Change of Command at the 186th Folgore: Colonel Salvatore Falcone Assumes Command

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At the historic **Caserma “Bandini” in Siena**, the ceremony for the **84th anniversary** of the establishment of the prestigious **186th Paratroopers Regiment “Folgore”** took place. The event, solemn and full of significance, marked the **change of command** between **Colonel Giovanni Corrado** and the new commander, **Colonel Salvatore Falcone**.

The ceremony was attended by the **Commander of the Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore”, General Federico Bernacca**, numerous **civil and military authorities**, as well as representatives of veteran associations, including the **National President of ANPd'I**, **General of the Army Corps (res.) Marco Bertolini**, and the **Secretary General**, **Brigadier General (res.) Enrico Pollini**.

The Farewell of Colonel Corrado

In his farewell speech, **Colonel Giovanni Corrado** wanted to recall the extraordinary valor of the paratroopers during the legendary **Battle of El Alamein (1942)**, when a few hundred men held out for two weeks on a seven-kilometer front, which delivered the **186th Regiment** to history and earned the unit the **Gold Medal for Military Valor** on the **War Flag**.

Colonel Corrado then thanked the regiment's personnel for their **commitment**, **dedication**, and **sense of duty** demonstrated during his command, wishing his successor, **Colonel Salvatore Falcone**, a path full of satisfaction.

A Unit Always at the Forefront

The **186th Paratroopers Regiment “Folgore”** has been involved in numerous **significant missions** in Italy and abroad. From the first international operations as the **5th Battalion** in **Lebanon (1983)** and in **Iraqi Kurdistan (1991)**, to its reconstitution as the **186th Regiment** and deployment in **Somalia (1993)**, the **Balkans**, and again in **Lebanon**, the unit has always demonstrated **professionalism** and **adaptability** in complex scenarios.

Of particular note is the commitment in **Afghanistan**, with two tours in the **ISAF mission** in **2009** and **2011**, up to that of **2021**, when the regiment had the honor and burden of **closing the Italian mission** in an extremely delicate and complex operation, conducted under the leadership of then **Colonel Federico Bernacca**, now **Aquila 1**, Commander of the **Paratroopers Brigade Folgore**.

In more recent years, the **Operation “Joint Enterprise” in Kosovo**, the **Operation “Parco Verde” in Caivano** supporting law enforcement, and the constant contribution to **Operation “Strade Sicure”** in the cities of **Rome, Siena, and Florence** are remembered.

These activities testify to the **key role** of the regiment in ensuring **operational readiness** and **intervention capability** in critical contexts, consolidating the **prestige** and **centrality** of the unit both nationally and in major international theaters.

The Future Under Colonel Falcone's Leadership

The new commander, **Colonel Salvatore Falcone**, inherits a **prestigious legacy** and will lead a unit that for **84 years** has embodied the **courage**, **discipline**, and **dedication** typical of the **“Lions of the Folgore”**.

With an **eye to the future** and strong in its **tradition**, the **186th Paratroopers Regiment “Folgore”** confirms its **central role** in the **defense** and **security of the country**, ready to respond with **professionalism** and **speed** to every assigned mission.