The Silent Heroes of the Army: The Courage of the Bomb Disposal Experts in Service of Italy

Published on 22/10/2025

Every day, away from the spotlight, the **bomb disposal experts of the Italian Army** work to ensure the country's safety, tackling one of the most delicate and dangerous tasks: the **clearance of unexploded ordnance from past wars**. It is an activity that combines **technical rigor, composure, and a spirit of service**, and remains necessary in an Italy where the material memory of World War II still resurfaces from the ground.

Every year, **over two thousand ordnances** are neutralized, a number that reflects the vastness of a constant and silent commitment. The bomb disposal experts of the **Genio Guastatori** represent an essential component of the country's civil and military protection: men and women who operate in coordination with the Prefectures, Civil Protection, and Law Enforcement to eliminate potentially devastating threats.

In recent days, three separate operations conducted between **Veneto, Sicily, and Friuli**

Venezia Giulia have confirmed the high level of professionalism and coordination of the specialized teams of the Army and the Navy.

Verona, Pantelleria, and Trieste: Three Scenarios, One Commitment

In **Verona**, the bomb disposal experts of the **8th Paratrooper Engineer Regiment "Folgore"** completed a complex operation to defuse a **1,000-pound aerial bomb** found in a densely populated urban area. To allow the intervention to proceed safely, it was necessary to **evacuate about 1,500 residents** and suspend traffic on the A4 highway and the southern bypass. After hours of meticulous work, the ordnance was **defused and destroyed in a quarry in Sommacampagna**, restoring peace and safety to a large urban area. The operation highlighted the efficiency of specialized units in managing high-risk situations in complex contexts, where the slightest error can have serious consequences.

Meanwhile, in **Pantelleria**, the **engineers of the 4th Engineer Regiment** collaborated with the **divers of the Navy's SDAI Unit** to neutralize another **1,000-pound aerial bomb** found near the town center. In this case as well, the authorities arranged for the **evacuation of about 1,000 people** and a safety area with a radius of 800 meters. The intervention, particularly complex due to the location of the ordnance and the nature of the terrain, was completed thanks to the use of an **expansion chamber** designed to contain potential shock waves. Once deactivated, the bomb was **transferred to the sea and safely destroyed** by the Navy. The operation confirmed the ability of the Army's bomb disposal experts to operate effectively even in isolated contexts with limited logistical resources, always prioritizing the protection of the population.

The delivery of the wartime ordnance to the Navy Divers in Pantelleria

In **Trieste**, finally, in the heart of the **Porto Nuovo**, the **bomb disposal experts of the 3rd Engineer Regiment** and the **divers of the Navy's Underwater Operational Group (GOS)** neutralized a **500-pound aerial bomb** found during railway expansion works. Thanks to a **high-tech containment structure**, the evacuation area was reduced to 468 meters, limiting the impact on port activity and residents, over 1,000 of whom were still evacuated as a precaution. After defusing, the ordnance was **transferred offshore and destroyed at a depth of ten meters**, allowing the rapid restoration of full operational capacity of the port, a strategic hub for international traffic in northeastern Italy.

Courage, Competence, and Dedication: The Modern Face of the Genio Guastatori

The three operations, concluded on the weekend of **October 20, 2025**, are an emblematic example of the commitment and competence of the **Italian Armed Forces**. The **Army's bomb disposal experts**, with their silent and precise work, not only defuse bombs but also **protect lives, infrastructure, and entire communities**, ensuring the safety of the national territory.

Detonation of the aerial bomb offshore of Trieste

Their work is the perfect synthesis of **technique, training, and a sense of duty**, qualities that make the Italian Army an indispensable resource for the country's security. In every mission, the strength of an oath is reflected: to serve Italy in every circumstance, even when the danger is invisible and the task allows no errors.

As emphasized by the **Army General Staff**, the clearance of ordnance “is a silent but fundamental activity that ensures the safety of the population and the full usability of the territory.” Verona, Pantelleria, and Trieste are concrete proof of this: **three cities, three impeccable operations, one spirit of service** that continues to represent the beating heart of the Italian Army's mission — **to defend the country, in peace as in war, with courage, competence, and absolute dedication**.

News link: https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/Pagine/Tre-complesse-operazioni-di-bonifica-nel-fine-settimana.aspx