



NATO's Southern Flank: Gen. Bennett (LANDCOM) Visits Gen. Giuseppe Scuderi's MND-S

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FIRENZE – The **Multinational Division South (MND-S)** had the privilege of hosting **Lieutenant General Jez Bennett**, acting *Commander* of NATO's **Allied Land Command (LANDCOM)**, at its headquarters in Firenze.

The high-level visit highlighted the significant progress made by MND-S since its establishment: a crucial evolution that now sees it transitioning from its role as the land component command of the **Allied Reaction Force (ARF)** to a fully fledged **warfighting division**. The organization is now ready to command and synchronize brigades from Allied nations in large-scale combat operations (*Large-Scale Combat Operations - LSCO*), protecting and defending the southern flank of the Atlantic Alliance.

The Mission of Allied Land Command (LANDCOM)

The **Allied Land Command (LANDCOM)**, headquartered in Izmir (Turkey), is NATO's senior command responsible for the synergy, interoperability, and operational readiness of all the

Atlantic Alliance's land forces.

LANDCOM's primary tasks include:

- **Planning and Synchronization:** Ensuring that the land forces of member nations are interoperable, standardized, and ready to act rapidly in accordance with NATO defense plans.
- **Operational Command and Training:** Providing strategic and tactical guidance for complex exercises and assessing the readiness of Corps and Division headquarters.
- **Cornerstone of Land Deterrence:** LANDCOM reports directly to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and constitutes the pillar underpinning the Alliance's land deterrence capability.

Until a few months ago, LANDCOM was commanded by U.S. Army General [General Christopher T. Donahue](#), an internationally prominent figure known for having led the final stages of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

The Mission of Multinational Division South (MND-S) and the National Chain of Command

Headquartered in Florence, **Multinational Division South (MND-S)** represents one of the pillars of the Atlantic Alliance's strategic responsiveness, with a specific focus on the area of responsibility encompassing Southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

The MND-S's core mission includes:

- **Multinational Command and Control:** Integrating and commanding units and combat brigades from different NATO nations in a high-intensity scenario (*Warfighting Division*).
- **Crisis Management and Collective Defense:** Being ready for immediate deployment to conduct multidomain operations and prevent or counter threats and aggression along NATO's southern flank.

National Framework and Major Subordinate Units

From an organizational and national standpoint, MND-S is hierarchically subordinate to the Italian Army's **Comando delle Forze Operative Terrestri (COMFOTER)**.

The Division also exercises command-and-control functions over prestigious major Army units, which form the backbone of its operational capability:

- **Brigata Corazzata "Ariete"**
- **Brigata Meccanizzata "Sassari"**
- **Brigata Aeromobile "Friuli"**

The Leadership of Major General Giuseppe Scuderi

At the helm of MND-S is **Major General Giuseppe Scuderi**, an officer with extensive operational and command experience. Major General Scuderi's record includes prestigious leadership assignments in Italian Army units, including command of the **187° Reggimento Paracadutisti "Folgore"** in Livorno.

His leadership gives Multinational Division South the practical tactical approach, readiness, and operational rigor essential to successfully carrying out its assigned tasks at both the national and multinational levels.