectively, and Brigadier General Al Sbour (Iran) and Colonel Rodriguez (Venezuela) took part in their first Board meeting. Canada received the Fair-Play Trophy in recognition of the wonderful attitude of their triathlete Corporal Maryse Ayotte who, in the world military triathlon championships held in Satubd, rescued a competitor who nearly lost consciousness during the swimming leg and helped her ashore before entering the race again, even though she had clearly lost any chance of producing a good performance. CISM’s Solidarity Trophy went to the Belgian delegation in recognition of its huge efforts in a field it has always treasured.

All—or nearly all—has now been said about this General Assembly. The Mediterranean basin seems to have become a popular destination among CISM delegates. Last year, it was the olive groves of the Kalimata beaches in Greece. This year, the sunny peaches of the Bay of Algiers. And in 2002, we will visit the Croatian seaside in Opatija.
Executive Committee Meeting

CISM under the Asian Spell

Three months after its latest meeting in Southern Africa (Luanda, Angola), the Executive Committee started its 2001 meetings in Southeast Asia.

It is with great pleasure that CISM took the trip to Honor. Indeed, having joined our organisation in 1998, Vietnam is one of our newest members. By hosting this Executive Committee meeting, this country has again demonstrated, as on so many occasions since becoming a member, its intention to make military sport a high-level priority. A bare few months into its membership, Vietnam already made it to the cover of Sport International when it clinched a silver and a bronze medal at the 19th World Military Taekwondo Championship held in Fort Hood, Texas (USA). A praiseworthy performance for its first attendance of a CISM championship.

CISM knows full well how difficult it is for Asian countries to organise international events. The size of the continent is an obstacle to regional contacts, and distances with other continents—and the travelling costs they entail—are certainly not an encouragement for other CISM members to travel to Asia to take part in the world championships organised there. Still, since the first three countries from this continent (The Lebanon, Pakistan and Syria) joined our organisation in 1982, Asia has organised 60 world championships, 11 General Assemblies and 16 Executive Committee meetings. Thanks to its ancestral martial arts culture, Asia has accumulated many wrestling, judo and taekwondo titles. Every year, this continent also displays its know-how by bagging countless gold medals in a variety of sports including handball, volleyball, football, military pentathlon, basketball, paragliding and swimming.

Vietnam’s initiative comes at exactly the right time to provide renewed impetus for the organisation of global CISM events by the countries represented in the Liaison Office for Southeast Asia, an Office within which China alone multiplies the initiatives. CISM very much counts on Vietnam to act as a catalyst, as we are convinced that this new member nation can be instrumental to the establishment of peace in a region that has been plagued with many painful conflicts over the last decades. With the organisation of many military sport encounters in the region, Vietnam has all the assets in its hands to contribute its effort to our development by inviting many neighbouring nations to join CISM.

As for the members of the Executive Committee, they were treated to the usual series of lengthy work sessions as, in addition to the usual business—adoption of the schedule of sport events in 2001-2002 and selection of official representatives—as, to spend a full day-and-a-half on the full review of CISM’s Regulations of Procedure. Unfortunately, the members of the Executive Committee had little opportunity to enjoy the sights in the Vietnamese capital, its Red River, eight lesser rivers and countless lakes. They still found some time for an official visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and the Monument to the Martyr Heroes, and to sample the Water Puppet Show, a unique show with a reputation that stretches far beyond national borders.

The organisers also carefully planned a surprise for the day after the closing ceremony, to reward the members of the Executive Committee for their commitment in the many never-ending work sessions dedicated to CISM. They masterminded a flexi trip that will forever live in the memories of all participants: an excursion to Ha Long Bay. Considered one of the Wonders of the World and on UNESCO’s World Heritage list, these 1,500 km2 of crystal-clear water are dotted with thousands of islands and caves. The trip of a lifetime, on a par with Vietnamese gastronomy, which will leave a lasting memory in the taste buds of all Executive Committee members. Like so many others before them, they came under the unparalleled spell of Southeast Asia.

At us now report on the Executive Committee meeting itself, during which the Republic of Vietnam not only demonstrated how hospitable it is but also its ability to organise CISM events to perfection. The organisers made certain of both the quality of the distinguished guests invited to meet the members of the Executive Committee and of the media attention summoned for this event. The organisers’ efforts were a genuine contribution to the enhancement of CISM’s image in the country. This is how the Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Le Van Dong chaired the closing ceremony and dinner while Major General Do Trung, Deputy Chief of the General Staff and former Head of the Vietnamese delegation to CISM, hosted this Executive Committee meeting’s opening ceremony and dinner.
Board of Directors in Barbados

CISM in Paradise

When they decided two years ago to meet three times annually, the members of the Board of Directors—who also meet in Bridgetown under that designation for the first time since the decision to change their collective name was taken at the General Assembly in Algiers—CISM’s governing body, took a judicious decision indeed. In terms of speeding up the decision-making process and expanding our organisation’s activities worldwide, by agreeing to travel with part accommodation expenses, the Board members also opened new member countries—and those looking to renew the impetus of their activities within CISM—to advertise our organisation domestically and regionally. CISM’s decision to rotate venues further enhances its ability to reach a wide variety of regions worldwide and to work on the organisation’s expansion plan.

The Board of Directors’ decision to go into self-imposed exile for a very short... well, notoriously, actually—weeks in Bridgetown, Barbados, instead was also a sort of a move to a location whose dynamism is highly commendable and which only a few months into CISM membership, is already home to the Liaison Office for North America. Hosting the Board meeting in Barbados full in perfectly with both CISM’s and the Office’s expansion policy, their common goal is to organise CISM events on all major Caribbean islands, an objective which found its way into an official resolution stating the Board of Directors’ unwavering support for the regional Liaison Office’s expansion as well as for the development of CISM activities across the Caribbean.

In Barbados, the Board of Directors found perfect conditions to conduct fruitful sessions leading to many practical decisions that will speed up the implementation of our new Rules and Procedures and the installation of CISM’s new structures. As for the issue of the 3rd Military World Games, it is addressed by our President in his introduction.

The organising committee of the Board of Directors meeting, masterminded by Barbados-Head of Delegation and Chair of CISM Caribbean, also had the excellent idea of combining CISM’s activities with celebrations commemorating the 35th anniversary of the island’s independence. This provided CISM President Colonel Goli with the opportunity to award a medal to the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Owen S. Arthur. A reception, allowed the Board members to meet with all local and regional authorities, whether political, sporting, diplomatic or institution. This public relations exercise was a complete success and was partly repeated whenever CISM was invited to official events.

The Board members also took part in the ‘Barbados Run’. This event gave them an opportunity to see for themselves that—whether walking or running—it is rather difficult to adjust to the requirements of quasi-tropical weather. As part of the cultural day, the participants were given a taste of the island’s two very different coasts: the tormenting, grassy and windy Atlantic-

coast and the sedate Caribbean Sea’s postcard, sandy beaches planted with palm trees and dotted with countless hotels competing for luxury. Clearly enough of a display to convince everyone to come back to the region

CISM in Paradise

Major Roy Hilliar (CAN) rewarded for his remarkable support during the Board of Directors meeting

Colonel H. Maynard, decorated by the President of CISM, Col. G. Goli

CISM press conference

The members of the Board Directors have participated to the ‘Run Barbados’
International as Can Be

CISM’s quest for international recognition and strengthened visibility cannot succeed if its approach is only its communication policy and its open mind towards the media. It also needs to rely on high-level contacts with government officials, international institutions and major sports federations. And CISM has doubtless covered quite a lot of ground in that direction in recent years. Below is a synthesis of some of the actions carried out in 2001. The list is far from exhaustive as, for example, the countless meetings that CISM has yearly with national governments during world or regional events are not listed here. Suffice to mention two examples: Egyptian President Mubarak’s presence in the stadium at the final of the World Military Football Championship and the warm welcome that the Lebanese President, Mr. Emile Lahoud, reserved for CISM’s representatives at the World Military Track and Field Championship. Every single General Assembly, every Board meeting provides top CISM officials with an opportunity to meet with the organisation’s highest authorities.

CISM and Juan Antonio Samaranch

In May, the International Military Sports Council (CISM) paid tribute to Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, who, throughout his career and office, worked for the good of sport. He took his leave of the IOC in July 2001 after an uninterrupted 21 years as its President. Under his imperious rule, the International Olympic Committee has become one of the world’s most powerful and influential international institutions.

At the end of May, in a ceremony held in the entrance hall of the International Olympic Committee’s headquarters in Lausanne, Colonel Gianni Golia, President of CISM, awarded Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch the Grand Cordon of CISM. In addition to several IOC authorities including Mr. Fikourkidiane and Mr. Gilbert Ferré, the ceremony was also attended by CISM’s incoming and departing Secretaries General, Colonel Robert Eggermont and Colonel Bernard Hurst, as well as by Colonel Jean-Jacques Josa, head of the Swiss delegation. CISM will always be grateful to Mr. Samaranch for his special attention to military sport. He was certainly the first among major global leaders to have understood our ideals and objectives as well as the important and effective role played by military sport in the modern world. Very early on, he noticed our potential and understood the advantages and opportunities that synergies between the civilian and military sport spheres could deliver.

Mr. Samaranch opened the IOC’s doors wide for CISM and it is in no small part thanks to him that we are now members of the great Olympic family. Not only has he been one of the most vocal proponents of CISM, but he also contributed substantially, with his advice and initiatives, to the promotion of our Council and of the events it organises. With his presence, he played an active role in the celebrations of CISM’s 50th anniversary and in the opening ceremonies of the first two editions of the Military World Games. He also made tangible contributions to our solidarity endeavours. And he invested personal efforts to help us find organisers for the next edition of the Military World Games, whose symbolic value and huge importance he fully grasps. Furthermore, he opened the doors of the IOC House in Lausanne where CISM held one of its Executive Committee sessions in February 1999.

CISM and the IOC

As indicated above, many privileged links unite the IOC and CISM. Our President, Colonel Gola, has built excellent relations with the newly-elected IOC President, Mr. Jacques Rogge. An exchange of views or comments—also to be attended by our Secretary General—is scheduled to take place during the first half of 2002 for the purpose of investigating practical avenues of cooperation between our organisations.

CISM and GAISF

Our Secretary General, Colonel Robert Eggermont, attended the General Assembly and Congress of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), held in Singapore on 23-27 October 2001. A wonderful opportunity for CISM to strengthen its contacts with other federations, improve the co-ordination of the international sports programme, develop synergies and study the feasibility of joint projects.

CISM and the Council of Europe

Our Secretary General was also invited by the Council of Europe Committee for the Development of Sport to represent CISM alongside FIFA, FIBA, GAISF, UEFA, UNESCO, the Dutch and German Olympic Committees, Sport Without Borders and Slovenia (other associations were excused) in the preparation of a project called “Red Balloons”. The aim of this initiative is to promote sport in after-crisis situations, for example in refugee camps. Following a contact meeting held in Strasbourg on 18 February 2001, another meeting will take place on 28 February 2002 to consider the feasibility of a joint project.

CISM visits President of Lebanon, M. Emile Lahoud
CISM and Olympic Aid

Following encouraging initial contacts between Brigadier General Popowych, CISM Vice-President for America, and Olympic Aid, CISM Secretary General Colonel Robert Eggpermott was tasked by the Board of Directors to develop joint projects with this organisation based in Canada. Olympic Aid is the result of a joint initiative by various governments, foundations, corporations, athletes, IOC members, national Olympic committees and financial partners to develop sports programmes for children in need.

Colonel Gianni Gola Elected to the Board of the International Amateur Athletics Federation

In parallel with the World Track and Field Championships held in Edmonton, Canada, the International Amateur Athletics Federation held a Congress during which two new members were elected to the organisation’s Board, which includes 27. Pole vault world record holder Sergiy Bubka of Ukraine was elected in the first ballot. Following a second round, the other available seat went to our President, Colonel Gianni Gola, who got more votes than the other candidate, also a well known CISM figure, Colonel D.J.B. Al Hamid of Qatar. Congratulations to the winner.

CISM and the International Olympic Truce Foundation

At the beginning of May 2001, the United Nations welcomed in New York the International Olympic Truce Foundation, among whose members—for the record—is our President, Colonel Gianni Gola. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan co-chaired this first meeting with Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch. In addition to the current Foundation members, also present were IOC Vice-President Mrs Anita De Franz, Mr Henry Kissinger and Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace.

Mr Annan used this opportunity to dwell on the importance of the Millennium Resolution. This resolution, adopted by a record 150 members of the UN General Assembly a week before the opening of the Sydney Olympics, underscores the possibility and, indeed, the need to use sport as an instrument in the promotion of peace. He insisted on the Foundation’s distinguished membership and on the potential of its nature and quality in making a practical contribution to the edification of world peace.

Following this meeting of the International Olympic Truce Foundation, CISM President Colonel Gianni Gola had an extensive bilateral meeting with UN Special Advisor Adolf Ogi. As a result of this
meeting, it was agreed to further investigate potential avenues of co-operation. This commitment also emerges from Mr Adolfo Ogliati's letter of intent to the Algiers General Assembly, which is reproduced below:

Dear members of the CISM General Assembly,

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to you on the occasion of CISM's 56th General Assembly in Algiers. I know CISM quite well since I was personally involved in your organisation as an officer in the Swiss Armed Forces and Head of Mission to a world military ski championship. When I was Minister of Defence, and later President of Switzerland, I had the opportunity to be regularly in touch with some of your representatives. From now on, in my new capacity as Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, I will be your President, Colonel Gianfranco Dalla, briefing you on future plans.

I have followed CISM's development with interest and will continue to do so in the future. Your motto, "Friendship Through Sport", adheres to the general mission I was given by the UN, which is to promote peace and development.

I am sure that there is no need to convince you that sport has indeed become very important throughout the world and in society in general. And you are excellent proponents of the cause—one needs only look at the dozens of Olympic medals that the athletes of your delegations win with clockwork regularity.

Sport will undoubtedly become even more important in every individual's daily life today. It has come to play a major role in the development of international relations. Sport is, in essence, the ideal instrument of a rapprochement between peoples, of mutual understanding and of the edification of world peace.

As members of the International Military Sport Council, a grouping of 122 Armed Forces around the motto "Friendship Through Sport", you demonstrate that getting over political, cultural and ideological barriers is not just a dream but also an objective that can be achieved. The contents of the Membership Charter that you all sign, the symbolic value of the Military World Games held in Rome and Zagreb as well as the spirit of friendship and solidarity that prevails over the many sport events and meetings you organise, have made CISM a valuable partner for anyone seeking to contribute to the edification of world peace.

The International Military Sport Council can make a contribution to the success of the United Nations' mission, which consists in promoting world peace and a rapprochement between all the peoples of the world.

For this reason, your President recently announced in New York that he would invite me to consider the possibility of the UN and CISM developing joint action.

I wish you a very fruitful General Assembly.

Geneva, 14 May 2001
CISM organized in close cooperation with the Chinese Delegation to CISM an International Symposium on „Development of Sport in the Military“ in Guangzhou/China from 11 to 15 November 2001.

For the past few years we have noticed a growing interest in our symposia programme that has to be seen in context of the successful development of CISM and its primary goal to establish permanent relations in the fields of sport and physical education among the Armed Forces in the world. The participation in our symposium was adequate: More than 60 participants from 28 nations out of 4 continents.

In our official invitation we had invited the participants to present a lecture on a subject of their choice dealing with a topic of the symposium - the convincing result: 25 lectures on 3 topics.

International Attention
The symposium was aimed at the „Development of Sport in the Military“; however this doesn’t mean that we exclusively focus on interior problems. We also have to tackle the interdependencies between sport in the Armed Forces and sport in society into consideration, a wide field of cooperation and a challenge for CISM.

It was a visible sign of this already well working cooperation that representatives of international organizations were present in Guangzhou.

IOC - ICSSPE
The symposium was held under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and with the scientific cooperation of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE).

It was a great honour for us to welcome the highest representatives of these most important organizations of sport and sport science in the world:
- The President of IOC, Dr. Jacques Rogge
- The President of ICSSPE, Prof. Dr. Gudrun Dull-Tepper

Congratulations to China
By hosting the 2001 International Symposium, the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China again demonstrated its ability to be outstanding experts in organizing sport events - championships as well as General Assemblies and symposia.

The Local Organizing Committee under the leadership of the President of PLA Institute of Physical Education, Major General Zhang Xuncui, and as Secretary General Prof. Dr. Depel Liu, Director of the Center of Social Sciences had done an excellent job to ensure the smooth running of the Symposium that was held in the RAMADA Pearl Hotel in Guangzhou.

Opening Ceremony
The Opening Ceremony held at the PLA Institute of Physical Education and attended by more than 80 participants and hundreds of cadets of the Institute focused on the visit of the Presidents of IOC and ICSSPE who addressed the delegates on behalf of their organizations.

After the opening address by Major General Zhang Xuncui, the Symposium was officially opened by General Wu Quanru, Vice President of the PLA Institute.
9th National Games of China

Every four years a Chinese city organizes the National Games of China, attended by thousands of Chinese athletes, coaches and referees. The 9th National Games of 2001 held in the Guangdong province with its capital Guangzhou started on the same day as our Symposium. The delegates were invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Games in the newly built stadium of Guangzhou. They got enthusiastic of a incredibly marvellous and perfect performance show, presented by thousands of Chinese sportsmen and -women.

Plenary Sessions

The first plenary session was officially opened by the Director of the Symposium, RegDir Hans Nelsoberger (Germany). He emphasized that the aim of the Symposium was to study the different approaches how to organize Sport in the Armed Forces and to give the participants ideas and models upon the role of Armed Forces as promoter of physical fitness, health and well-being of soldiers and citizens.

The first Opening Lecture was delivered by the President of ISSPE, Prof. Dr. Gudrun Don-Tappe who looked at developments and issues in the field of physical education and sport from a global perspective. She emphasized the importance of identifying the specific challenges, including the changing world of sport - in high performance sport, sport for all and traditional games and sport. She recommended to concentrate more efficiently on joint efforts and on building synergies on all levels, international, regional, national and local, with partners in sport, sport science and physical education and, in addition, with partners in governments, the corporate sector and the media.

The second Opening Lecture was given by Brigadier General Albert Janson (South Africa), President of Planning Commission, Chief of EISAFO and Chief of the South African Delegation to CISM. He spoke on "Integrating CISM Theory on Physical Training, Sport and Recreation". He identified the CISM scientific symposia as one of the major events on the CISM world calendar and stated that during the last years work of outstanding quality was delivered through papers, presentations and discussions on this forum. He concluded that CISM has to follow the worldwide move to integrate research through qualitative investigation.

Topic 1: Sport for All - A Way of Life

In this topic 7 lectures were presented and discussed, demonstrating that the awareness of Sport for All in the Armed Forces is growing more and more. Included in the presentations were lectures dealing with the subtopic: "women in sport", presented by LieDr Joyce Burghardt (Canada) and LieDr Julian Allhoff (USA).

A certain "Asian touch" was identified by the presentation of the Indian Colonel A.D. Sharma about "Yoga Philosophy". His theoretical introduction was completed by a practical session in the evening.

Topic 2: Sport Practice and Health Promotion

This topic was created in close cooperation with the Sports Medicine Commission of CISM, whose President, Colonel Peter Jenoure (Switzerland) presented a comprehensive introduction into the field of health promotion.

6 lectures dealt intensively with the role of sport in the field of health education and the benefits of exercise on health and well-being.

The Belgian Commandant Alain Dupuis emphasized in his presentation a special aspect: "Aging and Physical Activity". He informed the delegates about the psycho-physiological process of aging as an integral, natural part of life and the role of physical activity in this process. The President of the Sports Medicine Commission pointed out that a 5 day workshop on this aspect was held at the German Armed Forces Sports School in Warendorf/Germany in May 2001. The presented lectures and the conclusion of this workshop, summarized in a CD-ROM and in a printed copy were distributed to the participants.

Topic 3: Task related Training

When talking about sport and physical education in Armed Forces, we have always to keep in mind, which objectives all our efforts are aimed at.

They are aimed at
1. An adequate general physical fitness
2. A highly specific task performance

The 5 lectures given on this topic dealt mainly with this second aspect: the demands on physical training and physical preparedness for operations/missions.

This last plenary session was concluded by an actual presentation about "A Role for the Military in the Olympic Movement" given by Colonel(ret) Jeanne Picariello (USA), Chairperson in the US Olympic Committee.

Step to South America

At the end of the Symposium in Guangzhou/China, the official CISM Representative, Colonel León de Wulf handed over the CISM flag to Colonel Derivate Alves da Cruz, Military Attaché of Brazil in China.

The next International CISM Symposium will be organized in Rio de Janeiro/Brazil in 2002.

RegDir Hans Nelsoberger
Germany
An Excellent Vintage Indeed

Now we can tell you up to the very start of this 43rd World Military Ski Championship held in Fort Jervis, Vermont (USA), we had grave doubts that this competition would rise up to the usual standard, because of the overly busy international civilian events programme. But our fears were quickly allayed by the massive arrivals of CSIM athletes, who apparently like the ski Editor of the Eastern USA, as they had already turned up in vast numbers in 1989 and 1990. It must be said that, whether on the slopes of Mount Snow where the Giant slalom was held or around the Ethan Allen Shooting Range—now one of the three strongholds of US biathlon—where the cross-country skiing and cross-country world titles were decided, the athletes found ideal conditions to perform. There were a few notable opt-outs, of course, but we can assure you quite confidently that all winners could have stood proudly on the podium of any international civilian event.

France's Vincent Milet and Slovenia's Snej Miletic prevailed in the giant slalom. A surprise winner over the famous port course of Keith and Von Gunningham at the military world championship held in Val Cartier in 1997, the Frenchman had since failed to deliver on the promises his undeniable qualities as skier held. May this version realize his self-confidence in the future. As for Snej Miletic, her name will come shortly after her contracted Maja Subotic on the list of CSIM world titles. The young Slovenian built her success in the first leg, but Austria's Petra Knor contested her first place right down to the last gate.

The cross-country skiing events crowned Norway's Eirik Kristiansen, with the formidable pair composed of France's Vincent Vitzou and Austria's Christian Hoffmann finishing second and third respectively. In the women's race, Zuzana Kocumova of the Czech Republic bested Italy's Antonella Conti and France's Karine Pirlot, who is another frequent figure on military podiums. Neither Rafaeli Patao nor Ole Erna Bjørndalen—the superstars of men's military battalion—produced extraordinary performances in Fort Jervis. Which by no means makes Austria's Wolfgang Perner a second-tier winner in this discipline. Second and third were Michail Delo and Andreas Stöll, the new gems of the German biathlon school, who are quite ready to take over from team mates Fischer, Luck et Grus. In the women's, following the world military life are richer in 1999 after years of unsuccessful attempts. Slovenia's very pleasant Andrea Grasl now takes part in world military championships with a newly-discovered sobriety, which certainly did help her bag another title this year.

This championship was a very special prize for the talented Slovenian who, in addition to20-22 having her colleagues to learn skills, concluded the week in style by contributing her share of her team's victory in the last event the patrol race; a thriller concluded with gold for Slovenia and Silver for Italy, with a hair-splitting difference of two hundredths of a second. An event that also enabled Wolfgang Perner to bag another title with his teammates, defeating by a hair the two Norwegian teams that entered the race. And this win was especially important, as it also earned Austria the Cup of Nations—which it has won every other year for the last two years, taking turns with Italy.
The Finnish Tornado

The sailing and naval pentathlon championships are now organised separately. Despite clear affinities between the competitors of both sports, sailing can only fare the better for this split, as we have to admit that our best sailing specialists’ performances were systematically overshadowed by those of our naval pentathletes. It is true that the naval pentathlon is a very spectacular sport, and potential audiences are also significantly more attracted to the comfort and stability of dry land than by the prospect of a hazardous journey on a ship to see, most of the time from far away, the water ballet of ships that neoprene cannot even identify by their sails, let alone by their owners.

The Canadian President of the Permanent Technical Committee for Sailing, Commander Diana Hope, had every reason to be pleased with the outcome of the 36th World Military Sailing Championship organised for the first time in the waters of her own country, at Esquimalt Base, near the City of Victoria, British Columbia. It was the first time that CISM visited the western coast of Canada. But the President of the Permanent Technical Committee highlighted the fact that far more spectators than usual watched the regattas: for once, the crowd watching our champions were more directly proportioned to the latter’s performances.

The championship itself was organized with remarkable simplicity: 15 countries raced in 16 regattas with each team of four sailors racing once in each of the boats made available by the organizers—Martin 242s, 24-foot keel boats built in Vancouver, Canada. For a time, it was thought that the Canadian team, under skipper Montano’s leadership and a formidable leader after four regattas, were going to take advantage of sailing in a boat they were more familiar with than the opposition. But that would have would have been a gross underestimation of the talent of the Finnish team led by Helman who simply crushed the opposition during the remaining races, eventually winning nine out of the 16 regattas. Despite less than ideal wind conditions, the lads were literally stormed by a Finnish team that was simply inescapable. Italy took second while the United States snatched bronze from under the nose of its northward “cousin”, which probably will not help extinguish the rivalry that burns peacefully between the two North American giants.

Participating countries (15): South Africa, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Spain, United States, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Turkey.

CISM Official Representative: Lt. Colonel Michel Saint-Bonnet (France)

TC President: Navy Commander Diana Hope (Canada)

90 participants, 60 athletes

Results

1. Finland (skipper: Helman): 50 pts. 2. Italy (Ravali): 43 pts. 3. USA (Fagan): 59 pts.
They Long Wanted It, Now They Have It!

Ever since it became a member of CISM in 1952, Syria has always shown a preference for basketball, having organised six world championships in which it won two silver and two bronze medals. So it comes as a bit of a surprise to see this country organise its first world military handball championship and... win it, bagging its first gold medal ever in a team sport, a title it has been after for half a century.

Actually, dismissing tournament top scorer Park Jong Pyo and his team in the final was no big deal for Arman Safian (selected MVP of the tournament) and his team. Granted, the Republic of Korea’s team was slightly less impressive than usual in this tournament, but it was still adept at delivering effectively its game based on movement, speed and swift counterattacks. In truth, only the Latvian team Syria faced in the preliminary round had the tools to stand in the way of the latter’s irresistible conquest, eventually forcing them to a draw.

And by the way, the Latvians could have ranked much higher than fourth overall if they had been a bit luckier. Looking to score heavily, drawing once more against the other finalist—the Republic of Korea—in the semifinal play-offs, the Latvians were only denied the final because of their slightly less favourable goal average (a one-goal difference). In its ranking match for bronze, Latvia was defeated by Germany on a score of 33-32; that serves to illustrate perfectly their misfortune and fortitude. Apparently, this world championship was fated to be a Syrian party.

Participating countries (10): Germany, Republic of Korea, Greece, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Qatar, Syria, Turkey.

Observing country (1): Guinea Bissau

CISM Official Representative: Colonel BAM André Thomy (Belgium)

TC President: Lt.-Colonel Hubert Bottaclari (Belgium)

130 athletes

1st round:
the two first of each group qualified for the second round, the sites in classification group (7-10) place

Group A:

Group B:

Group C:

2nd round:

Group D:

Group H:

Finals:
1st place: Syria-Rep Korea: 33-35
3rd place: Germany-Latvia: 33-32
5th place: Lithuania-Greece: 27-24

Best scorer: Park Jong Pyo (Rep Korea)
Best player: Arman Safian (Syria)
Best goalkeeper: Cesaril Ursul Fink (Germany)
Fair play: Turkey
Chronicle of an Expected Triumph

The final of this tournament in Cairo was a rematch—and almost a run-off—of the Zagreb Military World Games’ final in 1999. Egypt again prevailed over Greece, only this time, with the advantage of playing at home, the Egyptians managed a convincing win (3-0) whereas two years ago, a decision had to be forced after 120 in a penalty strokes session.

Having said that, Egypt’s way to the final was not paved with easy matches: in the preliminary round and in the quarterfinals, they prevailed by the smallest margin. Equally, the end score of the final is anything but a reliable reflection of the match itself. Agreed, the Egyptians had far more opportunities than their opponents during this match, attend- ed by a large crowd—among whom a delighted President Mubarak—packed in the famous Arab Contractors’ stadium. But the match was decided at 1-0 when the Greeks were coming back with a vengeance and an Egyptian player should have been exculpated. Aly Basyouny committed an unspeakable fault that the professional English referee Mr. Dermot Gallagher could not see from where he stood but which the lines-man should have been able to point to him. The Greek defenders lost their concentra- tion over the incident and Basyouny himself—also the best scorer of the tournament—scored in twelve minutes that followed his aggression. Ironies and high-level sport are not always compatible but it would be unfair for the Greek side to hide behind this incident and question the obvious superiority of an Egyptian team that also included the best player and the best goalkeeper of the tournament: W. Gomes Al Kamil and E. Abdul Azeem, respectively.

A refreshing breeze came from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, its team fully deserved both its bronze medal, obtained very convincingly against Guinea, and the Fair-Play Trophy for its collective attitude that contrasts with what is usually to be seen at the highest level on football fields. Moreover, the North Korean team impressed with the quality of its game, reminiscent of its civilian counterpart, which namely defeated Italy in the 1966 World Cup in England. This team—actually a mirror image of the Armed Forces 4-2-3-1 team quartered in Pyongyang—plays at the top in the national civilian championship. However, none of the players present in Cairo are members of the civilian national team anymore, even though some of its players—such as team captain Yan Kwang Mu and Rim Yong Chol—could probably compare with the best assets of Europe’s top clubs.

Participating countries (11): Germany, Cyprus, Ivory Coast, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, United States, Greece, Rep Guinea, Qatar, Syria, Ukraine

CISM Official Representative: Lt. Colonel Honore Trocix (Burkina Faso)

TC President: Lt. Colonel Uwe Pompflun (Germany)

238 participants, 223 athletes, 75 officials
Track and field
39th World Military Track and Field Championship

Italy Makes the Headlines

Nineteen countries took the trip to contend in this athletics championship that one country, Lebanon, had the excellent idea of organising. It is the first time since 1993 and the military world championship in Trieste, Italy, that a country takes it upon itself to put together the resources required to organise a world championship in this discipline outside the contest of the Military World Games. All CISM delegations have been complaining for years about the systematic absence of athletes from the yearly calendar of events.

But even when a delegation invests a lot of energy and effort into organising such a high-level event—a magnificent stadium where military athletes are, once presented with an opportunity to compete without the pressure associated to major meetings—many turn up on the rosters. First there were those who did not take the trip, despite being in the military, arguing that their season has been too busy, that Grand Prix prize money is better and that the civilian world championship is too close. Then there were those who, even though they never will admit it, did not come because the weather was too hot, because of the Italian reputation (even though it has been spared the vagaries of war for a long time now) or because it was too far from home. And finally, there were those who, having come to Berlin, explained their poor performances with complaints about the food and the accommodation (it is true that the athletes' hotels were not quite as luxurious as the palaces made available to Grand Prix participants, but CISM standards were enforced strictly).

Fortunately, there were also those who, being on the same boat, decided to honour the Armed Forces that also happen to be the employers that give them the opportunity to compete and build a career at the highest level. Among them, the Italian athletes, who bagged nearly half of the medals. One of them, Fabrizio Moro, won 400m-hurdles world champion, considered the Lebanese experience a rise opportunity to prepare for the chellsan world championship in Edmonton. He was quite right to consider Berlin a useful side trip; he won a silver medal and set a new Italian record in the process. Another inspired athlete was Benjamin Lino who, along with his Kenyan friends, raised the middle-distance podiums before bagging prize money with equal success in subsequent Grand Prix meetings.

In addition to the organizing country, delegations from 18 different member nations discovered Berlin—a wonderful, capital city that is still in the process of reasserting its identity—and a country where hospitality is a trademark. So, let us doff our hats to the Lebanese delegation for their organisational efforts, as well as to the delegations that, like the Italians, decided to play along out of love for sport and respect for uniform. We owe Lebanon thanks to their efforts, athletes once again make the headlines of CISM sport. A lesson learned too. Italy will be organising the 40th World Military Athletics Championship in 2002.

Participating countries (19):
- Algeria, Austria (*), Belgium (*), United Arab Emirates, Finland, Greece (*), Ghana, India, Italy (*), Jordan, Kenya (*), Kuwait, Lebanon (*), Morocco (*), Qatar, Sudan, Syria (*), Tunisia, Turkey

CISM Official Representative: Colonel Oubekaide Melef (Algeria)

TC President: Colonel Jos Larena (Belgium)

272 athletes - 227 men, 45 women

Results

Men

100m:
1. M. Tontoni (ITA) - 10.61
2. R. Chevallier (ITA) - 10.64
3. A. Racitto (ITA) - 10.64

200m:
1. M. Donati (ITA) - 21.52
2. S. Smirnov (RUS) - 21.58
3. S. Cacciari (ITA) - 21.70

400m:
1. Babikov (RUS) - 45.61
2. D. Knyazev (RUS) - 45.71
3. T. Boureoua (MAR) - 45.87

800m:
1. K. Korniout (POL) - 1:48.07
2. J. Moreau (FRA) - 1:48.15
3. R. P. S. Barion (BRA) - 1:48.15

1500m:
1. M. Abbadi (ALG) - 3:50.25
2. R. C. Law (GBR) - 3:51.33
3. T. Boureoua (MAR) - 3:51.47

5000m:
1. B. Lino (KEN) - 13:08.58
2. M. Baber (GBR) - 13:09.11
3. E. M. R. Martho (NED) - 13:09.79

10000m:
1. R. S. Kiyam (RUS) - 30:23.71
2. M. B. Kebek (LEB) - 30:23.83

110m hurdles:
1. E. Vrakkin (ITA) - 13.91
2. L. Burgel (FRA) - 14.01
3. M. Bouari (MAR) - 14.02

400m hurdles:
1. O. Pipi (ITA) - 49.76
2. J. H. M. van der Heijden (NED) - 50.42
3. A. M. Kocab (TUR) - 50.72

3000m steeplechase:
1. K. Belokon (RUS) - 8:30.32
2. O. M. Bitar (LEB) - 8:30.48
3. M. Bouari (MAR) - 8:30.58

1500m steeplechase:
1. A. H. Schaeffer (GER) - 9:51.84
2. M. A. Zayed (EGY) - 9:51.99
3. B. Brahim (MAR) - 9:56.10

Long jump:
1. A. R. Geiss (ITA) - 7.75
2. K. Kusokodima (SWE) - 7.75
3. K. Alban (CMR) - 7.74

Triple jump:
1. A. R. Geiss (ITA) - 15.84
2. K. Alban (CMR) - 15.50
3. B. Brahim (MAR) - 15.06

High jump:
1. J. C. Gatch (ITA) - 2.19
2. A. T. Taylor (GBR) - 2.18
3. J. C. Gatch (ITA) - 2.17

Pole vault:
1. M. X. Pietri (ITA) - 4.57
2. A. Ante (SYR) - 4.30
3. B. Basara (SWE) - 4.28

Shot put:
1. P. D. I. S. (ITA) - 1.09
2. M. Baber (GBR) - 1.09
3. A. E. (NED) - 1.07

Discus throw:
1. C. D. C. (ITA) - 2.08
2. R. Z. (RUS) - 2.08
3. J. M. Van der Heijden (NED) - 2.00

Javelin throw:
1. G. D. I. (ITA) - 7.45
2. F. M. (SWE) - 7.40
3. G. D. I. - 7.35

Hammer throw:
1. T. Vizardi (ITA) - 7.03
2. P. M. (GBR) - 7.02
3. G. D. I. - 6.98

4 x 100m:
1. T. C. C. (ITA) - 3:33.07
2. M. P. (GBR) - 3:34.08
3. T. C. C. - 3:36.11

Decathletes:
1. A. M. (ITA) - 6:22.01
2. S. Kulendorf (NLD) - 6:22.03
3. G. M. (BEL) - 6:22.01

Marathon:
1. K. Sarbo (MAR) - 2:16.03
2. B. A. (ITA) - 2:17.41
3. K. A. (ITA) - 2:17.35

(*) female participation
track and field

Results

Women

100m: 1. F. Coletti (ITA) - 11.69, 2. M. Gillo (ITA) - 11.70, 3. N. Saiedi (IRI) - 11.71

200m: 1. F. Coletti (ITA) - 23.42, 2. E. Parnastone (ITA) - 23.61, 3. D. Tsebakan (JPN) - 23.69

400m: 1. L. Roccia (ITA) - 52.11, 2. M. Papani (GRE) - 52.49, 3. G. Tsebakam (JPN) - 52.67

800m: 1. S. Hammon (MAR) - 2:03.24, 2. E. Artuso (ITA) - 2:03.50, 3. C. Gavvone (ITA) - 2:03.73

1500m: 1. N. Maggi (ITA) - 4:01.19, 2. B. N. Schaefer (NED) - 4:01.67, 3. S. Hammon (MAR) - 4:02.34

5000m: 1. Z. El-Khash (MAR) - 14:53.58, 2. E. R. Raso (ITA) - 14:54.31, 3. A. Sholquin (SLE) - 15:14.45

10000m: 1. Z. El-Khash (MAR) - 33:01.25, 2. A. Denti (MAR) - 34:00.24, 3. Z. Badour (YEM) - 35:00.30

15000m: 1. S. Agamond (ITA) - 45:19, 2. F. Ancor (ITA) - 45:19, 3. R. Cherien (SFR) - 45:37

Long jump: 1. P. Crompton (CAN) - 8.16m, 2. R. Leek (CAN) - 8.10m, 3. S. Zoppa (SWE) - 7.92m

Triple jump: 1. B. Silvio Biondi (ITA) - 17.46m, 2. R. Eta (ITA) - 17.46m, 3. R. Cherien (SFR) - 17.19

High jump: 1. C. Wilhelm (SWE) - 1.95m, 2. R. Heid (SUI) - 1.95m, 3. R. Cherien (SFR) - 1.95m

Pole vault: 1. L. Ivanov (ITA) - 1.94m

Discus: 1. S. Telldabad (GRE) - 75m93, 2. G. Rovella (ITA) - 75m72, 3. M. Khajelan (IRI) - 72m84

Javelin: 1. C. A. Brench (SFR) - 78m42, 2. R. Hammo (MAR) - 78m03

4x100m: 1. Italy (F. Coletti, M. Gillo, M. Neckel, F. Coletti) - 41.61, 2. Lebanon (A. Byrka) - 41.72

4x400m: 1. Italy (C. Gavvone, L. Panzarino, L. Roccia, E. Artuso) - 3:44.70, 2. Lebanon - 4:02.20, 3. Syria - 4:22.39
Sami Sorri sets a Very High Standard

Fifteen countries met in Tuula Naval Station, a few kilometres from Istanbul, for one of CISM's major annual events: the world military naval pentathlon championship. This edition was of remarkable standing and ended with Finland's Sami Sorri and the US's Molly Sialese on the top step of the individual rostrum. They also led their respective teammates to the team titles.

A winner at the Zagreb Military World Games in 1999, Sami Sorri was defeated last year in Berga by Sweden's talented Pontus Olander. The deciding set to happen in Tuula, was full of promises, as both champions had declared their intention to use their rivalry in sport to set a new standard in the discipline. Unfortunately, this peaceful duel would have to wait: the Swede was forced to watch his rival's outstanding performances from the spectators' bench due to an injury sustained shortly before the championship. Sami Sorri was sorry for his opponent and friend but that did not prevent him from performing to perfection. The robust Finn performed awesomely to beat the overall world record with 6,525 points, as well as the obstacle course and utility swimming world records. In addition to winning those two events, Sorri finished second in swimming and in the amphibious cross run, his "worst" result being an eighth place in the sabre fencing event. He definitely did set a new standard in his sport. Now, it is Pontus Olander's turn to do something about it.

The women's individual championship was dominated by Molly Sialese, who took advantage of Bridget Stemp Ruiz's lack of training to add her name to the list of world champions—Bridget Stemp Ruiz won the world title last year in Berga. Having won the utility swimming and fencing events, Molly managed to keep inevitable Norway's Marte Bomm at bay in the more "landcruiser" events the latter prefers: the obstacle course and the amphibious cross. With this young Norwegian, the American Indians have found the opponent they thought they would miss following Cathrin Russel's withdrawal.

Of course, we cannot conclude this account without mentioning the gunshot wound sustained by Dan Wernli, captain of the US team, who was severely injured when a firearm accidently went off upon reloaded during the amphibious cross. The man recovered but this incident sheds light on insufficient safety precautions during this manipulation. We know how dynamic the Permanent Technical Committee for Naval Pentathlon has always been, so we are confident that it must have addressed the issue efficiently.

Results

Men


Women


French Hunger

Eighteen delegations took the trip to the Slovenian town of Musrka Sobota near the Hungarian border to take part in the world military championship in a sport that has assuredly become one of the most representative of our organisation and whose world titles are much valued. The entries in the men’s race were definitely worthy of a World Cup event, and it is certainly a conclusion that was reached by the many citizens and spectators of downtown Musrka Sobota, where most of the action took place. Ever since triathlon entered CISM’s programme of military world championships, the titles—whether in the men’s or in the women’s events—have almost always been a strictly Franco-German affair, with the Austrian exception here and there for good measure, as was the case at the last Military World Games.

Whereas the 2000 edition of the military world championship was a German story, it turned out to be very French in Slovenia. Having planned their tactics very intelligently, the French trio—Sylvain Dode, S. Poulet and C. Daenaez—conquered the men’s podium in that order. It did not exactly come as a surprise since the lucky winner, Sylvain Dode, is a CISM “old-timer” of 27, he bagged his third CISM world title this year, following the two he won in Kapelle op Den Bos, Belgium, and Zagreb, Croatia, in 1998 and 1999 respectively. We will no doubt see them again on or near the podiums of the next World Cup events.

In the women’s triathlon, Stéphanie Gros won her first military world title, following several near misses in recent years. Austria’s E. Brambock finished second, thereby demonstrating that fellow countrywoman Jasmine Haemerlitz’s title at the Military World Games was not fortuitous but rather a sign of the emergence of a very good school indeed. The Italian school leaves nothing to be desired either as S. Rocco and her teammates confirmed with team silver that the huge progress they showed in Zagreb and Sobouals were not chance happenings.

In Musrka Sobota, the French triathletes were hungry indeed and gobbled all five individual and team titles on offer. Quite a display of craftsmanship, assuredly!

Participating countries (18) : Germany (*), Austria (*), Belgium (*), Canada (*), Croatia, Estonia, United States (*), Finland, France (*), Hungary (*), Italy (*), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Romania (*), Slovenia, Slovenia (*), Sweden (*), Czech Republic (*). Female participation.

CISM Official Representative: Navy Captain Bengt Nylander (Belgium)

TC President: Lt-Colonel Michel Saint-Bonnet (France)

183 participants, 112 athletes: 66 men, 26 women

Results

Men

Individual: 1. S. Douat (FRA), 2. S. Poulet (FRA), 3. C. Daenaez (FRA)


Women

Individual: 1. S. O'shea (FRA), 2. E. Brambock (AUT), 3. S. Rocco (ITA)

Team: 1. France (S. Gros, L. Moreau, J. Labuani), 2. Italy (S. Rocco, C. Grifon, A. Cappellini), 3. USA (S. Stark, J. Jones, K. King)

Mixed teams

1. France, 2. Italy, 3. Austria
38th World Military Shooting Championship

CISM at Its Best

Exceptional. This is definitely the only fitting word to encapsulate the world championship held in the provincial town of Lahti, whose reputation as an organizer of major international sport events has long reached beyond Finland's borders. CISM already enjoyed this peaceful town's hospitality four years ago when the World Games were held here and the military paraffin was presented as a demonstration sport. Back then, it was already the Homo Regiment, quartered in Henniaus that accommodated CISM's delegation. Now, as then, the regiment was very hospitable and a master at organisation. The 43 countries that took the trip this time around were also given the best technical conditions in which to perform: the Hakilah shooting ranges have been rebuilt at a cost of USD 725,000 and will also host the civilian world championship in 2002. The entry list in Lahti left very little to be desired, as it included many athletes who took part in the Olympic Games and world and continental championships, among whom Olympic champions Dahlhong Li (China) and Rajmond Betnecic (Slovenia).

Top-notch athletes, outstanding technical conditions as well as happy, relaxed competitions: all conditions were met to expect high-level performances. And did they ever deliver: in addition to three world records equalling, four new ones were set (Mikhail Nestrov in the 25m pistol, centre fire, individual; Russia in the 25m pistol, rapid fire, team; Norway in the 300m rifle, rapid fire, team; USA in the 300m rifle, 3 positions, team). Russia won by far the largest number of medals, with China second and the USA third, the latter winning the Cup of Nations thanks to better regularity overall. Jason Parker (USA) and Olga Potrebniak (Belarus) were elected best rifle shooters while Chihiro Yoshida Liu and Russia's Bolkow were honoured in the same fashion for their performances with their pistols. US legend Glenn Buhs took his leave at the end of this championship, but without adding three more medals to his collection—individual silver as well as team gold and bronze. He also received a magnificent rifle as a present upon his arrival, final, and—no doubt—enforced retirement. But then again, his departure has been announced so many times that it is hard to think that the American will no longer be there to enjoy such sport happenings. Indeed, he is definitely one of the athletes that best embody CISM and its ideals.

Participating countries (43): South Africa (*), Albania, Germany (*), Argentina (*), Austria (*), Belarus (*), Belgium (*), Brazil (*), Bulgaria (*), Canada (*), China (*), Korea Republic (*), Croatia (*), Denmark (*), United Arab Emirates (*), Spain (*), Estonia (*), United States (*), Finland (*), France (*), Hungary (*), Italy (*), Korea (*), Latvia (*), Lithuania (*), Luxembourg (*), Mongolia (*), Montenegro (*), Netherlands (*), Portugal (*), Qatar (*), Russia (*), Slovenia (*), Sweden (*), Switzerland (*), Czech Republic (*), Turkey (*), Ukraine (*), and Vietnam (*)

Observing countries (*): Bahrain, and Cyprus

TC President: Lt-Colonel Birg Johansson (Sweden)

617 participants, 436 athletes: 310 men, 117 women

Results

Men

300m olympic: 1. J.D. Burgen (USA) 571; 2. J. Parker (USA) 571; 3. B. Hertet (USA) 564
300m sport: 1. S. Grob (USA) 688; 2. G. Burgen (USA) 644; 3. T. Laren (NOR) 694
25m rapidfire: 1. L. Liu (CHN) 370; 2. P. Hao (CHN) 350; 3. P. Hermitte (NOR) 380
10m rapidfire: 1. M. Nestrov (RUS) 591 (new CISM rec); 2. S. Polakov (RUS) 591; 3. A. Harada (JAP) 567
Team: 1. Russia (G. Polakov, M. Nestrov, N. Polakov, A. Gaviasoni) 2550 (CISM rec equal); 2. Russia (I. Bondar, O. Khodoukov, S. Yursma) 2315, 3. Switzerland (*); W. Maier, M. Maier, H. Staudinger, M. Schneider) 2315

Women

50m sport: 1. H. Shin (CHN) 581; 2. A. Nohukina (RUS) 580; 3. I. Guaressenin (RUS) 579
Team: 1. Germany (S. Pieschel, T. Schmidt, R. Schulz) 1708 (CISM rec equal); 2. China (W. Han, T. Niu, L. Duan) 1707; 3. Russia (I. Guaressenin, R. Bobkov, A. Miklukhin) 1725
50m prone: 1. E. Pelach (ESP) 362 (CISM rec equal); 2. O. Petrova (BLR) 355; 3. X. Yu (CHN) 592
25m rapidfire: 1. M. Pichkhalis (BLR) 590 (141); 2. G. Bolkow (BLR) 590 (140); 3. A. Donets (ESP) 570 (140)
25m Qinon: 1. D. G. Qinon (NPN) 149; 2. M. Loprinzi (BLR) 160 (148); 3. S. Brangosl (BLR) 150 (156)

Nations Cup

United States
Best male rifle shooter: J. Parker (USA)
Best female rifle shooter: O. Pichkhalis (BLR)
Best male pistol shooter: Y. Li (CHN)
Best female pistol shooter: G. Bolkow (BLR)
Chile Clears the Bars

It is widely known that equestrian championships and veterinary quarantine always go together. The reason why this sentence introduces our account of the 13th World Military Equestrian Championship organised masterfully by the Turkish delegation in splendid installations is that non-sport considerations played a substantial part in deciding the final results of this major equestrian rendezvous, a must for many in the military. Indeed, horse-racing competitions mean having to travel, transport expensive mounts and submit to drastic veterinary requirements imposed by the many epizootic diseases that spread worldwide in no time. For the European nations that wanted to contend in Ankara, the dilemma was rather simple: either abstain or accept the mandatory—and lengthy—quarantine before re-entering the European Union with their horses. No rider could afford that. Out of the eight nations represented in Ankara, only Turkey, Morocco and Chile—the latter having procured mounts in Holland—secured horses that fully met their requirements. As for the other five nations, they drew lots for the horses kindly made available by the organisations. Under such conditions, fairness is definitely not the best word to describe this championship, even though the situation takes nothing away from Chile’s valuable performance: Lieutenant Sergio Illia wins the individual title and his country bagged the Cup of Nations. However, a project has been launched to revitalise horsemanship as a CISM sport, and it stands as a good chance of succeeding too: thirteen nations are eagerly awaiting Chile early next year. For a reasonable amount of money, the organising country will make quality horses available to any delegation that needs them. This is the only way to avoid costly transport and to encourage more substantial participation. The method seems practicable and Chile will definitely be the last to complain if it does work out!

Participating countries (8): Belgium, Chile, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Syria, Turkey
CISM Official Representative: Colonel Mohamed Al Khatteeb (Kuwait)
TC President: Lt Colonel Giulio Serafini (Italy)
37 participants, 28 athletes: 25 men, 1 woman
Roman Sloudnov Brings the House Down

Masterminded by the Russian delegation, this 38th edition of the world military swimming championship provided the scene for a spectacular performance that should have gone down in history. Russia’s incredibly talented breaststroke swimmer Roman Sloudnov—who already made history when he broke the mythical minute barrier in the 50m pool—best the 50m breaststroke world record with a time of 27.25. His performance was timed electronically and therefore constitutes a genuine CISM world record, but it will not be authenticated as a civilian world record—replacing Ed Moses (USA) and his 27.39—because of an electronic time clock reset procedure that was considered incomplete for the purpose of recognising civilian world records. This means that CISM’s world record is below the civilian world record! With 1.59140 in the 100m, Roman Sloudnov signed another astounding performance to set a new military world record—only 44 hundredths of a second shy of his own world record.

While Sloudnov was most certainly the hero of this world military championship—attended by a meagre 11 countries—he was definitely not the only star of the swimming world to have taken the trip. Hui Qi, the new women’s 200m breaststroke world record holder was there too and outclassed the opposition both in the 100m breaststroke and in the individual 200m medley. And prises are also in order for former European champion Andrei Polyakov who swam a superb 1.59/30 in the series of the 200m butterfly. A total of seven new CISM world records were set in the marvellous city of St. Petersburg, and one more was equalled. The Russian swimmers performed magnificently, bagging 17 of the 12 titles on offer in the men’s events. In the ladies’ events, the local swimmers won five gold medals while the Chinese team took the lion’s share of gold with seven titles.

In water polo, the Russian players prevailed 6-6 over the Italian team in the deciding match of a small five-team tournament. There is hope that next year’s world military water polo championship, organised separately from the rest of nautical disciplines in Salonic, Greece, will attract substantially more participants.

Let us conclude this account on a more artistic note with our divers. Their competition boils down to a duel between the Chinese and Russian teams. China provided with three titles, two of which bagged by Bo Peng alone, despite the presence of a formidable Russian team featuring Loutskin—in Olympic synchronised platform diving champion and winner of the individual event in St. Petersburg—and Dobroslav—synchronised 3m diving silver medallist in Sydney.

Participating countries (11) : Germany, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Uzbekistan, the Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine
CISM Official Representative : Colonel Léon De Wulf (Belgium)
TC President : Navy Capt. Gian Arronio Invernizzi (Italy)
swimming

Results

Women

50 m butterfly: 1. N. Sulajewa (RUS) - 27.65, 2. L. Yatskevich (RUS) - 28.00, 3. Li Cui (CHN) - 28.87
100 m butterfly: 1. N. Sulajewa (RUS) - 57.36, 2. L. Yatskevich (RUS) - 58.36, 3. Li Cui (CHN) - 1:02.02
50 m back: 1. L. Cheng (CHN) - 26.92 (Rel. CSW), 2. Li Zhang (CHN) - 30.46, 3. A. Kosai (JPN) - 30.92
100 m back: 1. L. Cheng (CHN) - 1:03.41, 2. A. Kosai (JPN) - 1:04.79, 3. Li Zhang (CHN) - 1:05.78
50 m breast: 1. L. Bujnova (RUS) - 31.13, 2. Hu Q (CHN) - 31.74, 3. S. Dobrina (RUS) - 33.03
100 m breast: 1. Hu Q (CHN) - 1:09.65, 2. L. Bujnova (RUS) - 1:11.02, 3. Li Huiying (CHN) - 1:11.70
50 m individual medley: 1. F. Okazawa (JPN) - 2:31.64, 2. Y. Shao (CHN) - 2:50.70, 3. Li Yue (CHN) - 2:51.65
100 m individual medley: 1. Ying Le (CHN) - 2:09.71, 2. Y. Shao (CHN) - 2:09.88, 3. B. Verkhove (RUS) - 2:10.61
200 m individual medley: 1. Hu Q (CHN) - 2:17.74, 2. L. Zeng (CHN) - 2:18.04
4x100 m freestyle: 1. China - 3:49.26 (CSW rec), 2. Russia - 3:51.05, 3. Canada - 4:16.06

Diving

1m: 1. J. Zeng (CHN), 2. Xiao Qing (CHN), 3. Li Pekaihua (RUS)
3m: 1. J. Zeng (CHN), 2. Xiao Qing (CHN), 3. Li Pekaihua (RUS)
5m: 1. J. Zeng (CHN), 2. Xiao Qing (CHN), 3. Li Pekaihua (RUS)

Water-polo:

Italy-Belgium: 25-1, Uzbekistan-Belgium: 25-0, Russia-Belgium: 25-0, Russia-Ukraine: 19-1, Ukraine-Uzbekistan: 14-5, Uzbekistan-Ukraine: 19-12, Italy-Uzbekistan: 7-6, Russia-Uzbekistan: 14-6, Russia-Italy: 8-9
Korean Professors

Nearly 20 nations met at Woensdrecht Air Force Base in the Netherlands, near the Belgian border, to take part in the 13th World Military Taekwondo Championship, a year after what was akin to a pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea, the cradle of this martial art. And Korea does not seem ready to relinquish the title of best taekwondo nation in the world, even though international resistance is building up and better organised these days.

In Woensdrecht, Lee Park, Choi, Min and the other Korean martial artists won half of the titles that were up for grabs in the men’s weight categories, bagging four gold, two silver and one bronze medals. In the absence of Iran, the republic of Korea’s main opponent, resistance came mostly from Germany’s Achenki et Scheitscheuer, who won a title each, the latter in the most revered of all weight categories, the heavy-weights. As for Azerbaijan’s Ahmedov, his gold medal confirmed that his country is up and coming in this discipline, while Bekem of the Netherlands triggered shouts of enthusiasm among local crowds when he won a title that also rewarded the organisers for their excellent work.

‘And what about the Korean ladies, then? Were they less competitive than their male counterparts?’, you might ask. Indeed, it would be tempting to think so in view of the one title bagged for her country by diminutive Choi. But the only reason why the Koreans added just one bronze medal to their harvest is that they only entered a total of three ladies in the whole tournament. China’s Zhang and Jia got the Korean’s share of the medals. Thanmae covered her country, Laos, in gold. And Italy’s Agostinelli, Russia’s Asseseva and Germany’s Hoffmann successfully defended Europe’s honour. Having said that, their gold medals do not exactly have the same value as their male counterparts. Indeed, entries in some of the women’s weight categories were minimal. But this is the only offsetting comment to be made about this week during which martial truly thrummed with friendship.
aeronaumatic pentathlon

45th World Military Aeronautical Pentathlon Championship

Swedish Through and Through

The ten countries that met in the southern Swedish town of Ronneby to compete the various titles on offer in the world military aeronautical pentathlon championship will long remember Sweden’s hospitality: when the Swedish athletes invited you for dinner, they eat everything, leaving only crumbs to their guests. And if you still harbour any doubts about the patent lack of politeness displayed during this Air Force week, read on: in the individual events, the Swedes snatched all medals plus fourth place—bagging team gold in the process, of course—and they even won the free fall formation event. Only Turkey’s Özer managed to snatch a few precious crumbs away from the Swedish ogre in the basketball event, setting a new world record in the process.

So, it was a Swedish rather than a world championship that the new President of the Permanent Technical Committee, Captain Goran Larsson of... Sweden was treated to! Having won last year, Peter Carlsson invested a lot of careful preparation into winning again this year. Still, at the end of a breathtaking thriller, he was bested by team-mate Niklas Bäckström, a 23-year-old captain and last year’s bronze medallist. A miserable 12 points is what it took for this F16 Wing captain from Smögen, a town near Visby, to carry on the Swedish tradition in combined sports. We should also report that, during this world championship, champion Lennart Petersson, famous for winning ten individual aeronautical pentathlon titles, treated to dinner all Swedish gold medallists in the history of his discipline. Since Lieutenant Peo Nilsson won the first title for his country in 1954, Sweden has won 28 team and 29 individual titles. This splendid record is the result both of a genuine tradition and of dedicated, patient work that generally starts at the Air Force Cadet Academy. The very popular Winter Course and Seminar for Military Pentathlon set up in Sorå is in 1957 no doubt contributed heavily to the success of this discipline in Sweden.

Aeronautical pentathlon is doing well as a sport and should even develop further, as each team made a commitment to find an additional member by the next championship in France. The invitation to enter the programme of events organised at the Madrid Military World Games in 2003 will definitely be another promotional asset for this combined discipline.

Participating countries (10): Belgium, Brazil, Spain, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Czech Republic, Turkey, Sweden.
Observing country (1): Poland
98 participants, 66 athletes
CISM Official Representative: Colonel Ubirafa Da Silva Ramos (Brazil)
TC President: Captain Goran Larsson (Sweden)

Results

Shooting: 1. P. Carlsson (SWE) / 1185 pts; 2. V. Rosekrand (FIN) / 1090 pts; 3. E. Celin (TUR) / 1070 pts
Swimming: 1. P. Mäler (FIN) / 90 pts; 2. R. Arnaud (FRA) / 88 pts; 3. R. Rancic (SLO) / 70 pts
Fencing: 1. T. Tore (NOR) / 1105 pts; 2. J. Frances (ESP) / 1070 pts; 3. J. Carlos Latorre (ESP) / 100 pts
Basketball: 1. C. Özer (TUR) / 1724 pts (RU); 2. T. Yalcin (TUR) / 1168 pts; 3. V. Rosekrand (FIN) / 1144 pts

Final Class: 1. N. Iakovenko (SWE) / 4597 pts; 2. P. Carlsson (SWE) / 4588 pts; 3. J. Rahlin (SWE) / 4397 pts
Team: 1. Sweden (N. Iakovenko, P. Carlsson, J. Rahlin); 2. Poland (T. Antk, V. Rosekrand, P. Malin); 3. Spain (J. Cunill, J. Alonso, J. Remes); 4. 1932.5 pts
Carlos Alberto Silva Invites Himself to the Chinese Party!

Once again, the Chinese pentathletes hit hard in the Arlonenses at the 49th World Military Pentathlon Championship held in Arlon late in August. Consider this: all medals and fourth place in the women’s final individual rankings—In the absence of their main rivals, the North Koreans, also trained Chinese-style—, team and relay gold, to which must be added the men’s team and relay titles. The only piece of the cake to escape China’s gluttony—classic of late in this discipline—was the men’s individual title. It went to Brazilian veteran Carlos Alberto Silva who produced quite a feat to conquer gold again four years after his first triumph in Sweden in 1997. A special feature is included in this issue of Sport International on the man who now also has a claim to the title of “patirel” in his sport, following team mate Ribeimar Bandeira’s decision to retire—quite a moving moment it was when he announced it in Arlon. At 40, he has left a formidable mark in the discipline.

Let us now go back to our Chinese friends, whose rejuvenated team made the news once again. Beyond only to Li Xia, who continued last year’s title, to Linmei Tian, only 19, whom coach Wang Xiaoyi considers a dangerously promising athlete, reportedly more talented even than Yangfeng Wang, her famous countrywoman who bagged five world titles and left the military pentathlon at 26 to go on to modern pentathlon. That should give pause to those who would attempt to take that title away from the Chinese ladies. Success is a term that also applies to a men’s team that is as young as it is promising. Hard work, a breeding ground for young talents, world-class national championships and selection events, to which must be added a four-month training package for the very best right before the world championship, including strict scientific preparation, the recipe for which “the secret is well guarded”, coach Wang Xiaoyi explains in a burst of laughter. Those who used to think that the Chinese are reserved athletes who do not talk much must have a new opinion after Arlon: party time was for the Chinese, in all the various meanings of the word.

Participating countries (30) : South Africa, Germany, Austria, Belarus, Belgium ("), Brazil, Chile, China ("), Croatia, Denmark ("), Spain ("), Estonia, Finland ("), Iran, Lithuania ("), Lebanon, Latvia ("), Uzbekistan, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia ("), Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland ("), Syria, Czech Republic ("), Turkey ("), Ukraine, Venezuela (")

CISM Official Representative : Maj Gen Youyuansh Chen (China) 
TO President : Brigadier General Johann Puchner (Austria)
Greece Wanted This Title So Badly!

One of our most vivid memories from the Second Military World Games was the Greek volleyball team's nail-biting defeat against Italy in a final of Homeric proportions. The other two defeats sustained by Greek teams in the water polo and football finals generated dismal feelings among the Greek delegation, as well as the bitter realization that the Olympic clothes had deserted them in the team events.

This time, the Greek got their revenge, but not without once again pushing their delegation's collective nerves to the test. Having lost the first two sets in the final (23-25, 20-25) against China and performing only to a shadow of the skills they had displayed in their first five matches—which they won without losing so much as a single set—, the team exiled by Stylianos Kazzas, once a famous player, then reached cruising speed and delivered quite eloquently 25-17, 25-17 and 15-10 in the deciding set. At last, they could leave behind the huge disappointment of Zagreb.

If the men's tournament was hard-fought by 11 nations under the probing eye of cameras installed by many Italian TV channels, the women's tournament—which the United States won against Italy—will be stamped as an official CISM world championship, since four delegations sent women's teams to Vibo-Viscchie.

Still, this is akin to a resurrection for volleyball within CISM: the next world championship will be held in Rumania and, while the 2003 edition will depend on the final decision regarding the Military World Games, the 2004 world championship will definitely take place in the United States.

Women
Prelim. group: USA-Italy - 3,0 USA-Netherlands - 3,0, Italy-Netherlands - 3,0, Canada-USA - 0,3, USA-Italy - 3,0, the Netherlands-Canada - 3,0 Classification: 1. USA, 2. Italy, 3. Canada, 4. Netherlands
Final finals: United States-Canada: 3,0, Italy-Netherlands: 3,0
1st place: USA, 2nd place: Italy, 3rd place: the Netherlands, 4th place: Canada
CISM Official Representative: Lieutenant-Colonel Johann Arends (Germany)

Men
Group A: China-Germany - 3,0, USA-Italy - 3,0, Italy-Cyprus - 3,0, Italy-China - 3,0, Germany-Belgium - 3,0, Cyprus-USA - 1,0, Germany-Italy - 2,0, China-Cyprus - 3,0, USA-Germany - 0,8, Cyprus-Italy - 1,0, Cyprus-USA - 3,0, Germany-Italy - 3,0, Greece-Germany - 0,8, Greece-Belgium - 3,0, Greece-Italy - 3,0, Greece-Cyprus - 3,0, Greece-China - 3,0, Greece-Germany - 3,0, Greece-Belgium - 3,0, Greece-Cyprus - 0,8, China-Belgium - 3,0, China-Italy - 3,0, China-Greece - 3,0, China-USA - 3,0, China-Cyprus - 3,0, China-Germany - 3,0, France-Greece - 3,0, France-Cyprus - 3,0, France-Germany - 3,0, France-Italy - 3,0, France-Belgium - 3,0, France-Cyprus - 3,0, France-USA - 3,0, France-Italy - 1,0, France-Belgium - 1,0, France-Germany - 1,0, France-USA - 1,0, France-Cyprus - 1,0, France-Germany - 0,8, France-Italy - 3,0, France-Belgium - 3,0, France-Greece - 3,0, France-Cyprus - 0,8, France-USA - 3,0, France-Italy - 3,0, France-Belgium - 3,0, France-Germany - 3,0, France-USA - 3,0, France-Cyprus - 3,0, France-Germany - 3,0, France-Italy - 3,0, France-Belgium - 3,0, France-Greece - 3,0, France-Cyprus - 0,8, France-USA - 3,0, France-Italy - 0,8, France-Belgium - 0,8, France-Germany - 0,8, France-USA - 0,8, France-Cyprus - 0,8, France-Germany - 0,8, France-Italy - 0,8, France-Belgium - 0,8

Participating countries (11): Germany, Belgium, Brazil, Canada (1), China, Cyprus, United States (1), Greece, Italy (1), the Netherlands (1), Romania (1) Female participation
CISM Official Representative: Lieutenant-Colonel Johann Arends (Germany)
TC President: Lt-Colonel Piero Di Corio (Italy)
257 participants, 179 athletes: 131 men, 48 women
modern pentathlon
33rd World Military Modern Pentathlon Championship

Promotion for Sergeant Veder

He was first seen with a gold medal around his neck in Mexico in 1998, having won the relay title with the German team at the Junior World Championship. In 1999, he belonged to the team that met with similar success at the military world championship in Warsaw. The only victory that was missing from his record was a major international individual title. Why not conquer it on the home turf then? In this temple of German sport that the Warendorf Sports School most definitely is, with its equipment that never fails to bring water to the mouths of athletes looking for ideal training conditions. Not that Jan Veder was ever troubled by existentialist doubts when the time came to deliver and win the spell-binding cross that saw him run past, be overcome and finally leave behind the outgoing champion, Hungary's Attila Kallai. Jan Veder's crowning comes as no surprise at all, except for the athlete himself, who explained that his training for the championship was disrupted in recent months by time-consuming professional duties. Still, the thorough work done with his coach, Sergeant-Major Roland Stor, between 1998 and 2000, has borne fruit.

And Jan Veder's joy was most certainly not overshadowed by the fact that the competition was actually won in the field by another soldier, Sergio Salazar, a citizen of a country that is not a member of CISM (i.e. Mexico), but who had been allowed to take part as a free competitor. Now, if such a success is not a choice argument in favour of his country joining CISM, what can ever be? But Sergio Salazar's win takes nothing away from Jan Veder's achievement, as the former had the huge advantage of competing without the slightest hint of pressure. It would therefore be impossible—not to mention irrelevant—to try and compare these two athletes' respective performances. In order to be complete in our report, it should be added that Frederik and Nicklas Svensson and Bjorn Johansson's relay title for Sweden did come as a surprise, though it serves to prove, once more, their country's traditional inclination for combined sports such as the naval and aeronautical pentathlons. The team went to Italy with Stefano Giornomi—a regular top performer—and teammates Stefano Pecchi and Andrea Valentinin, but that is nothing new in CISM's recent history, is it?

Participating countries (16) : Germany, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, United States, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Ukraine
Observe country (1) : Italy
CISM Official Representative : Colonel Léon De Wulf (Belgium)
PT President : Colonel Jörg Wehrfritz (Switzerland)
144 participants, 76 athletes

Results

Individual
1. Jan Veder (GER) 5324 pts, 2. Attila Kallai (HUN) 5314 pts, 3. Stefano Pecchi (ITA) 5312 pts

Team

Relay
Wrestling
20th World Military Wrestling Championship

Germano-Russian Wrestling

Let there be no misunderstanding, there is no such thing as a new discipline replacing Greek-Roman wrestling. The reason for our title is just that Germany was the only country that managed to put up something resembling a fight against a Russian team that performed to its usual imperial best!

Russia's results as a team are simply impressive at the end of a wrestling week spent on the Adriatic in the Croatian city of Split, whose historical centre will always be a sight for sore eyes.

For starters, let us take a look at the Russians' results in all-in wrestling: four gold, two silver and two bronze medals in the eight weight categories. Quite impressive indeed, especially since only one wrestler per country was allowed in each category. Add to this the three titles and two silver medals they bagged in Greco-Roman wrestling and there is no need to offer further evidence that the Russian wrestling school is still without a true rival in the world. And this was further established at the civilian world championship held slightly over a month later in Sofia, Bulgaria, where Russia conquered half of the titles on offer there too, but this time in all-in wrestling for a change.

There was no choice but to highlight the achievements of the Russians in Split, but we were also quite impressed by the German team, very much in the Greek-Roman events: with three titles plus a silver and a bronze medal, they did almost as well as the competition's tiger from the east. On top of which, with S. Thiele's victory in the 75-kg (all-in), the Germans won both titles in the top weight category—and the most coveted titles—since N. Schmidt had likewise prevailed among the heaviest Greco-Roman wrestlers earlier on.

Thanks to better scheduling than last year, the 20th World Military Wrestling Championship turned the page on last year's fiasco (in terms of entries only, of course). The next world military wrestling rendezvous is set for Tallinn, Estonia, next year and our best wrestlers can expect a wonderful reception as the Head of the Estonian delegation, Second Lieutenant Heino Marks, is a former high-level wrestler.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greco-Roman</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-54 kg:</td>
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<tr>
<td>-66 kg:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. A. Tcher-Mobile (GER), 2. I. Kostadinov (BUL), 3. T. Erol (AZE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-77 kg:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. E. Markev (AZE), 2. I. Zilub (BUL), 3. A. Krem (GER)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-89 kg:</td>
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<td>-101 kg:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. V. Barashelev (RUS), 2. A. Jordan (GER), 3. A. Koltsopoulopou (GRE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-130 kg:</td>
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<tr>
<td>-137 kg:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. G. Konstantin (RUS), 2. A. Sirenko (BLR), 3. M. Enev (LT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-149 kg:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. N. Schmidt (GER), 2. K. Stryckels (UKR), 3. J. Janacek (POL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Team: 1. Russia, 2. Germany, 3. Ukraine

Freestyle

-66 kg: 1. V. Zabolotov (RUS), 2. V. Bubkopysh (UKR), 3. D. Bao (CHN)
-77 kg: 1. A. Tsvatolatov (RUS), 2. B. Lalage (UKR), 3. M. Kost (TUR)
-101 kg: 1. S. Bochanka (BLR), 2. A. Samardak (TUR), 3. A. Gostyzy (RUS)
-113 kg: 1. S. Pasin (UKR), 2. A. Guadeno (RUS), 3. C. Guerin (FRA)
-130 kg: 1. S. Thiele (GER), 2. Y. Cheboks (UKR), 3. N. Mensian (RUS)

Team: 1. Russia, 2. Ukraine, 3. Turkey
Orienteering
34th World Military Orienteering Championship

Russian Grand Slam

It had been a very long time since the International Military Sports Council last set foot in Portugal for a military world championship or an international meeting. This was all the more regrettable than this country not only is renowned for both its magnificent scenery and mild climate but also because it demonstrated during this high-level orienteering week that it has What it takes to organise major international sport events to perfection.

So it was in Beja that our top-notch military orienteering specialists from 26 different countries met. The course was typical of Portuguese landscapes, i.e. a succession of open, flat areas and of small woody valleys with steep slopes. Our athletes' latest encounter in Norway last year ended with a Scandinavian triumph over the Russian oise, the latter winning the relay but otherwise confirmed to the lower steps of the podium. At the time, our article was entitled "The Scandinavian Revenge" and in that particular account, we reminded our readership of Russia's victory at the Zegrab Military World Games in 1990. So, orienteering seems to work on alternating current in CISM, as Russia again dominated in 2001. "What a reaction!" The Russians bagged everything: first and second place in the individual race, wins in the relay event and team rankings, both in the men's and the women's.

In Beja, the Russian leader and fantastic athlete Valentin Novikov was not in top form, however. But that turned out not to be a problem as he was more than efficiently replaced on the top step of the podium by Mikhail Mamelev—who seemed to grow a definite liking for the layout of the Portuguese course—and his heir apparent Eugeny Fedev. As for the ladies' championship, Julia Sidelnikova asserted herself as the Russian team's undisputed leader, a team that left its Estonian and Polish adversaries a good ways behind.

The Scandinavians were not running on the home turf and it showed. But, with two silver and one bronze medal in the men's, the Norwegian team showed its capability, even though its members performed a tad below the form they displayed back home, which was only logical after all.

Participating countries (26) : Germany, Austria, Belgium, Brazil (*), Croatia (*), Denmark (*), France (*), Finland, France (*), Ireland (*), Italy (*), Latvia (*), Lebanon, Lithuania, Norway (*), the Netherlands (*), Poland (*), Portugal (*), Russia (*), Slovenia (*), Sweden (*), Switzerland, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ukraine

Observing country (1) : Cyprus

CISM Official Representative : Colonel Peter Jenciou (Switzerland)

TC President : Lt Col Harold Gentry (Norway)

295 participants, 215 athletes : 150 men, 65 women

Results

Men


Women

Individual : 1. J. Sidelnikova (RUS) : 3:57:00, 2. T. Pestelana (RUS) : 3:58:20, 3. B. Vazee (DPRK) : 4:10:00
The 26 delegations that took the trip to the Persian Gulf—a small minority of nations actually decided to opt out of the championship because of the unstable international context—had not a single reason to regret it. Most of our participants went home with the feeling of having lived "The Thousand and One Nights". Some of them even confessed that it felt like jumping from jumping from heaven and landing in paradise. Obviously, competing in the desert must have provided a disorienting change of scene, even for the most nomadic among our competitors. Add to this perfect accommodation and food worthy of the best hotels in the world and you will easily have gathered that some participants had to pinch themselves to be sure that they were not dreaming. And it all happened under the watchful eye of the President of the International Parachuting Federation, living US legend B. J. Worth—a member of the once unbeatable national free-fall formation team—who must have come to the conclusion that soldiers' ordinary fare has changed considerably.

Before we go back to sport, we should also congratulate the organizers on the perfect technical preparations that prevailed throughout this world championship: some of the sport's top world experts had been invited by the United Arab Emirates to assist in the organization of the event. Radiant parachutists were treated to three Puma helicopters (precision landing), three Casa 235 (free-fall formation) and two Piattist (style). The only slight disturbance came in the early days with a few untimely gusts of wind.

As for the sporting results, the discipline's hierarchy was respected so perfectly that the results would have confirmed the forecasts of even the most astute bookmakers. Since Philippe Varois's feat was recounted in another article, suffice to say here that the Frenchman won the combined individual rankings, thereby confirming the title he conquered last year. The same applies to Germany's Dennis Bar, who seems to have developed a taste for world gold since the world championship in Slovakia last year—where she made it to the highest step on the podium of the combined individual event—, as she confirmed that particular title this year and bagged individual precision landing gold as well. This week's other feat was the Belgian team's free-fall formation gold—the Belgians have become completely inaccessible in that specialty. Russia has come on top of this marvellous week; two individual titles with Svetlana Kleina (style) and Serguei Verpilasov (precision landing), all three team titles and, of course, the women's overall rankings, completed for good measure with another gold medal in the men's team precision landing event. As for Germany, in addition to Denise Bar's two victories, it conquered the style title with Ines Perossi, who also ranked second overall. And France added the men's overall team gold to Varois's individual title. As for the rest, well, there were only leavers left for them, but they will certainly have found some spice outside the three-dimensional arena. It was certainly an unforgettable experience.

**Participating countries (22):** Algeria, Germany (*), Austria, Saudi Arabia, Belorussia (*), Belgium, China (*), Republic of Korea (*), Croatia, Denmark, United Arab Emirates, Spain (*), France (*), Hungary, Italy, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan (*), Lithuania (*), Morocco (*), Oman, the Netherland, Poland, Russia (*), Slovakia, Slovenia (*), Switzerland (*), Syria, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ukraine (*), (*) female participation

**Observing countries (2):** Albania, Qatar

**CSM Official Representative:** Colonel Robert Egermani (Belgium)

**TC President:** Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Dauthier (France)

306 participants, 200 athletes : 160 men, 45 women

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**Results**

**Men**

**Style:**
1. M. Pirgaj (GER) : 36.36 pts.
2. J. Bar (FRA) : 34.28 pts.
3. C. Degos (FRA) : 34.04 pts.

**Freefall:**
1. Belgium : 82 pts.
3. France : 50 pts.

**Accuracy:**
1. D. Bar (GER) : 5.09/2
2. I. Degos (FRA) : 5.04 pts.
3. N. Yelcen (BEL) : 6.04 (TB4: 16)

**Team:**
1. Russia, 2. Belarus, 3. China

**Women**

**Style:**
1. S. Kleina (RUS) : 36.36 pts.
2. J. Bar (FRA) : 34.28 pts.
3. C. Bork (FRA) : 34.04 pts.

**Freefall:**
1. Russia : 82 pts.
3. France : 50 pts.

**Accuracy:**
1. D. Bar (GER) : 5.09/2
2. I. Degos (FRA) : 5.04 pts.
3. N. Yelcen (BEL) : 6.04 (TB4: 16)

**Team:**
1. Russia, 2. Belarus, 3. France
27th World Military Judo Championship

When Russia Takes the Trip...

Twenty teams showed up in Ostia near Rome to take part in the 27th World Military Judo Championship organised by the Carabinieri, the Italian army corps that produces the vast majority of Italian international-class judokas. The Russian team does not attend all CISM championships—indeed, they were absent last year in Den Helder—but whatever the sport, wherever they decide to take the trip, they are generally burdened with a heavy load of medals on the return leg. And Ostia was no exception to that particular rule since the Russian judokas bagged six titles and a total of 12 medals. No major upset in the rest of the sport’s hierarchy either with China a close second—four titles, 11 medals in total and, again, a very conquering women’s team—followed by Italy (three titles and 10 medals in all) and the usual three (The Netherlands, Austria and Brazil) right behind. This is also because of the absence of the Republic of Korea and Germany.

How could we fail to open our account of individual performances with Mark Hubinings, our inevitable Olympic Champion, who won his fifth consecutive world military title in Ostia and so rewarded the Dutch Armed Forces beyond their wildest expectations for the support they afforded him in the development of his sports career. With Ronaldo Sabino, he was in any case the only athlete who managed to confirm the title conquered last year. It is also with immense pleasure that Russia’s A. Mikhaylov was again seen on the top step of a world military podium. There is a young civilian world champion whose age offers a glimpse of a long-lasting domination in the +100 kg.

The main source of satisfaction during this Roman week was the progress of women’s participation in the world championship as, apart from the Military Games—a special occasion—it must be said that our ladies are not always present in vast numbers at CISM events. This time around, however, a genuine championship tournament was on offer in almost all weight categories with the participation of famous international athletes both on and near the various rostra. It must have been a source of considerable contentment for Permanent Technical Committee President Roman Kalina, who spares no effort to develop his sport. Next year’s world military championship will be held in China and a proposal is already on the table to limit entries to one participant per country in each weight category.

Participating countries (20): Austria (*), Azerbaijan (*), Belarus (*), Belgium, Brazil (*), Bulgaria (*), China (*), Croatia, Spain, Finland, Hungary (*), Italy (*), Lithuania, Uzbekistan, the Netherlands (*), Poland, Romania, Russia (*), Slovenia, Slovakia (*), (*) female participation

CISM Official Representative: Colonel Bernard Harst (Switzerland)
TC President: Colonel Roman Kalinka (Poland)
277 participants, 184 athletes: 127 men, 57 women

Results

Men

-46kg: 1. Y. Ja (CHN), 2. A. Potemkin (RUS), 3. D. Garcia (BRA) and L. Pfeiffer (AUT)
-66kg: 1. I. Matlak (RUS), 2. K. Bagramian (RUS), 3. A. Mefined (AUT) and O. D’Auria (ITA)
-73kg: 1. G. Amini (IRI), 2. Z. D. Veleki (GER), 3. A. Veltre (ITA) and T. Eaux (FRA)
-78kg: 1. A. Turtz (ITA), 2. E. Rubik (LVA), 3. M. Angeg (BRA) and L. Pfeiffer (AUT)
-81kg: 1. M. Hubinings (NED), 2. R. Rees (AUT), 3. A. Lenz (AUT) and R. Miron (ITA)
-100kg: 1. M. Sabino (BRA), 2. G. Kuznetzov (RUS), 3. M. Solakov (UZB) and D. Armando (RUS)

Women

-48kg: 1. F. Guc (HUN), 2. T. Tsyhanova (BLR), 3. I. Porge (HUN) and V. Lozhanina (BLR)
-52kg: 1. M. Konijn (NED), 2. A. Cueto (ITA), 3. J. Wang (CHN) and L. Kutsnaya (RUS)
-57kg: 1. Florence (ITA), 2. L. Vida (HUN), 3. D. Serowian (MEX) and, M. Gerhard (ITA)
-63kg: 1. D. Liu (CHN), 2. A. Sarabia (RUS), 3. D. Uzunova (NED) and J. Zhang (CHN)
-70kg: 1. Y. Szpich (ITA), 2. E. Schwarz (SLO), 3. X. Wang (CHN) and L. Qin (CHN)
-78kg: 1. L. Morto (FIN), 2. C. Olea (NED), 3. O. Van (CHN) and B. M. Zheleva (BLR)
-79kg: 1. T. Dzhingadze (RUS), 2. S. Shababoven (BLR), 3. B. de Kort (NED)

Team

1. China, 2. Poland, 3. Hungary and the Netherlands
Internationa Military Sports Council

PRESIDENTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Track and Field - Cross Country: Colonel Jos LENAIERS (BEL)
Basketball: Major Gerard BUSSE (FRA)
Boxing: Commandant James HUNT (IRL)
Cycling: Vacant
Equestrian: Lt-Col G. SERAFINI (ITA)
Fencing: Lt-Colonel José M. R. SANTOS (POR)
Football: Lt-Col Uwe POMMERTZ (GER)
Handball: Lt-Col Hubert BLOCKACHER (BEL)
Judo: Colonel Dr. Roman Medel JAKUNA (POL)
Wrestling: Major Abdelkader SMATI (TUN)
Swimming: Captain Gianmarino INVERNIZZI (ITA)
Orienteering: Lt-Col Harold DSBYE (NOR)
Parachuting: Lt-Col Jean DERMIN (FRA)
Aerobatic Pentaathlon: Vacant
Military Pentaathlon: Brigadier General Johann PUCHER (AUT)
Modern Pentaathlon: Colonel Jörg WÄFFLER (SUI)
Naval Pentaathlon: Commander Uwe ROSSMEISSEL (GER)
Skiing: Lt-Colonel Georg Di Pauli von TREUHLEIM (ITA)
Tae kwon do: Brigadier-General Robert MARTIN (ITA)
Shooting: Lt-Colonel Bojan JOHANSON (SWE)
Triathlon: Lt-Colonel Michel SAINT-BONNET (FRA)
Sailing: Captain Cyprus HOPE (CAN)
Volleyball: Lt-Colonel Pietro De CANIO (ITA)

STATISTICS - WORLD EVENTS 2001

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<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>DATE LOCATION</th>
<th>ATHLETES</th>
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* NR: number of anti-doping controls not reported
Only a Few Days to the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City

Our Military Still Love the Snow!

Winter and military are words that may not rhyme very well, but they go together nonetheless, and last year was no exception to that rule. A scant few days before the opening of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, we thought it would be interesting to review our best athletes' achievements during the 2000-2001 season and in the early part of the 2001-2002 season and to put them in perspective with the Olympic hopes they have generated.

Poireé-Bjorneidalen: A Duel at the Top of World Biathlon

We have said so repeatedly in previous issues and in the columns of Sport International: International biathlon is mostly our military athletes' private shoot. Proof of which again in 2000-2001 with a men's civilan World Cup that featured a heated thriller between the discipline's current two superstars: Raphael Poireé, France, and Ole Einar Bjorneidalen, Norway. Having won the World Cup in 2000, Poireé took a fantastic start in the early part of the season, building up a 200-point lead over his closest opponents. Then it was Bjorneidalen's turn to produce hallucinating performances in February and March—he was genuinely irresistible in Salt Lake City and Lake Placid—to reduce Poireé's lead to 81 points before the world military biathlon championships.

Having discreetly closed the chapter of the world military championship, the two friends who train together faced it off again in Norway's Holmenkollen temple for the last three races. After two races, Ole Einar Bjorneidalen was back to just four points behind his French opponent whom local crowds have almost come to consider one of their own—after all, he often trains in this Scandinavian country and is married to Liv Grete Skjefleid, local world champion and second in the World Cup rankings. So, this was the situation before the final race.

In truth, nobody would have bet anything on the Frenchman's skin at that point, even though the set up for the last event was a favourite of his: 15 km, in-line start. Poireé looked far from his best shape whereas Bjorneidalen, having bagged three wins, two second and one third place in the last six races, seemed unstoppable. However, Raphael Poireé finished second with only two misses in the shooting range and demonstrated once again that he has what it takes to perform above the standard. He beat Ole Einar Bjorneidalen by a mere 21 seconds, taking advantage of the Norwegian's five misses, a poor performance that sent him down to fourth place.

Raphael Poireé beat Ole Einar Bjorneidalen by a miserable ten points in the final standings (281 vs. 291) to become the first athlete to win the World Cup twice in a row since Russia's Tochilov ten years ago. Four wins in the World Cup, two world titles at the civilian world championship in Biel-Poljuka (15 km in-line and 15 km relay) and number one in the World Cup's final standings, 2000-2001 was definitely an impressive season by the French champion. As for his Norwegian rival, he probably found solace in the six World Cup events he won, in his thundering end of season and in the fact that he was eventually defeated by a great champion and by the three World Cup events he had to forsake.

The early parts of the current season (2001-2002) saw another member of the military show excellent form. Franz Lack currently dominates the World Cup standings, while Raphael Poireé and Ole Einar Bjorneidalen have clearly scheduled their season to be in top shape for the Olympics—though they have won races here and there. Of course, Poireé expects to bag in Salt Lake City the only major title that is still missing from his outstanding personal record. As for the rest of our military biathletes, including Austria's Perner and Greder and Germany's Luck and Gross—plus the inevitable Russian sniper—, they will seize every opportunity to make themselves conspicuous in the Mormons' capital city.

As will our military ladies, no doubt. It is a civilian biathlete, Sweden's Madgalena Forneberg, who currently dominates the discipline head and shoulders. Having triumphed in the 2000-2001 World Cup—with her name at the top of the overall standings and of all event rankings (15 km, sprint, pursuit and mass start)—, she then set an even higher standard by winning the first six races in this year's World Cup. But there are quite a few events left this season before the Olympic Games and military athletes have not had their last say yet, including Norway's Liv Stokkebrå and Ukraine's Elena Zubrilova—respectively second and third in the previous edition of the World Cup—as well as Germany's Dist and Apelli, Slovenia's Andreja Gracar and France's Baverel.

Alpine Skiling: Raich, Ströbel, Gerg & Co.

Our military skiers also like Alpine skiing and again featured among the best during the 2000-2001 season. If you want to make easy, simply bet on seeing several of them on the Salt Lake City rostrum.

One of them is Benjamin Raich, who is only at the beginning of a potentially surtuous career. Last year, he finished fourth of the World Cup, won the World Cup's slam standings—bagging several wins in the process—and finished second of the alpint at the world championship. And he has already won giant slalom this year too. Salt Lake City should provide him with an opportunity to further enhance an already impressive record with good performances in the alpint and giant slalom. Another familiar face on military world championship podiums is Switzerland's spry and hardworking phenomenon, Michaël von Grünigen, who added a world title to his incredible record, as well as a second place in the final standings of the World Cup giant alpint, only a breath behind Hermann Maier. For his last Games, there is little doubt that the Swiss is still a perfectly plausible prospect for Olympic gold. Another serious candidate for a podium is Pepi Ströbel, whose end-of-season rush is thundering, as emerged again last year.
On the ladies’ side, Hilde Gerg is back to her best after a long absence due to a nasty broken rib. As shown by the bronze medal she bagged at the World Championship in Sankt Anton and by other successes last season as well as more recently by her presence among the very best downhill specialists in various World Cup events. She is used to major rendezvous and that alone ranks her in the category of likely gold medallists. As for Italy’s Karin Putzer, she confirmed with World Cup wins early this season the silver medal she clinched in the 2001 world championship.

Nordic Skiing: Everyone Is Behind Stefania
The damage is irremediable of course, but Stefania Belonono seems eternally and still looks fit as a fiddle. It is true that the Italian’s performances were a tad less impressive last year but the silver medallist of the 2001 world championship in Lahti seems to be back to her old glorious self at exactly the right time for the Olympics. Her experience at the top, her ability to transcend herself in moments of crisis and the fact that she has little to lose—since she has already won everything there is to win in her sport—make her a perfectly valid proposition on Olympic rostrums.

Russia’s Elena Lazutina, pursuit world champion but unseen at recent military world championships, looks about as indestructible as her Italian colleague.

Contrary to our ladies, no military Nordic skier seems to be in a position to claim overall domination in the men’s. Still, on a good day, Germany’s René Sommerfeldt, Italy’s Piero Cottrer and France’s Vincent Vittoz are certainly capable of reaching for an Olympic medal. And even gold would not be that much of a surprise; after all, René Sommerfeldt and Piero Cottrer finished second respectively of the 50 km at 10 km freestyle races at the Lahti world championship in 2001.

Luge: Military Area—No Trespassing
World championship in Calgary, February 2001: first, Italy’s A. Zoggeler, second, Germany’s M. Hackl; third, Austria’s M. Proos. Luge World Cup, final rankings: the same three athletes in the same order. All three representatives of their respective Armed Forces are on top of world luge and all three are clear pretenders to the Olympic podium. Whether in the single- or two-seater, whether in the men’s or the women’s, our military are going to be in the Olympic limelight. And since DSM athletes are all crazy about speed, you can bet that most bobleigh teams with an eye on medals will also include a few skilful soldiers!
## World events 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Organisers</th>
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<tr>
<td>21/12/2001-15/4/2003</td>
<td>Football (40) Qualifiers</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/2-11/2</td>
<td>Equestrian (1)</td>
<td>Quito/Chile</td>
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<td>25/2-22/3</td>
<td>Ski (44)</td>
<td>Kransika Gora/ Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>18/3-22/3</td>
<td>Cross-country (49)</td>
<td>Antalya/Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/5-03/6</td>
<td>Water-polo</td>
<td>Salonika/Greece</td>
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<td>12/6-22/6</td>
<td>Handball (14)</td>
<td>Kaunas/Lithuania</td>
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<td>Orienteering (36)</td>
<td>Akenastig/Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/8-25/8</td>
<td>Fencing (38)</td>
<td>More/Bern/Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Aeronautical Pentathlon (30)</td>
<td>Dijon/France</td>
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<td>Modern Pentathlon (34)</td>
<td>Hradec Kralove/Czech Republic</td>
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<td>17/7-22/7</td>
<td>Triathlon (9)</td>
<td>Otepaa/Estonia</td>
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<td>Military Pentathlon (50)</td>
<td>Schaarsbergen/The Netherlands</td>
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<td>16/8-19/8</td>
<td>Swimming (59)</td>
<td>Waendturf/Germany</td>
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<td>Judo (29)</td>
<td>Beijing/China</td>
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<td>08/9-16/9</td>
<td>Boxing (47)</td>
<td>Dublin/Ireland</td>
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<td>Track and Field (40)</td>
<td>Tivoli/Italy</td>
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<td>20/9-09/10</td>
<td>Volleyball (24)</td>
<td>Constanta/Rumania</td>
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<td>Taekwondo (14)</td>
<td>Fort Hood, Texas/USA</td>
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<td>16/10-25/10</td>
<td>Parachuting (36)</td>
<td>Chen/Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/10-29/10</td>
<td>Wrestling (21)</td>
<td>Tallin,Estonia</td>
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<td>22/11-25/11</td>
<td>Cyclo-cross (18)</td>
<td>Cassargal/Luxembourg</td>
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<td>Symposium</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/11-14/11</td>
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<td>Rio de Janeiro/Brazil</td>
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### Meetings

- 11/3-16/3: Executive Committee, Session 1 | Tallinn/Estonia
- 04/5-12/5: Executive Committee, Session 2 | Opalija/Croatia
- General Assembly (57)
- 27/11-2/02/12: Executive Committee, Session 3 | South Africa

### Other Major Events

- 13/6-17/6: Marathon | Bern/Switzerland
- 15/4-27/4: African Games | Nairobi/Kenya

The chief of the Canadian delegates, Brig. Gen. Dwayne Lucas and the far-play trophy.
122 member nations

At its 54th birthday, CISM counts 122 member nations. We publish hereby a computer graphic which illustrates the geographical spreading of its nations.

AFRICA (44)
South Africa
Algeria, R.P.D.
Angola, R.
Benin, R.
Botswana, R.
Burkina Faso
Burundi, R.
Cameroon, R.
Cape Verde, R.
Central African, R.
Congo, D.R.
Congo, R.
Ivory Coast, R.
Djibouti, R.
Egypt, Arabic R.
Gabon, R.
Gambia, R.
Gabon, R.
Ghana, R.
Guinea Bissau, R.
Equatorial Guinea, R.
Guinea, R.
Kenya
Lesotho
Libya, Arabic: Jamahiriya
Madagascar, R.
Mali, R.
Morocco, Kingdom
Mauritania, Islamic R.
Namibia
Niger, R.
Nigeria, R.F.
Uganda, R.
Rwanda, R.
Senegal, R.
Sierra Leone, R.
Sudan, R.
Swaziland, R.
Tanzania, R. Unse
Chad, R.
Togo, R.
Tunisia, R.
Zambia, R.
Zimbabwe, R.

AMERICA (17)
Argentina, R.
Barbados
Bolivia, R.
Brazil, R.F.
Canada
Chile, R.
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
United States of America
Guatemala, R.
Haiti, R.
Paraguay, R.
Peru, R.
Uruguay, Eastern R.
Venezuela, R.

ASIA (27)
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Brunei, State
China, P.R.
D.R. Korea
Korea, R.
United Arab Emirates
India
Iraq, R. (*)
Iran, Islamic R.
Jordan, Hashemite
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Kuwait, State
Lebanon, R.
Mongolia
Oman, Sultanate
Uzbekistan
Pakistan, Islamic R.
Philippines
Qatar, State
Sri Lanka
Syria, Arab R.
Thailand, Kingdom
Vietnam, R.
Yemen, R.

(*) Suspended nation

EUROPE (34)
Albania, R.
Germany, F.R.
Austria, R.
Bulgaria, Kingdom
Belarus
Bulgaria, R.
Cyprus, R.
Croatia, R.
Denmark, Kingdom
Spain, Kingdom
Estonia, R.
Finland, R.
France, R.
Georgia
Greece, R.
Hungary, R.
Ireland
Italy, R.
Lithuania, R.
Luxembourg, Grand Duchy
Norway, Kingdom
the Netherlands, Kingdom
Poland, R.
Portugal, R.
Romania
Russia, Federation
Slovakia, R.
Slovenia
Sweden, Kingdom
Switzerland, Confederation
Czech Rep.
Turkey, R.
Ukraine

Friendship through Sport