Interoperability and Innovation: The Success of the Army Exercises 'Cerbero' and 'Stige'

Published on 25/06/2025

On June 24, 2025, a crucial event for the Italian Army concluded: the **exercises "Cerbero" and "Stige"**, held in two training areas: “La Carona” in the Municipality of Fornovo di Taro (PR) and “Scalo Po” in Piacenza. These operational scenarios were planned to test and enhance the capabilities of the **Combat Engineers units**, particularly to tackle underground operations and the crossing of impassable watercourses. The exercises, which saw the participation of the **Chief of Staff of the Army, General of the Army Corps Carmine Masiello**, were fundamental for the operational evolution of the Army and to ensure preparedness for extreme contexts, requiring great adaptability and coordination between units.

Interoperability and Innovation: The Success of the Army Exercises 'Cerbero' and 'Stige' - brigatafolgore.net

The Combat Engineers were tested in scenarios requiring optimal management of resources and specific skills, such as combat in underground environments and the enhancement of tactical operations for crossing unfordable watercourses. The most significant test involved the units of the 8th Paratrooper Engineer Regiment and the 2nd Pontieri Engineer Regiment, which had to overcome complex obstacles, coordinating with special forces, attack helicopters, and reconnaissance units. This operation confirmed how the level of preparedness is crucial to ensure mobility, protection, and security in hostile environments.

Interoperability among the different Army units

One of the main features of the “Cerbero” and “Stige” exercises was the heightened interoperability among different specialist assets, which improved the overall effectiveness of the Army. The integration between reconnaissance units, engineers, special forces, and air support was decisive in enhancing the synergy of operations, an aspect that is increasingly fundamental in a modern warfare context, where the speed of response and coordination among different specializations can make the difference.

Interoperability and Innovation: The Success of the Army Exercises 'Cerbero' and 'Stige' - brigatafolgore.net

The crossing of an unfordable watercourse, as simulated in Piacenza, was a perfect example of this cooperation. The units of the 2nd Pontieri Engineer Regiment had to face various difficulties, including natural obstacles and the threat of long-range observation, typical of modern technological means. In this context, the ability to coordinate with helicopters and special forces played a fundamental role, highlighting the complementarity between the different units and the importance of an integrated operational approach.

Cultural evolution and change within the Army

As highlighted by the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Masiello, the exercise was not only a technical test but also an opportunity to promote cultural change within the Army. This change is based on greater awareness and preparedness of soldiers, who must be ready to face both expected scenarios and the unpredictable. The general emphasized the importance of continuous training in realistic scenarios, requiring high physical, technical, and mental preparation. Security and freedom, as stated by Minister Crosetto, are never taken for granted, but the result of constant training work and operational readiness that must be guaranteed at all times.

This philosophy is reflected in the evolutionary path of the Army, which focuses on the development of new technologies, the introduction of operational innovations, and a proactive approach to future challenges. The integration of new technologies in communication systems, reconnaissance operations, and combat support is another aspect that was highlighted during the exercises, showing how the Army is evolving to more effectively face modern challenges.

Interoperability and Innovation: The Success of the Army Exercises 'Cerbero' and 'Stige' - brigatafolgore.net

In conclusion, the "Cerbero" and "Stige" exercises represented a fundamental testing ground for the Italian Army's Engineer units, strengthening their ability to operate in complex scenarios and improving cooperation among different assets. Cultural change, the adoption of new technologies, and the continuous improvement of operational capabilities are essential to ensure the country's security and prepare the armed forces to face future challenges. The active participation of all Army components, in a spirit of sharing and determination, is the sign of an institution ready to respond effectively to the challenges that arise in a constantly evolving world.