New Raiders for the Italian Air Force: at Furbara the brevet of the 10th BIAM course

Published on 10/03/2026

At the **military airport of Furbara**, home of the **17th Raiders Wing of the Italian Air Force**, the **ceremony of the 10th Italian Air Force Raiders Brevet Course (BIAM)** took place on March 9. The event marked the **official entry of the new operators into the Special Forces of the Blue Army**, an elite component operating under the **1st Air Brigade for Special Operations**.

The ceremony was attended by the **highest military authorities of the Italian Defense**. It was presided over by the **Chief of Defense Staff, General Luciano Portolano**, alongside the **Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, Air Squadron General Antonio Conserva**, the **Commander of the Joint Special Operations Command, Admiral Paolo Pezzutti**, the **Commander of the Air Squadron Command and the 1st Air Region, Air Squadron General Silvano Frigerio**, and the **Commander of the 1st Air Brigade for Special**

Operations, Air Brigade General Diego Sismondini. Also present were institutional representatives from the area, including the administrations of the municipalities of **Cerveteri and Ladispoli**.

The three attendees who successfully completed the **rigorous training course lasting about two years** received the **raider brevet**, the **sand-colored beret**, and the traditional **ardito dagger**, symbols that mark their entry into the **Special Operations sector**.

These insignia represent not only the achievement of a professional milestone but also belonging to a **military tradition of great value**. The beret and dagger recall the memory of the **Arditi Distruttori della Regia Aeronautica (ADRA)**, established in **1942** and considered the precursors of the modern **Italian Air Force Special Forces**.

The strategic value of the Special Forces

In his speech, **General Luciano Portolano** highlighted the **central role of the Special Forces in the national military instrument**. Addressing the new raiders, he reminded them how their training and preparation make them ready to face **complex missions in articulated and ever-evolving operational contexts**.

The **Special Forces** indeed represent a highly qualified component of the **country's defense capabilities**. Thanks to **rigorous training** and multidisciplinary preparation, the raiders are called to operate with **speed, precision, and professionalism** in situations requiring high competence and team spirit.

During the ceremony, **General Portolano** also awarded a **Bronze Medal for Aeronautical Valor** to an operator of the unit distinguished in operational activity, a recognition that testifies to the **commitment and dedication of the Italian Air Force personnel**.

Awarding of the Bronze Medal for Aeronautical Valor. Source: Italian Air Force.

Among the most significant achievements recently accomplished by the unit was also the **accreditation of the Combat Controller Skill Level 1**, along with the **official recognition by the United States Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC)**. An achievement that confirms the **level of excellence reached by the 17th Raiders Wing** and the full integration of Italian capabilities in the context of **international cooperation among Special Forces**.

In his speech, **Air Squadron General Antonio Conserva** emphasized how the ceremony represents **a solemn and significant moment for the Armed Force**. With this symbolic gesture, the Italian Air Force recognizes in the new operators the **technical preparation, professional maturity, and moral values** necessary to become part of one of the most qualified components of the **national aerospace instrument**.

Training, tradition, and operational capabilities

The ceremony opened with a welcome address by the **Commander of the 17th Raiders Wing, Colonel Michele Anelli**, who reminded the new raiders of the **long and challenging training path faced during the BIAM course**.

Colonel Anelli emphasized how the two years of training allowed the trainees to develop not only **solid operational capabilities** but also an awareness of the value of **teamwork and cohesion among operators**, fundamental elements to successfully tackle the missions entrusted to the Special Forces.

Awarding of the beret. Source: Italian Air Force.

At the end of the ceremony, the authorities and guests were able to attend a **historical reenactment dedicated to the Arditi Distruttori della Regia Aeronautica**, made possible thanks to the collaboration of associations committed to the **valorization of the historical memory of the Armed Forces**.

Particularly appreciated was the **operational display** organized in an adjacent training area, during which a **hostage rescue operation in a hostile environment** was simulated. The activity highlighted the **high level of integration between the different components of the Armed Force**.

The simulation involved the use of **remotely piloted aircraft**, **Eurofighter jets** for reconnaissance and neutralization of air defenses, and **HH-101A helicopters of the 9th Wing** for the infiltration and exfiltration of operators on the ground.

The demonstration concluded with a **parachute jump of raider personnel** and the in-flight deployment of the flags of the **17th Wing**, the **Italian Air Force**, and the **Italian Republic**, a symbolic moment that sealed the ceremony.

The **17th Raiders Wing** today represents one of the most qualified expressions of the **professionalism of the Italian Armed Forces**. The unit is tasked with **selecting, training, and equipping highly specialized personnel** destined to operate in missions such as **special reconnaissance, direct action, military assistance, and hostage rescue**, contributing to **national security** and stability in international operational contexts.

The ceremony of the new raiders testifies to the **continuity of a tradition of professionalism, dedication, and service to the country** that has always distinguished the **Italian Armed Forces**.

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