Folgore on the Front Line: Synergy with the 46th Air Brigade for Operational Readiness

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In the early days of June 2025, the headquarters of the Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore” in Livorno hosted an important seminar dedicated to Airborne Operations. The workshop, featuring key elements of the “Folgore” Brigade and the 46th Air Brigade of Pisa, represented a crucial moment of discussion and planning between two of the most prestigious units of the Italian Armed Forces: the Army and the Air Force.

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The meeting, part of the interforce cooperation framework, aimed to strengthen the operational readiness and interoperability of the two components in conducting airborne operations. In an increasingly dynamic and interconnected strategic context, the ability to operate jointly between different – but complementary – units represents an essential value for national defense and the projection of Italian forces within NATO and internationally.

The importance of the initiative lies in its highly technical and operational nature: the working table allowed personnel from the two brigades to analyze experiences, compare procedures, and improve the integration of their respective systems, particularly in the delicate area of air transport and airdrop of troops and materials.

Readiness, Interoperability, and Joint Training

The seminar is part of a broader training and cooperation path between the “Folgore” Brigade and the 46th Air Brigade, which over the past few years have strengthened their collaboration also internationally. Recently, in fact, the two units were engaged in a complex mass airdrop activity and participated in the multinational exercise “Swift Response 2025”, an integral part of the NATO operation “Defender 25” and the Large Scale Global Exercises.

This exercise, held in various countries in Northern and Eastern Europe – including Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Sweden, and Finland – tested the logistical, operational, and decision-making capabilities of the forces involved, confirming the full integration of Italian troops within the airborne community of the Atlantic Alliance. Airborne activities, in fact, require perfect synchronization between air assets and ground troops, a coordination that can only be

optimized through realistic and large-scale training.

In this scenario, the contribution of the “Folgore” Brigade stood out for its rapid intervention and effective action in complex and multi-thematic environments. At the same time, the 46th Air Brigade provided fundamental support thanks to its fleet of tactical transport aircraft, the professionalism of its crews, and its operational adaptability.

The “Folgore” Brigade: A Modern, Versatile, and “Full Spectrum” Force

The Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore” represents one of the spearheads of the Italian Army. It is a large combat unit with a strong specialist capability, designed to operate in diverse operational contexts, even at high intensity. Its vocation is markedly expeditionary: it can be rapidly deployed in distant operational theaters, adapting to scenarios ranging from conventional warfare to crisis management and collective defense.

Its strength lies not only in the preparation of its men and women but also in the constant attention to inter-arm, interforce, and multinational synergy. Airborne operations are their highest expression, as they require the ability to act in an integrated and coordinated manner with other components of Defense, as demonstrated by the cooperation with the 46th Air Brigade.

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The workshop held in Livorno, therefore, was not just a simple training moment, but a fundamental piece in building a modern Defense, ready and able to face the challenges of an

increasingly complex and competitive international context. Initiatives like these confirm the commitment of the Italian Armed Forces in pursuing operational excellence, while promoting team spirit and unity of purpose among the various components of the national military instrument.