Youth and Armed Forces: Success for the Italian Army Open Days

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In the early days of September 2025, the Italian Army promoted an important orientation and recruitment initiative through a series of **Open Days dedicated to aspiring Initial Service Volunteers (VFI)** in the Emilia-Romagna region. The activity, part of the information campaign for the 3rd block 2025, was organized and coordinated by the **Emilia-Romagna Military Command** in synergy with the **Operational Forces Command North (COMFOP NORD)**.

Three barracks, symbols of the Army's operational and logistical capabilities, hosted the young candidates: the **66th Airborne Infantry Regiment "Trieste" in Forlì**, the **121st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment "Ravenna" in Bologna**, and the **2nd Pontieri Engineer Regiment in Piacenza**. In each of these locations, the "**Infoteam**" – groups specialized in institutional communication and recruitment – organized moments of welcome, information, and operational demonstration, transforming the barracks into true orientation centers for young people interested in pursuing a military career.

After the flag-raising ceremony, which marked the official start of the day, candidates were able to interact directly with serving military personnel, receive detailed explanations of daily activities in the units, and obtain practical information on the next phases of the competition.

An immersive experience: between career, equipment, and esprit de corps

During the Open Days, participants had the opportunity to **immerse themselves in the military reality** through a guided tour of demonstrative activities, thematic presentations, and moments of interaction with the personnel. The hosting units concretely illustrated the **potential of the Italian Army** as a professional path, highlighting both the operational

deployment on national and international territory and the **prospects for educational and career growth**.

Demonstration of the STINGER weapon system

Particular interest was aroused by the presentation of the **vehicles and equipment in use**, not only for the technical aspect but also for the opportunity to closely observe the procedures and tactics used daily by the units. The technical-tactical demonstrations, performed by highly qualified personnel, offered a real and dynamic insight into military life, actively involving the young people with practical explanations, questions, and insights.

A highlight occurred in the Piacenza stage, where the **collaboration between the 2nd Pontieri Engineer Regiment and the Northern Heavy Maintenance Hub** allowed candidates to visit the workshops specialized in the maintenance of tracked vehicles of the heavy units. An experience that made the link between operational capabilities in the field and technical-logistical support even more tangible, showing the complexity and internal organization of the Italian Army.

The entire event was accompanied by an atmosphere of **enthusiasm and participation**, evidenced by the numerous questions posed by the participants, confirming the strong interest in the opportunities offered by military life.

Orientation, awareness, and future: the value of the Open Days

The Open Days initiative is part of a broader context of promoting recruitment and spreading the culture of Defense among young people. The objective is twofold: on one hand, **to provide concrete tools for an informed choice**, and on the other, **to strengthen the dialogue between Institutions and the territory**, enhancing the presence of the Italian Army as an opportunity not only for work but also for personal training, civic growth, and service to the Country.

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Thanks to direct contact with the military, young people were able to "**experience firsthand**" daily life within the barracks, moving beyond clichés and approaching a world often little known. The orientation offered helped to dispel doubts, clarify requirements and competition steps, but above all, it showed that behind every uniform there is **a human, technical, and value-based path** founded on discipline, team spirit, commitment, and dedication.

In Emilia-Romagna, a region historically close to the military world, these days represented a **concrete opportunity for many young people** who look to the Army as a possible path for their future. The success of the initiatives demonstrates the validity of the adopted model: opening the barracks to tell, show, and engage.

In an era where professional orientation is increasingly crucial, the Italian Army confirms itself as a point of reference for those seeking **solid, structured, and meaningful opportunities**. The Open Days 2025 in Emilia-Romagna were not just informative events, but true formative experiences, capable of sparking interest and inspiring new generations of citizens and soldiers.

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