



The MOVIM Gianfranco PAGLIA runs with the Wounded Warriors: sport, solidarity, and resilience at JFC Naples

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The headquarters of the **Joint Force Command Naples (JFC Naples)** of NATO hosted the **Wounded Warriors 24H Race**, an event that combined **sport, solidarity, and spirit of service** in support of **military personnel wounded in the line of duty**. The event featured athletes from the **Paralympic Sports Group of the Defense** and personnel from the French Armed Forces, confirming the **international dimension** of an initiative that focuses on the individual, recovery, and the sharing of military values.

The race, held over twenty-four hours, was not just a sporting challenge but above all a moment of reflection on the meaning of the service rendered to the community by men and women who have faced the physical and psychological consequences of operational missions. Through the race and the active participation of athletes, NATO and allied nations wanted to reaffirm their closeness to those who have sacrificed part of their personal integrity for the common good.

The initiative is part of a broader path aimed at maintaining high attention on **support for wounded military personnel and their families**, highlighting how solidarity and mutual support are fundamental elements of the **international military community**. Events like this indeed help to strengthen awareness of the importance of recovery and inclusion, valuing the stories of those who continue to represent an example of determination and spirit of sacrifice.

Sport as a tool for recovery and inclusion

The presence of the **Paralympic Sports Group of the Defense** was one of the most significant aspects of the event. Created to promote the reintegration and enhancement of military personnel who have suffered injuries or disabilities during service, the Group today represents one of the most important entities in the Italian paralympic sports scene.

Over the years, numerous athletes from the Armed Forces have demonstrated how sport can become an effective tool for **physical, psychological, and social recovery**. Sporting competitions indeed allow transforming a condition of difficulty into a new opportunity for personal growth, helping to strengthen **self-esteem, determination, and resilience**. It is a path that allows wounded military personnel to continue expressing their potential, finding new motivations and new goals to achieve.



Athletes from the Paralympic Sports Group of the Defense engaged in the Wounded Warriors 24H Race at JFC Naples.

Source: Ministry of Defense.

The **Wounded Warriors 24H Race** offered participants the opportunity to share common experiences, overcoming national and linguistic differences through the universal language of sport. The participation of French military personnel wounded in service further reinforced the message of **human interoperability** among allied countries, demonstrating how cooperation develops not only in operational activities but also in initiatives dedicated to the well-being of personnel.

In this context, the value of the event goes beyond the sporting result. Every kilometer covered represents a concrete testimony of **courage, willpower**, and the ability to face difficulties, becoming an example for new generations of military personnel and citizens. Sport thus confirms itself as a tool capable of breaking down barriers and building relationships based on mutual respect and the sharing of common values.

A community that does not forget those who have served

The **Wounded Warriors Race** is part of a well-established tradition within the Armed Forces and NATO, which recognizes the moral duty to support those who have sustained permanent injuries during service. Initiatives like this help to keep alive the bond between active military personnel, veterans, and their families, creating opportunities for meeting, support, and mutual closeness.

The message that emerges from the event organized at JFC Naples is clear: the **value of service** does not end with the conclusion of a mission or the onset of a disability. On the contrary, the experience gained and the ability to face difficulties become a precious asset for the entire military community, contributing to spreading a culture of solidarity and inclusion.



Opening ceremony of the Wounded Warriors 24H Race with the participation of Italian and French athletes at JFC Naples. Source: Ministry of Defense.

The participation of the Defense's paralympic athletes demonstrates how recovery can transform into a new form of excellence, capable of inspiring and motivating. Through sporting commitment, these men and women continue to represent the values of **courage, discipline, spirit of sacrifice, and dedication**, the same that characterized their service in uniform and continue to guide them in daily challenges.

The event in Naples thus represented much more than a simple foot race. It was a celebration of **human resilience, solidarity among allies**, and the will to **leave no one behind**. In an international context often characterized by complex challenges and ever-evolving scenarios, the **Wounded Warriors 24H Race** reminded us that the true strength of military organizations lies in people, in their ability to react to adversity, and in the support that the community can offer throughout the life journey.

News link: <https://www.difesa.it/smd/news-italia/jfc-naples-wounded-warriors-24h-race-con-atleti-gruppo-sportivo-paralimpico-difesa/101987.html>