Joint Stars 2025: Joint Exercise for National Defense and Security

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Joint Stars 2025 represents one of the most significant events for the Italian Armed Forces, a major national exercise involving all military components, distinguished by its exceptional multi-domain approach and interinstitutional dimension. Planned and conducted by the Joint Operational Command (COVI), this exercise will take place from May 8 and will also involve numerous State Corps, agencies, and ministries, with the aim of testing cooperation among the various entities operating for the defense of the Nation. Not just a simulation of operational scenarios, but also an opportunity to foster interaction between the Armed Forces and the population through numerous solidarity initiatives.

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The exercise: a testing ground for Defense

Joint Stars 2025 fits into a context of increasing complexity for global security, where threats are increasingly diverse and require an integrated and immediate response. The exercise, which will officially start on May 8, simulates scenarios spanning all five operational domains: land, sea, air, space, and cyber. The arrival of Nave Trieste in Cagliari, marking the completion of the deployment of necessary forces and means, represents a symbolic moment of this great operation that will see the involvement of specialized units and advanced means. It will be an opportunity to refine coordination and response capabilities, but also to test synergies among different institutional actors, creating a network of collaboration essential for effectively responding to crisis situations, even the most unpredictable ones.

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COVI, the central body in the planning and management of Italian military operations, is tasked with coordinating activities in complex scenarios, such as those that will be simulated during the exercise. In particular, COVI operates nationally and internationally to ensure integrated defense, also providing support in emergency situations, such as natural disasters, and interacting with other state and international entities. The Joint Stars 2025 exercise thus becomes a fundamental testing ground to verify the ability of the Italian Armed Forces to operate in an integrated and joint manner with other institutions, creating timely and coordinated responses to highly complex situations.

Solidarity and public involvement

Besides the operational dimension, Joint Stars 2025 does not forget the human and solidarity aspect. Indeed, the initiative includes a series of public events aimed at promoting solidarity and inclusion. The "Joint Stars for Charity" project is designed to involve citizens in charitable activities, such as fundraising for the enhancement of local healthcare facilities. In particular, the goal is to purchase two intensive and sub-intensive pediatric care beds for the ARNAS “G. Brotzu” hospital in Cagliari. The initiative, which will culminate on the weekend of May 10 and 11, will see the participation of military personnel, institutions, companies, and associations, creating a choral event that will unite the Armed Forces and the citizenry under the banner of solidarity.

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The charitable activities will also include moments of culture and entertainment. The interforces musical band, on Saturday, May 10, will hold a charity concert aboard Nave Trieste, with the participation of singer-songwriter Bungaro, with proceeds going to the hospital fundraising. Additionally, free health screenings for children will be organized aboard Nave Trieste, thanks to the collaboration between doctors from the ASL of Cagliari and military healthcare personnel. Finally, on May 11, the solidarity run “IX Karalis 10” will take place through the streets of Cagliari, along with other cultural and recreational events, including the musical show “Peter and the Wolf” for the young patients of San Michele Hospital.

COVI: the operational heart of Defense

The **Joint Operational Command (COVI) is the central pillar for the management of Italian military operations**, with the responsibility of coordinating the operational activities of the Armed Forces and supporting state institutions in case of national emergencies. COVI manages national and international defense operations, with particular attention to complex scenarios that require a rapid and integrated response. At the same time, COVI also plays a role in simulating strategic and operational scenarios, using the most advanced methodologies to train forces in realistic contexts.

The General of the Army Corps Giovanni Maria Iannucci, commander of COVI, is an officer of great experience with a career spanning numerous international missions, including in Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His training and service at major joint structures have consolidated his role as a leader in coordinating Italian military operations, both nationally and internationally. In addition to his operational experience, **General Iannucci is a military paratrooper**, former **Commander of the Paratroopers Brigade Folgore**, with numerous honors, including the Knight of the Military Order of Italy and the Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Joint Stars 2025 is a testament to the commitment of the Italian Armed Forces in ensuring the defense of the Nation, deploying not only their operational capabilities but also a strong sense of solidarity towards the population. With the involvement of the citizenry and the strengthening of cooperation between institutions, this exercise becomes an opportunity to strengthen the

bond between the Armed Forces and civil society, demonstrating that the defense of the State also involves concrete actions of support for local communities.

News link: https://www.difesa.it/smd/news-italia/difesa-cagliari-joint-stars-2025/70287.html