

Airpower- the significance of the „air dance“ for International Relations

Frecce Tricolori, Italy

Air diplomacy is a concept broadly understood to encompass the use of Airpower for diplomatic purposes. The necessity of forming alliances in crisis management and peacekeeping operations all over the world has shown the importance of a better understanding of different military cultures in order to enhance the spirit of cooperation between allies.

After developing the air diplomacy concept, Air Forces are promoting it as a cost-effective alternative to the reactive use of hard power.

Airpower as a public event at which aviators display their flying skills and the capabilities of their aircraft to spectators, usually by means of aerobatics, has an illustrious history of conducting public, humanitarian, military, commercial, traditional, preventive, coercive, and deterrence diplomacy.

The first international Air Show, totally dedicated to "aerial locomotion" took place from September 25th to October 17th, 1909 at the Grand Palais in Paris (France). Created by André Granet and Robert Esnault-Pelterie, welcomed 100,000 visitors and 380 exhibitors.

Airpower show across the globe provide a platform and a meeting point for international Air Forces, but far beyond of such meetings, these show creates space for cultural exchange and public diplomacy.

One of the most popular examples is the **Airshow of the Frecce Tricolori**, which officially known as the 313° Gruppo Addestramento Acrobatico, is the aerobatic demonstration team of the Italian Aeronautica Militare, based at Rivolto Air Force Base, in the north-eastern Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, province of Udine.

Frecce Tricolori stands to play important role in representing the nation around the globe and are a true symbol of national identity and is the largest aerobatics display team and the most colourful in the world.

Since they were established in 1961, Frecce Tricolori have had a Public Relations Office, recognizing the important role for transmission of the human, professional, and technological values on national and international level.

Through active moderation of the show, public relations officer and narrator builds bridges to the public audiences, transmitting informations about squad and explain the formations of the „Air dance“.

Spreading and sharing cultural attributes through colours of the universal symbols by formations, Frecce Tricolori delivers valuable example of cultural and public diplomacy.

The National Aerobatic Team in addition to representing Italy and the Armed Forces in national and international Airshows, is also a fully operational unit of the Italian Air Force. This dual role makes being part of the 313th Squadron even more extraordinary: soft power and attractive virtuosity for public, combined with hard training for operations in the case of conflict and necessity for defence, might conduct relations into relationships and support thrust building more by „dance in the air“, sharing sky and good spirits with the "Shape of a Heart".

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