

ORDER OF THE DAY BY THE NEW CHIEF OF HAGS

ON 18 JANUARY 2024

Officers, NCOs, Soldiers, Members of the National Guard and Civilian Personnel of the Army,

By decision of the Governmental Council for National Security, as of today, I assume the duties of the Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff.

I bend the knee with piety before the glorious Flags of our Army, fluttering proudly and spreading, throughout the world, the heroic spirit of their defenders, to whom I pay the homage due, to the heroic dead, the crippled and surviving Officers and NCOs, Soldiers and citizens, who fought with self-denial for the honour, the liberty and the independence of our homeland.

I am deeply touched by the great honour bestowed upon me to lead our glorious Army and at the same time I feel the heavy burden and the responsibility of assuming the noblest of duties, as a successor of exquisite Officers, brilliant ministrants of our homeland, among whom the outgoing well-established Chief, General Angelos Choudeloudis, to whom I express my warmest thanks and wishes for health, in body and soul, and happiness, for the exquisite work they contributed and I invite you all to continue with the same zeal, the same faith and devotion, as them, to serve the noble mission entrusted to us by the homeland. To keep it free, independent, whole and unharmed, powerful and mighty, through the current international fortuities, drawing strength and courage from the traditional war virtue of our Nation.

For the absolute fulfilment of our mission, devotion is required to the ideals, the values and the principles of our Nation, as they eternally pass from one generation to the next for centuries, ascertaining in the most categorical manner, the uninterrupted historical continuation of our race.

Faith, patriotism and education, scheduling, organisation and adherence to the laws of the state, as defined in the Athenian Democracy "the city which has an army dominates", are the pillars of the debt we pay to the homeland and the materialisation of our work.

First of all, I invite you to proceed to delve in the issue of education, aiming to acquire knowledge and shape ethos. Of course, knowledge is acquired through the triptych: training, tutoring, learning. On the other hand, ethos is shaped through the principles, the values and the ideals of our people, which are true for all humanity. With knowledge, this unbeatable weapon, individuals and states become potent, able to solve their problems and face any difficulty. The high level of tutoring and the constant training contributes to the understanding and consolidation of operational principles, effective decision-making and development of leadership capabilities, especially today with the huge scientific and technological developments. Furthermore, it exhilarates the troops' morale and renders it so battle-worthy that it is driven to the final victory with certainty and a feeling of superiority, because it simultaneously cultivates discipline, confidence, virility, high morale and love for the homeland. So, constant training is a priority for the Army personnel throughout the levels and sectors, for the acquisition of the required knowledge, dexterities and capabilities, so that they can perform exquisitely and participate unhindered in international exercises and any kind of mission and activity.

Through education we can provide vision to the best weapon system at our disposal, the youngsters of our homeland. The vision of our Greece, the light-giver of the peoples throughout the centuries, through science, arts, literature, the spirit of democracy, freedom, patriotism, in a grandeur masterfully projected by Victor Hugo: "*The world is the expanding Greece and Greece is the shrinking world*". With this vision we sturdily build, on one hand the mutual consciousness and trust between us, and on the other hand we feed the mind and the heart of our youngsters with living force, warm breath and unbeatable vigour, ready to heed the paean of Aeschylus: "*Come o ye sons of Greeks, make free your country, make your children free, your wives and fanes of your ancestral gods, and your sires' tombs! For all we now contend!*"

Furthermore, we will achieve this vision with a spirit of collaboration, modesty, respect, with virtuous and just command, developing the willing contribution and adherence, virtues leading to the smooth and congruous operation of every organisation, especially when talking about the Army. Basic criterion for the virtuous command will be its succinct definition by Thucydides: “A good lord is the one who will be of benefit to his homeland, as much as possible, or at least he who will not cause harm willingly”.

Our main concern is the maximisation of the operational readiness of our Army, to render it a ferocious force of deterrence so that it will execute, at any point in time, its noblest mission with absolute success, meaning the protection of our homeland from any insolent threat, and it will command respect from our friends and cause terror to our enemies, thus inspiring in our people sentiments of security, optimism, certainty and peace.

The perception of the rising challenges will be our priority. We have to adjust, in the most productive way to the current developments and face any possible opponent, conventional or not, taking into consideration the multiple teachings of the modern conflicts, giving special gravity to innovation.

The factor which will determine success in this work is our Personnel, through the maximised utilisation of capabilities, knowledge and experience, for the acquisition of which we invest significant resources. In combination with the unceasing effort for increasingly targeted utilisation of our defence material, entrusted to us by the State and provided by the financial sacrifices of the Greek people, we will move forward with optimism, but also constant alert in the critical period we experience.

We have to render the military service more attractive, modernising the provided training with the introduction of digital and other dexterities' development, but also enhance the reserves' readiness, after the completion of the service.

I invite you to cooperate with the local authorities, municipalities and communities and assist them with their problems by providing every possible help, to strengthen even more the bonds between the army and the people, because we come from our people's womb and we belong to it. Together we will be able not only to face the modern reality of the military conflicts and challenges, but also the consequences of climate change, traces of which we have started experiencing recently. We should always keep in our minds and hearts, the wise maxim of Xenophon: "Consider the homeland as your home and the citizens as your comrades". With cooperation, support, the partnership and the moral enhancement of the people, our collective soul is fortified as if made of steel and the umbilical cord between the people and the army remains unbroken. Moreover, it has been historically ascertained and rationally substantiated that the military might of every military force, even today, despite the immense technological advancements, is based on personnel, as accurately underlined by Thucydides: "It is men who make a city, not walls or ships", meaning the assets and the fortifications are worthless, if there is no appropriate and capable personnel to man them.

Officers, NCOs, Soldiers and Civilian Personnel, we rightly boast as a people of our cultural contribution to humanity, we preserve and safeguard the values and the ideals of our Nation in the spirit of collaboration, mutual respect and friendship with all the peoples of the earth, however we categorically and outright declare that we are ready to defend the freedom, the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of our country and cut off every sacrilegious hand, which will dare to tarnish all that we hold sacred.

That is why devotion on duty is required, tireless and uninterrupted effort, team spirit, so that our homeland's flag will flutter high and spread, throughout humanity, faith, patriotism, justice, liberty and democracy.

With these thoughts, appealing to the help of God and under the protection of the Champion Leader, I wish strength and health to all of you, so that, as if ready from times past, we will offer what is due to our mightily glorious homeland,

conducting our immense duty to the fullest as well as our extremely honourable mission and I invite you to exclaim:

HAIL TO THE NATION

HAIL TO THE ARMY

Lieutenant General

Georgios Kostidis

Chief