
Italy in 1989

It was very hard to find data about Italy in 1989. The main starting point was: <https://www.fireandfury.com/orbats/modcwitalian.pdf> and several other websites

In wartime the bulk of the Italian Air Force would become subordinate to NATO's AIRSOUTH Command and would be reinforced by elements of NATO air forces, most notably the US, Spanish and Portuguese Air Forces, as well as any air assets attached to AMF. The US 16th Air Force in particular, maintained three permanent air bases in Italy and in the late 1980s and had a wing of Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles permanently stationed in Italy. It only had a single wing of Spanish-based F16s permanently assigned, though could expect massive reinforcement from US-based units during mobilisation for war.ⁱ



Aeronautica Militare

The amount of aircraft per squadron mentioned in <https://www.fireandfury.com/> is so low; 6 or 9 F-104 Starfighters per squadron, this can't be true. In this source Italy had 9 Tornado's per sq but bought 123 in total.ⁱⁱ Other sources mention 18 as the total per squadron which is more logical.^{iii iv}

Wing : Stormo

Squadron: Gruppo

156° Gruppo Gioia del Colle 1984-2008

155° Gruppo Tornado op Ghedi (18 aircraft)
154° Gruppo "Red Devils"
102° Gruppo

84° Centro SAR Gioia del Colle (BA), located in the province of Bari. Sikorsky S-61 HH-3F Pelican
23° Gruppo (Squadron) "*Veltri*" (Veltro Cervia air base)

51° Stormo
36° Stormo
37° Stormo

15° Stormo
14° Stormo

6° Stormo Red Devils
2° Stormo

The first AMX was officially delivered to the Aeronautica Militare on Apr. 19, 1989. The aircraft was the AMX serialled MM7091 that was taken on charge by the Evaluation Unit of the ItAF, the Reparto Sperimentale di Volo (RSV), based in Pratica di Mare airport, near Rome. The 311th Gruppo of the RSV took the first six examples on charge and began an intensive test campaign made of 1,500 flight hours to explore the whole aircraft flight envelope. The unit tested the aircraft in all its aspects using also all the armament it could carry operating in the Sardinian ranges out of Decimomannu, where the first prototypes were also stationed for a certain period for various tests. In October 1989 the first production examples were delivered to the unit of the Italian Air Force that had been destined to the conversion on the AMX: the 103° Gruppo of the 51° Stormo at Istrana.

Air defense

I am not sure about the Early Warning radars of Italy. I took the RAN-10S because that was available in CMO. I found that in 1988 the first HR-3000 radar was delivered. But also a mention of the AN/FPS-88 radar at Licola. The rest is a bit blur and is equipped with the RAN-10S until more info is available. ^v

The units are from https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/11%C2%BA_Gruppo_radar.



Radar of the 22^o Gruppo radar is the AN/FPS-88^{vi}

Italian Navy

<https://naval-encyclopedia.com/cold-war/marina-militare-italian-cold-war-navy.php>

ⁱ <https://www.fireandfury.com/orbats/modcwitalian.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://theaviationist.com/2024/08/14/tornado-50-italian-air-force-service/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://hobbymasterarchive.org/HA6720/>

^{iv} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structure_of_the_Italian_Air_Force

^v https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/4%C2%AA_Brigata_telecomunicazioni_e_difesa_aerea

^{vii} <https://www.seairlandshots.com/index.php/2018/01/19/il-22-gruppo-radar-dellaeronautica-militare/>