



The Army's Digital Architect: The Action of General Giovanni Gagliano Commander of the Combat Support Forces

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The modern conflict is a challenge that is played out not only on the ground but also in the **Cyber** and **Electromagnetic Spectrum** domains. In this transformative scenario, **Corps General Giovanni Gagliano** emerges as a central figure, whose command action and experience in **C5I** systems (Command, Control, Communication, Computer, Cyber, and Intelligence) are giving a decisive acceleration to the digital transformation of the Italian Army, with a crucial focus on the **Combat Support Forces**.

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The C5I Lesson and Strategic Continuity

General Gagliano's vision is not theoretical but rooted in a path that combines field experience with top-level strategic planning:

1. **The Operational Imprint:** As Commander of the **Mechanized Brigade “Pinerolo” (2019-2021)**, a pilot unit in the digitization project, Gagliano ensured that the Command and Control (C2) systems were tested **in the field**, ensuring their effectiveness and robustness before large-scale deployment.
2. **Top-Level Experience:** In the roles of **Head of the VI Department - C5I Systems** of the Army General Staff and, subsequently, as **Head of the VI Department of Informatics, Cyber, and Telecommunications** of the Defense General Staff, he had direct responsibility for extending NATO's **Multidomain** concept, integrating physical and digital domains into a single operational framework.

This action is in perfect **strategic continuity** with the line set by the highest military *leadership*, including Gen. **Carmine Masiello** and Gen. **Claudio Graziano** (former Chief of SMD). This coherence has allowed pursuing **digital transformation** as a priority and non-negotiable objective.

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The Technological Impulse for Combat Support

The **Combat Support Forces (CS)** — which include crucial units such as **Artillery, Engineering, Transmissions, and Tactical Information** — are the first to benefit from and implement this technological shift. Their role is vital: to provide essential support for the maneuver of combat units in a high-intensity environment.

General Gagliano's technological impulse aims to make these forces faster and more connected through various intervention axes. On the front of **precision and reconnaissance**, work is underway to integrate **advanced C2 systems, integrated sensors, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** for threat acquisition, an evolution that will allow fire support to operate with surgical precision over an **operational range exceeding 125 km**, filling a crucial gap. Simultaneously, in the field of **Electronic Warfare (EW)**, the priority is focused on enhancing **Cyber Resilience** and adopting **Counter-UAS** (anti-drone) systems, essential to ensure

commandability and the protection of communication lines in a **high spectral connectivity environment**. Finally, regarding **platforms and mobility**, the action involves integrating the **Medium Armored Vehicle (VBM) 8x8 “Freccia”** and introducing the **Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)** (evolution of the AW 169). These vehicles will be fully interconnected in **Digitized Command Posts**, completing the core of the **NEC Force** (Network Enabled Capabilities).

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Conclusions

Thanks to the strategic vision and action of General Gagliano, the Combat Support Forces will no longer be just support units but will become the **central nervous system** of the Army. This ambitious process of complete digitization and modernization **will continue decisively** in the coming years, being actively under the direct **impulse of the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Carmine Masiello**, in order to equip the land military instrument with the technological capabilities necessary to dominate the multidomain battlefield of the future.

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