



First Training Phase for the Italian-led NATO Battle Group in Bulgaria

Published on 23/02/2024

At the *Novo Selo Training Area*, the first training phase of the *NATO Multinational Battle Group* has commenced, aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities and cohesion of the military units deployed in Bulgaria. The personnel, led by Colonel Mariano Rocco Scandurra, actively participated in a series of lessons focused on improving small arms shooting skills.

The live-fire activities aim to strengthen the bond between the various units and increase the operational readiness of the Forward Land Force Battle Group, which currently operates under the *Enhanced Vigilance Activity (eVA)* initiative.

The [132nd Armored Regiment](#), the Italian representative in this important operation, has been deployed in Bulgaria with the goal of contributing to the strengthening of the deterrence and defense posture of the Atlantic Alliance. The Italian tank crews, trained and highly specialized, operate aboard the C1 "Ariete" tank, which represents the main combat platform. It is noteworthy that this is the first time the "Ariete" tank has been deployed on a foreign mission since its participation in the Ancient Babylon mission in Iraq.

All operations and exercises conducted by the Italian Armed Forces on NATO's eastern front are planned by the Chief of Defense Staff and are coordinated and directed by the Joint Operational Command (COVI), thus ensuring effective synergy and optimal coordination of the resources deployed.

This training not only strengthens the operational capabilities of the Italian units but also significantly contributes to the collective security and defense of the Atlantic Alliance. The commitment and professionalism demonstrated by the forces involved testify to Italy's ongoing commitment to ensuring stability and security in the region, in line with NATO's goals and ideals.

[envira-gallery id='7411']