Change of Command at the 185th RRAO "Folgore": Colonel Di Marzio Succeeds Colonel Margutti

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At the "Pisacane" Barracks in Livorno, the **change of command ceremony** of the 185th Paratroopers Reconnaissance Target Acquisition Regiment "Folgore" (RRAO) took place today, during which Colonel Marco Margutti handed over command to **Colonel Alessio Di Marzio**. The ceremony was attended by **Brigadier General Carmine Vizzuso**, Commander of the Paratroopers Brigade "Folgore", and **Honorable Paola Chiesa**, along with numerous **military and civilian authorities.** The regiment's formation and the presence of personnel in uniform made the moment solemn, highlighting the strong **esprit de corps and pride of belonging** that characterize the men and women of the 185th.

During the event, **Sergeant Major Vincenzo Ajello** was remembered with deep emotion on the first anniversary of his passing during training.

The tribute to the fallen soldier represented a moment of intense emotional participation and unity of the Regiment, testifying to the values of cohesion, courage, and brotherhood that inspire every activity of the unit. During the ceremony, **certificates were awarded to ten new “Target Acquirers”**, symbolizing the **continuity of the training tradition and operational excellence** that distinguish the unit. Honorary certificates were also awarded to Brigadier General Luigi Lupini, Brigadier General Raffaele Iubini, and Colonel Stefano Iubini, in recognition of their contribution over the years to the growth and historical identity of the Regiment.

The handover between Colonel Margutti and Colonel Di Marzio assumed a symbolic and moral value of particular significance: not only the continuation of a command path but the confirmation of a legacy of values, professionalism, and dedication that make the 185th RRAO one of the excellences of the Italian Armed Forces.

The 185th RRAO: Operational Excellence and Elite Specialization

The 185th Paratroopers Reconnaissance Target Acquisition Regiment “Folgore” is a leading entity of the Italian Army. An elite unit based in Livorno, it specializes in advanced reconnaissance, target acquisition, and terminal fire control (JTAC), with the ability to operate in complex and high-risk environments, both nationally and internationally. The unit, an integral part of the Army's Special Forces sector, is distinguished by decision-making autonomy, versatility, and interforce integration. Over the years, the Regiment has evolved from a paratrooper artillery structure to a modern tool of strategic acquisition and surveillance, capable of operating behind enemy lines, identifying high-priority targets, and guiding precision fire.

JTAC -JOINT TERMINAL ATTACK CONTROLLER

The introduction of advanced technological systems, drones, and new-generation sensors has further strengthened the unit's ability to act in synergy with other components of the Armed Forces. Colonel Margutti leaves a highly cohesive and trained unit, while Colonel Di Marzio takes command with the aim of consolidating operational excellence and projecting the Regiment towards new challenges.

The Priorities of the New Leadership

With Colonel Alessio Di Marzio assuming command, the 185th RRAO is preparing to face a phase of further consolidation and development. The main lines of action will concern: maintaining operational excellence, ensuring maximum readiness and flexibility in national and international missions; personnel training and selection, with the aim of guaranteeing high training standards and continuous operator updates; technological innovation and interoperability, with the integration of ISR systems, drones, and digital platforms for target acquisition and control in complex environments; enhancement of human resources, focusing on the well-being of personnel and families, fundamental elements for the cohesion of the unit; safeguarding tradition and vision for the future, to keep alive the connection with the history of the “Folgore” while strengthening the ability to respond to new operational scenarios. Colonel Di Marzio expressed his pride and sense of responsibility in taking command of such a prestigious unit, emphasizing the importance of honoring its history and projecting its capabilities towards future challenges.

185th RRAO “Folgore” in training

The change of command at the 185th Paratroopers Reconnaissance Target Acquisition Regiment “Folgore” represents a moment of continuity and renewal, where tradition and innovation merge in the common commitment to national security and the defense of the country's interests. The ceremony confirmed the solidity, professionalism, and sense of belonging that make the 185th RRAO one of the absolute excellences of the Italian Army.