



## ITA ARMY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1st newsletter 2021 - June update

Since the early stages of the emergency, the Italian Army (ITA Army) has been configured to ensure a large-scale response capacity, in synergy with all other military and Civilian Institutions, providing a coherent contribution to Government Authorities, which included:

- making available additional assets in terms of capacity, means, materials and infrastructures to guarantee support to Civilian Authorities and to the National Health System (NHS);
- arranging for the deployment and activation of nr.111 Defence Drive-Through (DDT) Centres, with approximately 3 million swab tests having been carried out;
- planning/conducting Operation EOS, aimed at ensuring, in coordination with others stakeholders, a device capable of managing the reception, distribution and inoculation of anti COVID vaccines.

### “STRADE SICURE” OPERATION

The Operation has been remodelled throughout the country after the outbreak of the epidemiological emergency, in order to accomplish all additional tasks assigned by the Government to the Army to counter the spread of the virus. This led, among other initiatives, to a reconfiguration of the Command and Control component to sustain the efforts of Prefectures and Police Headquarters, guaranteeing logistic, administrative and health support. Against this



background, since the beginning of the epidemiological emergency, “Strade Sicure” personnel performed checks on approximately 3,9 million people and over 460 thousands vehicles, significantly contributing to enforce the limitations/restrictions imposed by National Authorities. In this regard, territories and displacements were also monitored using peculiar military tactical assets such as drones, which helped increasing the situational awareness thanks to their real-time image and video capturing capability.

### SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

The ITA Army has set up 10 Health Task Forces that, within the respective Areas of Responsibility, have made available quick health care capacities both for home care in favor of military/civilian personnel, and for NHS structures. Not less important, the ITA Army contribution included:

- making available laboratories in the Medical Hospital Center (COM) in Milan and in the





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Departments of Forensic Medicine (DMML) in Padua, Messina and Cagliari, to increase NHS swab analysis capabilities, with a total number of over 310.000 molecular tests diagnosed since last November;

- 2 field laboratories (Rapid Deployable Outbreak Investigation Teams - RDOIT), in Caserta and Cosenza, with over 25.000 molecular swabs analysed;
- supporting logistic/health capabilities of civilian hospitals, through the:
  - deployment of over nr. 50 camp tents;
  - transportation of hospitalized personnel, with a total of over 1.500 patients transferred by ambulance;
  - sanitation of public environments/structures, with approximately 4.000 activities conducted since May 2020.

### EOS OPERATION



Operation EOS was conceived to contribute to the reception, storage, conservation, transport, distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines, ensuring an appropriate "cold chain" to support the national vaccination campaign. The activity has begun on December 26, 2020 with the transportation of the first 12.500 "Pfizer" vaccine doses, inoculated by the NHS on the following day on the occasion of the European Vaccine Day which has officially marked the beginning of the vaccination campaign in the EU. The ITA Army assets have so far guaranteed the transportation of over 15 million vaccines, making available nr.163 structures suitable for setting up vaccination stations. At the moment, the effort includes running nr.79 Army Vaccination Centers/Mobile Teams, where 1,5 million doses have so far been inoculated.

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