



LECCE: ITALY LEADS THE NATO TASK FORCE X CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVE

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The activities of the first phase of the **Task Force X - Central Mediterranean (TFX CentMed)** began yesterday in Puglia and the southern sector of the Adriatic Sea. The operations, a crucial piece for the future of collective defense, will continue until July 10. For the first time, the Alliance's operational experimentation tests the integration and adoption of new technologies and multidomain capabilities, ensuring the fusion of data from underwater to Space.

The initiative, developed by the **NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT)** and led in the field by the Italian **Stato Maggiore della Difesa**, brings to our country one of the most advanced operational experimentation programs of the entire Atlantic Alliance, specifically designed to test, integrate, and adopt cutting-edge technologies and unprecedented capabilities.

An unprecedented multidomain breakthrough

For the first time in the history of these exercises, the scope of TFX CentMed sees the simultaneous experimentation of operational capabilities in the **five key domains**:

- Land
- Maritime
- Air
- Cyber
- Space

This complex architecture is further enhanced by the integration of data flows from the **underwater** environment and the **electromagnetic spectrum**. The event's primacy is also geopolitical and organizational: it is indeed the **first Task Force X to be entirely led by a single Nation**, a milestone that confirms Italy's strategic role as an absolute reference point in NATO's process of transformation and technological innovation.

International cooperation and technological innovation

The TFX CentMed is structured in progressive testing phases and sees the synergistic involvement of personnel and military assets from **Croatia, Latvia, Slovenia, and the United States** (the latter already deployed in the Mediterranean basin).

The scientific and operational objective of the task force is the validation of a complex "**system of systems**". This IT and tactical architecture is designed to connect and make fully interoperable different platforms, advanced sensors, as well as piloted and unpiloted systems (drones and autonomous vehicles). The organizers emphasize a fundamental ethical and operational principle: the entire setup ensures that **full human control always remains at the center** of every decision and operational deployment.

The initiative thus represents a strategic and innovative response to emerging security challenges, directly contributing to the strengthening of multidomain defense and deterrence on the **Southern Flank of NATO**, a geopolitical area considered increasingly central and sensitive for the stability of the Alliance.



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Statements from military leaders

Admiral Pierre Vandier (Supreme Allied Commander Transformation):

"The Task Force X Central Mediterranean represents a significant step for the Alliance. For the first time, we are applying the Task Force X model across all domains simultaneously, on NATO's Southern Flank, with Italy leading and Allies contributing. This is how NATO learns and adapts: by testing emerging technologies in realistic operational conditions, integrating manned and unmanned systems, and transforming what works into capabilities that Allies can adopt and scale quickly."

General Luciano Portolano (Chief of Defense Staff):

"Italy leads the Task Force X CentMed to concretely contribute to the innovation and technological development of the Alliance, promoting the integration process between Armed Forces operating in different domains and among allied countries, to increase NATO's complementarity, redundancy, and resilience, strengthening its operational effectiveness."

The role of industry

The program is not limited to the strictly military dimension. The initiative indeed involves the strong participation of the main **industrial entities in the defense sector** in field

experimentation activities. This synergy aims to foster valuable opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and industrial development, laying the foundations for important technological partnerships both nationally and internationally.