# The Commander of the Land Operational Forces at MND-S: between strategic vision, advanced training, and allied integration

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The recent visit of **General of the Army Corps Lorenzo D'Addario**, **Commander of the Land Operational Forces**, to the **Multinational Division South (MND-S)** comes at a **particularly significant moment** for the Italian-led multinational structure. Welcomed by **Major General Giuseppe Scuderi**, Division Commander, the FOTER leadership was able to directly assess **the progress of activities** and **the central role assigned to MND-S** within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance.

During the meeting, General D'Addario received a detailed update on the function of **Land Component Command (LCC)** of the **Allied Reaction Force (ARF)**, a role assumed by the Division on **July 1, 2025**. This is a **key responsibility**, placing MND-S at the center of **NATO's rapid response mechanisms**, confirming the **operational credibility of the Italian Army**

and its ability to express **complex commands in multinational contexts**. The visit was not only a moment of verification but also **an opportunity for direct dialogue between operational leaders**, useful for sharing strategic orientations and training priorities in an **increasingly complex security scenario**.

## Steadfast Dart 2026: a test for allied responsiveness

At the center of the briefing presented to the FOTER Commander was the participation of MND-S in the **Steadfast Dart 2026 (STDT26)**, **the main training event of the ARF** for the current year. The exercise involves the **deployment in Germany of personnel, vehicles, and materials**, constituting a **complex strategic projection operation** across European territory. In terms of size, objectives, and the number of units involved, “DART26” takes on the characteristics of a **true *mission rehearsal***, that is, a **full-scale rehearsal for real deployment**. The activity allows testing of **command and control capabilities**, **interoperability among allied armed forces**, and **multi-domain integration**, elements that are indispensable today to face **high-intensity crises**.

The NATO Steadfast Dart 2025 exercise, Source NATO.

In this context, MND-S is called upon to ensure **decision-making continuity, rapid response, and effective coordination**, turning training into a **concrete multiplier of deterrence**.

## The value of personnel and the allied dimension

The visit program continued at the **“Perotti” Barracks**, home of the **78th Command and Tactical Support Unit “Lupi di Toscana”**, where General D’Addario was able to closely

observe the **logistical preparation activities** related to “Steadfast Dart 2026”. A significant step, highlighting how the success of major exercises largely depends on the **highly specialized work of support units**.

Gen. C.A. D'Addario meets the personnel of the 78th, Source Italian Army.

In his address to the personnel, the Commander of the Land Operational Forces emphasized the importance of **seizing the opportunity for dialogue with units from allied countries**, promoting the sharing of experiences, procedures, and operational cultures. As **ARF Land Component Command**, MND-S ensures the function of **Command and Control** for fulfilling the **three fundamental tasks of the Alliance**: **deterrence and defense**, **crisis prevention and management**, **cooperative security**. The visit of General of the Army Corps D’Addario thus reaffirmed the **strategic value of the Division** and the **key role of Italy** in ensuring stability and operational readiness, confirming how NATO's effectiveness today relies on **credible commands, prepared personnel, and an integrated vision of the land domain**.

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