



Change of Command at Northern Operational Forces: General of the Army Corps Maurizio Riccò hands over to Major General Ugo Cillo

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On **September 26, 2025**, in the solemn setting of the **Representation Hall of the Unified Army Club in Padua**, the **change of command ceremony** at the top of the **Northern Operational Forces** took place. **General of the Army Corps Maurizio Riccò** handed over command to **Major General Ugo Cillo**, in the presence of the **Commander of the Land Operational Forces, General of the Army Corps Massimo Scala**, and the main civil, military, and religious authorities of the area.

In his speech, **General of the Army Corps Massimo Scala** wanted to emphasize the **valuable contribution of General of the Army Corps Maurizio Riccò**, who has led the Northern Operational Forces with professionalism and dedication since **May 2023**. **“Under his command, the men and women of the Command have been able to respond to every**

need with readiness and professionalism, proving to be a precious and indispensable resource for the Army and the Country”.

Words of encouragement and trust were also addressed to **Major General Ugo Cillo**, called to lead the Command in a delicate phase of restructuring and change: **“The command entrusted to you will be reconfigured, in a few days, into the Northern Territorial Command. It represents the result of a profound transformation that the Army is undergoing to adequately respond to current scenarios”.**

In his farewell, **General of the Army Corps Maurizio Riccò** expressed **gratitude to the military and civilian personnel**, as well as to the **city of Padua**, with which he has established a special bond. **“In these years, I have been honored to meet esteemed people, to engage with them, and to be enriched by the experiences lived. This is perhaps the greatest gift of the military profession: the opportunity to know places, people, and situations that broaden one's horizons”.**

The transformation: from Northern Operational Forces Command to Northern Territorial Command

The change at the top is part of a **reorganization process** involving the entire Army structure. From **September 30, 2025**, the **Northern Operational Forces Command (COMFOP NORD)** will officially be reconfigured into the **Northern Territorial Command (COMTER NORD)**, under the **National Territorial Command** based in Rome.

This transition is not just nominal, but reflects a **substantial change** in operational and management methods. The new Command will be designed to be **more effective in directing, coordinating, and controlling the assigned forces**, thanks to a **simpler, leaner, and unified structure**. The goal is to **optimize resource use**, ensuring a more efficient distribution among the different regions of Northern Italy.

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Honors to Gen. C.A. SCALA, Commander of the Land Operational Forces.

The **Northern Territorial Command** is also born with a **more territorial and proximity vocation**. It will be a reference point not only for operational activities, as already

demonstrated by the Army's commitment in the operation **“Strade Sicure”**, but also for **cooperation with civil institutions and local communities**. The Army thus intends to strengthen the **bond with the Regions and administrations**, making its presence on the territory more direct and immediate.

This reform is part of the broader process of **modernizing the Army: more functional structures, faster processes**, and **constant adaptability** to today's operational scenarios, characterized by complexity and unpredictability.

The Army and the territory: a presence increasingly close to citizens

The creation of the **Northern Territorial Command** marks an evolution in the **relationship between the Army and civil society**. It is not just about ensuring **security** through territorial control, but also about promoting a true **culture of Defense**. In this perspective, the new Command will aim to develop **cooperation initiatives between civilians and military**, fostering collaborations with **local entities, schools, universities, associations, and social realities**.

The goal is twofold: on one hand, to strengthen the **sense of security and legality**; on the other, to contribute to the **well-being of the territory**. This means creating **opportunities for meeting**, valuing the **history and traditions of the Army**, but also investing in **youth**, transmitting values such as **active citizenship, respect for institutions**, and **sense of belonging to the Country**.

The **Northern Territorial Command** thus aims to become a **key player in the social and institutional fabric**, capable of combining **operational efficiency** and **openness to the community**. The presence of **local authorities at the change of command ceremony** – from **Padua's Councillor Diego Bonavina** to **Prefect Giuseppe Forlenza** – is a tangible sign of how the relationship between military and civil institutions is already **solid and destined to grow**.

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Symbolic handover

The **handover between General of the Army Corps Maurizio Riccò and Major General Ugo Cillo** was not just a **formal rite**, but a **moment of continuity and renewal**. An opportunity to recognize the **achievements** and to look confidently at the **future challenges**, where the Army will be called to be increasingly **close to citizens**, ready to ensure **security, support, and collaboration**.

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