



General Portolano pays tribute to the A.N.P.d'I. and the Paratroopers: “Guardians of a legacy of courage, daring and total devotion to the Nation”

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On the occasion of the National Gathering of the Associazione Nazionale Paracadutisti d'Italia, scheduled to take place in Pistoia on October 23 and 24, 2026, the Chief of Defense Staff, General Luciano Portolano, sent a message to the National President, Lieutenant General (ret.) Marco Bertolini, and to all the paratroopers who will take part in this important event.

In his message, General Portolano conveyed the greetings of the Armed Forces and his own personal greetings, highlighting the value of the National Gathering as an opportunity for serving and retired paratroopers to meet, united by a shared legacy of courage, boldness, and

dedication to the nation.

«This Gathering represents a moment of fundamental continuity of values, capable of ideally uniting retired Paratroopers with serving personnel», the Chief of Defense Staff noted.

Recognition of the ANPd'I's role

Particularly significant was the section devoted to the work carried out by the Associazione Nazionale Paracadutisti d'Italia, to which General Portolano expressed his gratitude for its daily commitment to promoting defense awareness and safeguarding the values of the Speciality.

«Your steadfast commitment to promoting defense awareness, in society and through training and civil protection activities, demonstrates the enduring nature of the "spirit of the Speciality," a cornerstone of the Paratroopers' identity».

This recognition highlights the ANPd'I's contribution to keeping the bond between generations of paratroopers alive, preserving their traditions and fostering a sense of belonging through the many activities conducted by its Sections throughout the country.

Remembering the Fallen and the operational value of paratroopers

In his remarks, the Chief of Defense Staff paid a moving tribute to the memory of the Fallen, recalling those who, under the motto «Come folgore dal cielo...», sacrificed their lives for the security and freedom of Italy's institutions.

General Portolano also reaffirmed the importance of parachute units in the current operational environment, emphasizing their readiness, flexibility, and strong sense of duty.

«The operational readiness, flexibility, and exceptionally strong sense of duty of parachute units continue to represent an indispensable asset for the nation's military instrument», the General wrote, referring to their contribution both in international operational theaters and during emergency situations across the country.

Best wishes for the National Gathering in Pistoia

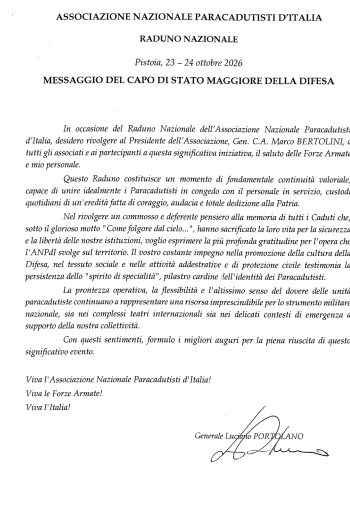
The message concludes with best wishes for the full success of the National Gathering, which this year forms part of celebrations marking the 84th anniversary of the Battaglia di El-Alamein and the Paratroopers' Speciality Day, occasions of profound significance for all those who have worn and continue to wear the maroon beret.

To conclude the message, three exclamations recalling the values of the Association, the Armed Forces, and the Nation:

«Long live the Associazione Nazionale Paracadutisti d'Italia!

Long live the Armed Forces!

Long live Italy!»



News link: <https://assopar.it/2026/10/07/pistoia-23-ottobre-2026-84-anniversario-della-battaglia-di-el-alamein-festa-dei-paracadutisti-adunata-nazionale-anpd/>