



The Italian Air Force in Flight: Two Life-Saving Missions in Less Than 24 Hours for a 21-Month-Old Child and a 2-Month-Old Infant

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Within a few hours, the **Italian Air Force** completed **two extremely delicate emergency medical transport missions**, ensuring the rapid transfer of **a 21-month-old child** and **a 2-month-old infant**, both in imminent life-threatening conditions, to top pediatric hospitals in the Peninsula.

Two separate interventions in terms of location and timing, but united by the same goal: **minimize the time between diagnosis and specialized care**, when every minute can make a difference.

From Sardinia to Tuscany: 21-Month-Old Child Transferred to Meyer

The first mission concluded yesterday afternoon, **January 24, 2026**, with the landing in Florence of a **Gulfstream G650** from the **31st Wing**.

On board, a **21-month-old child**, hospitalized at *San Michele* Hospital in Cagliari and in urgent need of transfer to the **Meyer Pediatric Hospital**.

The young patient traveled **with his mother and a specialized medical team**, after the flight was authorized, as per procedure, by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, responsible for coordinating the state aircraft fleet.

The activation started from the **Prefecture of Cagliari**, which involved the Top Situations Room of the Air Force Command in Milan. The aircraft took off from Ciampino in the early afternoon, boarded the child in Sardinia, and reached Florence **shortly after 5:30 PM**, allowing for a quick ambulance transfer to the hospital.

From Sicily to Rome: 2-Month-Old Infant to Bambino Gesù

A few hours later, on the morning of **January 25, 2026**, another life-saving mission involved the same unit and the same type of aircraft.

A **2-month-old infant**, hospitalized at *San Vincenzo* Hospital in Taormina, was urgently transferred to the **Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital** in Rome.

In this case too, the infant traveled **with his father and a medical team**, aboard a **Gulfstream G650** from the 31st Wing. The takeoff from Ciampino to Catania-Fontanarossa occurred at **10:15 AM**; after boarding, the aircraft immediately returned to Rome, landing **around 1:00 PM**, from where the infant was transferred by ambulance to the hospital facility.

The mission was activated at the request of the **Prefecture of Messina**, according to established inter-institutional coordination procedures.

A Silent, Essential, Continuous Task

Emergency medical transport represents **one of the least visible but most crucial institutional tasks** performed by the Italian Air Force for the community.

The flight units are **operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year**, with crews trained to operate even in complex weather conditions, to ensure:

- urgent transport of patients in life-threatening conditions
- transfer of specialized medical teams
- rapid movement of organs for transplants
- support to ambulances and civilian healthcare facilities

Every year, **hundreds of flight hours** are dedicated to this type of mission, by the aircraft of the 31st Wing of Ciampino, the 14th Wing of Pratica di Mare, the 46th Air Brigade of Pisa, and the helicopters of the 15th Wing of Cervia, which rarely make noise, but **concretely embody the State's service to citizens**, especially when the lives of the youngest are at stake.