

ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE INCOMING CHIEF OF HNDGS.

GENERAL DIMITRIOS CHOUPIS OF JANUARY 16, 2024

Officers, NCOs, Cadets, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, National Guardsmen, Reservists, and Civilian Personnel of the Armed Forces.

Following a decision taken by the National Security Governmental Council, as of today I assume the duties of the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff.

My first and foremost duty is to respectfully bow before the Attending Sacred Heirloom of the Colours of the Hellenic Army Academy, as well as the Colours of the 3 glorious services of the Armed Forces.

While paying tribute and expressing my gratitude, I take great pride in commemorating the Immortal Officers, NCOs, Cadets, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, National Guardsmen, Reservists, who were heroically killed for our Holy Faith and Country during all fights fought on land, sea, and air to protect the Nation's freedom and Independence, as well as the colleagues, be they professionals or conscripts, who were killed in peacetime while on duty.

This has been an exceptional honour, on behalf of our Country, to be assigned by the National Security Governmental Council as the Leader of our Country's Armed Forces.

You may rest assured you that I shall do my best and fervently devote myself, my strength and time to protect – while exercising my duties – the utmost, fundamental and indispensable good of national security, the protection of which the Hellenic Armed Forces guarantee and shall continue doing so in perpetuity.

As a legacy and success indicator arises the ongoing and unwavering protection of the constitutionally overarching mission; that is the protection of the territorial integrity and the environment of peace and security, always based on the two-fold principle that, before any adversity, the wise must be proactive and the

brave must face same in the most appropriate manner and based on the fact that the love for one's country for all of us serving in the Armed Forces holds a particular symbolism and is manifested through the unconditional willingness as against the utmost of sacrifices, that is the sacrifice of our lives.

The guiding principle as to success and qualitative supremacy is the protection of traditions, the cultivation of all military virtues, the commitment to ideas and ideals, as well as the protection of intangible principles and values, with the first one being that of discipline.

We owe this to those, who without ulterior motives, exhibited the magnitude of the soul of the Greek Officer, NCO, Soldier, Sailor, and Airman, and placed the patriotic idealism, the code of values and principles, as the forefront and the ideological bulwark in order to safeguard their country. Only through this historical legacy, the fervent and ongoing commitment to duty can the historic continuity of the Nation and Country be ensured. This continuity is directly intertwined with the known and unknown heroes, who put the we before the I, and used to have and still do have the Country and National Unity as a value system of reference and a main point of moral orientation.

The geopolitical developments established, the geo-strategic volatile environment, the lessons learned as such have derived from modern conflicts, the pivotal penetration of technology into all operational fields, the emerging new threats, using hybrid, unconventional and non-traditional features, at times on the verge of warfare, impose the pressing need and the official requirement for our country's Armed Forces to be transformed and operationally and organizationally adapted, taking into account the Country's financial capabilities.

We are obliged to evolve; to change and to adjust to the modern circumstances, which pertain to the expansion and renewal of the approach as to National Security.

Do not forget that you are the driving force of change; the women and men of the Armed Forces of Greece, and you make up the binding condition and the

success guarantee towards this new effort. An effort, which is collective, but mainly national, directly and morally intertwined with the expectations, which relate to the future of Greeks; the financial contribution of whom ensure our capabilities.

This imposes the enhancement of our capabilities, through the expansion of the strategic horizon on land, sea, air, cyberspace and space in order to emphatically focus on deterring all eventual provocation or threat, arising within our wider region, but also those, arising from the use of new technologies and the social media, where superiority and information sharing speed strictly require that we clearly and unambiguously know how to differentiate between opinion and fact.

The multifaceted dimension of operations, combined with the technological upgrade and digitalization of the state, impose the full utilization of innovation and digital transformation of the State, the radical decrease in bureaucratic processes, the delegation of competencies across all phases of the decision-making process, the cultivation of initiative, the upgrade of military service via the revival of the concept of SOLDIER - CIVILIAN, but also the rapid mobilization and joint cooperation of Armed Forces, via their dual role, in order to support – via their capabilities – the entirety of the remaining governmental projects to the benefit of Greek society, on land, air, and sea.

In an area where geography generates history, no slippage in anything related to our national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of the country shall be tolerated. In all seriousness and responsibility; with intense action and extroversion; with absolute transparency and meritocracy; with faith and devotion to democracy and correct function of the structures of the chain of command, we shall contribute even more to enhancing the footprint and efficiency of the Armed Forces, within the wider spectrum of activities, making (much like Odysseas Elytis, our national poet, invokes) a leap faster than decay so as to make sure that the glorious past of the Armed Forces has a bright future.

Addressing the ever-outstanding personnel of the Armed Forces that fulfills to a tee all kinds of missions, day and night, with self-denial, zeal, honour and

professional commitment, I urge you to keep on serving your duties on land, sea, and air, imbued with the message of optimism and hope, and radiating self-confidence to Greek society, an integral part of which we all of us are.

It constitutes an official stance, the undeniable trust to your skills, your high morale and professionalism, as well as your complete devotion to the Country; especially to the goal related to the successful protection of territorial integrity, which you all defend day and night on land, sea, and air, with devotion and pride, regardless of rank and position.

I do respect the exceptional work you have so far done and still do on a daily basis, while at the same time, I acknowledge the burden of responsibility and the size of the duty I undertook towards our Country, but also towards you in order to improve the quality of your daily lives.

I would like all of you to place inherent discipline as an ideological bulwark, whereas those of you in command must show magnanimity, remembering that retaining the Army whereby punishments has always been detrimental, as it implies that there is a RULER instead of a LEADER.

Refrain from "IFs" and "BUTs", which as words and concepts constitute relentless combined evils, in all cases incompatible with progress, evolution and a leader's everyday life, leveraging prudence, humility, strength and liveliness, through daily and systematic work.

To the respectful Chief, General Floros, whom I had the special honour and major legacy to succeed, I would like on behalf of the entirety of the Armed Forces personnel, both known and unknown, to extend my heartfelt thanks for his undeniably powerful and by all means significant footprint in the history of the Armed Forces of our Country. Being a younger Officer, who was taught and trained over the past two years by your side, but also served and participated in operations under your command, I personally thank you for your trust.

We would all like to wish to you and your family health, luck, a long life and every success to your new life.

Concluding and addressing the women and men of the Armed Forces, before the Army, Navy and Air Force Cadets who make up the future of the Armed Forces of Greece, I shall utter some phrases as advice to the young Cadets, referencing the letter of 2nd Lt, Pavlos Melas: "These are the Nation's future Leaders! Men and women, who walk upright! With serenity, taught how to be in pain without suffering. To win without boasting! To tolerate defeat without lamenting! Less words more work... The eyes of those who look you in the eye should be filled with braveness!".

Being confident that all-merciful God and the Protector of Hellenism and Defender General will offer their protection and support, with Saint George, Saint Nicolas and the Archangels protecting us on the land, sea, and air of our Country, we shall successfully execute our mission; therefore, I call upon you to exclaim:

LONG LIVE THE NATION

LONG LIVE GREECE

LONG LIVE THE ARMED FORCES