

Legnago, 30 new Folgore Parachute Combat Engineers qualify

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Nine weeks of intensive training spanning theory, demolitions at Foce Reno and underground warfare. Thirty new specialists ready to operate in the most complex scenarios.

The **3rd Qualifying Course for Parachute Combat Engineers** concluded on **November 20, 2026**, at the headquarters of the **8° Reggimento Genio Guastatori Paracadutisti "Folgore"** in Legnago. The selective nine-week program enabled **30 paratroopers** to earn the combat engineer qualification and acquire the technical and operational skills required by one of the Italian Army's most versatile and in-demand specialties.

Structured into theoretical and practical modules of increasing difficulty, the course prepared attendees for technical reconnaissance, the use of explosives and specialist engineer procedures, confirming the Armed Force's continued commitment to excellence in personnel training.

The test: demolitions and realistic scenarios at Foce Reno

The culmination of the training program took place at the **Foce Reno (RA)** military range. There, in scenarios designed to realistically replicate the conditions of the modern battlefield, the 30 paratroopers carried out **explosive circuit assembly, mine handling, the management of unexploded ordnance and technical demolitions**.
Through realistic and progressively demanding exercises, the 8° Reggimento maintains and develops the capabilities essential to supporting Armed Force units in a wide range of operational contexts, both in Italy and abroad.

The Combat Engineer, the fighting arm of the Corps of Engineers

On the modern battlefield, the combat engineer is the link between light infantry and advanced military engineering, combining advanced combat capabilities with technical expertise applicable both in warfare and civil protection. Their missions are organized along three core lines of effort:

- **Mobility (Opening the way):** Ensuring the advance of friendly forces by overcoming natural or man-made obstacles. Combat engineers clear minefields, remove booby traps and breach obstacles under enemy fire, often operating specialized armored vehicles such as pioneer engineer tanks and mine-clearing line charge systems.
- **Countermobility (Slowing the enemy):** Denying or slowing enemy maneuver through the emplacement of defensive minefields, the construction of complex obstacles and field fortifications, and the destruction of bridges, viaducts and strategic road junctions.
- **Protection and Combat Support:** Ensuring the operational survivability of units by building trenches, protected shelters and fighting positions for armored vehicles, as well as conducting the neutralization of unexploded ordnance (**EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal**).

The new frontier: underground warfare

In addition to its traditional tasks, the 8° Reggimento Guastatori Paracadutisti “Folgore” is now the Italian Army’s center of excellence for one of the most complex tactical challenges: **underground combat**. Designated by the Italian Army General Staff as the *coordinating and*

training authority for developing this capability, the Regiment trains its personnel to move, survive, and fight inside tunnels, bunkers, urban passageways, and underground infrastructure. Operating underground enables maneuver under cover from observation and ballistic threats, but presents critical challenges related to navigation, safety, and communications (Command and Control - C2). To address them, combat engineers undergo training focused on movement in confined spaces and *breaching* techniques (forcible entry), supported by a cutting-edge technological arsenal:

- **Sensors and mapping:** Use of **UAV (drone)** systems for underground reconnaissance, advanced night-vision devices, **LIDAR** technology, and **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** to reconstruct the layout of concealed environments.
- **Electronic warfare and safety:** Employment of **CEMA (Cyber Electromagnetic Activity)** systems to neutralize electronic threats, along with innovative materials designed to mitigate the effects of detonations in confined environments.

With the completion of this third qualification course, the 8° Reggimento “Folgore” further consolidates its role as a strategic asset for national defense and security, ready to deploy high-end technological and operational capabilities in every environment, from the sky to the depths underground.

News link: https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/concluso-il-3-corso-per-guastatori-paracadutisti/217071.html