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Frecce Tricolori: Pierluigi Raspa takes over from Franco Paolo Marocco

The November 18 ceremony was held in the hangar of the 313° Gruppo Addestramento Acrobatico, in the presence of civilian and military authorities.

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Command of the **Pattuglia Acrobatica Nazionale** has passed from Lieutenant Colonel **Franco Paolo Marocco** to Lieutenant Colonel **Pierluigi Raspa**. The ceremony was held on Wednesday, **18 November**, in the hangar of the 313° Gruppo Addestramento Acrobatico "Frecce Tricolori".

In his farewell address, Marocco thanked the unit's personnel. He recalled the relationship built during his tenure and said he would continue to follow its activities even after his assignment ends.

“I simply want to offer you my heartfelt thanks,” said the outgoing commander, describing himself as a discreet and ever-present supporter who is “passionate” about the Frecce Tricolori.

Raspa emphasizes continuity and values

Upon assuming command, **Pierluigi Raspa** referred to the changes expected in the coming years. In his view, people, values and the ability to work together will have to ensure the unit’s continuity.

The new commander urged personnel to act with an awareness of what they represent, while respecting those who came before them. He also stressed the need to face the future with enthusiasm and the determination to continue along the path already undertaken.

Major General **Marco Lant**, Comandante delle Forze da Combattimento, attended the ceremony alongside the civilian and military authorities present.

Lant acknowledged Marocco’s commitment, the results achieved during his tenure and his contribution to the unit’s growth. He also reaffirmed Aeronautica Militare’s confidence in Raspa, who has been called upon to lead the Frecce Tricolori through the challenges ahead.

A unit of about 100 service members

The **313° Gruppo Addestramento Acrobatico** is the official designation of the Frecce Tricolori. The Aeronautica Militare flying unit comprises approximately **100 service members** and is tasked with representing the capabilities of the entire Armed Force.

The Pattuglia Acrobatica Nazionale was established on **1 March 1961** at Rivolto Air Base (UD). Through its aerobatic displays, it represents Aeronautica Militare personnel and the values upheld by the Armed Force: cohesion, teamwork, professionalism, dedication and sacrifice.

Skill, tradition and experience have made the **Frecce Tricolori** one of the most recognizable symbols of the Italian Armed Forces and of Italy around the world.

News link: https://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/news/frecce-tricolori-cambio-al-comando-della-pattuglia-acrobatica-nazionale/