



The role of NCOs in modern warfare: first NATO-Ukraine seminar, 24 nations compare training and technologies

First Lieutenant Michele Romano and representatives from 24 allied nations took part in the meeting dedicated to NCOs.

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The Esercito Italiano's Senior Enlisted Leader, Primo Luogotenente Michele Romano, took part in the first international allied seminar organized by the Joint Analysis, Training and Education Centre (JATEC), alongside NCO representatives from 24 NATO nations.

The meeting, held in recent days, provided an opportunity to discuss the changing nature of contemporary warfare, with particular focus on military personnel training, physical and psychological resilience, and the use of new technologies in high-intensity conflicts.

JATEC is the first joint NATO-Ukraine civil-military organization integrated into NATO's command structure. Its task is to analyze experience gained in modern conflicts, turning lessons learned in the field into doctrinal recommendations and collective training programs.

From recruitment to military personnel resilience

The seminar was divided into two main phases, devoted to key aspects of Armed Forces readiness and operational effectiveness.

The first, focused on the transition «from civilian to soldier,» examined modern recruitment processes, the physical and psychological adaptation of recruits, and the development of stress-resilience capabilities.

Particular attention was given to recruitment challenges and the training methodologies required to maintain high levels of motivation, readiness, and emotional resilience among personnel assigned to operate in particularly demanding combat environments.

The exchange among representatives from the various nations made it possible to examine different approaches and experiences, with the aim of identifying shared solutions to improve military preparedness.

Drones and Artificial Intelligence in modern operational environments

The second phase focused on the technological evolution of the battlefield, with particular reference to the large-scale use of Unmanned Systems, which are profoundly changing the way military operations are conducted.

The discussion also addressed the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), regarded as an operational capability multiplier, especially in surveillance and reconnaissance activities.

Alongside the opportunities offered by technological innovation, participants stressed the importance of maintaining human control in decision-making processes, in accordance with the human-in-the-loop principle.

The use of automated systems and AI-based tools requires a balance between rapid information processing, operational effectiveness, and accountability for military decisions.

The Esercito Italiano's contribution to NATO cooperation

The participation of Primo Luogotenente Michele Romano confirms the Esercito Italiano's involvement in multinational initiatives dedicated to updating the professional skills of NCOs and studying the ongoing changes in modern operational environments.

The discussion promoted by JATEC enables Allied Armed Forces to share lessons learned in the field, identify new training requirements, and develop common procedures.

The initiative thus strengthens cooperation among Non-Commissioned Officers from NATO countries, highlighting their role in personnel training, the implementation of operational procedures, and the adaptation of military units to emerging international security challenges.

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