Mission accomplished, the War Flag of the 186th Paratroopers Regiment "Folgore" returned to Italy

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Late last night, March 14, 2024, the Glorious and Highly Decorated 186th Paratroopers Regiment "Folgore" marked the end of its mission in Kosovo, returning to Siena with its War Flag. The return marks the conclusion of a commitment lasting from November 2023 to March 2024, during which it served as the NATO operational reserve battalion in the Kosovo territory.

Last November, within just two days of the mobilization notice, the first groups of Regiment personnel were deployed to the operational area. In a short time, the complex and sensitive mission of complete force deployment, including necessary equipment and materials, was realized and completed.

The return ceremony was graced by the presence of the Commander of the Folgore Paratroopers Brigade, Brigadier General "Aquila 1" Massimiliano Mongillo, who welcomed the soldiers upon their arrival. The regiment was deployed in Kosovo during a tense period, previously marked by elections that generated friction in local communities, particularly in the

municipalities of Zubin Potok, Zvecan, and Leposavic.

Here, the election of Albanian mayors sparked tensions with the Serbian population in the spring of 2023. The most serious incidents occurred on May 29 in Zvecan, with direct clashes between demonstrators and Kosovo police forces. In this context, the 186th Paratroopers Regiment Folgore was deployed to provide support, positioning itself to maintain order and intervene in any new unrest.

Colonel Giovanni Corrado, commander of the 186th Regiment, was awarded the NATO medal for the service rendered, a recognition that underscores the excellence and professionalism demonstrated by the regiment during the mission. General Bernacca, deputy commander of KFOR, praised the regiment's commitment, emphasizing how the presence and availability of the troops contributed to creating a safer environment for everyone in Kosovo, reflecting positively on the entire community.

The return of the 186th Paratroopers Regiment Folgore represents not only the conclusion of a period of service but also the ongoing commitment of the Italian Armed Forces in contributing to international peace and security, highlighting their readiness to respond to any call.

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