



Arctic Defense: the Alpini conclude NATO Exercise Cold Response 26

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ROME – The [Cold Response 26](#) has officially concluded, the most extensive Arctic training activity of the year, which saw the participation of about **32,500 military personnel** from 14 NATO countries. The operations, conducted between March 9 and 20, involved the territories of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, confirming the strategic importance of the northern quadrant for collective security.

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The Italian Contribution: The Alpini of Taurinense

Italy responded to NATO's call by deploying over **170 military personnel** from the **Alpini Brigade "Taurinense"**. The core of the contingent was composed of a Company from the **3rd Alpini Regiment**, supported by specialized units:

- **32nd Engineer Regiment:** for mobility and protection in hostile environments.
- **Tactical Information Brigade:** with multi-sensor units for battlefield surveillance.
- **Medical Support:** provided by Medical Officers from the Military Academy completing their training.

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Training to the Limit: Survival and Combat

Operating in an Arctic environment is not just a tactical challenge, but a test of human and technological endurance. With temperatures reaching **-25°C**, Army personnel had to apply advanced techniques of:

1. **Movement and survival:** Refined during a specific mountain preparation phase before departure.
2. **Familiarization:** Immediate integration with the equipment and materials provided by allies.
3. **Electromagnetic Monitoring:** Use of technologies for spectrum control and defense against hybrid threats.

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The Operational Scenario

During the peak phase of the exercise, the Italian Alpini were integrated into a **French-led multinational Battlegroup**, operating under the command of a Finnish Brigade.

"The Italian component acted in a context of opposing forces, performing defensive tasks aimed at repelling a simulated enemy offensive. Reconnaissance capabilities, anti-tank systems, and mortars were employed in perfect multi-weapon coordination."

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Why is Cold Response 26 Strategic?

The success of the exercise is not only measured in firing capability but in the consolidation of **interoperability**. The ability of different armies to speak the same "operational language" and integrate their logistical and medical systems in record time is what makes NATO a credible deterrent force, especially in prohibitive climates where every mistake can be fatal.

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News link: <https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/conclusa-lesercitazione-nato-cold-response-26/182224.html>