CISM Yearbook

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SPORTS COUNCIL

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The life of the International Military Sports Council has been punctuated by many activities in 2004. This year again, hundreds of events and 20 military world championships allowed thousands of military athletes to compete in a spirit of friendship and harmony. Accustomed to such large figures, we tend to underestimate them, but where the International Military Sports Council differs from other organisations is precisely in terms of the number and magnitude of sporting events it puts together every year, as well as their often unique—and sometimes even, extraordinary—character. This is where our organisation’s value added for the international sports community lies.

As regards the organisational quality of the various events, achieved standards of proficiency have again been very high—even excellent in some cases. This positive assessment must encourage us to set up our efforts, by attracting larger audiences, improving media coverage and increasing the proportion of top-notch military participants.

Let me use this opportunity to praise the many Delegations that shoulder the burden of mastering these sporting events and of organising our many high-level institutional events, be it our General Assembly, the various meetings of the Board of Directors, etc. As the main ambassadors of our Organisation, they are the ones who ensure that CISM is equipped to pursue its mission and proceed with its development. Their professionalism is definitely commendable, especially as it provides the foundation for the action of the International Military Sports Council.

Still on this issue, the International Symposium, held in Tunis in September, was a marvellous experience. There we conducted a very detailed examination of high-level sport in a serene and friendly atmosphere. This stimulating and enriching experience should encourage us to pursue our efforts in this direction.

However within CISM, military sport does not only rhyme with high-level sport. “Sports for all”, is the objective of our dedicated attention, as demonstrated by the involvement of the International Military Sports Council in the 10th World Sports for All Congress and the concurrent publication of the President’s Report on “CISM and Sport for all”. Our organisation is committed to mainstreaming sport into military life and to leveraging it to develop synergies between civil society and the military. The “Day of Friendship Through Sport” fits perfectly within this process and will be one of the most ambitious challenges for CISM to take up in years to come.

The Summer Olympics held in Athens were one of the highlights of the year 2004. This global sporting arch-event is also very much a test for any sport organisation. The thousands of CISM athletes were no exception and passed the test with flying colours. Once again, military sport did its colours credit by securing many medals via its representatives. These results confirm the contribution and standing of military sport within the international sporting community. Equally, the adhesion by more than 90 member countries to the Olympic Truce ideal nicely illustrates the vitality of Olympic ideals within our organisation.

In conclusion, I should also mention the official talks with the Indian authorities in advance of the next Military World Games in 2007. In this context, I have personally witnessed the acute sense of responsibility that guides the Indian Armed Forces. We have also begun preparing the ground for the fifth Military World Games, scheduled to be held in 2011. I am convinced that these major events will allow the Delegations chosen to show their potential, skills and strengths.

Dear CISM friends, let me finally thank you all very much and wish the best for you in 2005!

Brigadier General Dottore Gianni Gola
President
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Milestones

CISM Day Run
Along lines similar to the "Olympic Day" organised by the International Olympic Committee, the International Military Sports Council launched a project called "Friendship Through Sport Day". The aim of this initiative is to promote a wider practice of sports within the Armed Forces by organising a national race in all member countries on the anniversary date of the foundation of CISM.

Morocco- Fair-Play
The commendable sportsmanship displayed by Moroccan athletes at the World Military Taekwondo and Volleyball Championships in 2004 earned the Kingdom of Morocco the Fair-Play Trophy awarded annually by the International Military Sports Council. This Trophy serves to promote the dissemination of fair-play values at CISM sporting events.

Iraq—Reinstatement
Thirteen years after it was suspended, Iraq was restored to its full status among the community of CISM member nations. The decision to reintegrate Iraq was taken by the Board of Directors in Sofia, Bulgaria, and later ratified by the General Assembly in Conakry, Guinea. This decision completes the process initiated by the Board of Directors in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 2003.

Italy-Solidarity
By volunteering to take over the organisation of the 2003 Military World Games and hold them in Catania, Italy provided renewed evidence of its commitment and adherence to "Friendship Through Sport" as the ideal and motto of the International Military Sports Council. This commendable effort earned Italy the CISM Solidarity Trophy.

Military World Games 2007
The double signature, by the Indian Delegation and the President of CISM, of the preliminary contract for the organisation of the 4th Military World Games constitutes both a landmark in preparations for their next edition and a definitive step toward practical implementation of this project. The Indian Delegation also reported that preparatory work is making steady progress.

Military World Games 2011
The call for applications to organise the 5th Military World Games in 2011 was launched in 2004 too. The Turkish Delegation indicated verbally at the General Assembly meeting in Conakry, Guinea, that it was interested in hosting the event, as did the Chinese Delegation later in the year.

Sport and Peace
The International Military Sports Council is committed to being more open to civil society and demonstrated this by organising—in partnership with the City of Mantua, Italy—a seminar on the Contribution of Sport to the Prevention of Conflicts and the Preservation of Peace. This seminar will be held in April or May 2005.

High-level Sport
A Symposium was held in Tunis on High-Level Sport in the Armed Forces. Against the background of growing professionalism in the Armed Forces, discussions highlighted the contribution of high-level sport both to internal cohesion within the Armed Forces and the relationship between the latter and civil society.
THE SECRETARY GENERAL REPORTS

It is with great pleasure that I put pen to paper to briefly go over what happened last year. As Secretary General, it is my duty to regularly evaluate our great association’s shape. In this respect, the picture is more than reassuring. Actually, the International Military Sports Council (CISM) radiates good health. In 2004, CISM maintained its steady pace of progress. In fact, our military sport has good reason to be proud of its status and should definitely not be ashamed of proficiency levels attained at competitions organised by other major international sports federations. The results achieved by our athletes at the Athens Olympics last summer will convert the last few sceptics to this indisputable truth. In terms of our own championships, somewhat sparse programmes in the late nineties have been replaced with busy schedules and positive answers by candidate delegations to our calls for organisers. We have progressively increased the average annual number of military world championships from 17 to 20. Participation too, has gone up regularly in recent years. The CISM banner attracts a growing number of countries and athletes of both genders who all adhere to our motto “Friendship Through Sport”!

The level of proficiency achieved in 2004 was very high across the board, sometimes even setting all-time records. Allow me to praise the Delegations that welcomed and accommodated athletes from the four corners of the world last year, thereby realising the ideals of the International Military Sports Council. In my opinion, this is where the essence of our organisation is best illustrated! Without our dear Delegations, CISM could not be much more than a dream. So thank you all very much indeed!

At the end of 2003, it was decided to put more emphasis on continental and regional activities. One year into the implementation of this decision, it seems useful to review the activities conducted on the different continents in 2004.

EUROPE

This year again, a comparatively high number of military world championships (16 in all) were held in Europe. In addition, more than 80 regional and continental activities were organised on the continent. Two countries also took up the gauntlet of putting together military world championships on national soil for the very first time: Azerbaijan (Judo) and Latvia (handball). The success of these events clearly showed that within CISM, it is possible to successfully take up any challenge. I encourage all countries with a desire to make this unique experience to grasp the nettle; the General Secretariat will be there to support you. While the growth of our association in Europe has almost reached its maximum, the dynamism and selflessness displayed by the Liaison Office and the Vice-President enable us to contemplate with confidence CISM’s further expansion toward the Balkans. The new membership of Serbia & Montenegro in 2003 was followed by very significant expressions of interest from other Balkan countries. How could I possibly overlook the key contribution of the Turkish delegation—taking the form of multiple initiatives and practical steps—toward renewing the dynamism of the International Military Sports Council in the region. Indeed, in addition to masterminding several events at all levels in 2004, Turkey also indicated that it was interested in studying the feasibility of hosting the Military World Games in 2011.

AMERICA

Precision and exemplary planning were the key words on the American continent last year. America has drawn up an ambitious management plan and has given itself the means to achieve its aims. This deliberate approach began to bear fruit in 2004 already. With four military world championships and countless regional and continental activities across the continent, America, in all its parts, showed determination and structural dedication. The enlargement process in the Caribbean became very visible again in 2004 when Trinidad and Tobago joined CISM, a year after Jamaica. On the whole, American countries have also participated more actively in the championships they attended. I look forward to witnessing more signs of this renewed dynamism in 2005.

AFRICA

In 2004, Africa took an extremely varied range of both sporting and institutional initiatives. For example, the Republic of Guinea hosted the 59th CISM General Assembly and Congress in Conakry. Botswana hosted a Board meeting in Gaborone and confirmed the prominent role it intends to play in the Southern African region by taking over the East and South Africa Liaison Office (ESALO), the region’s dynamic and enthusiastic mainstay, previously located in South Africa. We wish Botswana as much success as South Africa, whose monumental work is definitely worthy of praise. To the North of the vast African continent, the Tunisian Delegation masterfully organised an International Symposium that will go down as one of the most accomplished and successful in CISM history. In sporting terms, in addition to regional events, the African continent also accommodated to World Military Equestrian Championship, a beautiful event which Morocco hosted in superb fashion. Finally, how could I possibly conclude this account of African events without mentioning CAMFOOT 2004, the African Military Football Cup. This extraordinary African football jamboree held in Mali provided CISM with unprecedented visibility both in the host country and throughout the continent. The press, television and radio covered the event on a daily basis and broadcast matches and official events held in parallel. Few military world championships enjoy such broad media attention. In addition, the enthusiastic audiences and public exultation demanded a typical African flavour that is impossible to describe merely with words. CAMFOOT 2004 set an example for many member countries to follow.

ASIA

In 2004, the Asian continent accommodated the World Military Cross-country Championship held in Beirut, Lebanon. In addition to this high-profile and many other—regional—events, Asia focused on preparing the 4th Military World Games, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad, India, in 2007. Indeed, more than encouraging progress was made in 2004 with respect to preparations for the event, thanks to the scrupulousness and dedication of the Indian Delegation in putting together the Games. These qualities, as well as India’s definitive commitment four years ahead of the event, are a guarantee of success for the 2007 Military World Games. Unfortunately, the satisfaction this generated was recently eclipsed by one of the most terrible natural disasters in the history of Asia and, indeed, the entire world. On 26 December 2004, a tsunami of cataclysmic proportions claimed close to 300,000 lives and left millions homeless on the entire continent, leaving a lasting trail of destruction in its path. This disaster—whose effects were felt as far along as the East African coastline—directly and mercilessly hit three of our member nations: India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The community of CISM as a whole, shares in the pain, suffering and grief of the families and friends of the victims.
On another level, the International Military Sports Council persisted in its struggle against doping in 2004. At the 2003 World Congress of WADA (the World Anti-Doping Agency) held in Copenhagen, Denmark, CISM was among the first sports organisations to recognise the pre-eminence of the brand new international anti-doping code drawn up by WADA and to undertake to adjust its structures to enforce the new code as soon as possible. This statement of intent was swiftly acted upon and 2004 was marked by the concretisation of this approach. Indeed, CISM reviewed its anti-doping methods and rules and adopted changes that were enforced at all military world championships last year. The benefits of this move have been felt already in terms of speed, transparency and effectiveness. CISM also restructured its Discipline Commission with optimism in mind. The new tool has already demonstrated its efficiency and effectiveness in handling several doping cases. These have also confirmed the threat that hangs over our championships. From now on, the Discipline Commission can leverage the new AMA codes as well as CISM’s revised methods to rule on all doping cases while preserving the rights of incriminated athletes.

If you will allow this metaphor, I would say that CISM is comparable to a boat that does not handle very well, but needs to stay on course and sail around any emerged rocks to avoid being stranded. While you, Delegations, provide operational steering, we in the General Secretariat provide support and assistance. Following the departure of several members of our staff, the different departments comprising the General Secretariat worked twice as hard to provide follow-up and support worthy of outstanding operatives—you. However, as was explained during the General Assembly and Congress in Guine, I must emphasise that the General Secretariat needs staff reinforcements. To that end, I have hope that ongoing contacts with the Heads of several Delegations will reach a successful conclusion in 2005.

Let us now come briefly back to the 2004 General Assembly and Congress. On the welcoming and generous African soil of Guine, you decided together on the course to follow by adopting both our draft budgets and—for the first time in our history—an Annual Management Plan. This rolling management tool includes an ambitious list of objectives to be reached this year. Processing of many of those items has already been initiated within the Board of Directors and General Secretariat. You will be able to check progress in this respect at the next General Assembly and Congress to be held in Cyprus in May 2005.

Before I close this 2004 report, let me express my sincere thanks to Delegations worldwide for their tokens of support and friendship. You are what makes CISM a dynamic organisation and I call upon you all to maintain this constructive course of action in order to secure the future of our wonderful organisation in 2005 and well beyond.

Colonel Robert Eggimont
General Secretary

1st BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sofia, Bulgaria (10-15 March 2004)

CISM REINSTATES IRAQ

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Military Sports Council in 2004 offered an opportunity to clarify the organisation’s future prospects. CISM has undergone major changes since the beginning of the 21st century, when it undertook to alter its structure to improve its efficiency and functioning.

The Sofia meeting saw the finalisation of the Management Plan 2005 of the International Military Sports Council. The Board also addressed the Communication and Marketing Plans, initiated in 2003. In this context, it welcomed the arrival of four new sponsors. The Strategic Plan, whose ambition is to guide CISM and its action until 2010, was examined and discussed.

Reinstatement of Iraq

The March 2004 meeting of the Board of Directors also agreed to Iraq's full reintegration as a member of the great family of military sport. The principle of Iraq's reinstatement had already been adopted on a provisional basis at the previous meeting of the Board held in Burkina Faso.

In addition to the various decisions reached, this meeting of the executive body of CISM in Bulgaria served to show how important military sport is for local authorities. Indeed, during the meeting, CISM President Brigadier General Gianni Gola and Secretary General Colonel Robert Eggimont as well as the Vice-Presidents of the Board were greatly honoured to accept an invitation to visit Mr Georgy Parapov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Many other prominent Bulgarian personalities, including the President of the National Olympic Committee and the President of the National Academy of Sports, also welcomed the Board.

Other items discussed in Sofia included the annual programme of sport events and the activities of the various Commissions.
For the delegates, the week spent in Conakry was very busy. Iraq, Military World Games (2007 and 2011), elections to the Board of Directors and the presentation of annual trophies—for fair play and solidarity—composed the bulk of issues on the table for discussion.

As regards Iraq, a member country suspended in 1991, the Board of Directors had previously agreed to lift this sanction on a provisional basis. The General Assembly ratified this decision, thereby reinstating Iraq as a full member of the great family of military sport.

**MWG 2011 Applications**

Preparations for the 2011 Military World Games were the subject of undivided attention. The call for applications to organise the 5th Military World Games was launched, followed almost immediately by the Turkish Delegation’s expression of interest in organising the 2011 edition.

For its part, the Indian Delegation introduced a progress report on preparations for the 4th Military World Games to be held in Hyderabad in 2007: arrangements for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the status of sports and accommodation facilities, the communication and marketing plans, as well as the list of sports, were presented in detail. India is on schedule and the 4th Military World Games seem to be running perfectly on track.

**Fair-Play and Solidarity**

Both CISM annual trophies were also awarded as part of the General Assembly. The Fair-Play Trophy went to Morocco in recognition of the commendable sportsmanship displayed by its athletes during the 2004 World Military Taekwondo and Volleyball Championships. As for the Solidarity Trophy, it was awarded to the Italian Delegation. Indeed, having organised the very first edition of the Military World Games, Italy also stepped in on very short notice to host the third edition in Catania, Sicily, following the late withdrawal of the nominal organising country.

**The new Board of Directors**

The elections on the agenda of the General Assembly delivered their verdict. Out of eight Board seats up for renewal, three will continue to be occupied by their previous owners, i.e. Vice-President Colonel Hamid Kalkaba Malboum of Cameroon as well as two additional African Board members: Colonel Honore Traore of Burkina Faso and Colonel Mohamed Obelalbi Metref of Algeria. Two more members were elected to the Board for the first time: Brigadier General Dwayne Lucas (Canada) and Major General Zhaochai Chen (China). Major General Arantxa Barboza of Brazil and Air Marshal Singh of India were co-opted to the Board for a year.

In conclusion, the triple event in Conakry had the double advantage of providing the Republic of Guinea with an opportunity to display its know-how as a host and organiser—a special word of praise is in order for the dynamic, devoted and hospitable Organising Committee—and of turning out to be a genuine success in terms of both the turn-up of delegations of member nations and the presence of distinguished guests. The Cypriot authorities will certainly do their best to match the performance of their Guinean counterparts when they host the next General Assembly and Congress in May 2005.
MILITARY SPORT AND PEACE IN BOTSWANA

The members of the Board of Directors of the International Military Sports Council met in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, for the last meeting of the executive arm of CISM in 2004. CISM’s top managers dedicated most of their time to four different topics.

In Gaborone, in addition to addressing routine business, the Board: (i) conducted a detailed examination of the Strategic Plan of CISM, (ii) signed the preliminary contract for the organisation of the 4th Military World Games (MWG) with an Indian representative, (iii) highlighted the seminar on the Contribution of Sport to the Prevention of Conflicts and the Preservation of Peace, and (iv) initiated the project called “CISM Day Run” with 2006 as the target year for delivery.

When they signed the preliminary contract for the 4th Military World Games, CISM President General Gianni Gola and Air Marshal A. K. Singh, Indian Delegate to the International Military Sports Council, gave more tangible substance to the 2007 edition of the MWG and completed a procedure that continues to represent an important strategic step on the path to the Games.

Sport and Peace

Also in Gaborone, CISM and the City of Mantua, Italy, officially launched the seminar on “Preventing Conflicts and Preserving Peace: The Contribution of Sport”. Brigadier General Gianni Gola signed the agreement on behalf of CISM in his capacity as President, with M. Burchiellaro, Mayor of Mantua, signing on behalf of his city. This initiative embodies the complementary contributions of civilian and military authorities to the preservation of peace. The seminar itself will be held on 31 March-02 April 2005.

CISM Day

Finally, the Board of Directors decided to follow up on the initiative launched by President Gola called the “Day of Friendship Through Sport”. Inspired from the “Olympic Day” initiative of the International Olympic Committee, the aim of this project is to promote the dissemination and practice of sport within the Armed Forces. Its ambition is also to increase the visibility of the International Military Sports Council in its member countries. Every year on 18 February—the anniversary date of the foundation of CISM—the Delegations of all member countries will be committed to organising a national race open not just to military athletes but also to all military personnel. Organised in cooperation with the IOC, this Day will feature at least a 2km run. This initiative will be submitted for approval to the delegates attending the Cyprus General Assembly in May 2005.

In conclusion, initiatives and decisions were adopted by the Board of Directors meeting in Gaborone with the double aim of supporting the International Military Sports Council it its future missions and strengthening the role of military sport within both the Armed Forces and civil society.
changes and adjust accordingly to secure its long-term future. Another major challenge, which received the meeting’s undivided attention, was the participation in and contribution of, women to military sport. The "Women in CISM" Commission, in charge of this subject within the International Military Sports Council, presented the outcomes of a dedicated survey on the issue and encouraged delegates to promote women’s sport within military sport as a whole. There was unanimous agreement among delegates attending this session that this would indeed constitute one of the main challenges in the future.

The fourth and final session was dedicated to the scientific and medical dimensions of high-level sport. The issue of overtraining was thoroughly examined, notably via a detailed lecture on the situation in Brazil in which two Brazilian experts detailed, from a medical viewpoint, certain aspects of the techniques used in training high-level athletes, among whom the members of the Brazilian military pentathlon team—familiar sights on CISM championship podiums. Also addressed were the individual medical supervision of athletes as well as their needs in terms of recovery after injuries.

### Doping, a Modern Disease

In addition to overtraining, the speakers and delegates also addressed themselves to the issue of doping and the lack of adequate information concerning this phenomenon. The Commission for Sports Medicine, in charge of this issue within CISM, presented ideal models to control doping as well as optimised medical models for all championships organised by the International Military Sports Council. The French and Pakistani experiences were then analysed against the background of these proposals. At the end of the session, a majority of delegates concluded that despite the efforts of CISM and its member nations, military sport is not immune to the curse of doping, as it has become an overarching concern for the global sports community as a whole.

Following the different contributions, discussions and conclusions, Symposium Director Lieutenant Colonel Don Keus of The Netherlands drew up an official statement—subsequently submitted to the Board of Directors—including a recommendation to mainstream the outcomes of the Symposium into Management Plan 2006. In his concluding remarks, Brigadier General Gianni Gola of Italy, President of CISM and its Official Representative at the Symposium, indicated that he was "delighted with the positive outcome of the Symposium" and even added that in his opinion, "CISM is on the right track and must keep up, and possibly intensify, its efforts to develop high-level military sport".
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Milestones

Track and Field—New World Record
Sail Saeed Shaheen of Qatar, who won the short cross at the World Military Cross-country Championship, set a new 5,000m steeplechase world record at Memorial Van Damme in Brussels, Belgium, in September 2004. He completed the race in 17'53"63, thereby shaving 1'65 off the previous record.

Cross-Country—El Kamch’s Fifth
In Beirut, Lebanon, Morocco’s Zhor El Kamch bagged her fifth cross-country title. Following a string of four consecutive gold medals, her domination over the discipline was—briefly—challenged in 2003. The 51st World Military Cross-Country Championship provided her with an opportunity to re-establish her iron grip.

Judo—Huizinga’s Seventh
More than ever, Mark Huizinga of The Netherlands deserves the nickname, “The Fighting Dutchman”. At the 2004 World Military Judo Championship held in Baku, Azerbaijan, Huizinga won his seventh CISM title in the -90kg division, thereby adding yet another trophy to an already rather impressive medal showcase.

Parachuting—New Record
The US women parachuting team set a new CISM record in the team formation skydive event of the World Military Parachuting Championship held in Krems, Austria.

Aeronautical Pentathlon—New Records
Sweden’s Peter Carlsson and Turkey’s Ceyhun Özer set new CISM records, respectively in the shooting and basketball events of the World Military Aeronautical Pentathlon Championship held in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 2004.

Military Pentathlon—China
China’s women pentathletes crushed the opposition in Santiago, Chile, at the World Military Pentathlon Championship, bagging all eight available gold medals, half of the silver and three bronze medals. This left precious little room on podiums for their opponents in this most spectacular and specifically military discipline.

Taekwondo—Golden Dutchman
First appearance, and a medallist already. The Netherlands dealt the opposition a hard blow this year when they bagged a gold medal on their first ever participation in a world military taekwondo championship. Indeed, Denis Bekkers single-handedly moved the Netherlands from observer to victor status when he won the featherweight title.

Shooting—New Records
Records fell like rain in Ankara, Turkey, at the 2004 world military shooting championship. One new individual CISM record in the women’s and five new team CISM records in the men’s were set during this competition, making it the year’s most prolific event when it comes to top sporting performances.
MILITARY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2004
VINTAGE PERFORMANCES

Every year for the last half century, the International Military Sports Council has been organizing Military World Championships (MWC) gathering athletes from the four corners of the world. Always motivated by the organization's motto of "Friendship Through Sport," CISM indefatigably leverages every opportunity to give this founding principle tangible substance. Over time, championships have grown in terms of both numbers and size. The annual number of military world championships now reaches 20 (out of a total of 24 sports managed by the International Military Sports Council) and all in all, several thousand representatives of the Armed Forces of our 126 member nations meet once a year in the sporting arena to set new hierarchies in the various disciplines.

The 2004 editions of the various MWC were marked by a small decline in total entries compared to previous years. An obvious explanation for this is to be found in the fact that Military World Games—the military equivalent of the Olympic Games—were held in 2003. However, a number of sports have fared extremely well nonetheless: significant increases in the number of participating countries were recorded in both the cyclo-cross and—in particular—orienteering championships. New nations have taken part in several championships and the large number of observer countries (12) augurs well for the various military sports, as observer status is a prerequisite for full participation in future championships.

Another encouraging sign is the growing involvement of women in the different sports. It shows how useful it is to broaden the practice of sport in the Armed Forces—and resulting participation in championships—to include all members in the military. The recently introduced women's football championship, of which only the second edition took place in 2004, provides a good example of this trend.

### Summary Table of Championships (2004)

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<td>Belfort (FRA)</td>
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<td>Kingston (CAN)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2993</strong></td>
<td><strong>2315</strong></td>
<td><strong>676</strong></td>
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The 46th World Military Basketball Championship was marked by a major shift in the balance of power in this sport, as the ever-stronger Russian team removed their Italian counterparts from the top spot. Led by Vladimir Konavalov in top form, the Russian put an end to the Italian dominance in the tightest of finals, which they won 68-66.

In fact, a brand new military basketball hierarchy emerged from this edition of the championship. Indeed, the US team climbed on the third step of the podium, confirming huge progress compared to a modest eighth place in 2003. As for the Italians, they left Croatia with a consolation prize: Fabio Di Bella was elected best player of the tournament, with Russia's Konavalov a close second.

There were two very good reasons why the 46th World Military Basketball Championship was a major event for the host Armed Forces: over time, Croatia has become a breeding ground for European basketball talent and the CISM championship was this year's top sporting event as far as the Croatian military were concerned. However, the Croatian team failed to leverage the advantage of playing on the home turf to make it a few steps higher in the hierarchy of the discipline. Indeed, they finished the tournament in seventh place, a step down compared to their performance at the 2003 Military World Games in Catania, Italy.

Having said that, the Croatian championship was marked both by a significant narrowing of the gap between leading world military basketball teams and by a number of breathtaking matches. More than ever, the basketball tournament was a veritable thriller. The men taking part in the 2005 edition of the MWC in Samara, Russia—as well as the ladies entering the very first women's World Military Basketball Championship in Ventura, USA—will certainly do their best to justify this reputation for entertaining action.

CISM Representative: Colonel André THERRY (BEL)
President Technical Committee: Major Gerard BUSSE (NED)
Participation: 164 participants, 96 athletes
Participating countries (8): Germany, Croatia, Cyprus, United States of America, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia
Observer Nation: Canada
Fair-play Cup: Germany
Most Valuable Player: Fabio Di Bella (ITA)
Military boxing proudly boasted Olympic form at the 48th World Military Boxing Championship held in the USA. Indeed, more than one in four entries in the tournament had travelled to Athens a few weeks before and three of them had left with a bronze medal: Roberto Cammarlle (super heavyweights, Italy), Aghasi Mamadov (bantamweights, Azerbaijan) and Badrudinjan Soltanov (bantamweights, Uzbekistan).

Military boxing proudly boasted Olympic form at the 48th World Military Boxing Championship held in the USA. Indeed, more than one in four entries in the tournament had travelled to Athens a few weeks before and three of them had left with a bronze medal: Roberto Cammarlle (super heavyweights, Italy), Aghasi Mamadov (bantamweights, Azerbaijan) and Badrudinjan Soltanov (bantamweights, Uzbekistan).

Strong Delegations

Kazakhstan, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan sent strong delegations to Arizona. With eleven boxers each, they accounted for a full third of all entries. And the outcome proved that they were right to come in numbers, as those three nations harvested 20—i.e. almost half—of the 43 medals that were up for grabs. And the performance of the Kazakh boxers was especially impressive as they had to handle both the jetlag and a 42-hour trip by plane and bus to Fort Huachua. But these inconveniences did nothing to dent their pugnacity: they went home with six medals in the bag, two of which gold.

Second Take for America

Fort Huachua, Arizona, was the second time the world military boxing championship was held on US soil. The young US team was very eager to stand out on the home turf, with CISM President Brigadier General Gianni Gola in attendance. And they did, finishing the tournament with a piece of hardware of each of the three available metals. As for Italy, with three gold medals as well as a silver and a bronze, it showed progress compared to previous championships. This being said, in the absence of the Russian delegation—whose team is traditionally one of the pillars of the sport—it would be premature to announce changes in the world military boxing hierarchy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light fly (48 kg)</th>
<th>1. V. VITZIN (UKR)</th>
<th>2. R. BOURJACT (MAR)</th>
<th>3. M. BONAKELI (RSA)</th>
<th>3. A. RISKELD (KAZ)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fly (51 kg)</td>
<td>1. M. RAKHIMZHANOVA (KAZ)</td>
<td>2. K. KOSMOV (LUII)</td>
<td>3. H. PASCOULLI (TUR)</td>
<td>3. O. DZHUKINSKY (UKR)</td>
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<td>Bantam (54 kg)</td>
<td>1. T. DONIKOV (LUII)</td>
<td>2. M. BRENT (UKR)</td>
<td>3. M. ALBEES (USA)</td>
<td>3. A. ASANOVA (KAZ)</td>
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<td>Feather (57 kg)</td>
<td>1. P. BERNARDINO (ITA)</td>
<td>2. B. HIDIROV (LUII)</td>
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<td>3. G. SOKOLOV (KAZ)</td>
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<td>1. S. SAPHER (KAZ)</td>
<td>2. R. SIANI (GER)</td>
<td>3. V. MATROSHCHUK (UKR)</td>
<td>3. U. BURBISI (LUII)</td>
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<td>1. B. MELSON (USA)</td>
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<td>Middleweight (75 kg)</td>
<td>1. S. ABDURAHIMOV (LUII)</td>
<td>2. M. KAZIYSAZAROV (KAZ)</td>
<td>3. A. DI LUISA (ITA)</td>
<td>3. D. BONDOREVS (LUII)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light heavy (81 kg)</td>
<td>1. R. KRAHBERGER (SLO)</td>
<td>2. A. BRILLANTO (ITA)</td>
<td>3. A. LAUS (LUII)</td>
<td>3. T. CROS (GER)</td>
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<td>Heavy (91 kg)</td>
<td>1. C. RUSSO (ITA)</td>
<td>2. G. CHERECHES (ROM)</td>
<td>3. Z. TAKIMURNOVA (KAZ)</td>
<td>3. A. RAIMOV (LUII)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Super heavy (&gt;91 kg)</td>
<td>1. R. CAMARAELI (ITA)</td>
<td>2. S. KRETCHMAN (GER)</td>
<td>3. J. MATCHANOV (LUII)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CISM Representative: Brigadier General Gianni GOLA (ITA)
President Technical Committee: Commandant James HUNT (IRL)
Participants: 205 participants, 99 athletes.
Participating countries (20): South Africa, Germany, Barbados, Belgium, United States of America, Italy, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Morocco, Uganda, Pakistan, The Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Sudan, Turkey and the Ukraine.
THE PERSIAN GULF, HANDS DOWN

The best of the best of military cross country leaders in Lebanon to decide the sport's new pecking order. Close to 300 athletes from 30 different countries faced it off in March 2004 on the selective course laid out in Lebanon Golf Club. The flawless organisation of this 51st World Military Cross-country Championship by the Lebanese delegation as well as the enjoyable weather—25°C in the shade—enabled athletes to display the full extent of their talent and allowed some of them to prepare for the year's other milestone events including the IAAF World Cross-country Championship and the Athens Olympics. While the women's hierarchy established in 2003 underwent little change, the final outcome in the men's was marked by the emergence of representatives of the Persian Gulf at the pinnacle of world military cross-country rankings.

Golden Qatari

Qatar's men team went home with a bountiful harvest of medals: short and long cross, individual and team rankings (short cross) and super-cup, they did not allow a single gold medal to escape them. And an additional bronze medal in the short as well as a silver in the long cross—making up a grand total of four out of six medals available in the men's individual events—confirmed Qatar's overall supremacy.

The domination of athletes from the Persian Gulf was further enhanced when Salem Jawher of Bahrain bagged bronze in the short cross. Together, Bahraini and Qatari athletes grabbed the top seven spots in the individual rankings for this particular event and clinched team silver and gold respectively.

Rwandan Power Up

Dieudonné Dusi of Rwanda scored a nice second place in the long cross but failed to repeat last year's astounding performance in Saint-Astier, France, as Qatar's Shebeto sprinted past him in the home stretch. However, the other Rwandan runners' performances overall were good enough for a very nice long cross team bronze medal. This result confirms this central African country's progress in the discipline.

...And Five!

Morocco's Zhor El Kamch justified her status as the women's cross favourite by winning the race hands down, with Luminita Zaituc of Germany and Jusa Poluskinja of Latvia finishing second and third respectively. So El Kamch's defeat in 2003 can be considered a mishap in a personal record that now includes five wins already. This individual title, as well as team gold for Morocco—with France and Germany second and third in that order—may have comforted the North African country's men somewhat after they bagged team silver twice but failed to make it to any individual podium. As for the French ladies, they have every reason to be satisfied: they conquered their country's first ever cross-country medal.

Stepping Stone

The performance produced at the 51st World Military Cross-country Championship and the quality of the athletes who entered the various races—several of whom belong among the world's very best cross-country running specialists—provide ample evidence of the outstanding level achieved by military athletes in certain sports and the role of this CISM event as a stepping stone for them. World Military Cross-Country Championship so confirmed its status as a major international competition.

Saif Saeed Shaheen, the winner of the short cross, provided a perfect illustration of this. Not only did the Qatari citizen become World Champion in the 3,000m steeplechase in Paris in 2003, but he also set a new world record at the Memorial Van Damme, a Golden League event, in 2004. On this occasion, he cut nearly two seconds from the previous record, bringing the new standard down to 7'55.63.

RESULTS

www.cism-military.org

WOMEN

Cross (6 km)

1. Z. EL KAMCH (MAR) 14'58"
2. L. ZAITUC (GER) 15'33"
3. J. POLUSKINJA (LET) 15'43"

Team

1. MOROCCO
2. FRANCE
3. GERMANY

MEN

Short cross (3 km)

1. S. SHAHEEN (QAT) 13'04"
2. A. ABDULLA (QAT) 13'05"
3. S. JAWHER (BHR) 13'07"

Team

1. QATAR
2. BAHRAIN
3. MOROCCO

Long cross (12 km)

1. M. SHEBTO (QAT) 33'16"
2. D. DISI (RSA) 33'17"
3. A. SEDAM (QAT) 33'24"

Team

1. QATAR
2. MOROCCO
3. RWANDA

Super Cup: 1. QATAR, 2. MOROCCO, 3. FRANCE
FIERY CHAMPIONSHIP IN SLOVAKIA

Perfect weather conditions, a great atmosphere and flawless organisation were the hallmarks of the 18th World Military Cycling Championship held in Asz Dukla, Trenčín, in Slovakia. Four countries stood out from among competing nations in the time trial and road races, each bagging a gold medal: Russia and Belgium in the individual events and the Ukraine in the team rankings, while the Czech Republic won bronze in both, thereby confirming its status as a major military cycling nation.

Tight Time Trial

The time trial race in the streets of Trenčín was a very close thing, with the top three cyclists completing the course within less than two seconds of each other. Before them, another 22 competitors had already run the 19.7-km course for a place... near the podium, Russia's Bespalov, in third position at the first intermediary time check, produced a thrilling performance in the second part of the race to claim victory by a measly 79 hun-

dredths of a second, thereby besting the Ukraine's Volodymyr Diudia and the Czech Republic's Michal Hrazdina, who finished second and third respectively. The day's winner averaged 48.34km/h on the course.

Experience Makes the Difference in the Road Race

The road race—a nine-lap circuit totalling 132.7km—was animated throughout, as the 67 competitors were apparently spoiling for a fight that day. The first test occurred in lap three with an aborted attempt to break away from the pack. Four laps later, a group of around thirty cyclists successfully gave it another go. The pack never saw them again, with the exception of Hans Ardeel of Belgium, who managed to extract himself from the field and catch up with the leaders in the very last kilometres of the race.

Ideally placed for the final rush, Ardeel leveraged his experience to outgun the opposition and cross the finish line in winning posi-

tion. Russia's Vladimir Efimkine and the Czech Republic's Michal Hrazdina respectively won silver and bronze.

The latter two competitors also demonstrated great versatility. Indeed, they finished near the top in both races: Hrazdina won two bronze medals while Efimkine, silver medallist in the road race, was sixth in the time trial.

Ukraine in Gold

With athletes in the fifth, seventh and 13th positions, the Ukraine bagged the road race team gold, with Belarus and the Czech Republic completing the podium in that order. Perfect weather conditions, a great atmosphere and flawless organisation were the hallmarks of the 18th World Military Cycling Championship held in Asz Dukla, Trenčín, in Slovakia. Four countries stood out from among competing nations in the time trial and road races, each bagging a gold medal: Russia and Belgium in the individual events and the Ukraine in the team rankings, while the Czech Republic won bronze in both, thereby confirming its status as a major military cycling nation.

RESULTS

www.cim-misc.org

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TEAM TRIAL</th>
<th>ROAD RACE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. A. BESPALOV (RUS) 24'27&quot;14 (48.34km/h)</td>
<td>1. H. ARDEEL (BEL) 3:08'31&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. V. DIUDIA (UKR) 24'27&quot;93 (48.32km/h)</td>
<td>2. V. EFIMKINE (RUS) 3:08'31&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. M. HRAZDINA (CZE) 24'29&quot;04 (48.28km/h)</td>
<td>3. M. HRAZDINA (CZE) 3:08'31&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CISM Representative: Lieutenant-Colonel Don KEUS (NED)
President Technical Committee: Lieutenant Colonel Jacek OUSSEN (NED)
Participation: 124 participants, 67 athletes.
Participating countries (13): Germany, Belgium, Belarus, United States of America, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Rep. and the Ukraine.
Fair-play Cup: United States of America
TRIUMPH OF CZECH YOUTH

At the previous championship held in Luxembourg, the young Czech cyclo-cross team had already struck a big blow when they bagged gold for their country in the cup of nations. At the 19th World Military Cyclo-cross Championship, the Czechs excelled themselves to win both the individual and team titles on the home turf, thereby advancing their country to the top of the world military cyclo-cross rankings. And this takeover is definitely not likely to be a fleeting thing, as the members of the Czech team are among the youngest competitors.

Two young Czech cyclists feature among the top ten of this race—including both elite and under-23 entries—Frantisek Khouel, the day's nineteen-year-old winner (and 12th in the U23 rankings of ICU, the International Cycling Union), and Zdenek Stybar, sixth on the day and also nineteen years old. The Liberec race was also marked by the disappearance from the podium of Belgian Kris Wouters (seventh) and Tom De Kort (twelfth), respectively first and second of the previous edition. A prominent cyclo-cross nation, Belgium found some solace in team bronze, while France bagged silver.

Belgian Retirement?

The race in Liberec may herald a generational and geographical transition in military cyclo-cross. Having organised the event, the Czech Republic and its athletes may well have started clearing the path for enduring dominance over the discipline. Indeed, Emil Hekele—27 years old and ninth on the day—and especially Jan Kunta, 21, who completed the race in 25th position, are to be found behind the day's numbers one and six. The Belgian cyclists, all in their thirties, are unlikely to be able to resist this Czech power build-up. France alone seems to have the means to challenge the Czech takeover: with four of its athletes in the race's top fifteen—among whom two in the top five—it has demonstrated that it is a force to reckon with.

On a more individual level, worth mentioning is the performance of Italy's Alessandro Fontana, (UCI Elite #47), who beat France's Geoffrey (UCI Elite #70) to the second step of the podium. Fontana had already won a bronze medal in the 2002 race.

CISM Representative: Colonel Jan PETROVIC (SVK)
President Technical Committee: Lieutenant Colonel Jochen OUSPREN (NED)
Participating countries (12): Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Czech Rep, Russia, Slovakia and Sweden.
SPANISH FANTASIA IN RABAT

Morocco, the organising country of the 16th World Military Equestrian Championship, spared no effort to ensure that the tournament would take place in the best possible conditions. Indeed, for the first time in the history of this championship, carefully selected mounts were made available free of charge to foreign participants. The Moroccan team completed the competition in a very nice second place, behind their Spanish neighbours. Individually, the Spanish riders made it a point of honour of monopolising the rostrum.

Spanish Clear Round

Less of a popular success than the two previous editions, the 2004 World Military Equestrian Championship also had a less ambitious programme, as both the dressage and three-day event had to be cancelled for lack of sufficient entries. But quality made up for quantity: the events that did take place were of very high standing. The Spanish demonstration was impressive: they produced flawless performance both in the Nations Cup and in the individual jumping event.

Facing three local riders in the jump off, Spain’s Santiago Centenera, Fernando Villalon and Carlos Redondo prevailed in that order in the mano a mano opposing them to Morocco’s Hassan Habri, Karim Loubatis and Hassan Bzou. A common feature of equestrian championships, the Argentine team completed the podium of the Cup of Nations, as it had done back in 2002.

Programme Innovation

During this championship, an innovation of the equestrian Technical Committee was tested: for the first time, multinational teams were allowed to enter the team events. Participants unanimously welcomed this initiative, which enabled more teams to compete while further advertising CISM’s motto of “Friendship through Sport.”

Golden WMC

Having seen many innovations, the Moroccan edition of the World Military Equestrian Championship was declared the best to date by all participants and members of the Technical Committee. The impromptu visit of the Royal Guard stables both contributed to the participants’ enjoyment of the championship and demonstrated eloquently how deeply horsemanship is rooted in tradition in the Kingdom of Morocco. The Argentine Delegation, which will be hosting the next championship, will undoubtedly endeavour to match the performance of their Moroccan counterparts.
ORANJE ALL THE WAY

The Dutch team left their mark on the 2nd Women's World Military Football Championship held in Fort Eustis, Virginia (USA) in late May and early June 2004. Indeed, the final standings of the International Military Sports Council tournament show that Orange went all the way this year after bagging silver in Germany in 2003.

So 2004 is very much the crowning year for the up-and-coming Dutch women's military football team.

A Hard-Won Victory

The Dutch team had to fight hard to clinch the title. It was not until the 84th minute of a very balanced and tactical final played against pugnacious German rivals in scorching early summer heat (30°C), that the Dutch finally scored the first goal. After this, the end of the game was pretty much one-sided, with the Dutch team scoring another two goals (in the 88th and 90th minutes). When the referee blew the final whistle, the score was 3-0 and so the German military team had to relinquish the crown they had conquered the previous year against...

The Netherlands. The German players had reason to nurse some regrets after losing against their geographical neighbours they had previously defeated 0-1 in the qualifiers.

The US team, composed of the country's best interservices players, finished the tournament in third place, defeating their Canadian neighbours 3-1 in the final for bronze. The US military team also won the Fair-Play Cup in recognition of their player's commendable behaviour.

Played in scorching heat, the tournament was a flawless endeavour, in part thanks to the support of the US Army's 7th Logistics Group. Having played four matches in eight days in the heat wave, the football players said their goodbyes, though not until they had made an appointment for the 2005 tournament in Canada.

RANKINGS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1. The Netherlands</th>
<th>2. Germany</th>
<th>3. USA</th>
<th>4. Canada</th>
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<td>First Round&lt;br&gt;USA - The Netherlands: 2-2&lt;br&gt;Germany - The Netherlands: 1-0</td>
<td>Germany - Canada: 2-0&lt;br&gt;USA - Canada: 5-0</td>
<td>Semi-final&lt;br&gt;The Netherlands - Germany: 0-0 (4-2)</td>
<td>Germany - Canada: 0-0 (3-0)</td>
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<td>Final 3rd place&lt;br&gt;USA - Canada: 3-1</td>
<td>Final&lt;br&gt;The Netherlands - Germany: 3-0</td>
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BALTIC DERBY MATCH FOR GOLD

Among tournament entries, the Republic of Korea team was probably the one that left the longest lasting impression among observers. The representatives of the Land of Morning Calm stood out with their dexterity and skills as well as their ability to make up for their diminutive build with extraordinary technical adeptness. The final for bronze provided the gifted Korean handball players to distinguish themselves against the outgoing champions of the Belarus military team. This second confrontation between the two teams ended—again—in Korean triumph, but the Korean had to wait the very last second to finally prevail by the smallest of differences (25-24).

The 15th World Military Handball Championship was marked by the farewells of both the President of the Technical Committee for Handball, Colonel Hubert Blootacker, and his Secretary, Colonel Jan Cremers, both of Belgium. As it happened, Colonel De Wulf (Bel), Vice-President of CISM for Europe, paid warm tribute to them during the closing ceremony of the championship.
HOST STORY

In the men's, Italy and Russia fought for honourable mentions—a step behind Azerbaijan—the athletes of the boot-shaped Peninsula ultimately prevailing by a hair. And with four medals overall (one of which gold) from seven weight categories, Austria too performed nicely overall.

Chinese Era

In conclusion, while the Baku championship once again provided evidence of the ascendency of a number of countries over the world of Judo, it also confirmed that more nations than ever are up there with the very best. In Baku, no fewer than four Athens Olympic medalists took part in the different tournaments: Belarus's Markou Ihar, who prevailed in the +100kg division; Mark Huizinga, already mentioned; Slovenia's Uska Zolnir, who bagged bronze in the +63kg category; and China's Feng Gao, who won a bronze medal in the -48kg.
SWITZERLAND RESHUFFLES RANKINGS

The 37th World Military Orienteering Championship will be a milestone in the history of this sport. The Dutch edition attracted record numbers of athletes and countries, and a remote country, Columbia, took part in the championship for the first time. The dominating powers—Russia, Finland and the Baltic States—should take notice. The first signs of impending change may have been felt in Harskamp, the Netherlands, with the remarkable collective performance put together by the Swiss.

Global Big Name

In the women’s competition, Russia’s Tatiana Ribikina, second of the World Cup this year, performed a cut above the opposition and took back from the hands of Lithuania’s Juste Sargsyute the classic distance title she surrendered in 2003. Even better, she bagged gold in the short race too. Teammate Julia Novikova won the bronze medal in the classic race while Goenl Fristad of Norway and Kert Rebane of Estonia respectively finished second and third in the short distance event.

The relay race, which is very much the culmination of any orienteering rendezvous, was a thrilling face-off between the Lithuanians and the Russians right to the end, when Novikova—in spite of a bronze medal in the classic race—made a mistake and let the gold medal slip through the Russian team’s fingers. The Estonian team climbed on the third step of the relay podium.

Unexpected Russian

In the men’s events, Russia’s Roman Efimov prevailed against all odds in the classic race. His win was most unexpected: everyone was anticipating a reaction from outgoing world champion, Russia’s Valentin Novikov, who had already been bested in the short race by Finland’s Raimo Turtinen the day before. It was not to happen, however, and the final outcome of the classic race was very much a repetition of the previous scenario, as Finland’s Turtinen completed the race in second position, once again beating Russia’s Novikov, who finished third.

Novikov tried to make up in the relay race and did put together a splendid performance, but it was all to no avail, as not just one but two complete Swiss teams crossed the finish line before the last of the Russians made it. So, at the end of the 37th World Military Orienteering Championship, the Russian dominion over the discipline has been somewhat dented. What remains to be seen is whether the next Finnish edition will confirm this new trend.
A CHAMPIONSHIP MARKED BY INNOVATION

New participants and a new record, the 31st World Military Parachuting Championship was about novelty. Coming from all continents represented in CISM, 228 parachutists established, in Austria, the new pecking order of the discipline.

German Show

Years of hard work have finally borne fruit for the German parachuting formation. The German men managed to remove the reigning French champion from their pedestal for the very first time. The French even had to make do with bronze as the Russian successfully bid for silver. As for the Belgians, they confirmed their status as undisputed formation skydive masters with a fifth consecutive title (their tenth overall).

Individually, Russia’s Dmitry Maximov displayed the full extent of his talent to finish third in accuracy and second in the style event, performances that earned him the combined individual title. In the style event, German Marco Pflüger won his fourth consecutive title.

Chinese Accuracy

In the women’s events, it was a splendid face off between the Russian and Chinese teams in the accuracy landing event. The Russians’ experience proved inadequate to win the event title, but their overall performances across the board were good enough for the combined team title. For the real, in the formation skydive event, the sizeable audience was treated to a splendid face off between Sweden and the US. As it turned out, the Americans managed to beat the Swedes to the finish post with an extraordinary 25-point jump. As for the third place on the podium, it went to highly deserving Moroccans.

1 Africa, Asia, Asia, Asia.

CISM Representative: Navy Captain Bengt NYLANDER (SUE)
President Technical Committee: Lieutenant Colonel Jean DERMINE (FRA)
Participation: 391 participants, 228 athletes, among whom 172 men and 56 men.
Participating countries (55): Germany, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Belarus (*), Brazil, Canada (*), China (*), Cyprus, Korea R. (*), Denmark, United Arab Emirates, Spain (*), United States of America (*), France (*), Finland, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan (*), Latvia, Lithuania (*), Morocco (*), Oman, Poland, Romania, Russia (*), Slovakia, Slovenia (*), Sweden (*), Switzerland (*), Czech Rep., Thailand (*), Turkey and the Ukraine (*)
(*) Women Team

WOMEN

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<td>3. L. EKSHIKEEVA (RUS)</td>
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Indiv. Accuracy

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Team Accuracy

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Formation skydive

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MEN

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Team Accuracy

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Formation skydive

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Team Overall

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<tr>
<td>3. FRANCE</td>
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Parachuting events

Accuracy:
Parachutists must land on a target within centimetres. (jump: 800-1,000 m)

Formation skydive:
Teams of four parachutists have 35 seconds to perform as many figures as possible, all drawn beforehand. (jump: 3,000 m)

Style:
Parachutists perform a predetermined routine composed of horizontal figures and backward flips. (jump: 2,000-2,200 m)
TURKEY PREVAILS ON THE HOME TURF

2004 will probably be remembered as one of the darkest years in the history of sport in the Swedish Air Force: in the 48th World Military Aeronautical Pentathlon Championship held in Istanbul, Turkey, last August, the Swedish team only managed a seventh place while their best competitor finished ninth. This is their worst performance in twenty years. Admittedly, the country, which is used to monopolising titles, had to yield to the superior performances of Spain, Finland and Brazil. But the revelation of this championship was probably the host country.

As far as individual outcomes are concerned, a special mention is of course the performance of Turkey's Ceyhun Özer, who was clearly in a class of his own. Indeed, where the difference between first and second is typically less than 100 pts, he claimed overall victory hands down, building a 600-point lead over his closest opponent and teammate Yavuz Kundakci. Spain's Jesus Ramos Muñoz grabbed the third place.

Saving his country honour, titleholder Peter Carlsson from Sweden won the shooting event, setting a new CISM record. In the end, Swedish weaker performances benefited mostly the host team, with Finland and Spain landing respectively in 2nd and 3rd place.

Aeronautical pentathlon

This discipline, exclusively opened to aviators, combines shooting, fencing, obstacle swimming, basketball and an escape run, which is a combination of obstacle racing and orienteering. Sweden has an outstanding aeronautical pentathlon school and record, having won a majority of aeronautical pentathlon titles to date or 30 individual and 29 team titles.

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RESULTS

www.cism-milsport.org

INDIVIDUAL

Shooting
1. P. CARLSSON (SWE)  1240 Pts
2. J. RASMUSSON (SWE)  1060 Pts
3. P. MATERO (FIN)  1045 Pts

Fencing
1. M. SAUBAN (CZE)  1066 Pts
2. J. RAMOS MUÑOZ (ESP)  1000 Pts
3. E. ROMERO (ESP)  967 Pts

Swimming
1. M. LOPEZ-LAGO (ESP)  1054 Pts
2. P. MATERO (FIN)  968 Pts
3. F. BAYRAM (TUR)  964 Pts

Basketball
1. C. ÖZER (TUR)  1450 Pts
2. Y. KUNDAKCI (TUR)  1294 Pts
3. G. PATEREK (POL)  1182 Pts

Escape
1. G. YAPAKCI (TUR)  1016 Pts
2. Y. KUNDAKCI (TUR)  948,5 Pts
3. F. BAYRAM (TUR)  927 Pts

Final ranking
1. C. ÖZER (TUR)  5134 Pts
2. Y. KUNDAKCI (TUR)  4522,5 Pts
3. J. RAMOS MUÑOZ (ESP)  4517,5 Pts

TEAM
1. TURKEY  13891,5 Pts
2. FINLAND  13002 Pts
3. SPAIN  12818 Pts

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CISM Representative: Lieutenant Colonel Kauko PALVALIN (FIN)
President Technical Committee: Lieutenant Colonel Markku VIITALA (FIN)
Participation: 84 participants, 54 athletes.
Participating countries (9): Brazil, Finland, Spain, Norway, The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Czech Rep., and Turkey.
Observer Nations: Saudi Arabia, Romania
CHINA? OF COURSE, BUT...

Is the Chinese military pentathlon crown wobbling? The 52nd World Military Pentathlon Championship did not deliver a definitive answer to this question, but it did provide some indications.

No change in the women's. China's championship over this standard bearer among CISM competitions remained unchallenged. Indeed, with eight titles out of eight, the Chinese women's military pentathlon team filed a perfect scorecard—even better than at the 2003 Military World Games. The men's combined competitions were another story, however. Despite various wins, the Chinese men team had to watch as several other nations mounted challenges: China disappeared from the grenade throwing event podium and lost its crown on the obstacle course. Should this year's trend be confirmed in 2005, there may very well be renewed suspense in this, the crown jewel of military sports.

Latin America Up and Coming

Over the last decade, Chinese and Brazilian athletes have been particularly adept in the various events comprising the military pentathlon. But other nations, especially in the men's, have come to challenge their superiority and more or less regularly manage to write their name in the great book of gold medals. This year's Latin American championship venue facilitated the emergence of a number of local athletes, including the Ecuadorians, who won in obstacle run the individual and relay races, and the Peruvians who tied with the latter for obstacle relay gold. In the individual events, the German pentathletes are making regular progress, as shown by the individual title bagged by Martin Engels in the throwing event. In 2003, Germany finished the championship in third position overall.

Chinese Monopoly

As for women's military pentathlon, it is on its way to becoming a purely Chinese business. Apparently, the Chinese ladies were not happy with individual and team gold overall; they also had to bag silver on four occasions and bronze in three events. The only other nations tentatively managing to force their way to the podium were Latvia, Norway and Russia.

Purely Military

The various events comprising the military pentathlon highlight the different components of basic military training, namely shooting, obstacle racing, swimming, and (unloaded) grenade throwing and cross country running. For these reasons, this pivotal discipline receives CISM's undivided attention; so much so that it even has its own website (http://www.military-pentathlon.org).

RESULTS

www.cism-military.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shooting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shooting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Y. WANG (CHN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. B. NYBAK (NOR)</td>
<td>2. D. NILLSON (SWE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. L. XU (CHN)</td>
<td>3. Y. SHIWEI (CHN)</td>
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<td>1. B. CUERO (ECU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. L. YIN (CHN)</td>
<td>2. M. IDER (ECU)</td>
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<td>3. I. DAUSKANE (LAT)</td>
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<td>2. M. REICHART (GER)</td>
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<td>3. L. SHVETS (RUS)</td>
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<td>2. L. YIN (CHN)</td>
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<td>3. I. KOJALOVIC (LAT)</td>
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<td>2. N. ROMANOVA (RUS)</td>
<td>2. E. ZHANG (CHN)</td>
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<td>3. LATVIA</td>
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MODERN PENTATHLON
Szekesfehervar, Hungary (19-25 September 2004)

36th WMC

ASIAN BUILD-UP ON THE SHORES OF LAKE BALATON

"Give honour where honour is due", goes the saying. Well, the Czech Republic’s Capalini (who finished third in 2003 and second in 2002) easily bagged the combined individual gold and lead his fellow countrymen to the second step of the team podium. Despite a thigh injury, Latvia’s Cherkovski managed to keep Korea’s Lee at arm’s length for individual silver and guided his country to the first position on the team podium. Lee had failed to make it to any podiums in the last two championships, but he did bag a well-deserved bronze medal this time around, driving his teammates to the same place on the overall team podium.

On the women’s side, the upset of the championship came from China’s Lean Dong, third of the final individual rankings, and her team’s overall performance, which eventually earned them silver. Actually, the Chinese ladies even mounted a genuine but losing challenge against the Italians—who eventually made a clean sweep, except for individual gold—and managed to best the Latvians, despite the great shape displayed by the latter’s team leader.

In the relay, Germany, the USA and Russia emerged in that order in the men’s while Italy, Russia and the Hungarian hosts did likewise in the women’s. Compared to previous championships, the Russian teams’ performances were clearly low key.

WOMEN

Individual
1. J. RUBLEVSKA (LAT) 5376 Pts
2. C. CORSINI (ITA) 5352 Pts
3. L. DONG (CHN) 5206 Pts

Team
1. ITALY 15028 Pts
2. CHINA 15016 Pts
3. LATVIA 14028 Pts

Relay
1. ITALY 4700 Pts
2. RUSSIA 4656 Pts
3. HUNGARY 4328 Pts

MEN

Individual
1. L. CAPALINI (CZE) 5616 Pts
2. D. CHERKOVS (LAT) 5492 Pts
3. C. LEE (KOR) 5460 Pts

Team
1. LATVIA 15976 Pts
2. CZECH REP. 15968 Pts
3. KOREA REP. 15768 Pts

Relay
1. GERMANY 5332 Pts
2. USA 5328 Pts
3. RUSSIA 5176 Pts

CISM Representative: Colonel Jan PETROVIC (SVK)
President of the Executive Committee: Colonel Giorgio WAEFFLER (SUI)
Participation: 132 participants, 73 athletes, among whom 50 men and 23 women,
Participating Countries (16) Germany (*), Belarus (*), Brazil, China (*), Korea R., United States of America (*), Estonia, Hungary (*), Italy (*), Latvia (*), Lithuania (*), Poland, Russia (*), Switzerland, Czech Rep. and the Ukraine

(*) Women team
RUSSIA HEADS FOR THE OPEN SEA

With brand new boats as well as new and returning familiar faces, the 38th World Military Sailing Championship held in Spain was the scene of quite a few premieres.

The tournament, in which the various teams' best nine out of twelve results were taken into account, saw the Russian crew build a decisive lead with relative ease and then coast to victory. The fight for silver was more intense, but the French crew eventually managed to leave the US boat behind.

Perfect Conditions

The 18 crews that travelled to Marín, in Galicia, were lucky enough to discover class "Snipe" boats that had never been launched and had consequently never sailed. Furthermore, the crews kept the same boats throughout the 12 regattas and so could rig them to their taste. Weather conditions in Marín were good and spectators enjoyed a very good view of the action from the nearby coast and port. And on top of all that, the prevailing winds were light to moderate, which allowed the different pairs to display the full extent of their talent.

And the Russian pair were especially good at that game: Krylov and Ryzhkov bested Frenchmen Cau and Moreau and the mixed US team composed of Burley and Clemens, while the Spanish hosts finished fourth.

Still Up and Coming

Eighteen participating countries from three different continents entered the 38th World Military Sailing Championship, meaning that this discipline very much remains a standard bearer for CISM. A status that seems all the more secure since the Spanish edition of the championship welcomed a new observer country, Morocco, and three countries—Greece, India and Pakistan—that had not attended in years except as part of the Military World Games. So more than ever, sailing seems to be enjoying tall winds within CISM.
SHOOTING
Ankara, Turkey (12-19 July 2004)

IT'S RAINING RECORDS IN ANKARA

For many participants, the 39th World Military Shooting Championship was akin to a warm-up session in advance of the Olympic Games. It also provided the scene for a genuine avalanche of new records in the men's events—no fewer than five—and for confirmation of top women's skills. With 42 nations and 360 athletes present in Ankara, military shooting demonstrated its great popularity within the Armed Forces.

In the men's, the wealth of records also stems from the strong geographical diversification of talent in the discipline, as no fewer than four different nations belonging to two continents were implicated. In the women's, Azerbaijan's Irina Ashumova, world number three, and China's Hong Shan, world record holder, became the best markswomen of the tournament with their respective weapons. Ashumova was even lucky enough to set a new CISM record in the 25m pistol rapid fire event.

Strong Attendance

Silver medallist in the 25m pistol event, Ashumova won gold in the 25m pistol rapid fire event. As for China's Hong Shan, gold in 2001 in the 50m prone rifle event, she had to let Italy's Gonelli take over. However, Hong Shan won another silver and a gold medal respectively in the individual and team 50m three position rifle events, so she definitely did not travel to Ankara for nothing. Another happy competitor was Russia's I. Dolgatcheva who bagged hardware of all available metals and some four medals.

In the men's events, pistols talked with pronounced Chinese and Ukrainian accents while rifles tended to speak Norwegian and Russian. With the target 25m away, the Chinese team led by Zhu Chuanhua worked wonders, setting two new records and capturing two team and one individual gold medals. In the 300m rifle events, the Russians, with gold and silver hardware, and the Norwegians with gold, silver and bronze, made a strong showing, setting new CISM records.

In a nutshell it was a very intense world championship and, rather than weakening the event, the closeness of the Olympics only multiplied its echo.

RESULTS

WOMEN

25 m Sport Pistol Ind.
1. L. DUHONG (CHN) 582 Pts
2. LASHUMOVA (AZE) 531 Pts
3. I. DOLGATCHEVA (RUS) 580 Pts

25 m Sport Pistol Team
1. BELARUS 1719 Pts
2. RUSSIA 1713 Pts
3. ITALY 1710 Pts

25m Mil. Pistol Rap. Fire Ind.
1. ASHUMOVA (AZE) 587 Pts
2. I. DOLGATCHEVA (RUS) 581 Pts
3. Z. SHAPIALEVICH (BLR) 580 Pts

25m Mil. Pistol Rap. Fire Team
1. ITALY 1736 Pts
2. RUSSIA 1709 Pts
3. TURKEY 1708 Pts

50m Stand. Rifle prone Ind.
1. D. GONELLI (ITA) 588 Pts
2. H. SHAN (CHN) 587 Pts
3. S. BIBARD (FRA) 587 Pts

50m Stand. Rifle prone Team
1. BELARUS 1740 Pts
2. RUSSIA 1738 Pts
3. ITALY 1734 Pts

50m Stand. Riff. (3 Pos.) Ind.
1. N. OMEYANELKO (UKR) 576 Pts
2. H. SHAN (CHN) 576 Pts
3. J. DUTT (FRA) 576 Pts

50m Stand. Riff. (3 Pos.) Team
1. CHINA 1728 Pts
2. BELARUS 1710 Pts
3. RUSSIA 1706 Pts

Best Pistol Women Shooter
Iratza ASHUMOVA (AZE)

Best CISM Rifle Women Shooter
Shan HONG (CHN)

MEN

25m Center Fire Pistol Ind.
1. O. PETRIV (UKR) 567 Pts
2. N. KOLEV (BUL) 585 Pts
3. M. BEHREND (GER) 584 Pts

25m. Center Fire Pistol Team
1. CHINA 1758 Pts
2. BRAZIL 1737 Pts
3. UKRAINE 1735 Pts

25m Mil. Rap.-Fire.Pistol Ind.
1. Z. CHUANHUA (CHN) 587 Pts
2. L. YADONG (CHN) 585 Pts
3. P. HEMBRE (NOR) 583 Pts

25m Mil. Rap.-Fire.Pistol Team
1. CHINA 1758 Pts
2. BRAZIL 1736 Pts
3. FRANCE 1735 Pts

300m Standard Rif. (3 pos.) Ind.
1. M. MACH (CZE) 584 Pts
2. A. POLONSKY (RUS) 582 Pts
3. H. ERDEM (TUR) 580 Pts

300m Standard Rif. (3 pos.) Team
1. RUSSIA 1753 Pts
2. USA 1730 Pts
3. NORWAY 1728 Pts

300m Mil. Rap. Fire Rifle Ind.
1. H. BAKKEN (NOR) 569 Pts
2. E. UPTAGRAAF (USA) 569 Pts
3. H.K. WEAR (NOR) 568 Pts

300m Mil. Rap. Fire Rifle Team
1. NORWAY 1691 (287) Pts
2. TURKEY 1661 (273) Pts
3. USA 1687 Pts

Best CISM Pistol Men Shooter:
Liu YADONG (CHN)

Best CISM Rifle Men Shooter:
Eric UPTAGRAAF (USA)
**Skiing**

**Østersund, Sweden (15-20 March 2004)**

**MANO A MANO BETWEEN FRANCE AND NORWAY**

France with the most places on podiums and Norway with the highest number of gold medals emerged great winners from the 46th World Military Ski Championship held in the late season in Østersund, Sweden. Despite the end of winter competition drawing dangerously near, stars including France's Raphaël Poire and Germany's Kai Wilhelm—both of them biathletes—took the trip to Sweden.

**Norwegian Patrots**

In the men's, Frenchman Raphaël Poire was up to his reputation and climbed to the top step of biathlon, besting teammate Vincent Defrasne in the process. Another biathlon specialist, Norway's Lars Berger, had decided to go for the cross-country event instead, and he skied there in a class of his own to beat Vincent Vittoz of France and Frode Estil of Norway. But the two superstars did have a face-off in the patrol race, a military ski special. At the end of a genuine thriller, the Norwegians finished ahead of the French and... Norway's 8 team. More than ever, Berger is emerging as Poire's heir apparent.

**Patrol Race**

The patrol race is a cross-country race for teams of four skiers comprising a patrol leader who does not shoot and three shooters, each of whom has three shots per target—each miss carrying a one-minute penalty for the team.

**Germanic Ski**

Women's military ski took on a decidedly Germanic look. Austria's Elizabeth Goergl and Olympic champions Ev Svenchenbacher and Kai Wilhelm, both of Germany, all raised medals of the most precious metal respectively in the giant slalom, cross-country and biathlon events. However, they failed to repeat their individual domination in the team events, in which the French skillfully bagged gold in the biathlon and patrol race, beating the German and Norwegian teams in the process.

In the slalom, French Olympic champion Jean-Pierre Vidal was rewarded for his superb run and claimed victory while Italy's Peter Fill and Wolfgang Haul respectively won silver and bronze. In the women's slalom, Austria's Elizabeth Goergl was in excellent end-of-season form and deprived Italian favourite Denise Karbon of the title. Slovenia's T. Maze finished a brilliant third.

---

### RESULTS

**WOMEN**

**Giant Slalom Individual**

1. **E. GOERGL (AUT)** 1'54"15
2. **D. KARBON (ITA)** 1'54"67
3. **T. MAZE (SLO)** 1'57"72

**Giant Slalom Team**

1. **ITALY**
2. **AUSTRIA**
3. **GERMANY**

**Cross-Country Individual (10km)**

1. **E. SACHENBACHER (GER)** 27'55"9
2. **P. MAIDIC (SLO)** 28'15"4
3. **K. PHILIPPOT (FRA)** 28'20"3

**Cross-Country Team (10km)**

1. **GERMANY**
2. **SLOVENIA**
3. **FRANCE**

**Biathlon Individual (7.5km)**

1. **K. WILHELM (GER)** 23'12"2
2. **D. PERETTO (FRA)** 24'03"7
3. **A. C. OLOFSSON (SWE)** 24'14"3

**Biathlon Team (7.5km)**

1. **FRANCE**
2. **GERMANY**
3. **NORWAY**

**Patrol (15km)**

1. **FRANCE** 47'47"2
2. **GERMANY** 49'29"7
3. **NORWAY** 50'19"1

### MEN

**Giant Slalom Individual**

1. **J.P. VIDAL (FRA)** 1'50"61
2. **P. FILL (ITA)** 1'50"69
3. **W. HULL (ITA)** 1'51"28

**Giant Slalom Team**

1. **ITALY**
2. **SWITZERLAND**
3. **GERMANY**

**Cross-Country Individual (15km)**

1. **L. BERGER (NOR)** 33'24"5
2. **V. VITTOZ (FRA)** 34'18"1
3. **F. ESTIL (NOR)** 34'20"0

**Cross-Country Team (15km)**

1. **NORWAY**
2. **FRANCE**
3. **ITALY**

**Biathlon Individual (10km)**

1. **R. POIRE (FRA)** 25'28"0
2. **D. DEFRASE (FRA)** 26'30"5
3. **A. MYKLAND (NOR)** 26'40"9

**Biathlon Team (10km)**

1. **NORWAY**
2. **FRANCE**
3. **GERMANY**

**Patrol (25km)**

1. **NORWAY** 1h04"15"3
2. **FRANCE** 1h05"53"2
3. **NORWAY** 1h06"40"0

### Nations Cup

1. **FRANCE - 2. NORWAY - 3. GERMANY**
Finally, also worth underscoring is the Moroccan team’s excellent performance. 

In the team rankings, it was all about logic on the women’s side with China, Russia and Germany on the podium in that order. In the men’s, the final outcome was slightly more unexpected with Russia, The Netherlands and Saudi Arabia respectively on the first, second and third steps of the team rostrum.

RESULTS

www.cism-milsport.org

WOMEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIN</th>
<th>1. V. FOMENKO (RUS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>C. STEINHUBER (GER)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>J. CHEN (CHN)</td>
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<td>Victoria FOMENKO (RUS)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>FAIR-PLAY CUP:</th>
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<td>SAUDI ARABIA</td>
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MEN

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<td>Walid Yami (KSA)</td>
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<th>MIXED TEAM</th>
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CISM Representative: Lieutenant Colonel Kees MEULL (NED)
President Technical Committee: Lieutenant Colonel Seong-Sup LIM (KOR)
Participation: 270 participants, 153 athletes include 106 men and 47 women
Participating Countries (21) Germany (*), Saudi Arabia, Austria (*), Belarus (*), Brazil, Canada, China (*), Cyprus (*), United States of America (*), Hungary (*), Italy (*), Jordan, Latvia, Lesotho (*), Libya, Morocco (*), The Netherlands (*), Qatari, Romania, Russia (*) and Sri Lanka (*).

(*) Women team
Observer Nation: Albania

AF 2
AM 3
AS 6
EU 10

56
A FINE FRENCH SHOW OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

At the 11th World Military Triathlon Championship held in Belfort, the French triathlon team once again showed that they do belong up there among the world’s very best. On the home turf, the world military triathlon championship bore witness to the voraciousness of the representatives of the host country. Except for the veteran titles, French citizens of both genders made short order of all available individual and team gold medals. Only the USA, Austria and Belgium managed to ensure that a national anthem other than the Marseillaise would be played as athletes stood on podiums.

French Battle at the Top

In the men’s, it is either one Frenchman or another. Used to climbing to the top step of the podium for at least two years now, French triathlete Cedric Deanaez had to hand over his crown to fellow citizen Sylvain Dodet. Having completed the 1.5km swimming leg in 11th position right behind Deanaez, Dodet left his opponents a ways back during the 44km biking leg. All except Deanaez that is, whom he shook loose for good in the 10km running stretch, leaving the outgoing military world champion more than a minute behind. And Deanaez himself had to fight hard right up to the finish line to keep Estonia’s Marko Albert at arm’s length after both men completed the cycling leg side by side.

Confirmation in the Women’s Competition

On the women’s side, France’s Delphine Pelletier justified every positive word that was ever said about her when she won the women’s triathlon for the second consecutive year, leaving Germany’s Ricardo Lisk more than a minute and fifteen seconds behind. However, it was not until the running leg was under way that Pelletier’s win began to take shape after both triathletes had stayed together throughout the cycling leg. Russia’s Olga Generalova finished third, more than two minutes behind Pelletier.

So, a fine championship it was, organised in the great tradition of French triathlon. Belfort also provided the scene for a novelty: a women’s veteran category made its appearance, following the introduction of the men’s equivalent at the world military triathlon championship held in The Netherlands in 2003.

GISM Representative: Colonel Peter JENOUR (SUI)
President Technical Committee: Colonel Michel SAINT BONNIER (FRA)
Participation: 180 participants, 155 athletes, among whom 107 men and 48 women.
Participating Countries (21): Germany (*), Austria (*), Belarus (*), Belgium (*), Brazil (*), Canada (*), Chile (*), Cyprus, Estonia, United States of America (*), Finland (*), France (*), Hungary (*), Italy (*), Luxembourg, The Netherlands (*), Russia (*), Slovakia (*), Slovenia, Sweden (*) and Turkey.
(*) Men team
Observer nation: Romania

RESULTS

WOMEN

SENIOR
1. D. PELLETIER (FRA)
2. R. LISK (GER)
3. O. GENERALOVA (RUS)

VETERAN
1. H. GRIMM (USA)
2. H. WELLENS (BEL)
3. B. DE BEL (BEL)

TEAM
1. FRANCE
2. ITALY
3. CHINA

SENIOR TEAMS MIXED
1. FRANCE
2. GERMANY
3. ITALY

MEN

SENIOR
1. S. DODET (FRA)
2. C. DEANAZ (FRA)
3. M. ALBERT (EST)

VETERAN
1. N. OST (AUT)
2. D. PIERRAT (FRA)
3. M. HAGEN (USA)

TEAM
1. FRANCE
2. GERMANY
3. AUSTRIA

SENIOR TEAMS MIXED
1. BELGIUM
2. USA
3. FRANCE

* Final results modified following the suspension of two athletes on charges of doping.
WINNING BULGARIAN RETURN

The 26th World Military Volleyball Championship held in Kingston, Canada, delivered a differentiated verdict. All quiet on the women’s floor, as the hierarchy inherited from previous editions remained broadly unchanged. Conversely, in the men’s tournament, the Bulgarian team made a conspicuous return to basketball floors by clinching final victory. As for the host Canadian team, they produced a very nice performance, finishing the tournament in sixth position, three up from the last edition.

In June 2004, Kingston’s Canadian Forces Base and Royal Military College accommodated close to 200 athletes from twelve different nations—i.e. down somewhat compared to the previous two championships, which attracted 16 entries each. On a more positive note, the 26th championship also introduced a newcomer to the tournament: Latvia.

Sharp Hosts

The Canadian Armed Forces made a special organisational effort for this tournament, the second largest CISM event ever held on Canadian soil. Among other things, they improved their sports installations—already among the country’s best—by fitting in a new, different, surface to ensure that the tournament would be held in the best possible conditions.

Fierce Final

At the end of the men’s competition, the Bulgarian team astonished everybody, including the German team, in a semi-final upset that turned they return (they were absent from the 2003 Military World Games in Catania, Italy) into a golden opportunity. But despite the clean score (3-0), the Bulgarian victory against Greece in the final was anything but a walk in the park. Every set was fiercely contested and conquered only at great cost. In the final for bronze, the outgoing Italian champions eventually proved too much for their German opponents and emerged in the final set (3-2).

As for the women’s tournament, while it too featured a series of fierce battles, it did not lead to as many upsets as its male equivalent. In the absence of Greece as well as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, respectively winners and runners-up in 2003, the Italians were head and shoulders above the opposition and climbed to the top step of the podium, followed by the Dutch, US and Canadian teams.
Sport Agenda 2005

5th AFRICAN MILITARY FOOTBALL CUP
CONTINENTAL EVENT IN AFRICA
Bamako, Mali (1-12 December 2004)

EGYPT SET NOT A SINGLE FOOT WRONG

The Egyptian military football team—runners up in the last world military tournament—flew over and above the opposition to win CAMFOOT 5, the fifth edition of the African Military Football Cup. The "Pharaohs", best offensive team of the tournament, won all five of their matches, beating Mali, best defending team, 1-0 in the final. The fifth edition was also a major popular success in Bamako, the capital city of the host country. Modibo Keita Stadium, seating 30,000, was packed throughout the tournament and excited fanatic interest in the game. Thanks to unprecedented media coverage (radio, television and the press), similar public interest echoed across the continent.

Hellish Pace

With each team playing every other day, the schedule of the fifth edition of the African Military Football Cup put the organisms of all participants to a severe physical test. Borderline adverse weather conditions and a less-than-perfect pitch prompted the players to give their very best and to simply look the part during the tournament. In this context, special praise is in order for the South African team, who had to play against Algeria on the day they arrived after a 10-hour plane trip. However, these little glitches did not prevent the tournament from delivering more than its quota of goals (54 in 16 matches).

Mali and Niger in Group A and Egypt and Guinea in Group B completed their respective qualifier matches in first and second position. In the semi-finals, Mali disposed of Guinea 2-1 while Egypt beat Algeria 4-1 to deprive them of a place in the final. Very balanced and solid defensively, the Malian team caused no end of trouble to the Egyptians, who were forced to the wall. Even though Mali lost a player to a red card as early as near the end of the first period, it was not until the very last minute in extra time that the military Pharaohs broke through the Malian blockade to secure final victory (1-0), their second in a row. As for the Algerian team, on its first appearance in the tournament, it played very nicely indeed to finish third overall, ultimately defeating Guinea in the final for bronze.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Egypt-Mali: 1-0</th>
<th>1. Egypt</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd place final</td>
<td>Algeria-Guinea 2:1</td>
<td>2. Mali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-finals</td>
<td>Mali-Guinea: 4-1</td>
<td>3. Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Egypt-Algeria:</td>
<td>4. Guinea</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HIGHLIGHTS 2004

3rd Olympic Medal and 7th CSW title: the Indoor Milia 400m hurdles did not slow Al Kogser's in 2004.

Abdul at the 400, Safi S. Shafir (GFR), won 100m in 2004 with a CSW title in cross-country and a world record in 100m Sprints.

Willys Btś, Sultan M., top Wall Route (15:54) over the 4000m steeple and the world of athletics last year.

Jens Kuhle (GFR) led the Modern Pentathlon this year, after gold in Athens G.C. and gold medal at the CSW Championship.

The Moroccan 400 Z. Kheche came back to the leadership of the female Cross-country and won her 6th CSW title.
5. The International Military Sports Council at the Athens Olympics
Chapter 3

contents

Milestones

Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia
The German, Italian, Slovak and Czech authorities in charge of elite sport within their Armed Forces have every reason to be delighted: their athletes bagged 50% or more of all the medals won by their respective countries, thereby outperforming their civilian counterparts—none of these nations sent more military than civilian athletes to Athens.

Track and Field—No Trespassing
Once again, combined sports including the decathlon and pentathlon smiled on military athletes, who are used to excellence in all-round disciplines. In the decathlon, Lieutenant Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic confirmed the silver medal bagged in Sydney by climbing on the Athens podium too, this time to the top step. And in the modern pentathlon, two more representatives of the Armed Forces, i.e. bronze medallist Libor Capelini of the Czech Republic and silver medallist Jelena Rublevska of Latvia, illustrated the very high standard of attainment set by our military champions.

Boxing—Military Upset
With three representatives on podiums, military boxing has every reason to be satisfied. Italy’s R. Cammarelle, Azerbaijan’s A. Mammadov and Uzbekistan’s B. Sooltanov won bronze medals in their respective divisions. However, Cammarelle alone managed to confirm his superb Athens medal at the subsequent world military boxing championship; the other two disappeared from podiums.

Huizinga—One, Two, Three
Captain Mark Huizinga of The Netherlands once again confirmed his immense talent as a judoka in the men’s –90kg division. Having won bronze hardware in Atlanta in 1996 and gold in Sydney four years later, the tall Dutchman conquered bronze in Athens. His exceptional longevity at such a high level can only be explained by huge talent and persistent training.

India—100% Military
The Indian Armed Forces’ return from Athens was cheerful: serviceman Rajyavardhan S. Rathore conquered India’s first ever individual Olympic silver medal—also his country’s only medal in Athens.

CISM—Recognition
The Athens Olympics were also marked by growing recognition within the global sports community for the contribution of the International Military Sports Council. Once again, the CISM banner flapped in the wind alongside the Olympic and all participating nations’ flags.
28th OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES
CISM REVIEW
Athens, Greece (13-29 August 2004)

Full Olympic Partnership

As memories of the 2004 Olympic Summer Games progressively become blurred, all organisations dedicated to sport, including CISM, must take stock. Indeed, every four years, the Games are a life-size test for each and every member of the global sports community, and the International Military Sports Council is no exception to that rule.

Therefore, as far as our organisation is concerned, Athens can be said to have been about two things: confirmation and recognition. The achievements of our athletes in the various Olympic disciplines bear witness to the growing importance of military sport within the context of sport as a whole. There is a lack of available data to put together a detailed review, but the comparatively high proportion of soldiers and officers among our delegations’ medallists—including from countries with well-established sporting traditions such as Germany, France, Italy, the Czech Republic and Slovakia—provides ample evidence of the impact of our top-notch military athletes in their respective sports. In a number of sports including boxing, judo, pentathlon and shooting, military athletes even play the leading role. The results achieved by the military athletes of the countries listed above—and from many others—confirm that the path taken by CISM is the right one and should therefore be considered an encouragement to forge ahead.

The Olympic Summer Games were also marked by growing recognition of the International Military Sports Council by other world sport governing bodies, at the same time as Olympic ideals make steady progress within the CISM family. Once again, the flag of the International Military Sports Council flew alongside all others throughout the Olympic fortnight. Furthermore, almost three quarters of our member nations have shown the importance they attach to Olympic values by formally adhering to the ideals of the Olympic truce, through a document handed over to the highest Olympic authorities.

So more than ever, the International Military Sports Council—17 of whose 24 practised disciplines are Olympic sports—and the Olympic Movement continue to be associated. Those ties reach far beyond the time-limited scope of the Olympic Games as CISM and the Olympic Movement meet and collaborate on an on-going basis on a wide variety of issues including development, solidarity, peace and sport for all.

OLYMPIC PROFILES
MILITARY MEDALLISTS
2004 Olympic Summer Games

Valentina VEZZALI (ITA)
As talented as she is petite, Italy’s Valentina Vezzali, a carabiniere by trade, already has 21 years of fencing practice. At the Olympic Games in Atlanta (1996), she bagged foil team gold and individual silver. Since then, she has never stepped down podiums. At the age of 30, she proved again that her thirst for victory is not quite quenched yet by winning the individual foil tournament in Athens to claim Olympic gold.

Bo PENG (CHN)
On his first appearance in the Olympics, China’s Bo Peng, a 3m springboard diver, hit hard, very hard, simply winning gold. In Athens, his opponents had to agree on one thing: they belong in the back seat. Athens was probably a watershed for the Chinese serviceman, 23, a genuine turning point in his career, four years only after his international debut.

Michael ANTI (USA)
This native Californian likely never regretted his decision to accompany his father on hunting trips. He promptly caught the shooting virus and, nowadays, Michael Anti, 40, has become US Major in a shooting unit, where he practises his talent professionally. Only a few years after his international debut, he bagged Olympic silver in the men’s three-position rifle event.

Rajyavardhan S. RATHORE (IND)
The arms of India’s Rajyavardhan Rathore, another shooter, did not fail him in the double-trap final. India held its breath and Rathore capitalised on his to bag the silver medal. Six years only after taking his first steps in double-trap competitions, Rathore delivered on huge talent, which he discovered by chance at the age of 28. The Indian Armed Forces too have every reason to be satisfied: Rathore was the only Indian to come back from the Olympic Games with a medal.
# Statistical Tables

## Military Medals

### Military Medals Table*

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<th>Countries</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Gold</th>
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<td>France</td>
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<td>24</td>
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### Golden Military*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Marakou</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>R. Rauhe/T. Wieskötter</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Canoeing-kayaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Peng</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Diving</td>
<td>I. Brugnetti/A. Cassara</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Race Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Courrèges</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>A. Montano/V. Vezzali</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Jeannet</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>A. Barascu/A. Zanetti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Kurzer</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Shooting</td>
<td>C. Potec</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Rowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Nimke</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Cycling (track)</td>
<td>A. Eremia/S. Stroescu</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. El-Qalojli</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Rowing</td>
<td>E. Kalef/K. Dittmer</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Canoeing-kayaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>K. Wagner</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Canoeing-kayaking</td>
<td>M. Fischler</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Canoeing-kayaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Dittmer</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Canoeing-kayaking</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Based on available data
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Colonel
Robert Eggemont (Belgium)

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Discipline Commission
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M. R. VANMEERBEKE (BEL)

Solidarity Commission
PRESIDENT
Colonel
M. O. METREF (ALG)

CISM INSTITUTIONAL AGENDA 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 February-02 March</td>
<td>1st Board of Directors</td>
<td>Antalya (Turkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14 May</td>
<td>General Assembly and Congress &amp; 2nd Board of Directors meeting</td>
<td>Agia Napa (Cyprus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>3rd Board of Directors meeting</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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