The Chief of Staff of the Army at the 235th "Piceno": training the Soldiers of tomorrow

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On **January 26, 2026**, the **Chief of Staff of the Army**, **General of the Army Corps Carmine Masiello**, visited the **235th Volunteer Training Regiment "Piceno"**, one of the **main initial training schools of the Italian Army**, the core of the process that transforms young volunteers into aware and operational Soldiers. The visit included both the headquarters in **Ascoli Piceno** and the training battalion located at the **"Pasquali–Campomizzi" Barracks in L'Aquila**, a facility that also hosts the **9th Alpini Regiment**.

Welcomed by the **Regiment Commander, Colonel David Bastiani**, the Armed Forces Leadership received **military honors**, saluted the **War Flag**, and participated in a briefing on the **training and educational activities**, which represent **the structural foundation of the entire Army personnel preparation system**. In this context, schools are not just places of instruction, but **laboratories of military identity**, where professionalism, mindset, and sense

of duty are built.

The presence of the Chief of Staff emphasized how the **quality of the military instrument** directly depends on the **solidity of the schools**, which are called to ensure high standards, training uniformity, and consistent transmission of the founding values of the Armed Forces.

The message to the Volunteers: values above all

The meeting with the **attendees of the basic training course of the 3rd block 2025**, who arrived in Ascoli Piceno and L'Aquila on **January 13**, was the central moment of the visit. Addressing the Volunteers, General of the Army Corps Carmine Masiello emphasized how **the school is the first real test for the Soldier**, the place where one learns to know oneself even before the weapon or equipment.

Review of the 1st battalion Ascoli Piceno - Copyright Italian Army

Joining the **"great family of the Army"** means accepting a challenging path, made of **discipline, sacrifices, and responsibilities**, where initial training assumes a decisive value. It is in schools that the Soldier learns to **put duties before rights**, internalizing an ethical dimension that accompanies the entire career.

The school, highlighted the Chief of Staff, is the context in which the **most precious weapon system of the Army is built: the man and woman in uniform**. Here, **physical preparation**, **strengthening of the spirit**, **training of the mind**, and **education of the heart** become one, forming individuals capable of operating in complex environments and

under pressure.

The role of the 235th “Piceno” in Army training

The **235th Volunteer Training Regiment “Piceno”**, structured on **two training battalions**, operates together with the schools of **Montorio Veronese and Capua** to ensure a **solid, homogeneous, and coherent initial training**, a true pillar of the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces. This school system ensures that every Soldier, regardless of the assigned location, shares the **same standards, values, and professional references**.

Salute to the War Flag of the 235th - Copyright Italian Army

The schools represent the **starting point of investment in young people**, where human potential is recognized, directed, and valued through **rigorous, modern training that meets contemporary operational needs**. It is here that the sense of belonging is born, the esprit de corps is consolidated, and the ability to operate as a team is developed.

In this framework, the visit of the Chief of Staff assumes a strategic significance: **strengthening the role of schools as the beating heart of the Army**, guarantors of the continuity of values and the readiness of the military instrument. A clear and unequivocal message: **without strong schools, there is no credible, modern Army ready to meet the needs of the Country**.

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