



The Italian Army turns 165: L'Aquila becomes the Defense Capital from May 1st to 5th

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L'Aquila is preparing to be tinged with the green of the Army. To celebrate the 165th anniversary of its founding (1861-2026), the Armed Forces have chosen the capital of Abruzzo as the main stage for the celebrations, uniting Italy's history with the resilience of a city symbolizing rebirth.

An Indissoluble Bond between City and Uniform

The choice of L'Aquila is not random. As highlighted in the official note, the city represents a **symbol of identity and strength**, capable of transforming past wounds into a driving force for the future. This spirit perfectly matches the values of the Army, committed not only to the defense of the Nation but also to constant support for the civilian population during emergencies.

The Event Program: 5 Days between Technology and Tradition

The historic center of L'Aquila will be the beating heart of the initiatives, offering citizens an immersive experience in the contemporary military world.

1. The "Army Village" (May 1st-5th)

The inauguration will take place **Thursday, May 1st at 10:00 AM**. Along Corso Vittorio Emanuele and in Piazza San Bernardino, an exhibition area will be set up where it will be possible to:

- Discover the latest generation vehicles and technologies.
- Learn about the various specialties and professional opportunities of the Armed Forces.
- Participate in interactive and demonstrative activities.
- **Hours:** Every day from 10:00 AM to 8:30 PM.

2. Music in the Square (May 3rd)

On Sunday, May 3rd, the notes of the **Army Bands** will resonate in the main city squares, offering the public a repertoire ranging from military marches to Italian music classics.

3. The Solemn Ceremony and Helicopter Flyover (May 5th)

The culmination of the celebrations will take place on Tuesday, May 5th, with a high-profile institutional program:

- **9:30 AM:** Laying of a wreath at the Monument to the Fallen (Villa Comunale) to honor the sacrifice of Italian soldiers.
- **10:00 AM:** Official military ceremony in **Piazza del Duomo**. In the presence of the highest institutional authorities, representative units of all Army components will parade.
- **The Dynamic Moment:** The square will be flown over by Army Aviation helicopters, performing high-specialization demonstrations. *Note: Test flights will begin as early as April*

Summary Table of Appointments

Date	Event	Location	Time
May 1st	Inauguration "Army Village"	Corso Vittorio Emanuele	10:00 AM
May 1st-5th	Village Open to the Public	Historic Center	10:00 AM - 8:30 PM
May 3rd	Band Concerts	City Squares	Various
May 5th	Tribute to the Fallen	Villa Comunale	9:30 AM
May 5th	Military Ceremony & Flyover	Piazza del Duomo	10:00 AM

"The Army is not just a defense force, but a pillar of our national identity. Celebrating 165 years in L'Aquila means recognizing the value of perseverance and daily commitment to Italy."

The invitation is extended to all citizens, families, and military history enthusiasts for an event that promises to combine the solemnity of institutions with the technological spectacle of elite units.

News link: <https://www.laquilablog.it/lesercito-celebra-i-suoi-165-anni-a-laquila-centro-storico-protagonista-dal-1-al-5-maggio/?shem=dsdf,sharefoc,agadiscoverSDL,,sh/x/discover/m1/4>