



Complex NATO exercise for the Folgore, Saber Junction 2024 concluded in Germany

Published on 13/09/2024

The multinational exercise **Saber Junction 2024** has successfully concluded, involving 210 paratroopers from the [Folgore Paratroopers Brigade](#) at the training area of **Hohenfels, Germany**. The event, coordinated by the **173rd Airborne Brigade of the United States**, involved approximately **4500 military personnel from 11 nations, all NATO members and partners of the Airborne Community**. This impressive exercise is part of the [Large Scale Global Exercises \(LSGE\)](#) and aimed to test the readiness and interoperability of the units deployed on the ground in conducting airborne operations in a warfighting scenario.

The paratroopers of the [187th Paratroopers Regiment "Folgore"](#), supported by a Forward Support Company of the [Logistic Regiment "Folgore"](#), played a leading role, deploying a tactical group command leading a multinational Task Force, along with two smaller operational complexes. During the 20 days of exercise, the Italian military were engaged in high-intensity airborne defense and attack operations within realistic combat scenarios that tested their

strategic and operational capabilities.

The exercise represented a complex challenge not only for the war simulation but also for the difficult environmental conditions, including adverse weather conditions and a vast operational theater, allowing the paratroopers to refine their skills in managing operations in extreme and unpredictable environments.

The Folgore Paratroopers Brigade continues to confirm itself as one of the main tools available to the Italian Army to respond quickly to crisis and emergency situations. Thanks to their ability to project substantial forces in a short time, the maroon berets prove ready to operate in any confrontation scenario, once again demonstrating the high level of preparation and professionalism of the Italian armed forces in multinational contexts.

The Saber Junction 24 provided an important training opportunity, contributing to strengthening collaboration and interoperability among the armed forces of various allied countries, further consolidating Italy's central role in NATO's multinational military operations.

What is LSGE 24 (Large Scale Global Exercises 2024)

The **Large Scale Global Exercises 2024 (LSGE 24)** is a series of multinational military exercises organized by **NATO** and its allied countries, designed to strengthen the agility and interoperability of the armed forces involved. These exercises, taking place from this month until June, see the participation of numerous NATO members and strategic partners worldwide.

Coordinated by the **U.S. European Command (USEUCOM)** for the 2024 edition, LSGE 24 involves military units belonging to various armed forces, including **armies, naval forces, air forces, and ground forces** of NATO allied countries. The main objective of this series of exercises is to demonstrate the ability of participating nations to operate together in a global and multi-domain scenario, consolidating military cooperation and operational readiness.

The international context, marked by the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**, has prompted NATO and its members to intensify cooperation and improve the interoperability of their armed forces. The **LSGE 24** exercises also arise from the need to prepare for possible crisis scenarios similar to the current one in Eastern Europe, where rapid response and the effectiveness of joint operations become essential for collective security.

The **LSGE 24** program includes about **30 exercises** and military activities, each with specific objectives, aimed at testing the readiness and efficiency of the armed forces in facing various operational challenges. These activities demonstrate NATO's and its allies' commitment to maintaining global peace and security through a robust and coordinated military presence. The rapid response capability and interoperability among armed forces of different nations are key elements of the exercises.

Among the main exercises of **LSGE 24** are events such as **Allied Spirit, Trojan Footprint, Bomber Task Force, Nordic Response, Arctic Shock, Saber Strike, Immediate Response, Swift Response, Astral Knight, Saber Junction**, and **BALTOPS**, many of which will take place on the European continent, demonstrating Europe's centrality in this context. Other events will be held in different areas of the world, strengthening relations among participating countries.

This will be the **third iteration** of the **LSGE** series, and it represents a crucial opportunity to improve NATO forces' interoperability and to test joint reaction capability in complex operations. In a historical moment when the Russia-Ukraine conflict has increased global tensions, these multinational exercises, involving thousands of military personnel, highlight the unity and readiness of NATO nations in the face of any potential threat, reaffirming the common commitment to international stability and security.