

# Goodbye classroom, today we fly: 160 students take to the skies with the Air Force

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From the theory of flight physics to an actual takeoff aboard an HH-139B helicopter: the Aeronautical Culture Course at the "Alessandro Serpieri" Institute has concluded, turning students from across the province into young aviators for 10 days.

Imagine swapping regular classroom lessons for a few days for the roar of rotors and a bird's-eye view of the Romagna coast. That is exactly what **160 students** from five high schools in Rimini, Riccione, and Morciano di Romagna experienced. On Thursday, 26 November, the local edition of the **Aeronautical Culture Course** concluded at the "Alessandro Serpieri" Higher Education Institute. The Aeronautica Militare project is designed to give students an inside look at the world of flight.

## Theory first, then takeoff

The program, which began on 16 November, was not merely a school trip but a genuine intensive course divided into two phases:

- **Ground preparation (16 – 19 November):** Instructors from the **60° Stormo di Guidonia** — the unit that trains future military pilots — guided the students through the fundamentals of aerodynamics, meteorology, and flight safety.
- **Field training (23 – 26 November):** Once they had learned the basics, it was time for action at Rimini Airport. Crews from the **15° Stormo di Cervia** then took over, flying participants aboard an **HH-139B**, one of the most advanced helicopters in service with the Air Force.

## Excellence serving the community

Boarding the HH-139B allowed the students to experience firsthand what it means to operate in the **SAR** (*Search and Rescue*) field. It is not only about technology and flying skills, but also work that has a direct impact on people’s lives.
This connection is especially meaningful in Emilia-Romagna: the crews and helicopters of the 15° Stormo di Cervia were on the front line during the **May 2023 flooding** emergency, working tirelessly to rescue hundreds of citizens.

## A look to the future

The Aeronautical Culture Course — held in four different Italian cities each year — was created to guide younger generations toward educational paths and careers where **science, technology, and teamwork** are essential. Through simulators, technical instruction, and the thrill of takeoff, the initiative offered the 160 students from Romagna a tangible perspective on how to turn a passion for the sky into a profession.

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**News link:** https://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/news/corso-di-cultura-aeronautica-a-rimini-160-studenti-hanno-vissuto-due-settimane-di-formazione-tra-lezioni-teoriche-e-attivita-di-volo/