

**Global Governance Off-Campus
Visit to Air Force Academy
Pozzuoli, 2016 May 16th – 17th**

On Monday 16th we, Global Governance students of the first year, met at Tor Vergata where altogether left to go to the Air Force Academy in Pozzuoli. The bus trip was a great moment for us, during which we talked to each other, sang songs with the guitar, all impatient to start this new experience. The expectations we had were very high since the very beginning.

Once arrived at the Academy we received a warm welcome by the military staff, with a buffet of fruits and cookies and typical Neapolitan coffee. After getting in touch with the lieutenants we had a full immersion in the Leadership Seminar that was ready to start.

The chief commander of the Academy, General Lanza de Cristoforis, welcomed us and introduced to us the two days programme and the topics of the next lectures: Leadership, Complexity Theory, Ethics, Trust and Team Work.



The lectures were really stimulating and interesting thanks to the mixture of theoretical and practical aspects, merging together notions and ideas with experiential learning.

The theoretical ones thought by Col. Luigi Esposito and Lt. Col. Antonio Vergallo were about what a complex system is, what its state variables are and how to deal with this complex systems which are something different from a complicated one. But also about how a leader should relate with his followers, how to form an efficiently working team and how trust and ethics play a fundamental role in team work. All these topics were interesting, even more since they were coming from a highly efficient team such as that of militaries.

The practical ones were even more attractive because they required our full commitment as we were a piece of the puzzle without which it would be impossible to have the whole picture. One of the activities we have done was the “Raft Game”, it dealt with occupying the least amount of space possible on the virtual raft by all the players, which were in this case groups of 20 more or less, in short lapse of time. Although it appeared to us as a simple childish game, in fact it was much harder. It was in this occasion that we understood the fundamental role of Communication and Organization among the members of a team, and its importance both at the military level and at the civilian one. After the activity we had a debriefing during which we analysed the dynamics of the experience: as soon as the game had started we had recognised competences in one of the lieutenants since he had immediately stood out as the leader of the group and we had trusted him as such. This brief activity allowed us to go into depth in dynamics of complex systems, acknowledging the importance of self organisation, resilience, adaptation.

Another activity that really appealed to us was another practical game. We all had an object in our hands but we could not see it since we had a bandage over our eyes. The “mysterious” object had a specific shape and colour, and in a lapse of time of 30 minutes we had to understand the shape and colour of a missing piece in a set of similar objects. During this experience lots of difficulties arose. They were mainly about communication problems among the members of the team, and although we already learned something useful from the previous exercise, it was still very hard. As a matter of fact we didn't

achieve the goal because we wasted a lot of time in deciding the order of actions that we should have started with.

And what about flight simulator and FireArms Training System (FATS)?

It was without a doubt the best learning and fun activity we had. We had the chance to go onboard of two different planes, a military one and a glider, that has got a very different set-up and different techniques of driving. So, we figured it out who among us would have the right skills to become a good pilot or sniper.

The context in which were hosted also was a great experience, way different from our usual lifestyle. Discipline, punctuality, listening to orders of the superiors and following the rules is a must in the Academy. We assisted to military ceremonies such as the flag-raising and the daily parade, which were two highly emotional and inspirational moments.

We also had great moments of fun and relax, such as lunch or dinner. For dinner we went to a typical pizzeria outside the Academy in the center of Pozzuoli where we enjoyed a rich meal of local food, and good wine. This was a good occasion to relate with the lieutenants also in an informal way, sharing with them our personal ideas and thoughts.

As a whole it was a wonderful experience both on a personal and academic level, it was an amazing moment to learn and get to know new ideas on a field which is different from our own usual. In the end, all expectations we had at the very moment of the departure for the Academy were fulfilled.

Edoardo Pellegrini and Carlo Tritto