



313th AEROBATIC TRAINING SQUADRON – FRECCIE TRICOLORI

WHO WE ARE

The 313th Aerobatic Training Squadron, best known as Freccie Tricolori, is the Italian Air Force Aerobatic Team. The Squadron has had its headquarter in Udine-Rivolto ever since its birth in 1961 and is formed of about 100 men and women, Officers and NCOs of the Italian Air Force.

The flying team of 10 pilots (9 plus the solo) is composed of ITAF combat-ready pilots coming from operational squadrons. After an accurate and difficult selection, they enter Freccie Tricolori team, where they spend part of their career before returning to operational squadrons.

The rest of the team is composed of about 70 NCOs specialized in the maintenance of the MB339A-PAN aircraft, plus 20 Staff members between Officers and NCOs.

This is the team that works everyday behind the curtains in order to make our green, white and red spectacular flight possible.

WHAT WE DO

The mission of Freccie Tricolori is to represent the values, technical expertise, professionalism, team spirit and passion of the over 40.000 men and women of the Italian Air Force. With its aerobatic manoeuvres, the 313th Squadron is a symbol of the capabilities of the whole Italian Defense system and the national strategic industry.

OUR HISTORY

Towards the end of the 1920s, at Campofornido airfield, located a few kilometers east of Rivolto base, a group of pioneers demonstrated how aerobatics was the very essence of military flight and how its practice could improve performance in air combat. A tradition of collective aerobatics was thus born, culminating with the collective aerobatic formations of the 1950s, identified according to an annual rotation among ITAF Operational Flight Squadrons: *Lancieri Neri*, *Diavoli Rossi*, *Tigri Bianche*, *Getti Tonanti* and *Cavallino Rampante*.

This last Squadron gave birth in 1961 to a flight group dedicated to collective aerobatics and to the representation of the Italian Air Force and Italy in all events, at home and abroad.

On March 1st 1961, the first six F-86E "Sabre" aircrafts arrived in Rivolto, coming from the 4th "Aerobrigata" of Grosseto (today a national Air Defence base equipped with Eurofighter aircrafts).

On the *Sabres'* tails, the livery of the "Cavallino Rampante" (little prancing horse) Squadron was painted, bearing the symbol of the aviation ace Francesco Baracca (which is why, still today, the radio call sign used by the pilots of the Freccie Tricolori is "Pony").

Thus, the Special Aerobatics Unit was born in Rivolto airport, where it still has its headquarters today. Once in the skies over Friuli Venezia Giulia region, the six *Sabre* aircrafts directed towards

Campoformido airport, where they performed a looping in honor of the cradle of Italian collective aerobatics. They then performed a number of aerobatic manoeuvres over Rivotto airport, before landing there. On the ground, waiting for them, was Major Pilot Mario SQUARCINA, former Leader and Commander of the "*Diavoli Rossi*" Squadron, who would go down in history, from that day, as the 1st Commander and "founding father" of Frecce Tricolori.

The F-86E "*Sabre*" flew its very first event on May 1st 1961 in Trento. During their first year of life, Frecce Tricolori flew with the symbol of the "*Prancing Horse*", then in 1961 took the new livery we all well know. Starting from July 1st 1961, the Squadron took the official name of 313th Aerobatic Flight Squadron.

In 1963, Frecce Tricolori adopted an aircraft entirely designed and constructed in Italy, the FIAT G-91PAN, which they left only in 1982, when the transition to the Aermacchi MB-339PAN aircraft took place.

The overflights and demonstrations that allow Frecce Tricolori to carry on their task are largely appreciated events that have always accompanied important moments in the history of our "*Bel Paese*".

Frecce Tricolori have so far brought the Italian flag to 58 countries all over the world, including two tours in North America in 1986 and 1992, reaching several cities of Canada and USA.

FRECCE TRICOLORI TODAY

Frecce Tricolori recently concluded the 2023 season, which celebrated the first centenary of Italian Air Force by reaching every Italian region with an Air Show or a flyover: 51 total events for a 63rd aerobatic season followed by millions of people with great affection and participation. At the end of the season Frecce Tricolori took also part to the Dubai Air Show 2023.

This new year, Frecce Tricolori will perform their third North American Tour, with several events in Canada and USA from June to August, in addition to the Italian Air Shows all across the country in May and September.

This is the 2024 Frecce Tricolori formation:

- Pony 0 - Lieutenant Colonel Massimiliano SALVATORE (Commander)
- Pony 1 - Major Pierluigi RASPA (Leader)
- Pony 2 - Captain Luca POZZANI (1st Left wingman)
- Pony 3 - Captain Leonardo LEO (1st Right wingman)
- Pony 4 - Captain Alessandro SOMMARIVA (2nd Left wingman)
- Pony 5 - Captain Simone FANFARILLO (2nd Right wingman)
- Pony 6 - Major Franco Paolo MAROCCO (1st slot)
- Pony 7 - Captain Emanuele BERNUZZI (3rd Left wingman)
- Pony 8 - Captain Giovanni MORELLO (3rd Right wingman)
- Pony 9 - Major Oscar DEL DO' (2nd slot)
- Pony 10 - Major Federico DE CECCO (Solo)

Frecce Tricolori
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FORMATIONS

NAT 1986	NAT 1992
PONY 0: BERNARDIS PONY 1: NALDINI PONY 2: NUTARELLI PONY 3: MORETTI / ACCORSI PONY 4: ZANOVELLO / ALESSIO PONY 5: ACCORSI / PETRINI / MORETTI PONY 6: BROVEDANI PONY 7: ALESSIO PONY 8: PETRINI PONY 9: GROPLERO PONY 10: MOLINARO	PONY 0: MORETTI PONY 1: ZANOVELLO PONY 2: BOIARDI PONY 3: TRICOMI PONY 4: COGGIOLA PONY 5: WALZL PONY 6: VIVONA PONY 7: ROSSI U. PONY 8: DANIELIS PONY 9: FIORE PONY 10: ROSA

Tour America 1986

11 jul 1986	Ceremony for the departure of the PAN for the tour of Canada and the USA, with the presence of the Commander of the 1st R.A. Gen. S.A. Franco PISANO and the A.M. band - 12 MB339PAN and 2 C-130 aircraft with 36 PAN specialists	
11 jul 1986	Rivolto - Hopsten (GERMANIA) - Leuchars (INGHILTERRA).	
12 jul 1986	Leuchars (INGHILTERRA) - Keflavik (ISLANDA)	
13 jul 1986	Keflavik (ISLANDA) - Sondrestrom (GROENLANDIA) - Frobisher (CANADA)	
14 jul 1986	Fobisher (CANADA) - Goose Bay (CANADA)	
15 jul 1986	Goose Bay (CANADA) - North Bay (CANADA)	
20 jul 1986	North Bay	CANADA
27 jul 1986	Mc Guire	USA
02 aug 1986	Oshkosh	USA
03 aug 1986	Oshkosh	USA
05 aug 1986	Moose Jaw	CANADA
09 aug 1986	Abbotsford - Vancouver	CANADA

10 aug 1986	Abbotsford - Vancouver	CANADA
15 aug 1986	Photographic flight of 10 aircraft over San Francisco (USA)	
16 aug 1986	Moffet - San Francisco	USA
17 aug 1986	Moffet - San Francisco	USA
23 aug 1986	Billings	USA
24 aug 1986	Billings	USA
27 aug 1986	Sheppard	USA
31 aug 1986	Toronto	CANADA
01 sept 1986	Toronto	CANADA
02 sept 1986	Photographic flight of 12 aircraft over Niagara Falls	
06 sept 1986	Griffis	USA
09 sept 1986	Andrews AFB	USA
12 sept 1986	Start of PAN return with transfer from Andrews (USA) to Goose Bay (CANADA) with technical stop in Bagotville (CANADA)	
13 sept 1986	Goose Bay (CANADA) - Frobisher (CANADA)	
14 sept 1986	Frobisher (CANADA) Sondrestrom (GROENLANDIA) - Keflavik (ISLANDA)	
15 sept 1986	Keflavik (ISLANDA) Lossiemouth (INGHILTERRA) - Baden Sollingen (GERMANIA)	
16 sept 1986	Baden Sollingen (GERMANY) - Uprising. Ceremony on the occasion of the return of the PAN at the presence of the Minister of Defense Hon. Giovanni Spadolini, of the Head of S.M.A. Gen. S.A. Basilio COTTONE and the Com.te the 1st R.A. Gen. S.A. Franco Pisano.	
17 sept 1986	The pilots and a representation of specialists were received by the Head of State Francesco Cossiga.	

Tour America 1992

11 jun 1992	Departure for the North American Tour. KØksijde - Lussiemouth - Keflavik. Sonderstrom - Frobisher Bay. Goose Bay -Quebec (return to Goose Bay due to headwinds). Bagott Ville - Hamilton.	
20 jun 1992	Hamilton	CANADA
21 jun 1992	Hamilton	CANADA
25 jun 1992	Timmins	CANADA
27 jun 1992	Ottawa	CANADA
28 jun 1992	Ottawa	CANADA
04 jun 1992	Detroit	USA
05 jul 1992	Detroit	USA
07 jul 1992	Battle Creek	USA
08 jul 1992	Battle Creek	USA
11 jul 1992	Chicago	USA
12 jul 1992	Chicago	USA
15 jul 1992	Sheppard	USA
18 jul 1992	Atlantic City	USA
19 jul 1992	Atlantic City	USA
25 jul 1992	Westover	USA
26 jul 1992	Westover	USA
27 jul 1992	Return to Italy. Day 1 Westover-Begotville-Goose Bay. 2nd day Sonderstrom. 3rd day Keflavik. 4th day Lossiemouth-KØksijde. 5th Day Revolt.	