

CAEX II-26 at Capo Teulada: Brigata Aeromobile "FRIULI" assesses command and combat capability

Published on 19/11/2026

The operational phase of the **Complex Aviation Exercise (CAEX) II-2026**, part of the joint, multinational and multidomain Joint Stars 2026 exercise, has concluded at the **Capo Teulada** training range.

The activity enabled Italian Army Aviation to assess its command-and-control and airmobile combat capabilities. The **Brigata Aeromobile "Friuli"**, the operational arm of Italian Army Aviation, was reconfigured as a Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), colocated with the Command Post of a NATO Warfighting Corps.

More than 400 personnel and 10 helicopters

During exercises of increasing complexity, conducted in a realistic combat scenario, **more than 400 personnel** and **10 helicopters** from Italian Army Aviation were employed.

The units assessed their ability to conduct airmobile and air-mechanized operations. The integration of attack helicopters, multirole helicopters and airmobile infantry enabled **CAB FRIULI** to conduct a decisive counterattack.

The ground maneuver from the third dimension was aimed at regaining the initiative as part of the mobile defense of key terrain.

Command and control, C-UAS trials

CAEX II-26 was structured as a mission rehearsal in preparation for an actual combat operation. The activity also enabled the implementation of the IMPERIO and BMS SIRIO command-and-control architecture with the Safe Strike Air Warrior (SSAW) platform, fielded by airmobile units.

During the exercise, technical-tactical procedures for employing attack helicopters in **C-UAS** and Slow Movers Interception (SMI) roles were tested and drafted.

CAEX II-26 required coordination, synchronization and adaptability. The exercise was intended to assess the readiness, resilience and operational effectiveness of airmobile units in combat scenarios.

Personnel from the **7° Reggimento Trasmissioni** also contributed to the activities.

News link: https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/conclusa-lesercitazione-caex-ii-26/216829.html