HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENCE GENERAL STAFF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

OPERATIONAL WORK OF THE ARMED FORCES

SEPTEMBER 2010

Mission of the Armed Forces is to protect Greece's territorial integrity, national independence and sovereignty against any external attack or threat, as well as to support national interests as defined in the National Defense Policy.

The Armed Forces bring into effect the goals of the National Defence Policy (NDP), implementing a continually updating national security and defense strategy. NDP has as cornerstone the protection of our sovereign rights, respect of international borders and conventions, as well as the observance of International Law and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The National Military Strategy (NMS) is part of our National Strategy, aiming at reinforcing Greece's position in the near, and the broader international neighborhood as well. It emanates from the National Defense Policy and aims at defining the mission and the major operational tasks of the Armed Forces, the preparation,

development and usage means, in addition to the special guidelines concerning the required forces, in order to ensure effective deterrence and protection of the country against all military threats. Linchpin of our military strategy is to deter all kinds of threat, provocation or armed attack against our country, and to effectively deal with crisis situations. Our country's military doctrine is preventive-defensive, orientated towards confronting all external threats.

The success of that deterrence policy is result of a common endeavor and relies on the capability to offer force, as well as on the realistic operational training, the immediate reaction readiness, the appropriate operational planning and deployment, as well as allocation of forces.

The Armed Forces main task in peacetime is the operational training of personnel, which is a constant, day to day, progressive procedure, aiming at the integration of comprehensive practices, concerning not only testing and familiarization with the weapon systems and means, but also testing and improving the operational plans. That procedure constitutes the basis for effective and operational Units and Formations. The Armed Forces are constantly trained under realistic conditions, conducting scheduled exercises at all levels, emphasizing to joint and combined exercises, in an environment that simulates reality, as close as possible.

Especially through joint operational training, the perception and assimilation of the unified operational environment is ensured, not only in Tactical - Operational level but also in Strategic level, while the unity of the effort is also achieved. Consequently, the joint operational training expresses on the

one hand the completion and the other hand the composition of the respective training of the three Branches, thus resulting to the best possible outcome at the common, combined action of the Armed Forces.

Moreover, the conduct of joint large-scale exercises, such as “ALEXANDROS”, “PARMENION”, “NEARCHOS”, “SARISA”, “TOXOTIS”, “SIKINOS” etc, increases forces’ capability to function under a unified command and control scheme and consolidates the common spirit in conducting joint operations. In the complex contemporary geographical and operational environment, jointness is a key factor for the existence of modern and effective Armed Forces, capable of confronting all possible security and defense challenges. Currently, common perception is that conducting war cannot be the result of action performed by one Branch only. Cooperation among personnel of all Branches, in the framework of common exercises, is practically one of the most important steps, for the materialization of jointness and the enhancement of the operational capability.

During the execution of exercises, the effectiveness of the Armed Forces is evaluated and improved. The current operational planning, the Crisis Management System and the Command & Control System are also tested, lessons are learned and conclu-

sions are obtained, while corrective actions for the necessary improvements and amendments are thereinafter taken.

In the framework of contractual obligations deriving from our participation in international organizations, the Hellenic Armed Forces participate in multinational exercises (NATO, EU, international exercises), through which valuable experience is acquired in a multinational environment, cooperation and mutual understanding relationships among States are developed, and the capabilities of the Hellenic Armed Forces are promoted at international level

During training activities and exercises, all the parameters concerning environmental protection are taken into consideration, whereas personnel and materiel security is particularly emphasized.

In addition to the aforementioned, simulators and mock-ups are widely used and completely exploited to the whole scale of operational training; this helps to operational planning and operators' training, as well as to recording possible problems, obtaining trustworthy and objective results and ensuring a significantly lower cost and materiel damage. We should also mention the vital contribution of the National Defense Simulation Training Center, where there is a possibility to conduct Computer-Assisted Exercises (CAX).

In order to test their operational capability, the Units are periodically evaluated based on specific criteria and procedures.

The Armed Forces are constantly present to the whole territory of Greece, supervising and ensuring country's land, air and sea borders. This presence is ensured by manning outposts, patrolling and over flying the whole of the Hellenic territory and air space. By extension, the Hellenic Army, deploying the necessary land forces, ensures the integrity of the land area, mainland and the island territories, the Hellenic Navy, with its essential naval power, ensures the national maritime area and keeps sea lines open, while the Hellenic Air Force, using the necessary air power, ensures the Hellenic Airspace. The proper deployment of the Armed Forces throughout Greece, the constant surveillance, as well as the existence of the appropriate operational planning, since peacetime, ensure a reliable preventive capability and increase readiness for immediate and reliable response. Additionally, the Armed Forces have a modern air defence system, which implement a state-of-the-art technology, allowing them to deal with air threats, to protect friendly forces and vital regions of Greece, and to secure the further conduct of operations.

Another important aspect, as to immediate and reliable response, is the capability of providing timely and reliable warning. To this end, the Armed Forces are equipped with modern means of effective border surveillance and information collection, while they cooperate with the appropriate State agencies on information matters.

The Armed Forces are equipped with modern High-Tech weapon systems, which function as a power multiplier and a deterrence factor. Operational capability of Units depends on the ability of the personnel to handle and use, effectively, the modern weapon systems and means, by providing training and practice opportunities to operators on a continuous basis. High technology, complexity of means in use /maintenance and necessary training time, require efficient and well trained operators so as to fully exploit the potential of weapon systems.

Therefore, all main specialties of the latest weapon systems and means are allocated to Professional Soldiers, an attitude that upgrades the operational capability of the Armed Forces.

Greece actively participates in the European satellite programs HELIOS 2 and its successor MUSIS (Multinational Space-Based Imaging System). The full development of HELIOS 2 enables us to ensure a most updated satellite earth observation. That provides qualitative superiority in terms of information and contributes to an upgraded deterrence capability of our Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces, besides their main mission to ensure territorial integrity and national independence, participate in multinational operations following political decisions of the Government, taking into consideration all National interests and international commitments, while applying procedures provided by Constitution, National legislation and International Law.

The Hellenic National Defense General Staff is responsible for the organization, participation and supervision of the troops participating in multinational military operation. Greece, in the context of its contractual commitments, may allocate certain troops to multinational military operation in cases, as follows:

- UN and OSCE-led operations

- NATO-led operations, either falling into Article 5 (external threat against a NATO- member state or non- Article 5 (crisis management), after a UN Security Council resolution.

- EU-led operations

Additionally, Greece may allocate forces abroad under National command, providing military assistance to other countries after an interstate agreement.

At present time, almost 3.000 men and women of the Hellenic Armed Forces are actually participating in peace-keeping operations in three continents: KFOR in Kosovo, ISAF in Afghanistan, ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina, UNIFIL in Lebanon and ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR in the Mediterranean area. Particularly in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Greece has contributed greatly with the Hellenic Battalion and financial assistance. This assistance was based on the belief that: ”Stability in Afghanistan is not a matter of exclusively military nature. A comprehensive approach is required, focusing on the economic

development and social prosperity of the area".

Therefore, the Hellenic Air Force has taken over the command of KAIA (Kabul International Airport) since April 2010 (for 6 months), allocating 56 cadres. Besides that, Greece provided, during the election, the International Brigade (North) with 2 teams of doctors and nursing personnel (16 persons for two months) to staff the German hospital in the area. Moreover, an Operational Mentor Liaison Team of 19 cadres was allocated to the Support Battalion of the newly established Afghan Army Division, Capital, since August 2010. Concluding, Greece will train Afghan military personnel at the Military Academy and Corps Officers Military School.

Additionally to the aforementioned peace keeping operations, the successful participation of the Hellenic Navy in "ATALANTA" EU-led Operation and "OCEAN SHIELD" NATO-led Operation prove our great contribution to the implementation of World Food Program, the counter- Piracy operations and the safe navigation in Aden Gulf and Somali coast, and support the international standing of Greece.

To note that Operation “ATALANTA”, in the context of the Common European Security and Defence Policy, is the first EU-led autonomous naval operation Greece, as an EU- member for 30 years, has played an active role, supporting the European values and European integration, so that the Old Continent develops a strong voice on international issues. In this spirit, Greece assumed the tactical command of Operation “ATALANTA” during the first phase, demonstrating the determining role that the Hellenic Armed Forces play in humanitarian issues and enhancing the international role of Greece.

In the context of the contractual commitments, Greece has also contributed with forces and means to the NATO Response Force and the EU Battle Groups.

The troops selected to participate in peace- keeping operations are trained in the Multinational Peace Support Ops Training Center, based in Kilkis, proving high level theoretical and practical training on peace-keeping issues, in accordance with international standards (U.N, NATO, E.U, OSCE).

Moreover, in peace time, the role of the Hellenic Armed Forces is focused on social contribution without diminishing their main operational task. In that context, they ensure humanitarian relief following natural disasters, providing personnel and means, medical support and making air evacuations as well as conducting search and rescue operations on land and sea. Last but not

least it is worthy to note the Armed Forces' contribution to the environmental protection. In that orientation they occupy a prominent position in Air Forest fighting, even if it sometimes results in the loss of human lives.

The human power constitutes the driving force of the aforementioned efforts to create battle-worthy armed forces. It constitutes the critical factor of success of any mission in peace and war. The qualitative superiority of our personnel is our comparative advantage, which makes the difference against the quantity parameter and therefore we consider the human factor of primarily importance, providing the necessary and upgraded training as well as ensuring the fulfillment of the needs of the personnel of the Armed Forces, the prosperity of those personnel and their dependents.

The operational task of the Armed Forces is difficult and arduous, hence it constitutes a distinguished honor for all, fulfilled day and night, with ungrudging effort, courage, grit and heavy sweat, even with loss of lives in peacetime. Greek citizens recognizing the effort of the personnel of the Armed Forces, they pay respect and trust to them, being certain that the economic cost is not an unnecessary luxury. To that end, Greek citizens hold the Armed Forces in high esteem.

In a period of global uncertainty and instability, where Greece gives a multi-level struggle on national and international issues, the Armed Forces constitute a factor of security, power, prosperity and stability. Through the continuous effort of its personnel, and the support of the Greeks Diaspora all over the world, the Hellenic Armed Forces constitute the main factor that guarantees the successful accomplishment of Greece's national aims.

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