



Nimbus 2026: the “Folgore” leads advanced training for snipers

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The exercise **“Nimbus 2026”** has concluded at the Carpegna training area, a specialized activity dedicated to the sniper teams of the Italian Army and organized by the **Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore”**. For two weeks, twelve teams from different units of the Armed Forces underwent an intense training program based on operational shooting, advanced observation, tactical coordination, and management of realistic scenarios.

The activity is part of the broader modernization and operational update path initiated by the Italian Army in recent years, with particular attention to the capabilities of the infantry and specialized units. In an international context characterized by high-intensity conflicts, urban warfare, and the increasing use of advanced technologies, the preparation of snipers is becoming increasingly central.

During “Nimbus 2026”, the specialized teams engaged in short and long-range shooting tests, observation exercises, discriminated shooting, and activities dedicated to coordination between

shooter and spotter. Skills that represent the operational core of these units, called to operate in contexts where **precision, quick decision-making, and emotional control** can be decisive.

The activities took place in realistic settings, designed to reproduce modern operational conditions and progressive levels of difficulty. The use of simulation systems and interactive collapsible targets of the **Pro-P-Up** type was fundamental, tools that enhance training realism and improve reaction times and selective engagement capabilities.

In contemporary scenarios, the role of the sniper is no longer limited to precision fire alone. These operators are now also employed for advanced observation, information gathering, tactical surveillance, and support to units on the ground. Recent international conflicts have highlighted how the ability to quickly identify targets and operate in complex environments is a decisive component in land operations.

Sharing experiences and interoperability between departments

The exercise confirmed the role of the **Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore”** as a reference point in the specialized training of the Italian Army. The extensive experience gained by the Brigade in high-intensity operations allows for maintaining high professional standards and constant interoperability between the units of the Armed Forces.

One of the most significant aspects of “Nimbus 2026” was the direct interaction between operators from different Army units. The sharing of procedures, operational experiences, and training methodologies contributed to strengthening what is defined as a true **professional sector community**.



Acquisition and engagement exercise. Source: Italian Army.

In the field of snipers, the experience gained on the ground represents a heritage of enormous value. The continuous exchange of skills indeed allows for standardizing operational procedures, improving team effectiveness, and adapting more quickly to the demands imposed by modern operational theaters.

In recent years, NATO Armed Forces have increased investments in the specialized preparation of infantry and sniper teams, in light of lessons learned from conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Modern combat requires operators capable of moving in dynamic scenarios, characterized by hybrid threats, drones, electronic warfare, and close combat in urban areas.

In this context, exercises like “Nimbus 2026” assume strategic importance because they allow for developing not only technical skills but also the mental preparation of operators. Stress resistance, decision-making clarity, and cooperation ability remain essential elements for facing complex operational situations.

The Beretta NARP and the modernization of the Army

Among the most important moments of the exercise was the workshop dedicated to the new weapon system **Beretta NARP (New Assault Rifle Platform)**, conducted thanks to the participation of instructors from the **Infantry School of Cesano di Roma**.

The NARP program represents one of the main projects for modernizing the individual armament of the Italian Army. Developed by Beretta in collaboration with the **Army Special Forces Command (COMFOSE)**, the new system is designed to ensure greater modularity,

ergonomics, reliability, and adaptability to different operational scenarios.

According to information that has emerged in recent months, the distribution of the new rifle has already begun gradually in some operational units and special forces, as part of the progressive replacement process of the Beretta ARX160. The NARP system was also developed based on experiences gained in recent conflicts, where the need for lighter, modular weapons suitable for urban combat was highlighted.



Shooting stage with NARP. Source: Italian Army.

The technical characteristics of the new system include different configurations, multi-caliber use possibilities, and solutions dedicated to reducing the operator's sound and thermal signature. Elements that respond to the survival and flexibility needs required by the modern battlefield.

“Nimbus 2026” thus represented much more than a simple training exercise: it was the concrete demonstration of the Italian Army's willingness to continue investing in **professionalism, technological innovation, and specialized preparation**, maintaining high operational standards in an increasingly complex and dynamic strategic context.

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