


# Command and Vision Units: How the Italian Defense Managed the Gulf Dossier with Strategic Timing

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In a **Middle Eastern chessboard** marked by **chronic turbulence** and **geopolitical unpredictability** that often catches the international community off guard, Italy has demonstrated a significant **capacity for vision** and **prompt reaction**.

The **repositioning** and **strengthening** of the military apparatus in the Gulf – involving about **400 men** from the **Task Force Air** and **260 soldiers** from the Army's **Task Force Land "Cerbero"** – represent a significant test of **institutional** and **operational pragmatism**.

## The Commitment of the Air Force and the Role of the TFA

Alongside the land apparatus, a leading contribution is provided by the component of the Air Force through the **Task Force Air (TFA)**, deployed in the area starting from the second half of **March 2026**.

The blue contingent of the Air Force – consisting of about **400 units** distributed between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain – actively contributes to **surveillance**, **airspace defense**, and **force protection**. Among the top assets stands out the **Task Group Argo**, equipped with **E-550A CAEW** (Conformal Airborne Early Warning) aircraft, a highly advanced **multi-sensor** system for **early warning**, **strategic air surveillance**, and **command, control, and communication** functions, capable of ensuring solid **situational awareness** in the quadrant.

## A Structured Response in a High-Tension Quadrant

The crisis in the Gulf area and the requests for support from **partner countries** required adequate responses. The Italian Defense acted with **short notice**, deploying targeted **technological assets**:

- The Army's **SAMP/T systems** in Saudi Arabia, capable of intercepting complex threats such as **ballistic missiles**;
- The **Skynex weapon system** in the United Arab Emirates, effective against the asymmetric threat of **drones**;
- The **Kronos Grand Mobile High Power radar** in Bahrain, essential for the **early detection** of aircraft, drones, and missile carriers.

A deployment framed within the task force **“Cerbero”**, aimed at supporting the **armed and security forces** of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait in **airspace defense** and **anti-missile and anti-drone protection**.

## Institutional Management: Transparency, Planning, and Chain of Command

Beyond operational aspects, the management of the dossier by the Ministry of Defense, led by **Guido Crosetto**, highlights the connection between government action, **military leadership**, and Parliament.

The controversies raised by some opposition forces found reflection in **official acts**. It was not an improvised mission, but the **coherent repositioning** of existing capabilities, planned under the direction of the Chief of Defense Staff, General **Luciano Portolano**, and coordinated in the field by the Joint Operational Command (COVI) led by Army Corps General **Giovanni Maria**

**Iannucci**.

The institutional process developed through defined steps:

- On **March 5**, Parliament approved the resolutions for the deployment of **air defense systems** in the Gulf Region.
- Between **June and July**, the Chambers and competent Committees examined the documents, heard the **Defense leadership**, and voted on the related **extensions**.

The documented and public path highlights how the action moved within a **normative framework** authorized by parliamentary bodies.

## The Context of Regional Security

Italy's timing fits into a phase of evolution of **Middle Eastern security**, also evidenced by the meeting hosted in **Riyadh** to examine the initiative aimed at creating a **defensive maritime alliance**. An initiative involving numerous countries to strengthen **coordination** for the protection of **maritime routes** and **strategic infrastructures**.

In this scenario, Italy confirms its presence in a complex quadrant, offering a contribution within a framework of **international cooperation** and respect for the established **institutional steps**.