Friuli Airmobile Brigade: Gen. Quartuccio New Commander

Published on 10/12/2025

In the solemn setting of the Hall of Honor of the Bologna Garrison Club, the change of command ceremony for the “Friuli” Airmobile Brigade took place on December 9, 2025. The event, which brought together military and civilian authorities, represented a moment of high institutional significance for the Army Aviation and the entire Bologna community. In the presence of the Army Aviation Commander, **Major General Salvatore Annigliato**, **Brigadier General Loreto Bolla** officially handed over the command of the prestigious Major Unit to **Brigadier General Giovanni Quartuccio**.

The “Friuli” Airmobile Brigade, a historic entity of the Italian Army and a reference point for **third-dimension maneuvering** capabilities, has been closely linked to the Emilia-Romagna territory for years. Not surprisingly, Bologna continues to represent not only the geographical headquarters but also the identity center of a military community that has deeply integrated with the social and institutional fabric of the region.

In his farewell speech, Brigadier General Bolla soberly and proudly recounted the most significant moments of his command period, highlighting the dedication of the Brigade's personnel and the ability to face **training, operational, and humanitarian challenges** with professionalism. The ceremony thus marked not only a change at the top but also the confirmation of the Italian Army's constant commitment to ensuring **readiness**, **efficiency**, and **proximity to citizens**.

Two Years of Commitment: Training, Emergencies, and Territorial Roots

The command period of Brigadier General Loreto Bolla was characterized by intense operational and training activity, set in a complex and constantly evolving context. Among the most significant activities, the outgoing Commander recalled the **CAEX (Combined Arms Exercise)**, an essential pillar for consolidating the Army's airmobile capabilities. These exercises allowed the “Friuli” Brigade to perfect the integration between land and air assets, enhancing third-dimension maneuvering, one of the main elements of modernity of the Italian Armed Forces.

UH-90 during the **CAEX (Combined Arms Exercise)**, Source Italian Army.

No less important was the contribution provided during civilian support operations, especially during the natural disasters that severely affected Emilia-Romagna. The Brigade distinguished itself in the **forest fire-fighting campaign** and in the rescue operations following the **2023** flood, deploying helicopters, crews, and qualified personnel. An effort that not only highlighted the **versatility** of airmobile assets but also strengthened the bond between the Brigade and

local institutions.

Among the most significant achievements mentioned during the ceremony was the awarding of the **honorary citizenship of the city of Bologna** to the “Friuli” Airmobile Brigade. A recognition that underscores the deep roots of the Major Unit in the territory and the support provided to the community in times of difficulty. Brigadier General Bolla emphasized how this gesture represents the symbol of a shared identity, built on values of **solidarity**, **service**, and **dedication**.

This growth path has fully aligned with the vision of the **Chief of Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Carmine Masiello**, founded on the three pillars of modernization: **technology, training, and values**. The “Friuli” Brigade has translated these principles into a progressive strengthening of its operational capabilities, increasingly advanced technical training of personnel, and a renewed rooting of ethical and institutional values.

The Future of Friuli: Continuity, Cohesion, and New Challenges

Upon assuming command, Brigadier General Giovanni Quartuccio expressed heartfelt thanks to the Chief of Staff of the Army for the trust placed in him, emphasizing his intention to reciprocate with constant, **transparent**, and **responsible** commitment. His first words as Commander traced a line of continuity with his predecessor's work, while also highlighting the desire to lead the Brigade towards further growth milestones.

General Quartuccio reiterated the importance of **internal cohesion**, **personnel professionalism**, and **dedication to serving the country**. In a global context characterized by instability and increasing unpredictability, the “Friuli” Airmobile Brigade will continue to represent a fundamental tool for the Italian Army's rapid intervention capability, both on national territory and in international operational theaters.

The Army Aviation Commander, Major General Annigliato, in his concluding remarks, expressed deep appreciation for Brigadier General Bolla's work, highlighting his ability to lead the Major Unit during a particularly challenging period. He also emphasized the high level of **efficiency**, **interoperability**, and **operational readiness** achieved by the Brigade, elements that make it a strategic asset for the contemporary Army.

Speech by the Army Aviation Commander, Source Italian Army

With the handover, the “Friuli” inaugurates a new phase of its history: a phase founded on **tradition and innovation**, on a strong sense of belonging, and on a constant commitment to the future. In this spirit, the men and women of the Brigade will continue to operate with the professionalism and courage that have always characterized the Italian Army, keeping their role alive in the service of the country and the community.

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