



Folgore in Milan: When the Army Becomes the Last Line of Defense

Published on 21/10/2026

When crisis situations reach a critical point and routine operations require a decisive shift in pace, military and strategic leaders inevitably turn to the **Brigata Paracadutisti "Folgore"**. More than a simple Italian Army unit, Folgore represents the true **force reserve**, a unit designed to intervene in the most sensitive and complex situations.

Speed, effectiveness, and determination: operational characteristics

The deployment of paratroopers from the various mobilized units — such as the **187° Reggimento** of Livorno, the **186° Reggimento** of Siena, and the **3° Reggimento Savoia Cavalleria** of Grosseto — meets a precise tactical requirement: **the ability to respond immediately**.

The "maroon berets" are trained to operate with extremely rapid deployment and in high-stress operational environments. Their physical and psychological preparation makes them the ideal instrument when required:

- **Decisiveness in action:** the ability to remain clear-headed, disciplined, and coordinated even in the most chaotic situations or hostile environments.
- **Presence and deterrence:** a message of controlled strength and reassurance directed at citizens and the community.
- **Operational flexibility:** an aptitude developed both in overseas international theaters and in the security of national territory, as already demonstrated during Operation "Strade Sicure" and at key locations in major cities.

The institutional framework and operational boundaries

In recent hours, the proposal to extend criminal police powers to military personnel has been halted by the Quirinale. Invoking constitutional principles, the Presidency of the Republic reaffirmed the separation between the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, keeping the deployment of 500 Folgore troops in Milan within Operation "**Strade Sicure**" (2008 Security Decree).

Under the technical and operational direction of the Prefects and Police Commissioners, the paratroopers will carry out static and mobile surveillance, patrol and support duties in securing sensitive sites.

Conclusions: the last resort before the void

The use of Folgore to address the urban emergency raises profound questions about the use of state resources. These are highly trained and carefully selected personnel, whose training has cost Italian taxpayers a great deal of money: the hope is that these capabilities will be employed to the fullest extent of their operational potential and for tasks commensurate with the investment made in them.

Because the facts are clear: **after the paratroopers, there is almost nothing left to deploy**. They literally represent the last barrier and the last resource available.