Ranger Badges Award Ceremony at the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment

Published on 17/05/2025

On May 16, 2025, at the headquarters of the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment "Ranger", the ceremony for awarding the "Ranger" badges to 11 new operators who successfully completed the rigorous training program lasting over two years took place. This event marked an important milestone, not only for the newly certified but also for the 4th Regiment, a symbol of excellence in the Italian Special Forces.

The Training Path

The path that led these new operators to earn the "Ranger" badge was characterized by a high level of difficulty and commitment. The selection and training tests required not only excellent physical preparation but also strong psychological resilience. The program included over 20 weeks of physical and psycho-aptitude selection, a basic course for special operations (OBOS), and a specialization phase that included various areas such as combat, operational survival, and amphibious and mountain mobility.

Ranger Badges Award Ceremony at the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment - brigatafolgore.net

The Ceremony

The opening of the ceremony was marked by a spectacular arrival of the new badge holders, who performed a rapid insertion using the "fast rope" technique thanks to the use of NH-90 helicopters from the Army Aviation. This operational mode, typical of the Special Forces, highlighted the level of preparation and operational capability achieved by the operators.

Brigadier General Marco Manzone, Commander of the Army Special Forces, presided over the event and emphasized the profound significance of the badge. It is not just an achievement, but a beginning: a new chapter that brings with it operational and moral responsibilities for the new "Rangers". The badge, in fact, marks the entry of the operators into the operational component of the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment "Ranger", specialized in special operations, deep reconnaissance, and targeted actions in hostile environments.

Ranger Badges Award Ceremony at the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment - brigatafolgore.net

The 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment "Ranger"

The 4th Regiment, under the Special Forces Command, represents one of the main units of the Italian Armed Forces. The "Ranger" operators are employed in special missions that require advanced capabilities in mountain and arctic operations, and their training includes interoperability between the capabilities of the Alpini and the paratroopers. This allows them to operate in any context, ensuring speed and effectiveness in global projections.

Ranger Badges Award Ceremony at the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment - brigatafolgore.net

The Selection Process

The selection process to enter the Italian Army Special Forces is particularly demanding. Candidates must pass rigorous physical tests and undergo a course that begins with the "Basic

Operator Course for Special Operations" (OBOS), followed by specific training to become a "Ranger". This path is also open to Fixed-Term Volunteers (VFP4) and Initial Term Volunteers (VFI), who, once they pass the parachuting course and other selections, become part of the Special Forces.

Responsibilities and Future Commitments

The "Ranger" badge does not represent the end of a journey, but the beginning of a new operational commitment. The new operators acquire not only a prestigious title but also the obligation to serve in highly risky and delicate missions in extreme environments. Today's ceremony confirmed the high quality of the training received and the level of preparation achieved by the 4th Alpini Paratroopers Regiment "Ranger", which will continue to play a fundamental role in the operations of the Italian Special Forces.

In conclusion, May 16, 2025, represented a significant moment for the 4th Regiment, with 11 new operators ready to answer the call of the Special Forces, carrying with them the weight and honor of belonging to one of the most demanding and respected realities of the Italian Army.