



Jaguar 2026: technology, exploration, and cooperation at the service of the Army

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The exercise **“Jaguar 2026”** concluded in recent days, one of the main training activities dedicated to the reconnaissance platoons of the Italian Army. The activity involved numerous units from different specialties of the Armed Forces with the aim of developing and consolidating observation, information gathering, and support capabilities for tactical operations in increasingly complex scenarios.

The exercise was attended by soldiers from the **1st Regiment “Granatieri di Sardegna”**, the **151st Infantry Regiment “Sassari”**, the **5th Infantry Regiment “Aosta”**, the **82nd Infantry Regiment “Torino”**, the **187th Paratrooper Regiment “Folgore”**, the **1st Bersaglieri Regiment**, and the **66th Airmobile Infantry Regiment “Trieste”**.

The training was designed to replicate realistic operational situations, in which the scouts had to demonstrate not only technical preparation but also **physical endurance, decision-making**

ability, and adaptability. The assigned missions required participants to operate in environments characterized by variable threats and a high level of uncertainty, elements that are now a constant in modern operational theaters.

In the context of contemporary land operations, the role of the scout is indeed becoming increasingly important. The ability to acquire timely information, identify enemy movements, and provide accurate data to higher decision-making levels is one of the determining factors for the success of operations. In this sense, “Jaguar 2026” constituted a true operational laboratory in which to test procedures, techniques, and tools intended to support the modern combatant.

Drones and advanced systems: innovation at the center of training

One of the most significant aspects of the exercise was the massive use of **new technologies applied to land exploration**. During the activities, the soldiers used drones, advanced sensors, and next-generation observation systems to identify targets, monitor areas of interest, and transmit information to command posts.

The use of these tools demonstrates how the modern battlefield is increasingly characterized by the integration between human capabilities and technological systems. Scouts are no longer just observers on the ground but become true nodes of an information network capable of collecting, processing, and sharing data in extremely short times.



Observation activity. Source: Italian Army.

The training activities also included exercises in **survival, tactical orientation, and reconnaissance in enemy-controlled areas**, as well as simulations of requesting indirect fire support through the use of medium and heavy mortars. These procedures allow personnel to be trained to operate in realistic conditions, maintaining the ability to coordinate with support units and higher command levels.

Particular attention was paid to the integration of information from different sources. Data collected by patrols on the ground, direct observations, and images from drones were combined to create the most complete and updated situational picture possible.

This evolution reflects the ongoing transformations in Western armed forces, where information superiority is today one of the main multipliers of operational effectiveness. The speed in collecting and distributing information can indeed make the difference between the success and failure of a mission, especially in high-intensity contexts.

International cooperation and European interoperability

Besides the technological aspects, “Jaguar 2026” represented an important opportunity for professional growth through the exchange between units belonging to different specialties and allied nations.

Of particular note was the participation of personnel from the **French Armée de Terre**, from the **Groupeement Commando de la 7e Brigade Blindée**, whose presence further enriched the value of the training activity. The exchange of procedures, operational methodologies, and experiences gained in different contexts allowed participants to expand their professional knowledge and strengthen their ability to operate in an integrated manner.



Sniper aiming. Source: Italian Army.

The cooperation between Italy and France fits into the broader framework of growing collaboration among European armed forces, aimed at developing **interoperability, common standards, and shared capabilities**. In an international context characterized by increasingly complex challenges, the ability to work effectively together is an essential element to ensure operational readiness and credibility of the military instrument.

The final phase of the exercise saw the simultaneous deployment of various assets, including foot patrols, military vehicles, drone operators, and fire support units. This complex scenario allowed participants to put into practice all the skills developed during the training cycle, verifying procedures and operational capabilities in the field.

With the conclusion of “Jaguar 2026”, the Italian Army confirms its commitment to maintaining high levels of preparation through realistic, innovative training oriented towards the needs of future operational scenarios. **Technology, professionalism, and international cooperation** emerge as the three fundamental pillars of a path aimed at ensuring forces that are increasingly ready, effective, and interoperable.

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