

**Χαιρετισμός Αρχηγού ΓΕΑ, Αντιπτέραρχου (Ι) Δημοσθένη  
Γρηγοριάδη, στη DV Day της Άσκησης Ηνίοχος 2025**

Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff,

Ambassadors,

Generals,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pride and honour that I welcome you all to the Distinguished Visitors' Day of Exercise INIOCHOS 25. Today, at Andravida Air Base, we stand together as friends, partners and allies, witnessing the power of cooperation, training, and shared vision for security and stability. INIOCHOS has evolved into one of the most demanding and realistic multinational air exercises in the world, and this year's iteration is no exception.

For over a decade, INIOCHOS has grown in complexity and scope, providing participants with a unique and challenging training environment. Through continuous evolution and adaptation, we have refined our capabilities, ensuring that we meet the demands of modern air warfare.

Over the years, the Hellenic Air Force has accumulated invaluable experience through INIOCHOS, not only in executing complex, multi-domain air operations but also in organizing and managing large-scale multinational exercises. This expertise has played a pivotal role in the very successful hosting of NATO's first ever Flag exercise, the Ramstein Flag, which was held at this very base just six months ago.

The primary goal of INIOCHOS is to provide high-quality training that simulates real-world combat scenarios. The battlefield of tomorrow is becoming increasingly complex, contested, and interconnected. INIOCHOS exposes participants to an intensive battle rhythm, replicating the friction and unpredictability of actual combat situations. Our pilots, planners, and ground crews are tested to their limits, preparing them for the challenges they will face in operational environments.

This year, we are honored to host air assets and personnel from 13 allied and partner nations, spanning Europe, America, and Asia. This marks a

record number of participants for INIOCHOS, a testament to the growing significance of this exercise. Notably, the majority of these nations return year after year, further solidifying the trust, collaboration, and shared commitment to enhancing our collective operational capabilities.

INIOCHOS 25 offers training opportunities for a wide range of air operations, challenging participants to refine their tactical and operational skills in a rigorous environment. After the ceremony, we will have the opportunity to observe the high level of the exercise through technology, gaining insight into the exercise's demanding scenarios. Additionally, we will witness the Hellenic Air Force innovative approach to training, having built from scratch a state-of-the-art synthetic training facility. This facility has recently achieved a major milestone by successfully integrating live aircraft with simulators in the same training environment, elevating training realism and enhancing operational readiness.

Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the Hellenic Air Force, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all participating nations, aircrews, support personnel, and organizers who have made this exercise possible. Your commitment to excellence and partnership is what defines the success of INIOCHOS and ensures its continued prominence as a premier multinational exercise.

As we observe today's activities, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Hellenic Army, the Hellenic Navy, and the Special Warfare Command for their invaluable support and contribution. Their expertise and cooperation play a crucial role in creating realistic joint operational scenarios, enhancing the overall effectiveness of this exercise, and reinforcing our ability to operate seamlessly across multiple domains.

In conclusion, let me recognize the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the Hellenic Air Force, whose firm commitment ensures the success of this exercise. Special recognition is due to the personnel of the Air Tactics Center and the 117 Combat Wing, whose hard work and meticulous planning have been instrumental in making INIOCHOS 25 a world-class exercise.

Distinguished guests,

INIOCHOS 25 reaffirms our unity, readiness, and commitment to collective security. As Heraclitus said, "Πόλεμος πατήρ πάντων"—war is the father of all things. This timeless wisdom reminds us that through struggle and challenge, we forge strength, resilience, and innovation.

Today, we witness the strength of cooperation, the professionalism of our forces, and the innovation shaping the future of air warfare. May the lessons learned here enhance our interoperability and reinforce our partnerships for years to come. May our skies remain safe, and our bonds endure.

Fight's on!