

General D'Addario inaugurates the Army's new underground training facility in Trecenta

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TRECENTA (Rovigo) – Construction has officially been completed in **Trecenta**, in the province of Rovigo, on a **new state-of-the-art facility** designed for **combat engineer training**, with a specific focus on **operations in subterranean environments**. The complex will be placed fully at the disposal of the **8° Reggimento Genio Guastatori Paracadutisti** of Legnago (VR), a leading unit of the **Brigata Paracadutisti "Folgore"**.

The Armed Force's senior leadership attended the inauguration ceremony: the commander of the Land Operational Forces, **Lieutenant General Lorenzo D'Addario**; the commander of the Engineer Corps, **Major General Gianluca Dello Monaco**; and the commander of the Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore, **Brigadier General Dario Paduano**.

More than 500 meters of tunnels and a multipurpose tower

The facility, designed and built over approximately **twelve months** by the **Reggimento Genio Ferrovieri** of Castel Maggiore (BO), covers a total area of **15,000 square meters**. At the heart of the training area are **more than 500 linear meters of underground tunnels**.
The underground spaces are not simply linear galleries, but **tightly compartmentalized areas** that replicate the hazards of a real network, including **reduced-section passages**. This configuration was designed not only to test the physical and psychological endurance of military personnel, but also to enable the coordinated employment of **military working dog units** and the field testing of **remotely operated systems** (ground drones and micro-UAVs), which are essential for exploring narrow passages before personnel enter.
The range also includes a **multipurpose tower more than 14 meters high**, with **three levels**, allowing vertical and urban-environment maneuvers to be integrated with underground operations. The entire facility is equipped with an advanced **closed-circuit video surveillance system**, designed to allow instructors to continuously monitor exercises in real time and ensure immediate intervention in an emergency.

The challenge of subterranean warfare and the lesson of Gaza

The investment by the **Esercito Italiano** in this type of infrastructure responds to an increasingly central doctrinal requirement in contemporary conflicts: **Subterranean Warfare**. Operating underground is one of the most tactically complex and demanding scenarios for any armed force. In enclosed environments without natural light and often saturated with dust or smoke, conventional technological advantages are drastically reduced:

- **Communications and navigation: GPS signals are unavailable** and **radio communications** suffer severe attenuation, making disorientation likely.
- **Confined spaces and traps:** Movement takes place in single file, with fields of fire reduced to a minimum and a high risk of **ambushes**, **structural collapses**, or **improvised explosive devices (IEDs)**.
- **Air and acoustics:** Poor ventilation requires the use of **self-contained breathing apparatus**, while the reverberation of detonations and gunfire can cause acoustic trauma and sensory disorientation.

The strategic importance of these capabilities has emerged in all its dramatic significance in recent war zones, foremost among them the **conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip**. The extensive network of tunnels built beneath Palestinian urban areas — dubbed the **"*Gaza Metro*"** — has demonstrated how a defender can exploit the underground environment to **negate an adversary's air and armored superiority**, move troops, conceal hostages, and launch surprise attacks. Operations conducted by the **Forze di Difesa Israeliane (IDF)** have highlighted how essential it is to have **highly specialized engineer units** capable of mapping, clearing, and neutralizing complex underground networks without suffering unsustainable losses.

The excellence of the "Campalgenio" capability

The construction of the facility in Trecenta also represents a concrete example of the effectiveness of the **Campalgenio** capability. The **Reggimento Genio Ferrovieri**, operating in synergy with the other units of the **Comando Genio**, serves as a genuine **internal implementing body** within the Armed Force.
Through this approach, military personnel can independently manage **the entire life cycle of an infrastructure project**: from feasibility studies to detailed design, from contract awards through to physical construction. This operational model makes it possible to **reduce time and costs**, while ensuring the continuous maintenance, enhancement, and modernization of the **training infrastructure of the Esercito Italiano**.

News link: https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/nuova-struttura-addestrativa-per-i-genieri-dell8reggimento-genio-paracadutisti/217914.html