



Assignment of Weapon Specialties for Young Second Lieutenants

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The 203rd Course "Lealtà" of the Army Officers' School celebrated an important milestone in the training path of its 113 attending Officers with the ceremony of specialty assignment. The event took place at the Aula Magna of Palazzo Arsenale, in the presence of numerous representatives, including the Regional President of Assoarma, Gen. C.A. Paolo Ruggiero, and the Banners of the National Combat and Weapon Associations.

During the ceremony, the Commander of the Training Institute, General of the Army Corps Antonello Vespaziani, emphasized the importance of the specialty assignment, defining it as a crucial moment in the professional journey of the officers. "This marks the beginning of a new chapter, where values, traditions, the sense of belonging, and cohesion join the skills acquired so far," he stated, highlighting the importance of being ready to operate in the service of the country's defense and security.

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The Passing of the Baton between Courses

Following this, colleagues from the 202nd Course "Onore" symbolically passed the headgear and specialty insignia to the young Second Lieutenants of the 203rd Course. The Deans of the Weapons and Specialties of the Officers' School then had the opportunity to meet the new officers, offering them advice and recalling the historical traditions of each specialty, a treasure of emotions and knowledge useful for their future service in the Nation.

The Weapon Specialties: A Historical and Strategic Concept

The concept of specialization in the army has roots in the times of the Roman Legions, where fighters were organized by type of armament and position on the field. Over time, this organization evolved, giving rise to what we now know as the "Weapons" and "Corps" of the armies.

In the case of the Italian Army, the Weapons consist of: **Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Transport and Materials**. To these are added the three Corps: **Army Medical Corps, Army Commissariat Corps, Army Engineers Corps**.

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The Specialties: An In-Depth Look

Each Weapon and Corps is divided into specific specialties, corresponding to the type of operations each unit is capable of performing. With the evolution of combat methods, unique specialties have emerged such as the **Bersaglieri**, capable of operating with small, light, fast, and elusive units, or the **Alpini**, specialized in mountain combat. The [Paratroopers](#), an expression of the best qualities of the infantry, are among the most feared in emergency operations, while the **Lagunari** operate in coastal scenarios.

The **Line Cavalry** or **Tankers** is a specialty historically linked to mobility and firepower. Today, the Tankers primarily operate with armored combat vehicles, such as tanks, to support infantry operations and face moving threats. Their training focuses on managing armored units in complex scenarios, to ensure a powerful and mobile presence on the battlefield.

The **Engineers** is a specialty that deals with logistical and operational support for the Army.

Within this branch, there are various specialties that respond to specific tactical needs:

- **Pioneers:** They are responsible for building fortifications, excavations, and demining work, ensuring the mobility and protection of forces.
- **Bridge Builders:** Specialized in the construction of bridges and the management of strategic infrastructures for overcoming natural obstacles, such as rivers and lakes.
- **Demolition Experts:** These are highly specialized units in operations to destroy obstacles and enemy fortifications, also through the use of explosives.
- **Railway Engineers:** They are responsible for the maintenance and construction of railway infrastructures, vital for logistical transport and troop movement.

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The **Signals** are a fundamental specialty for communication and command within an army. The sub-specialties include:

- **Telemetric:** It deals with the management of long-distance communication systems, allowing secure and timely transmission of information in real-time.
- **Electronic Warfare:** Employs advanced technologies to counter and protect military communications from electronic threats, such as interference and cyber-attacks. These units are crucial for maintaining technological superiority on the field.

Finally, the **Artillery** stands out for its **Ground** and **Anti-Aircraft** specialties, using powerful weapon systems to provide long-range support, both in defense and attack operations.

The assignment of specialties is a determining phase in an officer's career. It not only recognizes individual inclinations and capabilities but also prepares young officers to serve with competence, passion, and responsibility, to face the challenges of national defense and security with the right spirit of corps and cohesion. The variety of weapon specialties and corps allows the Italian Army to respond to a wide range of operations, ensuring flexibility, readiness, and adaptability to the country's needs.