

Major General
Andrea DI STASIO
Italian Army Aviation
Commander

Major General of the Italian Army, he attended the Military Academy at Modena in 1987, ranking top officer on his course. He graduated from the University of Bologna in 1995, and the University of Trieste in 2005, with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and International Diplomatic Sciences, respectively. He attended the first year of the *Scuola di Guerra* (War College) in Italy in 1999, obtaining his Master's degree in Strategic Sciences. In 2003, he was awarded a Master's degree in Advanced Strategic Studies, while a student at the Joint Services Staff College in Madrid.

Major General Di Stasio has held various operational and staff positions, both in Italy and abroad (operations in Bosnia, Iraq, Somalia, and Lebanon) including: Strategic Advisor to the Somali Defence Minister under the EUTM (*European Union Training Mission*) - Somali mission; Liaison Officer at the French General Defence Staff in Paris; and, UNIFIL (*United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon*) Sector West Commander in Lebanon. In 2014, following his own research in this area, he established the 3rd Helicopter Regiment for Special Operations, "ALDEBARAN", in turn becoming the Regiment's first Commander.

On 27th June 2018, he was appointed Commander of "Sassari" Brigade in Sardinia, leading the Brigade's participation in operation Safe Street in Rome and later to the Unifil mission in Lebanon.

From November 2021 to April 2024 he was the Commander of the Army Aviation in Viterbo.

In April 2024 he has been appointed as Commander of the Army NCO Academy in Viterbo.

He continued his studies in Geopolitics, International Relations and Strategy, while continuing with military deployments to overseas operations in Bosnia, Iraq, Somalia, and Lebanon, and in 2020 he was appointed as Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law at the University of Sassari, teaching on *International Cooperation and Resolution of Armed Conflicts in 2020-2021* and as Adjunct Professor, Faculty of International Relations at the University of Viterbo, teaching on *International Organizations and Institutions for Security and Defense in 2022-2023*.

Married to Sanja, he has two sons, Matteo and Marco. He speaks English, French and Spanish.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS

- 1992 – 1995 Deputy Commander and subsequently Unit Commander of the 2nd Battery of the 21st self-propelled Artillery Regiment (Bologna);
- 1995 – 1996 Commander of the 1st Battery of the 1st Group of Hunters of the Alps;
- 1998 – 1999 Commander of the Command and Logistic Support Squadron of the newly set-up 7th Regiment Army Aviation "VEGA" (Rimini);
- 2005 – 2006 Commander of the 53rd Group – Helicopters of the 7th Regiment Army Aviation VEGA (Rimini);
- 2014 – 2017 1st Commander of the 3rd Special Operations Helicopter Regiment ALDEBARAN (Viterbo);
- 2018 – 2021 Commander of the “Sassari” Brigade. During this period, he was also deployed in Rome as Lazio Abruzzo Group Commander, on “Safe Streets” operation, an Italian internal security operation, from 15th January 2019 to 20th June 2019.

SUMMARY OF STAFF POSTS IN THE ITALIAN ARMY

- 2000 – 2001 Chief Operations Section of the 7th Regiment ARMY AVIATION "VEGA" (Rimini);
- 2001 – 2004 Staff Officer at the General Planning Division – National and NATO Planning Section of the Italian Army General Staff (Rome);
- 2004 – 2005 Staff Officer at the Army Aviation Section of the IV Department – Logistics of the Italian Army General Staff;
- 2006 – 2009 Chief of the Army Aviation Section of the IV Department – Logistics of the Italian Army General Staff;
- 2014 Chief of the Helicopters Regiment for Special Operations Working Group (REOS WG) at the General and Financial Planning Division of the Italian Army General Staff (Rome). He was entrusted with the task of evaluating the reconfiguration of an Army Aviation Fly Group to a Regiment level unit dedicated to the SF/SOF support in the 3rd dimension.
- 2017 – 2018 Deputy Chief Division at the III General Planning Division of the Italian Army General Staff.

SUMMARY OF JOINT SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

- 2012 – 2014 Deputy Head of Office Directorate and Strategic Analysis and Military Policy of Operations at the III Division of the Defence General Staff (Rome).

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

- May – November 2000 Staff Officer responsible for the NATO SFOR Command Operations in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina);
- July – December 2006 Commander of the Task Group “*Cassiopea*” during the Ancient Babylon Operation (Tallil-Iraq);
- 2009 – 2012 Italian Liaison Officer at the French Defense General Staff (Paris-France);
- 2013 – 2014 Strategic Advisor of the Somali Minister of Defense (EUTM-Somalia);
- 2020 – 2021 UNIFIL Sector West Commander (Shama-Lebanon).

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- He completed the 169° course "*ORGOGGIO*" of the *Accademia Militare* (Military Academy) in Modena, the Army and Inter-Service Advanced Staff courses at the *Scuola di Applicazione* (Officers' School) in Turin, the *Scuola di Guerra* (War College) in Civitavecchia (Rome) and the Advanced Studies General Staff course at the Spanish Centre for Defense Higher Studies;
- Gen. Capitani award and scholarship: ranking first at the Military Academy;
- Giovanni Agnelli award: ranking first Artillery Officer at the Army Application School;
- Military helicopter pilot course at the Aviation Military school in Frosinone and the Army Aviation school in Viterbo;
- Degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Bologna;
- State exam for Engineer at the University of Bologna;
- Degree in International Diplomacy Studies at the University of Trieste;
- 2nd level master's degree in Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Turin;
- 2nd level master's degree in Advanced International Studies at the University of Madrid;
- Adjunct Professor of "International Cooperation and Resolution of Armed Conflicts" at the Faculty of Law of the University of Sassari.
- Registered Engineer of the Province of Sassari;
- He speaks English, French and Spanish;
- Military helicopter pilot since 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Unione del Maghreb arabo ovvero uno spazio di cooperazione e sviluppo* (Union of arabic Maghreb or an area of cooperation and development);
- *L'Iran, dal primo dopoguerra all'accordo di Algeri* (Iran, from the first post-war period to the Algiers Agreement);
- *Brigata "Sassari"* ("Sassari" Brigade);
- *Sardegna e Brigata Sassari. Fotografie inedite senza censura (1912-1937) di Antonio Carruccio* (Sardinia and Sassari Brigade, Unpublished photographs without censorship (1912-1937) by Antonio Carruccio);

Numerous articles published in the Italian military magazine specialized on defense themes.

NATIONAL DECORATIONS

- Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic;
- Mauritian Medal of Merit for fifty years of Military Career;
- Silver Medal of Merit of the Italian Red Cross;
- Silver Medal of Merit for Long Command;
- Air Force Silver Medal for long air navigation;
- Gold Cross for service seniority;
- Commemorative Medal for peacekeeping missions;
- Commemorative Medal for operations of humanitarian rescue;
- Commemorative Medal for operations of Public Order (*Vespri Siciliani e Strade Sicure*);

- Italian Red Cross Commemorative Medal for the international operation in Iraq 2003/2006 awarded by the National President for the Italian Red Cross;
- Cross of Officer of the Order with swords of Merit of the Sovereign Hospital Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta;
- Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem;
- Knight of the Sacred Constantinian Order of Saint George.

INTERNATIONAL DECORATIONS

- Gold Medal “*Collegio Militare delle Nazioni*” Argentine Army;
- Bronze Medal "Maresciallo Hermes" Brazilian Armed Forces;
- Nato Commemorative Medal – Bosnia Herzegovina;
- Silver Medal *Gendarmeria Nacional Argentina*;
- French Commemorative Medal;
- Iraq Campaign Medal US Army;
- Peacekeeping Operations Merit Badge of Spanish Armed Forces;
- Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal;
- UN peacekeeping Medal Lebanon;
- Medal for international cooperation – 1st degree, Slovenian Minister of Defence.

ITALIAN AND FOREIGN HONORARY CITIZENSHIP

- Municipality of Cagliari (Italy);
- Municipality of Vasanello (Italy);
- Municipality of Vitorchiano (Italy);
- Municipality of Paulilatino (Italy);
- Municipality of Tyre (Lebanon);
- Municipality of Bint Jbeil (Lebanon);
- Municipality of Shama (Lebanon);
- Municipality of Aytaroun (Lebanon);
- Municipality of Toura (Lebanon);
- Municipality of Marakah (Lebanon);
- Municipality of Rmeich (Lebanon).