

COL. DAVIDE SALERNO
Commander, Aviation English Formation Center
(CENFORAVEN)
Loreto- ITALY



Col. Davide Salerno is the Commander of the Italian Air Force "Aviation English Formation Center" located in Loreto near Ancona, Italy.

The Aviation English Formation Center is responsible for teaching and certification in all foreign languages for the Italian Air Force.

A graduate from the Italian Air Force Academy (GRIFO IV Class), Col. Salerno entered active duty in 1987. He graduated from Pilot Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in 1992 and has served as an operational pilot, as well as an instructor and evaluator until 2008, flying different fighter aircrafts both in Italy (Gioia del Colle and Trapani Air Bases) and, as an exchange pilot, in the U.S. (Tucson, AZ). He attended all ITAF War School postgraduate courses, he is a Qualified Flight Safety Officer and a Qualified Production Aircraft Test Pilot.

Col. Salerno has commanded the 18th Fighter Squadron at Trapani AB, Italy.

As Chief of Defensive Ops in the Current Plans Office at the ITAF Operational Command in Poggio Renatico, Italy, in 2009, he was assigned to plan and execute the employment of the Italian MQ-9 Predators in the course of the G8 Summit in L'Aquila.

During Operation Unified Protector in 2011, he was appointed as the Italian Red Card Holder representative at CAOC 5, in Poggio Renatico, Italy, overseeing operations of all Italian assets, both manned and unmanned.

He has been for three years the Deputy Team Leader of the Alliance Ground Surveillance Implementation Office under the OPI OSP Division in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Casteau, Belgium, overseeing and coordinating the military implementation of the NATO AGS Capability.

In 2014, Col. Davide Salerno has been appointed Head of the 3rd Office "Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Technologies", within the 4th Department of the Italian Air Force Staff, coordinating the military acquisition, upgrade, and sustainment of all RPA systems in the Italian Air Force.

Before becoming the Commander of the CENFORAVEN in 2017, he has been for two years the Director of the Italian Air Force "RPA Center of Excellence".

Col. Salerno has flown about 3,000 flying hours, primarily on F104, Tornado F3, and F16.

Married to Adriana he has two children, Edoardo and Maria Sara. His hobbies include golf, skiing, hiking, and playing Bridge.