

WHAT WILL I BE WHEN I GROW UP? LIVING TOWARD THE FUTURE



On Friday, 9th October, the Trieste Conference Hall of the Villaggio IN Italia hosted the preview of the Italian Navy's new calendar, which will accompany Italians throughout 2027. Valentina Venturi, Sub-Lieutenant and moderator of the preview, introduced the original idea behind the 2027 project, built around the motto "What Will I Be When I Grow Up?" The answer to this enormous question came from Navy professionals: adventurous adults who embrace a career that allows them to remain forever young in their curiosity. Venturi outlined the calendar's graphic concept, with each month dedicated to a distinctive profession, from commanding officer to pilot, from engineer to submariner. "Men and women who already know what they do when they grow up share their experience and their profession. They are people who understand that, as Homer said, man enters the sea each time as something different and new." Joining the Sub-Lieutenant on stage, Admiral Jacopo Rollo, Head of the Navy's Communications Office, described the moment of inspiration as something that "came to me one morning while I was shaving." More than a simple idea, it was a response to the need to convey to young people the "smile that drives us every day to strive for the best job in the world." Reading the testimonies of his colleagues proved deeply moving. United by a shared sense of discovery, their stories brought Rollo back to his own adolescence. "I was sixteen when, between my third and fourth years of high school, I decided to join the Navy. I chose adventure: looking at the sea, not knowing what lies beyond the horizon, and saying, 'I'm going.' Even now, at fifty-three, every new operational activity leaves me with the feeling that I am still discovering what lies beyond the horizon." This spirit of adventure also emerged in the words of Lieutenant Commander and pilot Davide Miniscalco, who shared the beginnings of his career and his teenage dream of flying. "As a boy, I already knew I wanted to fly, and I never thought I could fulfil that dream in the Navy. Instead, I found a 'Sea of Opportunities' — borrowing the slogan used in 2010 — where I could make my dreams come true. As one of my superiors used to tell me, anyone can land on a runway stretching for kilometres, but landing on a ship in the middle of the sea requires specific training and skills." The calendar features illustrations by Daniele Dickmann and was curated by Sub-Lieutenant Anita Fiaschetti, who described the background to the collaboration between the publishing industry and the armed forces. The result is an innovative product that

combines the practical function of a photographic calendar with the aesthetic appeal of collectible almanacs. Alongside the familiar tabletop format, the publication includes a folder containing twelve plates, from which the illustrations can be cut out. Giunti Editore has renewed a partnership now entering its fifth year, built on extensive work to engineer the publication as a physical product and reflecting the considerable creative effort behind it. Among the stories featured in the “Personal Projection – Your Future Self” project are three professionals whose experiences illustrate the calendar’s themes across three different months: Commander and Engineer Daniela Cici, featured in August; Captain and Submariner Manuel Moreno Minuto; and Commander Sara Vinci, featured in December. Their different experiences converge in a shared spirit of courage and dedication, embodied in the motto of the Navy’s propulsion departments: “Better to live as madmen than to die without heart.” Moreno Minuto and Vinci highlighted the invaluable sense of trust that develops through honouring one’s oath, beginning the moment a commanding officer steps aboard. Working in synergy with the crew is “a wonderful part of the job”, offering an opportunity to listen to people in all aspects of their lives and move beyond individual interests. At the close of the preview, Rollo announced that the calendar’s official presentation will take place on 16 November, emphasising that its sales will support charitable initiatives. The proceeds will be donated to the Andrea Doria Institute, which supports the orphans of sailors, and to ANAFIM, an association that assists the children of Armed Forces personnel who have disabilities or illnesses. Finally, addressing students in the first year of the naval institute in Trieste, the Head of Communications — who will become Admiral of Venice on 30 October — offered a message of encouragement: “Whatever technological tools we have at our disposal, whatever situation we have to face, everything can be managed through a single process: being thoroughly prepared, believing in it wholeheartedly, and wanting it with all our might. Life is a marathon, and it rewards you only when you live it to the fullest.”



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