



Return to the Atlantic: the submarine Romeo Romei reaffirms the operational capability of the Marina Militare

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The mission of the submarine **Romeo Romei**, concluded after **98 days of navigation**, marks a significant milestone for the **Marina Militare** and, in particular, for its **Submarine Component**. The return to Taranto of the **Todaro class (U212A)** unit not only represents the conclusion of a long operational deployment but also marks the return of Italian submarines to the **Atlantic Ocean** for the first time in over a decade. A result that confirms the Armed Force's ability to operate continuously even in major international maritime scenarios, contributing to the security of strategic routes and the protection of national interests.

Departing on **April 13**, at the end of an intense training cycle, the **Romeo Romei** carried out surveillance, presence, and control activities of the underwater dimension between the western

Mediterranean and the Atlantic. During the mission, it also reached an important operational milestone, surpassing **100,000 miles traveled** since entering service. This data not only testifies to the platform's reliability but also to the professionalism of the crews who, over the years, have ensured high standards of operational efficiency.

Atlantic and allied cooperation, a strategic presence in seas of national interest

The return of the Italian underwater component beyond the Strait of Gibraltar assumes a significance that goes well beyond the symbolic aspect. The current international context sees the growing importance of maritime security and the protection of critical submerged infrastructures, making the presence of units capable of operating discreetly, autonomously, and for extended periods indispensable.

During the deployment, the **Romeo Romei** operated between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, contributing to the surveillance of major maritime communication routes and strengthening the Italian presence in an area of growing strategic interest. The activities allowed the Marina Militare to consolidate its ability to ensure effective knowledge of the underwater situation and to ensure constant monitoring of maritime spaces of national and allied interest.



Institutional meeting between representatives of the Italian and Spanish Navies during the Romeo Romei mission.

Source: Marina Militare

The mission also included operational stops in the ports of **Cartagena**, in Spain, and **Brest**, in France, during which cooperation activities with allied Navies were developed. These moments represent a fundamental element of international interoperability, allowing the exchange of operational experiences, the harmonization of procedures, and the strengthening of relationships between the respective underwater components.

One of the most significant moments of the entire mission was the **double submerged crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar**, the first carried out by an Italian submarine since **2011**. This is a particularly complex navigation, characterized by intense merchant traffic, variable hydrographic conditions, and a constant presence of military units. The success of the operation confirmed the high level of training of the crew and the full efficiency of the vessel, once again demonstrating the Marina Militare's ability to professionally tackle the most challenging operational scenarios.

Tradition, technology, and deterrence: the value of the submarine component

Alongside the operational results, the mission also kept alive the tradition of the Italian submarine community. During the first crossing beyond Gibraltar, in fact, the military personnel making their debut in the Atlantic took part in the traditional **“Baptism of the Strait”**, a ceremony that represents one of the most heartfelt moments of life on board.

This rite, passed down over time, strengthens the sense of belonging, the spirit of corps, and the awareness of the responsibilities that come with serving on a submarine. In an operational environment where every decision and every gesture must be perfectly coordinated, crew cohesion is one of the main success factors.



The crew of the **Romeo Romei** at the end of the 98-day mission. Source: Marina Militare.

After completing activities in the Atlantic and continuing operations in the Mediterranean, the **Romeo Romei** returned to Taranto, welcomed by family members and personnel of the **Submarine Flotilla**, at the conclusion of a mission that will remain among the most significant of recent years for the Italian underwater component.

The deployment of the **Romeo Romei** confirms the importance of the **Todaro class (U212A)**, a platform characterized by high autonomy, silence, and survivability capabilities, qualities that make it particularly effective both in the confined waters of the Mediterranean and in oceanic scenarios. In an increasingly complex geopolitical context, submarines indeed represent one of the most effective tools of **deterrence, surveillance, and intelligence gathering**, thanks to their ability to operate undetected and ensure a continuous presence in areas of greatest strategic interest.

The return of the **Submarine Component of the Marina Militare to the Atlantic**, after more than ten years of absence, therefore testifies to the Armed Force's willingness to maintain high operational readiness and contribute to national and Alliance maritime security. A mission that combines tradition, technology, and training, once again confirming the strategic role of the Italian underwater component in the contemporary defense landscape.

News link: https://www.marina.difesa.it/media-cultura/Notiziario-online/Pagine/20260728_Il-Sommergibile-Romeo-Romei-conclude-un-deployment-di-98-giorni-la-Componente-Sommergibili-torna-in-Atlantico.aspx