The Italian Air Force and Guidonia

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1. Introduction

General Langella introduces himself and thanks all participants. He then stresses how talking about Guidonia, about the DSSE and about the "Guidonians", arouses a bundle of emotions in anyone who in his mind goes back to those years.

Emotions such as admiration for how much those men were able to realize. It is enough to think of the Wind Gallery and the Vacuum Simulators; of the Centrifuge; of the Pressure Suit and the Sealed Cabin used by Mario Pezzi; of the Radio Receivers and Direction-Finders Section; of the design of on-board Radio and Radio Telephones by Marino and Koch.

Emotions such as, for sure, the pride which pervades all those who feel to be part of that wide project, as well as the gratitude for the outstanding store of knowledge those men left us as an heritage. And a nostalgia feeling for all what has been lost or forgotten. But, in those who remember, a spirit of emulation remains, along with the awareness of being "dwarfs standing on the shoulders of giants" (Bernard of Chartres).

Nowadays all what Guidonians have been finds its natural "fil rouge" in the Centro Sperimentale Volo (Experimental Flight Center), at Pratica di Mare, Rome, which gathered their inheritance.

Quite recently, General Langella also had the opportunity of pointing up the priceless significance of Memory at the Air Force Academy, within the meeting with young Officers of Air Force Genius Body. In that meeting, pronouncements and videos have been provided, which made the actuality of certain past research work to clearly appear. As a conclusion, General Langella urged young Officers not to disregard the Past and the History, in the belief that the one who disclaims his own roots forecloses his own future.

Figure 1: Gen. Isp. Capo Francesco Langella

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