



Italian Army: in L'Aquila the Village that Celebrates 165 Years of History, Innovation, and Proximity to the Country

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L'Aquila returns to the national stage by hosting the celebrations for the **165th anniversary of the establishment of the Italian Army**. A choice far from random: the capital of Abruzzo, a **symbol of resilience and rebirth**, represents the ideal context to tell the deep bond between the Armed Forces and the community.

The inauguration of the **"Army Village"**, in the presence of the National Territorial Commander, General of the Army Corps Gianpaolo Mirra, Mayor Pierluigi Biondi, and Prefect Vito Cusumano, marked the start of **five intense days of activities**. The ribbon-cutting, accompanied by the **flag-raising** and the notes of military fanfares, immediately conveyed the sense of a celebration that goes beyond rituality, transforming into a **moment of sharing and participation**.

The Italian Army, heir to a tradition that dates back to 1861, presents itself today as a **modern and highly operational reality**, capable of acting in complex scenarios and effectively responding to the country's needs. The presence in L'Aquila reinforces this message, highlighting the role of the Armed Forces not only in national defense but also in **supporting populations** in times of crisis.

The Village: Technology, Training, and Operational Capabilities

In the heart of the city, between Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Piazza San Bernardino, the Army Village is configured as a **dynamic showcase of the operational and technological capabilities** of the Armed Forces. An articulated exhibition path that allows visitors to come into direct contact with men, vehicles, and tools that daily ensure **security and stability**.

From the flight simulators of the A-129 Mangusta helicopter to **cyber defense** systems, passing through drones and units specialized in ordnance disposal, the Village tells the story of an Army **projected towards the future**. An organization capable of integrating technological innovation and human preparation, essential elements to face contemporary challenges.



Army Village at the Historic Center of L'Aquila. Source: Italian Army.

Particularly significant is the presence of the 183rd Regiment "Nembo" with Military Fitness activities, as well as demonstrations by canine units and CBRN departments, testifying to the **versatility and high level of training** achieved. Attention to recruitment and training is not lacking, with spaces dedicated to **guiding young people** interested in pursuing a military career.

Also on display are the main land vehicles in service, including the Centauro 2 armored car, the VBM “Freccia”, the VTMM “Orso”, and the VTLM 2: platforms that represent the **excellence of the national industry** and the Army's ability to operate in diverse contexts, in Italy and abroad.

Celebrations: Identity, Values, and Future Projection

The celebration program unfolds through events capable of uniting **solemnity and popular involvement**. Performances by military fanfares and the Army Band enliven the city squares, contributing to creating a climate of widespread participation and strengthening the **bond between institution and citizens**.

The culminating moment is scheduled for May 5, with the **solemn ceremony in Piazza Duomo**. After the laying of the laurel wreath at the Monument to the Fallen, units representing the different components of the Army will give life to a demonstration that combines tradition and operational capability. Demonstrations with helicopters and paratroopers will offer a concrete image of the **readiness and efficiency** of the Armed Forces.



Opening ceremony of the Army Village. Source: Italian Army.

The closing of the Village with the flag-lowering will seal five days of intense activity, leaving a clear message: the Italian Army is a **solid, modern institution deeply rooted in the social fabric** of the country.

In an international context marked by instability and new challenges, the celebration of the 165th anniversary is not just a commemorative moment, but an opportunity to reaffirm the

strategic role of the Army as an instrument of defense, security, and national cohesion. A discreet but decisive presence, capable of combining **history, values, and innovation in the service of Italy**.

News link: <https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/inaugurato-il-villaggio-esercito-a-laquila/186900.html>