



Gianfranco Paglia with our Paratroopers in Kosovo

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In recent days, the [Gold Medal for Military Valor Gianfranco Paglia](#) visited the Italian contingent engaged in the KFOR mission in Kosovo, an important occasion to reaffirm the strong bond between the Italian Armed Forces and national institutions. The visit is part of the celebrations for the Italian Army Day, offering a unique opportunity to express gratitude towards the Italian military operating in challenging international theaters.

Upon arriving in Pristina, Paglia reached the Regional Command West (RC-W) at Camp Villaggio Italia. Here he met the Commander of the RC-W, signed the Honor Book, and paid homage to the War Flag. The gesture had a strong symbolic significance, highlighting the importance of the mission. Another significant moment was the meeting with the Italian personnel, to whom he offered words of encouragement and appreciation for their daily commitment and courage.

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A Bond Between Military Mission and Civil Initiatives

The visit was not limited to official meetings but also included moments of connection with the local culture and community. Paglia visited the Visoki Dečani monastery, a UNESCO heritage site, and participated in a donation ceremony organized by the Lions Club of Pistoia in Ljutoglava. This initiative strengthened the bond between the Italian mission and civil activities, confirming the role of the Armed Forces not only as guarantors of security but also as protagonists of solidarity initiatives.

Furthermore, the Gold Medal visited the “Haxhi Zeka” University in Pejë, where he met with students and academics. During the meeting, he shared his experience and discussed the value of service and dedication to duty, central themes that reflect the high spirit of sacrifice that characterizes Italian soldiers in international missions.

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Army Day and Celebration of Military Valor

The day concluded with the national flag-raising ceremony and the celebration of the Army Day at Camp Villaggio Italia, in the presence of the entire Italian contingent. This moment represented an opportunity to renew the support and gratitude of the Italian institutions towards the military, who contribute daily to stability and security in Kosovo and other international missions.

On this occasion, Major General Giovanni Barduani, Commander of KFOR, also spoke, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and the dedication of each individual soldier. Paglia's visit thus also had a strong institutional component, confirming that the sense of responsibility and belonging is essential for the success of missions abroad, a commitment that unites the Italian Armed Forces and civil society, for the benefit of global peace and security.