Flintlock 2026: The Rangers of the 4th Alpine Paratroopers Regiment Lead Training in Libya

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SIRTE, Libya – Within the complex security framework of North Africa, the excellence of the Italian Special Forces takes center stage once again. The operators of the **4th Alpine Paratroopers Regiment "Ranger"** are currently engaged in Sirte for **Flintlock 2026**, the main annual special operations exercise of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

This year's edition marks a historic milestone: for the first time, Libya hosts an operational site of the exercise, under the co-leadership of the Italian **Joint Special Operations Command (COFS)**.

Live Fire Training and Interoperability

On April 19, 2026, the Italian Rangers conducted delicate **live fire** activities jointly with Libyan security forces. The primary goal was to enhance operational efficiency in multinational and

multi-domain contexts.

The Rangers, specialized in operations in challenging environments and capable of combining the skills of elite light infantry with Special Forces tactics, provided essential technical and tactical support to increase the lethality and readiness of local counterparts.

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Italy as a Strategic Leader

The role of "co-host" played by Italy in Sirte is not only technical but deeply political. Italian leadership has been crucial for:

- **Coordinating the Multinational Joint Operations Center:** A command center to improve regional security coordination.
- **Supporting Libyan stabilization:** Thanks to the mediation of the Libyan Joint Military Committee (3+3), the exercise allowed security institutions from eastern and western Libya to collaborate closely.
- **Countering terrorism:** Strengthening skills in counterterrorism and border security through the exchange of elite *know-how*.

A Global Network for Stability

Officially launched on April 14 with dual ceremonies in Libya and Ivory Coast, Flintlock 2026 sees the participation of over **30 nations** and about **1,500 military personnel**.

While operations in Ivory Coast focus on command and control in Jacqueville, the Sirte site remains the beating heart of Mediterranean cooperation. The presence of the 4th Regiment Rangers underscores the constant commitment of the Italian Defense in promoting regional stability and building lasting relationships with African partners, once again demonstrating that international security is achieved through shared training and mutual respect for national sovereignty.

In Summary: The Numbers of Flintlock 2026

Feature	Details
Participants	About 1,500 military personnel from over 30 countries
Main Locations	Sirte (Libya) and Abidjan (Ivory Coast)
Tactical Focus	Counterterrorism, Border Security, Civil Protection
Italian Protagonists	4th Alpine Paratroopers Regiment "Ranger" and COFS

> *"Security generates prosperity," stated Lt. Gen. John Brennan (AFRICOM). A principle that the Italian Rangers are putting into practice on the ground, amidst the sands of Sirte.*

News link: https://www.dvidshub.net/video/1004118/italian-special-forces-conduct-live-fire-training-during-flintlock-2026