

HAF Chief 6th Air Power Conference Speech

Honorable Minister of Defense, honorable Ambassadors, Generals, Air Chiefs and Commanders, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to welcome all of you at the 6th Air Power Conference. This conference has become an institution for the Hellenic Air Force over the last six years and has been evolved to an international event, which is addressed to military people, to political persons, to the academic society and to representatives of Defense Industries. All of us who are invited either as guests or speakers join the conference in order to promote and exchange views, and address ideas and challenges, related to the Air Power and its special role in the Alliance.

The 2018 Air Power Conference is devoted to memory of Cpt George Baltadoros who offered his life to our Country last Thursday. Lets observe a minute of silence in remembrance of Cpt George Baltadoros.

There is no doubt that the Air Power is a mean of force projection and a «tool» with Strategic Value in the hands of the Commander, that can be exploited in order to achieve multiple effects, ranging from the display of political messages to the projection of direct and rapid military force. There are times and circumstances where Air Power is seen as the only viable and acceptable military option open to governments. It has proven very successful and it is considered, perceived as a low-risk, low-casualty option.

Air Power, traditionally and by its nature, exploits cutting-edge technologies. Aircraft with stealth and data fusion capabilities, passive sensors, smart weapons, UAS, advanced data links, communication and satellite networks, advanced air defense systems, electronic warfare, and cyber defense means. All of them are technological achievements which are exploited by the Air Force in order to support Joint Operations and achieve precise attacks, both in terms of space and time, with important strategic effects. The high technology, combined with realistic training, proper technical and logistical support and optimum deployment and exploitation of the available resources, are structural components of the Air Power, able to affect joint Operations aiming to achieve the final goal.

Questions or issues as «what is the role of Air Power in the age of uncertainty», «which is the European perspective on the way ahead for Air Operations», «how can Joint Air Power be the vehicle for synergy within the Armed Forces», «which are the new security issues that we have to cope with», «which is role of the media, cyberwar and UAS in Air Power», «how can Air Power exploit and use the Space» are some critical subjects, that will be presented and discussed during this conference.

I am certain that during the works of this conference, we ll have the opportunity to discuss new ideas and to address useful conclusions. I am confident that your presence today will greatly contribute in coping with the challenges of our forces, as well as in highlighting the Strategic Value of Air Power.

Closing, I ask the Minister of Defence Mr. Kammenos, to open the works of the 6th Air Power Conference.

Thank you