

# MINISTERO DELLA DIFESA



Ufficio Pubblica Informazione e Comunicazione  
**COMUNICATO STAMPA N° 07 DEL 04/09/19**

## ITS ETNA

ITS Etna (Logistic Support Ship) is the fifth unit of the Italian Navy to bear this name but unique of its kind. Built at the Riva Trigoso Naval Shipyards, she was launched on 12 July 1997 and delivered to the Italian Navy on 29 July 1998. She was awarded her battle flag at Catania on 28 November 1998, and was initially utilised as naval replenishment and logistic support ship for fleet operations.

ITS Etna has been designed to fully support long-range missions of a naval squadron, ensuring the transportation and replenishment at sea of fuels, lubricants, ammunition, food supplies and other commodities. The ship has 5 RAS points (4 lateral and 1 astern) and a flight deck enabling operation of medium-heavy and light helicopters – both national and from allied navies – that can also accommodate in hangar a SH-3D/EH-101/AB212/NH90 helicopter. Fully automated cargo handling systems can also be used for loading/unloading of materials to provide support to populations affected by natural disasters and/or hit by socio-economic crisis.

The three workshops for helicopter, mechanic and electro-mechanic maintenance may also provide technical assistance for other ships at sea, including hull and engine repairs and maintenance activities on combat system equipment. Shipboard instruments and equipment, as well as the crewmembers' qualifications and technical skills can be fully utilised to provide support and emergency relief to populations that - following natural disasters or terrorist attacks – need to reactivate primary functions in order to return to their daily routine, including repairs of vehicles and equipment, water mains, power lines, electric motors and internal combustion engines, etc..

ITS Etna also serves as health support unit, with NATO Role 2+ medical treatment facilities, able to perform:

- medical examinations, and outpatient or emergency therapies;
- emergency dental care;
- X-rays and lab tests;
- life- and limb-saving surgery;
- initial management of burns.

Health care is provided by an emergency surgery team (composed of an anaesthetist, a surgeon, an orthopaedist and a dentist) that is able to ensure medical care for 20 days in a row to a naval group of 1,800. In this sector too, the facilities, medical equipment and professional skills provided by ITS Etna are in no way inferior to medical facilities such as the first aid posts and primary social

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and health care centres that play a crucial role in the provision of emergency aid to areas hard-hit by natural disasters.

### **THE NAVAL ACADEMY**

[The Naval Academy](#), based in Livorno, trains and prepares future Navy officers and commanders.

Training and professional development programmes are designed to prepare future officers for future duties and assignments.

From preliminary selection to daily training, the young cadets need to draw on personal qualities including motivation, commitment, willpower, self-sacrifice, physical and mental skills in order to achieve their goals.

Following a long-standing tradition, the Livorno Naval Academy oversees the selection, education and training of young officers, infusing them with the Italian Navy's ethical values and highly professional skills, thus preparing them for their future roles and responsibilities as Navy leaders.