Artillery Day: A Change of Command and the Technological Evolution of the Arm

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On June 18, 2025, at the “Santa Barbara” barracks in Sabaudia (LT), headquarters of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command, the 107th anniversary of the Battle of the Solstice was celebrated. This date represents a milestone in the history of Italian Artillery, as it commemorates the important battle fought from June 15 to 23, 1918, an event that played a crucial role in stopping the advance of Austro-Hungarian forces on the banks of the Piave, laying the groundwork for the future success of Vittorio Veneto.

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During the ceremony, numerous civil, religious, and military authorities, including Army Corps General Massimo Scala, Commander of the Land Operational Forces, and the Prefect of Latina, Vittoria Ciaramella, participated in an event rich in historical and symbolic significance. On this occasion, the War Flag of the Artillery Arm and the Institute Flag of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery were displayed as symbols of tradition, valor, and loyalty, emphasizing the importance of remembering the sacrifice of the Italian artillerymen who wrote history with their heroism.

Tradition and innovation in Italian Artillery

The Artillery Day is a moment of gathering that not only celebrates the history of the Arm but also strengthens the bond between active and retired personnel. In this context, Brigadier General Giuseppe Amodio handed over the command of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery to Brigadier General Mattia Zuzzi, after three years of service. The change of command was a solemn moment that saw General Amodio pay tribute to the work done by his troops, always ready to respond to national and international security needs.

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In his farewell speech, General Amodio emphasized how the Anti-Aircraft Artillery, with its deployments of assets like SAMP/T, STINGER, and anti-drone, has responded promptly and effectively to a wide range of needs, both in Italy and abroad. These modern defense systems, including the 120 mm mortar, are the expression of an Artillery that, while remaining anchored to its historical roots, looks to the future with determination.

Today's Artillery, in its land and anti-aircraft specialties, is an example of technological excellence. With the support of advanced systems like those used in tactical operations, the Arm continues to provide a decisive contribution to Army operations, always maintaining maximum precision in fire, a fundamental element in every operational context.

Technological innovation and the future of Artillery

Technological innovation is at the heart of the current operational capabilities of the Artillery. On the sidelines of the ceremony, guests had the opportunity to witness an exercise involving various land and anti-aircraft components. In this demonstration, the Quadrupedal Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV) ATOMO, a robot used by CBRN units for detecting and sampling agents in contaminated environments, was employed, along with advanced defense systems like the Stinger firing post and anti-drone assets. These systems symbolize the continuous adaptation of the Artillery to modern threats, from the use of drones to defense against air attacks.

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Moreover, the static display of weapon systems, including those already in service and those soon to be introduced, offered an overview of the future capabilities of the Artillery. Cutting-edge technologies, including drone defense and anti-missile systems, are essential to keep the Italian Army at the forefront of defense operations, both in national and international contexts. General Massimo Scala emphasized in his speech how the Artillery Arm, thanks to its tradition of excellence and constant commitment to innovation, continues to represent a pillar of Italian defense.

In summary, the celebration of the 107th anniversary of the Battle of the Solstice was an opportunity to honor the past and look to the future, demonstrating how Italian Artillery, while remaining steadfast in its traditional values, is always ready to respond to the challenges posed by the evolution of global threats.