

# Guardia di Finanza Congress in Toblach 2023 "Alpine Rescue in Disaster Operations"

October 19 2023



### **Topics**



### Introduction

Historical operations

S.A.R. in disasters 2023

Question time



### Introduction



The **Guardia di Finanza** is a military Police Force part of the «National System of Civil Protection». The Guardia di Finanza also ensures its support to public security in the mountain areas, through its component of Alpine Rescue, engaged in S.A.R. and protection of human life activities.







The personnel working in this field is trained with supporting dog units in Alpine School in Predazzo (Trent), by using cutting-edge techniques that provide for the possibility of working on snow, ice, cliffs and in case of emergency. The Alpine school is the <u>oldest</u> Alpine Military School in the world



### Introduction - Where



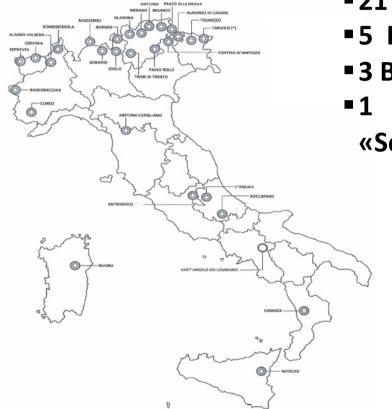


■ 5 Bases in the middle of Italy

■ 3 Bases in south

■1 training centre S.A.G.F. at

«Scuola Alpina»







### Introduction - What



S.A.G.F. (Rescue Mountain division) have skills about search and rescue operation in mountain. We cooperate with the others italian and international rescuers. S.A.G.F. are trough to prosecute in case of law violation in mountain.







### ALPINE RESCUE GUARDIA DI FINANZA – MAIN OPERATIONS IN CIVIL PROTECTION (LAST 15 YEARS)



- EARTHQUAKE L'AQUILA 2009
- EARTHQUAKE EMILIA 2012
- EARTHQUAKE CENTER ITALY 2016
- RIGOPIANO AVALANCHE ABRUZZO 2017
- MORANDI BRIDGE GENOVA 2018
- EARTHQUAKE ALBANIA 2019
- MARMOLADA LANDSLIDE/AVALANCHE 2022
- FLOW IN MARCHE 2022
- LANDSLIDE ISCHIA 2022









#### **CIVIL PROTECTION OPERATIONS**



### S.A.G.F. PARTICIPATE IN RESCUE OPERATIONS IN DISASTERS UNDER THE COORDINATION OF ITALIAN NATIONAL FIRE BRIGADE CORPS





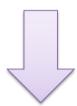


T.Col. Alessandro ALBERIOLI





### "Alpine Rescue in Disaster Operations"



..in which circumstances we used mountain rescue skills..

- > 2023 **Turkey Syria** earthquake
  - 2023 Emilia-Romagna Floods







Guardia di Finanza Alpine Rescue (S.A.G.F.) in Syria and Turkey earthquake - 2023





ON 6 FEBRUARY 2023, THE MOST DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE RECORDED IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN THE LAST 100 YEARS OCCURRED IN EASTERN TURKEY.

WITH A MAGNITUDE OF 7.8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, THE EARTHQUAKE, WITH ITS EPICENTER LOCATED BETWEEN THE SOUTH-EAST OF TURKEY AND THE NORTH OF SYRIA, PROVED TO BE APPROXIMATELY A THOUSAND TIMES STRONGER THAN THAT OF AMATRICE (CENTER ITALY), DATING BACK TO 2016, AND 30 TIMES MORE INTENSE THAN WHAT OCCURRED IN IRPINIA (SOUTH ITALY) IN 1980.

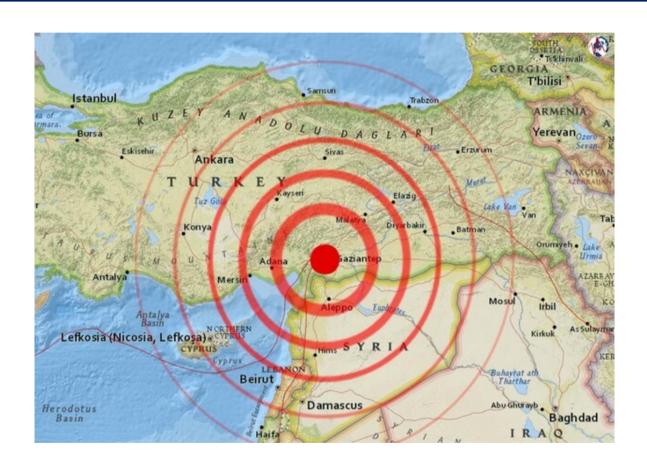
ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, 55,000 PEOPLE DIED AND 100,000 WERE INJURED.



















THE ITALIAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL PROTECTION ACTIVATED THE OPERATIONS CENTER OF THE GENERAL COMMAND OF THE GUARDIA DI FINANZA TO SEND AN ALPINE RESCUE TEAM, TOGETHER WITH A CONTINGENT OF FIRE BRIGADES, TRANSPORTED BY TWO ATR 72 AIRCRAFTS OF GUARDIA DI FINANZA AIR

SERVICE.











THE S.A.G.F. TEAM WAS COMPOSED OF HIGHLY SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL FIGURES WITH OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN CIVIL PROTECTION EMERGENCIES. ONE TEAM LEADER, 3 K9 UNITS QUALIFIED TO SEARCH RUBBLE AND HUMAN BLOOD/BODIES, 2 OPERATORS SPECIALIZED IN URBAN SERCH AND RESCUE.













#### **LOGISTICAL CRITICAL ISSUES**

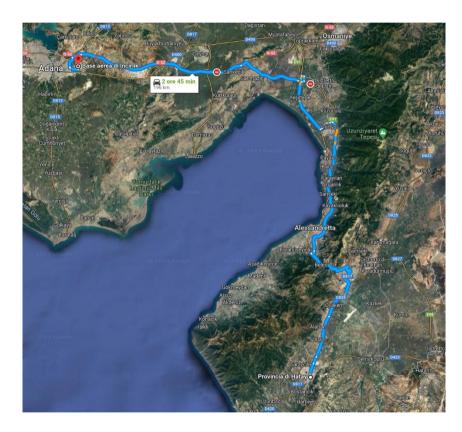
AIRPORTS - ROADS BLOCKED - BRIDGES COLLAPSED.

- DIFFICULT AND RISKY JOURNEYS.
- IN THE AREAS HIT BY THE EARTHQUAKE (PROVINCES OF HATAY AND KARAMANMARAS) 70/80% OF THE BUILDINGS DESTROYED, THE REMAINDER HEAVILY DAMAGED. NO HABITABLE BUILDINGS. CESSATION OF ALL "CIVIL ACTIVITIES".
- POPULATION IN MAKESHIFT SHELTERS AND TENTED CAMPS. TEMPERATURES DOWN TO -10 DEGREES AT NIGHT.
- BASE CAMP: ABSENCE OF TOILETS AND KITCHEN ARMED FORCES COMBAT RATIONS.
- INABILITY TO FIND ANY SUPPORTING GOODS OR FOODSTUFF ON SITE. ONLY WATER AND DIESEL SUPPLIED BY THE TURKISH ARMY.

T.Col. Alessandro ALBERIOLI

















FREQUENT EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS, THAT CONSTANTLY THREATENED THE SAFETY OF THE WORKERS IN THE RUBBLE.

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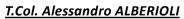
















- CHOLERA EPIDEMIC SPREAD AMONG THE SYRIAN POPULATION PRESENT IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS NEAR THE CITY. ON THE DEVASTATED STREETS, CORPSES WRAPPED IN BAGS COULD BE SEEN AWAITING COLLECTION BY THF **AUTHORITIES.**
- ATTACKS BY ARMED REBELS, WHO HAD ALREADY FORCED THE RETURN OF SOME FOREIGN CONTINGENTS TO THE CITY.
  - PRESSURE ON THE LOCAL POPULATION, **EXASPERATED**











#### WORKSITE n. 51 «ITALY»

7 FLOORS BUILDING COMPLETELY DESTROYED: 8 PEOPLE MISSING (2 SMALL CHILDREN); CONTINUOUS DANGER OF COLLAPSES – TWO S.A.G.F. DOGS INJURED;

WORK FOR 24 HOURS A DAY WITH K9 AND EXCAVATION BY MECHANICAL MEANS OR BY HAND; ALL FOUND DEAD.











#### **QUICK REACTION TEAM - HATAY**

TEAM COMPOSED BY A T.L., TWO S.A.G.F. OPERATORS (INCLUDING A DOG HANDLER), TWO FIRE BRIGADES AND A PARAMEDIC;

24-HOUR ACTIVATIONS TO RESCUE PEOPLE PRESUMED ALIVE;

DIFFICULTY IN MOVEMENT – OFTEN ON FOOT AND ALWAYS WITHOUT THE USE OF GPS;

CONTINUOUS COLLAPSES;

NLY DEAD WERE FOUND.









#### **HOTEL SAFRON - KARAMANMARAS**

6 FLOOR HOTEL IMPLODED ON ITSELF AND RAZED TO THE GROUND;

INFORMATION ACTIVITY: 5 MISSING GUESTS – ALL ON THE SECOND FLOOR; COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS SEARCHES FOR COLLAPSES AND INSTABILITY.

2 K9 S.A.G.F. – <u>TACO</u> AND <u>EAST</u> DOGS IDENTIFIED A SPECIFIC POINT WHERE THE EXCAVATIONS WERE CONCENTRATED AND 5 CORPSES WERE FOUND, INCLUDING AN HALIAN CITIZEN.



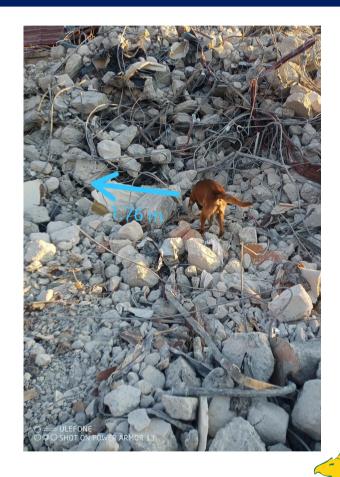


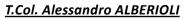




#### <u>HOTEL SAFRON - KARAMANMARAS</u>











#### **2 DOGS INJURED**











#### **LESSONS LEARNED – STRENGTHS**

- TASK FORCE QUICK AND LIGHT.
- SHORT CHAIN OF COMMAND (CEN.OP. TEAM LEADER).
- FREEDOM OF INITIATIVE FOR THE TEAM LEADER.
- USE OF K9 WITH RUBBLE/CADAVERIC
- PERFECT INTEGRATION WITH FIRE BRIGADE AND P.C.
- USE OF <u>USAR/INSARAG PROCEDURES</u>.
- USE OF FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT OF THE GUARDIA DI FINANZA AIR SERVICE.











#### **LESSONS LEARNED – CRITICAL ISSUES**

- LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES DUE TO THE LIMITED WEIGHT BY PLANE.
- LACK OF KITCHEN AND HYGIENE FACILITIES (EPIDEMIC DANGER).
- INABILITY TO FIND THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES ON SITE (ONLY WATER AND DIESEL).
- LACK OF VEHICLES AND HELICOPTERS TO REDUCE INTERNAL TRAVEL TIMES.
- LACK OF MECHANICAL MEANS FOR EXCAVATIONS.
- DIFFICULTY IN LANGUAGE AND UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL ASPECTS.
  LACK OF VETERINARY STAFF.









### 2023 **Emilia-Romagna** Floods

In Emilia-Romagna 4.5 billion cubic meters of water spilled over a portion of territory of 16 thousand square kilometers from 1st to 17th May.

An enormous quantity never recorded before and, in terms of flow, unprecedented in Italy

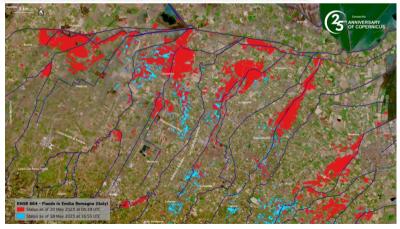






### **Operating environment**











While the avalanche of water mainly hit Romagna, 23 rivers and streams flooded at the same time, 13 exceeded the alarm threshold and around a thousand landslides occurred in the hills and mountains.



We carried out S.A.R. MISSIONS using alpine rescue training in all areas of floods



### **Training**



Our training is carried out in a mountain environment but is standard for all rescuers employed nationally and abroad, also in civil protection and macro emergencies contexts





