



Suspension of Gen. Vannacci, the new Chief of Staff of COMFOTER is coming

Published on 01/03/2024

The recent suspension, for 11 months with immediate effect, of Major General Roberto Vannacci from the role of Chief of Staff of COMFOTER has triggered a series of reflections and immediate operational needs. The decision, made by Defense Minister Crosetto and linked to the publication of the book "Il mondo al contrario", implies that the new appointment must be made, given the importance of COMFOTER within the armed forces, with wisdom and urgency.

The context of this transition is delicate, the suspension of Vannacci, arising from circumstances that have raised concerns and debates, places [General Carmine Masiello, newly elected Chief of Staff of the Army](#), in front of one of his first and most significant decisions. In a role where determination and effectiveness are assessed through timely and considered actions, the choice of Vannacci's successor is more than just an appointment: it is a signal of the intentions and future direction that General Masiello intends to imprint.

In this framework, the selection of the new Chief of Staff of COMFOTER is not just a matter of replacement, but an opportunity to affirm and define the objectives and priorities that take into

account the imminent challenges.

The selection of General Vannacci's successor is a process scrutinized with attention, with Major General Andrea Di Stasio, current commander of the Army Aviation, among the favorites. Alongside him, two other generals emerge as qualified candidates: Major General Francesco Bruno, Commander of the Acqui Division, and his peer Rodolfo Sganga, current Head of the III Department, Industrial Policy and International Relations. Sganga's past collaboration with General Masiello in Afghanistan in 2011, along with his experience as [Commander](#) of the [Paratroopers Brigade "Folgore"](#), could decisively influence the decision-making process.

The evaluation for the choice will consider a wide range of qualities, from technical skills to leadership, aiming for a candidate who ensures both the continuity and the innovation necessary to keep COMFOTER as the hub of operational planning and preparation of the Italian land forces. In this context, the final decision must take into account the important commitments that the country has undertaken within NATO with the implementation of the [NFM \(New Force Model\)](#).

General Masiello's decision, therefore, will be a strong, first indication of his vision for the [Army](#). At a time when the armed forces are facing complex changes and challenges, the figure of the Chief of Staff of COMFOTER will be fundamental in determining how these will be managed, ensuring that the strength and effectiveness of the Italian Army remain firm and projected towards the future.

What is COMFOTER

The Command of Land Forces (COMFOTER) is one of the top areas of the Italian Army, responsible for various functions, with a wide range of responsibilities.

Role of COMFOTER

COMFOTER is responsible for the operational planning of the land component within the organizational process for the preparation of international missions, the conduct of missions at the national level on delegation from the Chief of Defense Staff, and the preparation of all components of the Armed Forces.

COMFOTER exercises Command and Control functions over specific sectors of the armed forces such as the Army Special Forces Command (COMFOSE) and the Army Aviation Command (COMAVES).

Forces dependent on COMFOTER

Dependent on COMFOTER:

- Army Aviation Command (COMAVES)
 - Airmobile Brigade "Friuli" (Bologna)
 - Army Aviation Support Brigade
 - Army Aviation Training Center (Viterbo)
- Army Special Forces Command (COMFOSE)
 - 9th Assault Paratroopers Regiment "Col Moschin"
 - 185th Paratroopers Reconnaissance Target Acquisition Regiment "Folgore"
 - 4th Alpine Paratroopers Regiment
 - Special Operations Training Center
 - Special Operations Support Unit
- Division "Acqui"
 - Division Command - San Giorgio a Cremano
 - 57th Command and Tactical Support Unit "Abruzzi" - Capua
 - Division "Vittorio Veneto"
- Division Command - Florence
 - 78th Command and Tactical Support Unit "Lupi di Toscana" - Florence
- Military Command of the Capital
 - Military Geographic Institute
 - Military Penitentiary Organization
 - Italian Army Band
 - Historical Museum of the Bersaglieri

- Autonomous Military Command Sardinia
- Army Simulation and Validation Center

The current Commander of COMFOTER is Lieutenant General Salvatore Camporeale.