4th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment Peschiera: a Century of Sky Defense

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Mantua hosted a particularly significant ceremony for the history of the Italian Army: the **centenary of the establishment of the 4th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment "Peschiera"**, a unit founded on **March 11, 1926** and now stationed at **Caserma San Martino**. The event was not only a celebratory moment but also an opportunity to **retrace a hundred years of military history** and commitment to the **defense of national airspace**.

Numerous civil and military authorities attended the ceremony. Among them were **Corps General Carmine Masiello**, Chief of Staff of the Army; **Corps General Giovanni Gagliano**, Commander of Combat Support Forces; the Prefect of the province of Mantua **Dr. Roberto Bolognesi**; the President of the Province **Carlo Bottani** and **Brigadier General Mattia Zuzzi**, Commander of Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

Leading the Regiment today is **Colonel Salvatore Verde**, responsible for the **operational continuity and training** of the unit.

The presence of numerous institutional representatives highlighted **the historical and operational value of the unit**, which over time has represented **one of the pillars of the Army's anti-aircraft defense**. During the ceremony, the traditional **review of the deployment** took place, symbolizing **discipline, cohesion, and military identity**.

The **4th Regiment “Peschiera”** has undergone **a century of technological and strategic transformations**, adapting to changes in the international scenario and contributing to the **protection of airspace** in increasingly complex contexts. From its inception in the post-war period to contemporary missions, the unit has represented **a fundamental component of the national defense system**.

The centenary offered the opportunity to **pay tribute to generations of artillerymen** who, over the years, have contributed with professionalism and dedication to building **the history and traditions of the unit**, keeping alive the heritage of values that characterize the Italian Army.

The bond with the territory and communities

One of the most significant aspects that emerged during the ceremony was **the deep bond between the 4th Regiment “Peschiera” and the territories that have hosted its headquarters**.

As a testament to this relationship, the **Mayors and Banners** of numerous municipalities linked to the history of the unit, including **Peschiera del Garda, Mantua, Albenga, Cervignano del Friuli, Riva del Garda, and Verona**, participated in the event.

This bond represents **a fundamental dimension of the Army's presence in the territory**. Military units are not only operational tools of national defense but also **realities deeply integrated into the social fabric of local communities**.

In the case of the **4th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment “Peschiera”**, this relationship has been consolidated over the decades through **the constant presence of the military, institutional activities, and contributions to the civil life of the hosting territories**.

A particularly significant moment of the ceremony was the **reading of the motivation for the honorary citizenship conferred by the Municipality of Peschiera del Garda**, the place

where **the Regiment was born a hundred years ago**.

Moment of the Ceremony. Source Italian Army.

The recognition, **of high symbolic and institutional value**, aimed to celebrate the **historical relationship between the city and the unit**.

This honor adds to those already attributed in past years by the municipalities of **Mantua** and **Curtatone**, further testimony of the **deep and lasting bond between the military unit and the territory**. Honorary citizenships indeed represent **a concrete sign of the communities' gratitude towards the military** who have shared moments of history, growth, and development with them.

Through these recognitions, the **sense of mutual belonging between the Armed Forces and civil society** is strengthened, highlighting how the presence of a military unit can contribute to the **construction of a shared territorial identity**.

Defending the future, technology values and men

During the ceremony, **Corps General Carmine Masiello** offered a reflection on the significance of the centenary and the **challenges facing the Army in the coming years**.

In his speech, he emphasized that this anniversary does not represent an endpoint, but **the beginning of a new journey**.

Security, indeed, **cannot be considered an acquired fact**: it must be **built, maintained, and defended every day**.

Speech by the Chief of Staff of the Army. Source Italian Army.

In an international context characterized by **new tensions and emerging threats**, the Army is undergoing **a profound structural transformation**, with the aim of becoming an increasingly modern and technologically advanced tool, capable of meeting the Nation's expectations.

In this scenario, defense against threats from the **third dimension — airspace —** represents **one of the main development directions of military capabilities**. Anti-aircraft defense systems indeed play **a crucial role in protecting strategic infrastructures, deployed forces, and national territory**.

However, **Corps General Carmine Masiello** reminded that, despite the importance of technology, **the main weapon system remains the human resource**.

Training indeed represents **the best guarantee for every soldier**, called to face the operational challenges of the present and future.

Alongside technology and preparation, **the values that have always guided the military** remain fundamental: **spirit of service, sense of responsibility, and dedication to the Homeland**.

The centenary of the **4th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment "Peschiera"** thus becomes **not only a celebration of memory** but also **a commitment to the future**: to continue ensuring **the defense of Italian skies** with professionalism, innovation, and fidelity to the values that have accompanied the unit's history for a century.

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