

Historic Triumph: The Challenge Trophy Returns to Modena… to Stay

Published on 05/04/2025

The **Military Academy of Modena** has written another memorable page in its history, winning the prestigious **“Challenge” Trophy** for the **third consecutive edition** in the XXXII edition of the Military Academies Tournament. Thanks to top-level performances in the disciplines of **swimming, athletics, volleyball**, and **precision shooting with a .22 caliber pistol**, the team composed of Cadets from the Academy and Officers attending the Army Officers School in Turin, along with Carabinieri Cadets from Rome, achieved a clear and well-deserved victory. The cup, a symbol of interforce military sports excellence, now **permanently enters the trophy case** of the Ducal Palace, the historic seat of the Military Academy of Modena, consecrating a winning cycle distinguished by consistency, discipline, and team spirit.

The **Inter Academies Tournament**, initiated by the **Defense General Staff** in 1967, today represents one of the most significant moments in the training calendar of the Armed Forces. It involves the four main Italian academies – **Modena, Livorno, Pozzuoli, and Bergamo** – in a biennial competition that combines sports, training, and competition among about **250**

athletes, selected from the best cadets of each Institute. The disciplines provided – **athletics, swimming, basketball, volleyball, and target shooting** – test not only physical preparation but also the ability to work as a team, maintain concentration under pressure, and represent their respective corps with honor.

This year, the event took place at the sports facilities of the Military Academy, in the prestigious setting of the **Ducal Palace of Modena**, an institution that has been training generations of Officers for the Army and the Carabinieri for over **160 years**. The tournament began with a solemn opening ceremony, during which the traditional **Athlete's Oath** was pronounced, and concluded with the **awards ceremony**, where the Challenge Trophy was handed over to the winners amid the applause of the military authorities present.



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Team Spirit, Discipline, and Military Values

During the closing ceremony, Major General **Davide Scalabrin**, Commander of the Academy, proudly highlighted the significance of this achievement: "**Motivation, team spirit, and the will to surpass one's limits** are fundamental values for those who wear a uniform." The General also emphasized how the tournament represents an extraordinary growth opportunity for the Cadets, who learn to engage not only in competitions but also in understanding other professional cultures and developing an interforce mindset.

The competition days, in fact, were not solely dedicated to athletic trials but offered moments of **sharing, dialogue, and exchange** among participants, strengthening the sense of belonging and esprit de corps. This aspect, less visible but equally important, constitutes one of the

fundamental pillars of military training: creating bonds among future officers who will one day, in joint missions or international contexts, have to operate side by side.

The event thus confirms itself as a **leadership training ground**, where, in addition to athletic preparation, essential qualities such as resilience, self-discipline, mutual respect, and the ability to represent one's institution with honor are honed.



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Modena, Symbol of Military and Sports Excellence

The 2025 edition once again confirmed the **centrality of the Military Academy of Modena** in the training landscape of the Armed Forces. Hosting **over 270 athletes** and managing every phase of the organization with rigor, the Institute proved worthy of its prestige, not only as a place of training but also as a center for gathering and enhancing young military talent.

The **third consecutive victory** is not just a sporting achievement but the culmination of an educational vision based on the balance between physical performance, academic preparation, and moral growth. With the permanent possession of the **Challenge Trophy**, the Military Academy of Modena strengthens its role as a point of reference for all academies, reaffirming the value of commitment, daily sacrifice, and dedication to the service of the Homeland.

This success represents pride for the entire Italian military community and a shining example for future generations of officers: a result built day by day, with passion, rigor, and a shared vision of excellence and responsibility.



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