



UH-169C, fast-roping and equipment-lowering trials: the Italian Air Force Flight Test Unit supports the Arma dei Carabinieri

From September 21 to 23, 2026, a daytime and nighttime test campaign assessed the aircraft, equipment, and procedures.

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From **21 to 23 September 2026**, the **Reparto Sperimentale di Volo (RSV)** of the Aeronautica Militare's Divisione Aerea di Sperimentazione Aeronautica e Spaziale (DASAS) conducted an experimental activity in support of the **Arma dei Carabinieri**.

The trials were aimed at expanding the **UH-169C** helicopter's capabilities in fast-roping and equipment-lowering operations. These techniques allow personnel to rapidly reach the ground from a hovering helicopter using dedicated ropes.

Their use is also envisaged in areas where landing the aircraft is not possible or would be inappropriate.

Progressive day and night trials

Test pilots, engineers and specialized technicians from the **Reparto Sperimentale di Volo** examined the integration of the aircraft, equipment, operators and procedures. The test campaign was organized in a progressive and structured manner, with both daytime and nighttime activities.

Flight testing is among the capabilities that the **Aeronautica Militare**, through DASAS, makes available to the defense establishment and other state institutions.

The RSV translates operational requirements into structured test programs. The method adopted and the collection of objective evidence are intended to enable the relevant bodies to make subsequent technical and operational determinations.

Cooperation between institutions

The activity with the **Arma dei Carabinieri** demonstrates how specialized expertise developed by an armed force can contribute to the evolution of the operational capabilities of other state bodies.

The **Reparto Sperimentale di Volo** is one of six units subordinate to DASAS. It supports Aeronautica Militare operational units through the testing, development, integration and validation of new or modified weapons systems.

In response to changes in the geopolitical, social and economic environment, the RSV has intensified its support for operational units. Its activity is based primarily on operational technical certification, used to rapidly and independently introduce technological solutions designed to meet new requirements in hostile theaters.

DASAS responsibilities

The **Divisione Aerea di Sperimentazione Aeronautica e Spaziale** brings the Aeronautica Militare's study and test organizations under a single command. It is the principal advisory body for the armed force and the defense administration in its areas of responsibility.

Its activities include flight testing of aircraft and weapons systems, as well as the chemical and physical analysis and assessment of structural and consumable materials. The Division also conducts training and testing in aerospace medicine, operational software management and operational verification of weapons systems.

The **DASAS** also provides technical-logistical and operational support to Aeronautica Militare organizations and to other armed forces and state armed corps based at the site.

Through the **Air Terminal Operation Center (ATOC)**, the Division manages flights supporting operations beyond national borders. **Pratica di Mare** Air Base is Italy's leading military airfield in terms of air traffic and aircraft movements, as well as the country's sole military medical point of entry.

News link: <https://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/news/sinergia-interforze-laeronautica-militare-sperimenta-nuove-capacita-operative-per-elicotteri-dei-carabinieri/>