

ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE OUTGOING CHIEF/HAGS ON 18 JANUARY 2024

Officers, NCOs, Cadets of the Military Academies, Soldiers, National Guardsmen and Civilians of the Army. By decision of the Governmental Council on Foreign Policy and National Defence, after a year I was Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff, I am leaving the active service today, handing over my duties to the distinguished Lieutenant General Georgios Kostidis.

I feel moved as, after 41 service years, I conclude my military career at the place where it all started, the Hellenic Military Academy. The day when I arrived at this very place from my hometown, which is at the border area of Evros, seems so recent. This is where I took my first steps within the family of the Army, which I served until this day, filled with honour and pride.

Today, I am handing over my duties full of experiences, but also satisfaction, as I kept up in the best possible way the crucial and praiseworthy of my admirable predecessors, commanding the Army with impartiality and meritocracy. I never forgot where I started from, in which places of our country I struggled to fulfil my mission, nor my colleagues at all levels of command throughout my career as an Officer. With help from God, from my family, and from the Army personnel, the most important asset to ensure our deterrence capability, I can testify today that my objectives have been achieved.

A great journey has reached its end. A journey that took place at a crucial time, filled with difficulties, which did not manage to reduce our Army's efficiency though who, by finding solutions, making constant progress and efforts at all levels of command, domestically and abroad, made this obvious in all fields. A fact that led to creating the feeling to friends and foes that the Hellenic Army has always been, is, and will always be, competent in all circumstances, despite the difficulties, to face all challenges.

Our heritage was for me the motivation behind my every decision, with the aim of maintaining the Army at its highest possible level of readiness. Together, we have proved that the spearhead can be adapted to every change and provide a powerful asset in the hands of foreign policy that may be used whenever and wherever needed. In this effort, we never sat on our hands, we only moved

forward and took every chance at national and international level. Our presence was remarkable at international exercises, actions and missions abroad, and we perfectly organized and held multipartite international drills and cooperation in Greece, thus maximizing our Army's footprint for allies and non-allies. I proudly assure you that the Hellenic Army is equal to the biggest armies globally.

Nonetheless, our task was not limited to maintaining our operational readiness. It went further, constantly supporting the Greek society at all levels. Our personnel's love for their country, eagerness and high morale made our Army into everybody's reliance, especially at such difficult times as the ones we are living. We have proved that the Army is not just by the society's side, it is a part of the Greek people and puts itself at the people's service, whenever needed. From the border regions, as well as across the state, our Army is in constant action, day and night, so as to provide a safe environment to all Greek women and men.

Since the first moment I assumed the duties of Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff, I believed in the extraordinary potential of my personnel. This is what I carry on believing also today, as I leave the army: the Hellenic Army know, want and can.

They know how to properly use war materiel, but they mostly know how to invest in the personnel.

They want to carry on being the factor that makes our country a beacon of security, within a dynamic, multifold and unstable environment.

They can deter any aspirations from potential opponents.

I would like to wish to the incoming Chief/HAGS health and the best of luck in his new and demanding duties, which I am certain he will fully perform.

I respectfully bend the knee before the war flags of our Formations and Units, and pay homage to the glorious fallen in duty, at war or peace.

I wish that you, with the help of God, will keep our Army at high level, where it deserves to be.

I invite you all to exclaim:

Long live the Nation

Long live the Hellenic Army

General Aggelos Houdeloudis
Chief