

ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE OUTGOING CHIEF HAGS
OF 01 FEB 19

Today's ceremony is an honour to the Hellenic Army and we are just soldiers in its glorious history.

A history of valour and ethos that contributed to the consolidation of the Greek Nation.

A history of blood offering, so that the Greek State would take its present form.

A history, where the Hellenic Army fought for the liberation of the ancestral territories with blood. Those territories which we took an oath to defend to the last drop of our blood.

Thousands of dead reveal the greatness of offering, while their sacrifice fills us with pride and strengthens our will to fight, guiding our thoughts and our steps to the high ideals of the nation, freedom, and democracy.

In its long history, the Hellenic Army has been the cradle of protection of the integrity, the principles, the values and ideals, serving as a guardian for the Nation's traditions and historical heritage, a structural core and a promising cell of Greek society.

Today, our Army constitutes a modern organisation, which is in an ongoing and dynamic interaction both within the joint operational environment and with society, while through its institutional functioning, it consolidates deterrence. With its multifaceted offering to society and its broader engagement in social processes, it is much loved and appreciated by the citizens; strengthens the already robust relationship of the Greek people with the Armed Forces; and demonstrates at every opportunity, to friends and foes, its determination, effectiveness, and readiness.

I am proud to have been an active member of the Hellenic Army with a long course of 41 years and a difficult, but at the same time honourable task. It was the result of collective and systematic effort, through careful planning, efficient use of human resources, full exploitation of available means, and the most appropriate management of the allocated financial resources.

By the grace of God, I hand over the tasks of the Chief of the Army feeling pride, since our personnel fully responded to my call. It responded to the challenges of our times, dealt with threats, overcame difficulties, and was devoted to the realisation of the vision.

I respect and honour the excellent work that you have carried out so far and I call on you to keep up the pace and make every effort for the optimisation of our Army's operational readiness and fighting capability.

An Officer proves his real worth in the Units, in his contact with the military personnel; he proves his real worth in the proving ground, wherever there is a threat.

We command personnel and, with our attitude, we lead them to surpass themselves every day, to take pride in their duty and the fulfilment of their mission.

Besides, that's why we chose the Hellenic Military Academy. To be the guides in the country's battles; to be the guides in the harsh everyday struggles.

Follow the path of dignity, victory and inspiration. Do not seek the easy way. Seek the arduous part ahead of you. Demand it. This will bring justification and recognition by your partners. Only then you will be happy, complete, most fulfilled, calm, successful. Only when you enjoy every day of your trip with passion.

Success is the sense of accomplishment that you feel when you feel important and necessary, as well as the recognition of your usefulness by your partners. Success is the ability to draw inspiration from your course and to make your course inspire others. Success is when your passion is undying and contagious. When it sears the heart and lights the road of the organisation you command. Success is when you make people want to be better and give more than what they can. Success is when the offering gives you strength and such strength reignites the process.

I feel really proud, because through the efforts made by all of us, deterrence has been further enhanced, while the Army's actions have consolidated and strengthened the love and confidence of the Greek people in us.

I thank and honour the work of the Chiefs of General Staff of the Armed and Security Forces, as well as that of their wonderful personnel; I thank and honour the work of my predecessors; I thank and honour the work of my excellent and committed partners; I thank and honour the work of the entire military and civilian personnel and I state that I remain firmly committed, dedicated and loyal to the Country and the Armed Forces. I thank, honour and respect the Greek people for the love and trust that it places in the Hellenic Army.

Being proud of the Hellenic Army, I am deeply convinced that it is not in crisis, due to the principles and values of the personnel serving in it, and fully retains its optimism and high morale and is primarily characterised by a winner's spirit. It has constituted and will always constitute a fundamental pillar of power and a powerful force for deterrence.

Being proud of the Hellenic Army, I call on you to exclaim:

Long live the Nation!
Long live the Army!

General Alkiviadis Stefanis
Chief