



Falcon Strike 2025: Italy at the Center of NATO Air Defense with 4th and 5th Generation Integration

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Amendola, November 17, 2025 — The multinational air exercise ["Falcon Strike 2025"](#) in Italy concluded with full success, confirming the high operational readiness and interoperability of the air forces of the Atlantic Alliance. For two weeks, the skies of the Mediterranean and Italian bases were the stage for the most important training event of the year organized by the Italian Air Force (AM).



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Advanced Integration and Allied Forces

The exercise involved **over 1,000 military personnel** and **more than 50 aircraft** from five NATO Nations: **Italy, United States, United Kingdom, France, and Greece.**

The focal point was training in the integration between **fourth-generation** platforms (such as Typhoon and Rafale fighters) and **fifth-generation** (F-35A/B), a crucial strategic element for modern air superiority. The Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, General S.A. Antonio CONSERVA, emphasized how the activity reflects the complexity of current scenarios:

*"Our crews train to face this complexity and the technological challenges that arise from it. With Falcon Strike 2025, we have reached a further level of **operational capability and readiness of our assets.**"*

The activity recorded about **460 sorties** and exceeded **1,000 flight hours**, operating mainly from the AM base in Amendola, home of the 32° Stormo F-35, and involving a wide network of national bases.



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Multidomain Testing and Key Operational Concepts

The **Falcon Strike 2025** was not limited to the air domain alone. The exercise integrated assets from the **Italian Navy** and the British **Royal Navy** (including the aircraft carrier *HMS Prince of Wales*), consolidating an essential **multidomain** approach for the defense of the Euro-Atlantic space.

Among the most relevant operations tested in the field:

- **Agile Combat Employment (ACE):** A fundamental concept that verifies the ability for rapid redeployment and regeneration of air operational capability in geographically dispersed bases, crucial for increasing operational resilience in high-intensity contexts.
- **Air Landed Aircraft Refuelling Point (ALARP):** Execution of rapid refueling with engines running (*Hot Pit Refuelling*) on F-35B aircraft at Gioia del Colle, demonstrating the ability to **increase operational response speed**.
- **Cross-Maintenance:** The interaction of Italian and allied technical specialists in providing support and maintenance to partner aircraft, strengthening logistical interoperability.



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The Role of the Italian Air Force

The Aerospace Operations Command (COA) of Poggio Renatico directed the exercise, managing the planning and conduct of missions in real-time. The Italian Air Force deployed a vast array of assets, including F-35A/B, Typhoon, MQ-9, T-346, as well as support aircraft (KC-767A, E-550 CAEW, C-130J).

The success of *Falcon Strike 2025* confirms Italy as a **strategic hub** and reliable security provider, capable of integrating technologies, training, and human resources at the highest level to strengthen collective deterrence and the defense of the Alliance.



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News link: <https://www.nato.int/en/news-and-events/articles/news/2025/11/17/nato-allies-wrap-up-major-air-exercise-falcon-strike-2025-in-italy>