

Polizia di Stato



The many branches of the Italian Polizia di Stato have a very long historical tradition of using Alfa Romeo models in their fight against crime, the most famous of them undoubtedly being the Giulia sedan series.

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First deliveries of the Alfa Romeo 159 are being made to the Polizia di Stato (Italian State Police) and the Arma dei Carabinieri (paramilitary Police Force). The new Alfa Romeo has been chosen to replace the aging but successful fleets of Fiat Marea's and Alfa 156's. A first contract will see the supply of two hundred Alfa Romeo 159's destined for the Polizia, and 61 for the Carabinieri. Each of these examples will feature a bullet-proof windscreen, tinted rear windows, satellite navigation system, onboard computer and other avant-garde equipment. The cost of each car, pre-prepared along with the unique paint schemes, is 47,000 euros. Each car has an intended lifespan of 6 years or 180.000 km.

The historical wealth of Italian cars used by the Italian police corps, the most famous of them being the Alfa Romeo Giulia, have resulted in nicknames which are still commonly used today. A patrol car belonging to the Polizia is nicknamed "Pantera" (Panther), one used by the Carabinieri is nicknamed "Gazzella" (Gazelle) and every other unmarked car is delightfully referred to as an Owl.

POLIZIA DI STATO - BRIEF HISTORY

The foundation of the Italian Police dates back to 1852 when the Corps of the Public Security Guards was established in the Kingdom of Sardinia. The Corps was directly headed by the Turin and Genoa Public Security Authorities, that in this way availed themselves of a police force of their own for the maintenance of public order and security. With the Unity of Italy the Corps organization was extended to all pre-unity former States. The only exception was represented by Sicily where the Mounted Militiamen Corps, set up by Garibaldi, continued to operate until 1877 when it was dissolved and the Corps of the Public Security Mounted Guards for the Sicilian provinces was established. In 1890 the Corps was named "City Guards" on the basis of an act according to which the previous organization was not changed but only adjusted to the new needs deriving from the adoption in the Kingdom of the new Penal Code and, for the first time in the Italian system, of the Consolidating Act of the Public Security Laws, both in 1889.

In addition to the reorganization of the Criminal Police Service, in 1902 the City Guards set up the Forensic Science Police Service and carried out Administrative Police and public rescue activities. On the occasion of the City Guards' intervention during the Messina and Avezzano earthquakes (in 1905 and 1915, respectively) they received two golden medals for merit. During World War I the City Guards gave a significant contribution both sending their men to the front and operating as a territorial force.



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In 1919 the Corps was reorganized and named “Corps of the Public Security Royal Guards”. It acquired military status and was characterized by the creation of the rank of the Officials and by a Unified Command. In parallel, only with regard to the crime prevention and suppression functions, the Investigative Agents Corps was set up within the Ministry of the Interior and placed directly under the Public Security Authorities (Prefects – Deputy Prefects – Questori – Officials).

As soon as Mussolini took government office he dismantled the Corps of the Public Security Royal Guards and the Investigative Agents Corps, by Royal Decree of December 31, 1922, with a view to unifying the Police Forces. The personnel partly merged with the newly set up “Royal Carabinieri Specialized Unit for inquire, technical investigations and surveillance services”.

The personnel assigned to the above-mentioned unit was trained in Rome at the ad hoc set up Police Technical School. During the Fascism consolidation phase the Public Security Authority had no longer a direct control on the Police Corps. The latter was, in fact, characterized by a civil system and by a personnel training thanks to which the Corps became particularly responsive to the community needs. In this period the Voluntary Militia for the National Security was reorganized and assigned police functions.

The Nation felt the lack of an Institution having prevention tasks. In 1925, the Government re-established an ad hoc Public Security Corps which was named “Corps of Public Security Agents”, having a civil status but a military organization. Personnel, means, materials and logistic structures which had belonged to the Royal Guards were taken over by the Corps: the total number of personnel units amounted to 12,000 men. The decree establishing the Corps also dismantled the Rome Local Policemen and their competence in the field of urban police, road traffic, building, health and trade was given to a “Police Special Division for the Capital”.

In 1937, the “Police of the Italian Africa” (P.A.I.) were set up in order to carry out Police duties in the African regions of the Empire. They were made up of carefully selected personnel that was trained at the Tivoli (Rome) School and by the Askaris. The P.A.I., that for years had been the pride of the Police Armed Forces, distinguished themselves in the African land but also in the defense of Rome from the German invasion following September 8, 1943. Here, the “Luigi Amedeo di Savoia” Battalion heroically resisted the superiority of the enemy, obtaining many decorations for military bravery.



In the postwar period the Corps was reorganized and strengthened with men and means. The “Celere” and Mobile Units, the Specialties -Traffic, Railway and Border (sea, air and land) Police - were also set up. In 1959, the Female Police Corps was established with the limited task of investigating and suppressing crimes in the field of public morality, decency and minors. In 1968 the Emergency Public Service “113” was set up and soon after the Patrolling Units (“Volanti”) were established within each Questura. The Corps organization and status remained unchanged until the Reform Act No. 121 of April 1, 1981 which created the current State Police. All members of the Corps of the Public Security Guards, the P.S. Officials and the Female Police Corps merged into the mentioned body.

The Corps of the Public Security Agents participated in the war operations and, with the Motorcyclist Battalion at the Greek – Albanian front, their flag was bestowed a bronze medal for military bravery. In 1943, the Badoglio Decree envisaged the Corps of the Public Security Agents’ incorporation into the State Armed Forces. The personnel supported the Allied Forces and the “Resistance” obtaining various individual testimonials of merit and thanks to the “Fiume Mobilized Battalion” their flag was bestowed a bronze medal for military bravery. By Viceregal Decree of 1944 the Public Security Agents were named “Corps of the Public Security Guards”, while keeping the previous military organization. In 1945 the P.A.I. personnel was incorporated into the Corps.

As well as using rapid Alfa Romeo models in the pursuit of criminals, the Italian Police are famous for operating high performance sportscars including a Ferrari 250 GT/E in the early 1960s, and the Lamborghini Gallardo today. Other transportation includes the Fiat Marea, Smart FourTwo and Segway HT (Human Transporter).





Now these police forces are taking delivery of the new Alfa 159 sedan fitted with the powerful new 200bhp 2.4-litre 20v JTDM turbodiesel engine which features mechanical upgrades, and is coupled up to Alfa's 6-speed manual gearbox. The changes guarantee that the police will be well placed to chase criminals effectively when the occasion - as it so often does - arises. The new police cars are being prepared for the Carabinieri and the Polizia Italiana by Alfa Romeo at their huge factory at Pomigliano d'Arco

The Naples plant builds the Alfa 159 sedan and 159 Sportwagon models, thus ensuring that the cars have full compatibility with the model range, and share their inbred characteristics. As such they benefit from the rich equipment list that the Alfa 159 boasts, including ABS, EBD (Electronic Brakeforce Distribution,) dual-zone climate control, five airbags and VDC (Vehicle Dynamic Control.)

The similarities though stop at that point, as the "Night Blue" cars of the Carabinieri and the "Celestial Blue" cars of the Polizia Italiana are each finished to widely differing individual requirements. While both are armoured and feature new bullet-proof door and screen glass, the Polizia Italiana's examples feature a fully-sealed new bulkhead, made from polycarbonate and steel, that divides the front and rear compartments, safely protecting the crew of the "pantere" when they are transporting dangerous suspects. The rear compartment doors have had their inner door handles and catches removed and can only be locked and unlocked via an electronic control unit which is located in the front compartment.

The roof area of the cars are equipped with a multifunction bar which is mounted with emergency lights, a powerful, remotely-adjustable beacon, and a LED screen mounted aerodynamically into the car's body that allows the crew to signal instructions to motorists. The cars are fitted with communication and navigation equipment, first aid kits, as well as other useful devices including an automatic registration plate reader. The boot has been stripped out and fitted with a hard-wearing new membrane which allows the cars to carry bulky items such as traffic cones and fire extinguishers.



THE NEW ALFA 159 BECOMES THE LATEST 'PANTERA'

Heavily-modified and now armour-proofed, the new Alfa 159 has become the latest 'Pantera' to hit the streets of the Italian cities as it gears up to help the Polizia di Stato in the eternal fight against crime. 'Pantera' (Panther) is the nickname given to patrol cars used by the Polizia di Stato (State Police) and the Alfa 159 is now swiftly replacing their ageing fleet of Fiat Mareas. For its new crime-fighting role the Alfa 159 has undergone substantial modifications to the mechanicals as well being toughened up to help it to withstand assault. The windscreen and door glass is now bullet proof while the front seats are fully separated from the rear ones by the fitting of a fixed polycarbonate panel. Included in the many gadgets that make this version of the Alfa Romeo 159 fit for 'James Bond' are powerful new roof-mounted searchlights that can be adjusted by remote control.



The Alfa 159's arrival in the hands of the Polizia di Stato comes as the Alfa Romeo brand gears up to officially launch a new entry-level Alfa 159 1.8 16v version. First slated to be introduced in time for the model's market debut (and in fact originally pencilled in to be presented when the Alfa 159 range was first revealed at the Geneva Motor Show in March 2005,) however its introduction was at the last minute postponed. Now the Alfa 159 1.8 16v is set to arrive in the Italian showrooms in August. Polizia di Stato

The Minister of the Interior is the Public Security National Authority and is responsible for public order and security maintenance. In the carrying out of their function of public order and security high direction and co-ordination of police forces' tasks and activities, the Minister is supported by the Public Order and Security Committee, an advisory body consisting of an Undersecretary of the Interior - as its deputy chairman -, of the Chief of Police - Director General of Public Security - and of the heads of the other Police Forces. The function of Public Security Administration is exercised, at central level, by the Public Security Department and by provincial and local authorities, public security officials and officers at local level.

The following are public security provincial authorities: the Prefect, in charge of the Territorial Government Office, having the general responsibility of public order and security, and the Questore, senior official of the State Police, responsible for the direction and technical and operational co-ordination of public order and security services and of police force employment. Local public security authorities are State Police officials in charge of detached Commissariati di pubblica sicurezza (police stations). Where the latter are not present the functions of local public security authorities are exercised by the Mayor in his/her capacity of Government official.

As envisaged by law, the Public Security Department has the task of: implementing public order and security policy through the identification of both technical and operational guidelines and management goals, on the basis of ministerial guidelines and with a subsequent control of the results achieved.

And also of ensuring the technical and operational co-ordination and unitary direction of Police Forces, carrying out the tasks of direction and management of the State Police, that is a Police Force having a general competence and a civil status; handling the technical supports also for the Ministry of the Interior general needs. The Public Security Department is headed by a Prefect with the capacity of Chief of Police – Director General of Public Security – who is

appointed by Decree of the President of the Republic on proposal of the Minister of the Interior and by decision of the Council of Ministers. Moreover, it includes a Deputy Director General with vicarious functions, chosen among the prefects coming from the State Police ranks, a Deputy Director General for the co-ordination and planning activity and a Deputy Director General responsible for the Criminal Police Central Directorate.



The Director General can delegate, each time or in general terms, specific functions to the prefects having the capacity of Deputy Director General without prejudice

to the competence entrusted to them by law provisions or regulations. The Public Security Department consists of a Secretariat Office - which has the function to co-ordinate internal activities and support the direction and guidelines of the Chief of Police -, of 10 Central Directorates and 3 Offices of equal level. The Anti Mafia Investigative Directorate, the State Police Academy, responsible for training and refresher courses for State Police officials, as well as the Multi-agency Police Academy also depend on the Public Security Department.

The Offices and Central Directorates can be headed by prefects or senior police officers. The Anti Mafia Investigative Directorate, the Anti Drug Central Directorate and the Multi-agency Police Academy - which are multi-agency bodies - can be, by turns, under the direction of senior police officers or major-generals of the Carabinieri Corps or the Guardia di Finanza. In addition to this, the Services of the Office for Co-ordination and Planning of Police Forces and some Services of the Criminal Police Central Directorate (Witness Protection Central Service, Criminal Analysis Service and Police International Co-operation Service) are multi-agency bodies as to their composition and direction. A Multi-agency Central Office for Security (UCIS) has also been set up with the task of directing and co-ordinating prevention activities aimed at guaranteeing the safety of the persons considered at risk. The Department is made up of personnel belonging to the career of Prefects, to the State Police and civil administration of the Ministry of the Interior as well as to the other police forces and state administrations.

The State Police personnel carrying out police functions amounts to 109,144 units belonging to the ranks of managers, executives, inspectors, sergeants (sovrintendenti,) assistants (assistenti) and agents. The technical-scientific activity or technical activity is performed by another 5,720 officers.

