Airdrop with the A400M: Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore, Luftwaffe, and Aeronautica Militare Ready for Interoperability

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In recent days, an important training activity featured the paratroopers of the Brigata Paracadutisti "Folgore", **the A400M aircraft of the Luftwaffe** and the assets of the 46th Air Brigade of the Aeronautica Militare, based in Pisa. The exercise aimed to refine the procedures for the airdrop of Italian paratroopers, using the EPC parachute, recently acquired by Italy, from a German A400M aircraft.

Details of the Training Activity

The training was conducted with the technical and logistical collaboration of the 46th Air Brigade of Pisa, which supported the use of a A400M of the Luftwaffe for a series of flight missions, during which loads of material and scout paratroopers were airdropped using the free-

fall technique. These activities represented an important opportunity for joint operational experimentation, aimed at ensuring a high degree of interoperability among allied forces.

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The airdrop missions were particularly important in defining the technical procedures between the Italian Jump Directors and the Luftwaffe onboard specialists, with the aim of perfecting the paratrooper drop with the EPC parachute. The latter, in fact, has been recently acquired by Italy and requires intensive training activities to ensure full operational efficiency.

Interoperability Objectives

This activity is part of a broader program aimed at achieving an optimal degree of interoperability among the airborne troops of allied countries belonging to the Airborne Community. The Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore, which is an integral part of this international community, aims to ensure effective cooperation among the armed forces through the exchange of training and logistical experiences. Interoperability among airborne troops translates into the ability to conduct joint airborne operations, where resources, units, means, and equipment are integrated and operate synergistically.

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The Crucial Role of the Airborne Community

The Airborne Community, to which the Brigata Folgore has adhered for several years, is a network that includes NATO countries and other members of the EATC (European Air Transport Command). The integration between air transport and paratrooper forces of different states represents a fundamental element for rapid response capability and operational effectiveness in complex scenarios, where the speed of intervention and the reliability of joint procedures are crucial.

Achieving high levels of interoperability is therefore one of the strategic priorities of the Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore. Thanks to these joint activities, it will be possible to face future airborne

operations with a coordinated approach, where every component of the allied defense system will be able to operate with full effectiveness, for the benefit of collective security.

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The joint training activity between the Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore, the Luftwaffe, and the 46th Air Brigade is a concrete example of how the Italian armed forces are working to develop and refine their ability to operate in synergy with allied partners. The continuous refinement of procedures, collaboration among experts, and the use of advanced technologies, such as the A400M, are essential elements to ensure the operational readiness of Italian airborne troops and allied countries, in a context of increasing geopolitical complexity.