African Lion 2025: Italian Special Forces Lead in Tunisia

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The international exercise "African Lion 2025" concluded on April 30, 2025, in Tunisia, one of the most significant annual military events organized under the aegis of the US Africa Command. The exercise saw the participation of over 10,000 soldiers from more than 20 nations, including Italian, American, Tunisian forces, and other African countries. This operation involved a wide range of military activities, from ground to air operations, and was designed to enhance cooperation among the armed forces of the participating countries, with **the aim of improving operational readiness and the ability to address global crises**. Operations took place on multiple fronts, including the areas of Bizerte and Ben Ghilouf, where the Special Forces and Conventional Forces units were concentrated.

The core of the exercise took place in Tunisia, but it also involved other African states, such as Morocco, Ghana, and Ivory Coast, which were already participating in the "Flintlock 25" exercise in Central Africa. Tunisia played a crucial role as the host country, and during the final ceremony, the soldiers who distinguished themselves during the operations were awarded.

Among those present at the ceremony were the Italian Ambassador to Tunisia, Alessandro Prunas, the Deputy Commander of the Joint Operational Command (COFS), and the Defense Military Attaché, who recognized the commitment and valor of the Italian soldiers and their allies.

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Objectives and Activities Conducted During the Exercise

The "African Lion 2025" exercise saw a strong commitment from the Italian Special Forces, who joined the US and Tunisian forces in joint operations, developing a series of on-ground activities that took place over 11 days of intensive training. The culminating operations were two large air-ground maneuvers, involving both special and conventional forces, demonstrating the ability to interact and operate in complex scenarios.

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The exercise aimed to strengthen interoperability among participants, improve the ability to respond to crises and contingent situations in Africa and globally, and consolidate cooperation among the military forces of different nations. Specific activities included a command and control exercise, field exercises, and live-fire demonstrations. Additionally, humanitarian assistance events were conducted, including medical, dental, and veterinary missions in Morocco, Ghana, and Senegal, which helped improve relations between the armed forces and local communities.

The Italian armed forces, in particular, received appreciation from the Tunisian military leaders for the quality of the collaboration, which has led to the adoption of new synergies for the future. The strengthening of ties between Italy and Tunisia, along with participation in joint exercises, is expected to have a positive impact on future operations in the Mediterranean area.

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Future Prospects and the Importance of the Exercise

The conclusion of the "African Lion 2025" exercise represents only the beginning of a path of growing cooperation among the armed forces of the participating countries. The exercise demonstrated that interoperability among forces of different nationalities is essential to respond to increasingly complex global threats. The joint operations among the various units have helped improve not only the ability to operate in hostile environments but also to strengthen trust among soldiers from different nations.

The exercise also had symbolic value, as it highlighted the growing importance of international military cooperation for the security and stability of the African region and the Mediterranean.

Tunisian leaders emphasized how synergy with the Italian forces could further strengthen the country's defensive capabilities and, consequently, contribute to the stability of the entire region. The importance of events like African Lion lies in the ability to train and prepare the armed forces for dynamic and multidimensional scenarios, improving their operational readiness and ability to respond promptly to any type of crisis.

In summary, the "African Lion 2025" exercise not only represented a milestone in joint training among armed forces of different nations but also created fertile ground for future collaborations that could further strengthen global and regional security.