Strength, Technique, and Command: Completed the Selected Patrol Course of the 205th "Fierezza"

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The **"Selected Patrol" Course**, one of the most selective and significant training moments for the **Officer Cadets of the 205th Course "Fierezza"** of the Military Academy of Modena, recently concluded at the Italian Army Infantry School. The event, held in recent days, was attended by high military authorities: **General of the Army Corps Carlo Lamanna**, Commander for Training, Specialization, and Doctrine of the Army, **Major General Stefano Messina**, Commander of the Military Academy, and **Brigadier General Eugenio Dessì**, Commander of the Infantry School.

This milestone marked the completion of a particularly intense training path, combining **technical-tactical preparation, physical endurance, and decision-making readiness**. The course represents one of the most challenging stages on the path to becoming an Officer and is open exclusively to attendees who pass a **rigorous initial selection**. The **161 Cadets** participating – men and women from the Army and the Carabinieri Corps – faced one of the

most demanding and formative tests of their entire academic journey.

The first phase, conducted at the Military Academy of Modena, included a **technical-professional culture test** on combat patrol procedures and **high-intensity physical tests**, including endurance, agility, and muscle strength, essential for facing the subsequent activities in the so-called **“ardor gym”**.

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Advanced Training and Real Operational Scenarios

The active phase of the course, lasting **five weeks**, took place at the Infantry School and culminated in two continuous operational exercises: **“Orsa Minore”**, lasting 24 hours, and **“Orsa Maggiore”**, spread over four days among the wooded and hilly areas of **Tolfa and Monteromano**, in the province of Viterbo. In both cases, the Cadets were divided into opposing parties, recreating a realistic and dynamic combat context.

The training aimed to consolidate the **technical and tactical skills** related to conducting combat patrols, while simultaneously enhancing **psychophysical and attitudinal preparation**. The activities undertaken included **climbing an alpine wall**, crossing a **“Himalayan” bridge**, **abseiling** from an 18-meter high tower, as well as exercises in **topographic orientation** and logistical management of their backpack and equipment.

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These exercises, while requiring significant physical effort, were also designed to develop the Cadets' ability to **maintain clarity and command in complex and stressful environments**. In particular, the educational approach focused on **simulating high-intensity operational scenarios**, offering participants a realistic and comprehensive preparation.

The Legacy of the Course and the Future of Military Leadership

During the **closing ceremony**, General Lamanna emphasized how the “**Selected Patrol**” badge represents not only a formal recognition but also a symbol of **personal and professional maturation**. Addressing the Cadets, he highlighted the importance of this experience in the formation of a Commander:

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> *“One day, when you are called to lead women and men in operational contexts, this experience will come to mind. It will be a compass in decisive moments, a source of inspiration in difficult times.”*

The significance of this course goes far beyond its technical value. It represents an identity moment, a key passage that instills in the Cadets the awareness of the role they will assume: **being leaders, capable of deciding, guiding, and facing uncertainty with balance and determination**.

In the context of modern military training, where the complexity of operational scenarios requires increasingly multidimensional preparation, the **Selected Patrol Course** confirms itself as a **central element in the construction of Italian military leadership**. The 205th Course “Fierezza” thus leaves an important mark, confirming the excellence of the Military Academy and the Army's Specialization Schools.