

## Colonel (ITA-Army) Nicola MANDOLESI



Colonel Nicola MANDOLESI was born in Massa Marittima, Italy on February, 17th, 1972. In 1992-1994 he attended the 174th Course at the Military Academy in Modena. After being commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant, he attended the Army Officer School in Turin and was promoted Lieutenant on September 1st, 1996, upon which he gained the honor to wear the red beret of the Paratroopers.

From 1997 to 2001, he was assigned to the 186th Para Regiment “FOLGORE” in Siena, where he served as Infantry Platoon Leader, Deputy Company Commander.

He was promoted Captain in 2001 and then assigned to the 183th Para Regiment “NEMBO” in Pistoia, where he served, from 2001 to 2007, as Company Commander and S3 Staff Officer for Plans - Operations and Training. In 2007 he attended the 132nd Army Basic and Advanced Staff Course in Turin.

From 2008 to 2011 he served as Staff Officer to the Joint Operational Headquarters – J3 Land Operations office. In 2009 he was promoted Major.

From 2010 and 2011, he attended the 13th Joint Services Command and Staff Course at the Centre for High Defence Studies in Rome. From 2011 to 2014 he was Italian Army Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in U.S. – Virginia. In 2013 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. In 2014 he returned to 183th “NEMBO” Para Regiment as Commander of the 1st Para Battalion “GRIZZANO”. In 2015 he was appointed as Commander of the Officer Cadets battalion at the Italian Army Military Academy in Modena. In 2018 he was promoted Colonel and assigned as regiment Commander to the 187th Para Regiment “FOLGORE” in Livorno, where he currently serves. .

As regards his operational assignments, he took part in: Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1999 as Plt. Cdr and Deputy Company Cdr; two NATO operations in Albania (2000 plt. Cdr. and Deputy Coy Cdr and 2002 as Coy Cdr); two NATO stability operations in Kosovo (2003 company Cdr., and 2017-2018 Chief of Cabinet to COMKFOR); Cease fire monitoring mission in South Sudan – Sudan (2004-2005 Intergovernmental Authority on Development -IGAD- Verification and Monitoring Team - VMT- Patrol Leader); operation “LEONTE” within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (2007 as SO S5 Sector West).

His education comprises: a Political Science Postgraduate Degree, a Postgraduate Master in Strategic Sciences and a Second Level Master in Strategic Studies. His professional educational background also includes: NATO Operations Planning Course; Combat Arms Recognition Course at the International Special Training Centre (ISTC) in Pfullendorf, pathfinder qualification; Egyptian Army Ranger Course - Commando - El Sa'ka Academy in Inshas- Alsharqiya (Egitto).

His awards include:

- Italian Army Parachute qualification badge;
- US Army Parachute qualification badge;
- Portuguese Army Parachute qualification badge;
- Egyptian ranger badge;
- Italian Army Long Command Medal (10 years);
- Italian Army Long Service Silver Cross (16 years);
- Italian Army Cross for peace-keeping operations (more than 3 awards);
- Italian Army Bronze Meritorious Medal for Long Parachuting Activity (10 years);
- Commemorative Cross for Homeland Security operations;
- NATO Medal for the former Yugoslavia;
- NATO Commemorative Medal for operations in Kosovo;
- NATO Commemorative Medal for operations in Kosovo (2003-2010);
- NATO Commemorative Medal for operations in the Balkans;
- IGAD Commemorative Medal for operations in South Sudan;
- United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Commemorative Medal.
- Meritorious Service Medal - United States Armed Forces;
- Achievement medal - United States Armed Forces;
- Slovenian Medal for International Cooperation, Grade II;
- Hellenic Medal for peace operations.

Colonel Nicola MANDOLESI is married to Mrs Barbara FIDANZI and has one daughter, Chiara and one son, Marco.