

Golden Lion 2025: The Vittorio Veneto Division Prepares for the NATO Commitment

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The exercise "GOLDEN LION 2025" represented a crucial phase in the preparation process of the "Vittorio Veneto" Division, designated as Multinational Division South (MND-S), for the imminent commitment as Land Component Command of the Allied Reaction Force (LCC ARF) of NATO. The operation took place between the former SIPE-NOBEL factory in Orbetello and the areas of Case Calcinari and Lampugnao (SI), with the aim of testing the operational capability of the Division in the context of complex multinational operations.

The exercise involved about 850 military personnel and had as its main purpose the verification of the deployment and activation capability of the Command and Control Nodes (C2), including a Main Command Post and two Forward Command Posts. Essential for the success of the mission was maintaining the connectivity of the Communication and Information Systems (CIS) between the nodes and the use of NATO's Functional Area Services, to ensure that command and control operations remained effective and smooth in any scenario.

An additional test was the capability of the command posts to perform "jumps", that is, to reposition quickly to ensure that the command and control function remained aligned with the maneuvers of the units in the field. This type of capability is fundamental in modern warfare scenarios, where mobility and the ability to adapt quickly are crucial for success.

The leadership of Gen. C.A. Salvatore Cuoci and the role of the "Vittorio Veneto" Division

Gen. C.A. Salvatore Cuoci, Deputy Commander and Commander of the Operational Area of COMFOTER, visited the "Vittorio Veneto" Division during the exercise, emphasizing the importance of this preparation for the imminent commitment within NATO. In his speech to the personnel, Cuoci stated: "The division is about to face a tough and challenging year. Your actions and experiences will shape the Army of the future. You are the spearhead of a device, the ARF, that is ready for all NATO's needs and representatives not only of the Armed Forces but also of our Country."



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This statement highlights the prominent role of the "Vittorio Veneto" in NATO's operations. Starting from July 1, 2025, the Division will command numerous units, both Italian and allied. Among these, the Alpine Brigade "Julia" stands out, which with its regiments and the support of a Turkish battalion and a Spanish one, will be a key element in the land component of the ARF.

Gen. C.A. Cuoci also emphasized the importance of the speed of deployment and repositioning of the Command Posts' equipment, as well as the activation of the Communication and

Information Systems, which are essential for effective command and control exercise. This aspect is fundamental for modern operations, where mobility, resilience, and redundancy are essential, and the logistical and electromagnetic impact must be minimized.

The participation of the Italian armed forces and the contribution of the involved units

The exercise "GOLDEN LION 2025" saw significant commitment from multiple units of the Italian Army, with the support of allied armed forces. The valuable contribution of the 78th Command and Tactical Support Unit "Lupi di Toscana" was fundamental in managing the operations, as well as the work of the personnel of the "Rolle" battalion of the 7th Transmission Regiment of Sacile, which managed communications during the exercise.

Another key player was the Alpine Brigade "Julia", which played a pivotal role in the exercise. The Brigade's units, particularly the 8th Alpine Regiment of Venzone, the 2nd Transmission Regiment of Bolzano, and the "Julia" Logistic Regiment of Merano, were engaged in command post deployment operations, resupply in realistic conditions, and tactical recovery maneuvers in mountainous environments. These activities allowed testing of operational techniques in complex scenarios, similar to those that forces might face in real war theaters.

The success of "GOLDEN LION 2025" was determined by the close collaboration between Italian and allied forces, which demonstrated a remarkable capacity for integration and adaptation to various operational scenarios. This type of preparation is crucial to ensure a rapid and effective NATO response in case of international crises.



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In conclusion, the exercise "GOLDEN LION 2025" represented a decisive moment in the preparation of the "Vittorio Veneto" Division for its upcoming commitment as Land Component Command of the Allied Reaction Force. The exercise highlighted the importance of rapid deployment capability, advanced management of communication systems, and maintaining the functionality of command posts, essential elements for successfully operating in high-intensity modern scenarios.

The cooperation between the Italian armed forces and those of other NATO member countries once again demonstrated the effectiveness of the alliance system in ensuring collective security, preparing to respond promptly to any Alliance needs. The "Vittorio Veneto" is now set to play a central role in NATO operations, confirming its position at the forefront of the Alliance's land operations.