



Drones and Modern Operations: The Italian Army Accelerates with the First APR Workshop

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The first edition of the *Operational Workshop on Remotely Piloted Aircraft (APR)* took place on April 1, 2026, a **significant initiative** in the evolution of the operational capabilities of the Italian Army. The event was attended by **48 specialized operators** from the “Folgore” and “Julia” Brigades, units that represent a **consolidated excellence** in the Armed Forces landscape.

The activity aimed at the **consolidation and enhancement of skills** of drone operators, now fundamental tools in modern operational scenarios. The training was structured through **progressively complex missions**, allowing personnel to refine technical, decision-making, and coordination skills.

The contribution of the **41st IMINT Regiment “Cordenons”** was crucial, serving as a reference point for the training and qualification of APR operators. The regiment ensured a **rigorous methodological approach** consistent with the most advanced operational standards, guaranteeing a **high-quality level** of the entire training process.

Synergy between Units and Technological Experimentation

The workshop also represented an important opportunity for **integration between different operational components** and the enhancement of emerging technologies. Alongside the training activity, an **operational demonstration** was conducted, highlighting development prospects and future applications.

The support of the **9th Cyber Security Regiment “Rombo”** allowed for the verification of the **effective integration of APR systems** with digital infrastructures and information systems in use, confirming the importance of the **cyber dimension** in the contemporary operational context.



Briefing to the Commander of the Tactical Information Brigade. Source: Italian Army.

At the same time, the **33rd Electronic Warfare Regiment** conducted **electromagnetic spectrum jamming activities**, contributing to the creation of complex and highly realistic training scenarios. This allowed operators to practice in **conditions aligned with modern operational theaters**.

The integration of training, technology, and cooperation between units highlighted an **effective and modern model**, capable of combining innovation and operational readiness.

Professional Growth and Future Prospects

The **direct exchange between APR operators** was one of the most valuable elements of the initiative. The sharing of experiences and skills facilitated a **significant professional enrichment**, contributing to strengthening the ability to plan and conduct operations with remotely piloted systems.



In a context characterized by **continuous technological evolution**, training plays a central role. The workshop confirmed the importance of **constant updating** and an excellence-oriented approach, essential elements to ensure **operational readiness and effectiveness**.

The experience gained from this first edition lays **solid foundations for the future**. Initiatives like the Operational APR Workshop are indeed configured as **strategic tools** for the development of the Italian Army's capabilities, contributing to consolidating a **modern, integrated operational model fully responsive** to current and future challenges.

News link: <https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/primo-workshop-operativo-sugli-aeromobili-a-pilotaggio-remoto-apr/183392.html>