



La Folgore salutes the Warriors of the Rising Sun

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In recent days, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General of the Army Corps **Carmine Masiello**, met his Japanese counterpart, General **Masayoshi Arai**, Chief of Staff of the **Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)**, as part of an official visit that involved some units of the Italian Army.

The two days of work took place in a climate of **maximum collaboration**, with an open and constructive dialogue on the main challenges that land forces face today: from the use of **emerging technologies** to the definition of **new doctrines**, to the evolution of future **structures and operational capabilities**, increasingly integrated and interconnected with those of the Allies.

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Mangusta '25: Italian and Japanese paratroopers side by side

Among the most significant moments of the visit, the Japanese delegation attended the exercise **“Mangusta 2025”**, directed by the **Comando Brigata Paracadutisti “Folgore”**, which this year saw for the first time the participation of a **platoon from the 1st Airborne Brigade of Japan**.

The Japanese paratroopers operated **side by side** with the Italian paratroopers, the **special forces**, the assets of the **Army Aviation** and units from five Allied countries – **France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, and Spain** – consolidating the ability to plan and conduct joint operations in multinational contexts.

The exercise confirmed how **interoperability between forces** represents a multiplier of effectiveness: *together, the allied units are more ready, more flexible, and more effective in responding to crises.*

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Joint training and Italian parachuting certification

A central role was played by the activities of **integration and pre-jump training** conducted at the **Parachuting Training Center**, essential for illustrating and testing the procedures and materials used by Italian paratroopers:

- correct **harnessing** and parachute dressing;
- behavior inside the **aircraft**;
- exit **procedures**;
- management of the **descent phase**;
- safe **landing techniques**.

At the end of the training cycle, the Japanese paratroopers **jumped from a military aircraft**, thus obtaining the **Italian parachuting certification** and concretely sealing the professional closeness between the two Armies.

A growing path of cooperation

The visit of the Japanese delegation represents a **further step** in the path of cooperation between the Italian Army and the JGSDF, **relaunched last January**, with the shared goal of:

- strengthening the **interoperability** between land units;
- expanding the **joint training programs**;
- developing common projects in the field of **technological innovation**;
- promoting **training** initiatives and exchange of experiences between specialized units.

The joint commitment in exercises like **Mangusta '25**, combined with the regular exchange of knowledge and best practices, contributes to building **more prepared and cohesive land forces**, capable of operating together in any operational scenario.