

GREEK NATIONAL REPORT

For the annual meeting of the Committee on Women in the NATO Forces

INTRODUCTION

The involvement of women in war and conflict is well documented in the pages of the ancient and recent history of Greece.

In 1946, the establishment of the Army Nursing Corps came as a mark of the Nation's esteem towards the women's voluntary offering during the Second World War. This initiative was completed by the establishment of the Hellenic Armed Forces Nurse Officers' School, in 1954. Women NCOs were first introduced into the Hellenic Armed Forces in 1979.

Today, service women have become an integral part of the Hellenic Armed Forces, demonstrating their competence and skills in all the aspects of the every day practices.

ORGANIZATION

Women officers in Greece are mainly graduates from the Military Academies. The Army, Navy, and Air Force Academies constitute the Military Institutions for the 3 services. The Corps Officers School and the School of Nurse Officers, represent the Joint Academies. Graduates from the Military Academies are employed in all the branches of the 3 services. Graduates from the 2 Joint institutions are integrated in the 3 services, serving as doctors, dentists, pharmacists, veterinary officers, recruiting, finance and judicial officers.

Women NCOs serve in the three branches and have the same career opportunities along with their male counterparts.

THE SERVICES

Women in uniform today are practically serving in the 3 branches of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) along with their male counterparts, as well as in the respective Military Medical Services and the Joint Services. The table below shows the number and percentage of servicewomen in the Hellenic Armed Forces.

SERVICE	NUMBER	%
Army	3965	10
Navy	2227	14
Air Force	2494	11,77
Joint	337	22
TOTAL	9023	13,3

NOTE: Conscripts are NOT included in the calculation. After calculating the total number of conscripts, the percentage of women in the Hellenic Armed Forces is: 5,6%

POLICIES

The female military personnel are subject to the same rules of disciplinary action with their male counterparts. The Constitution of the

Country, has consolidated the implementation of the principle of equal treatment of men and women within its articles, which practically implies the removal of any inequality that is related to the provision of equal opportunities regardless the gender. This constitutional amendment, combined with relevant laws, leads to gender free entrance to the Military Academies, the Joint military institutions, as well as the NCO Schools and contributes to the development of equal career opportunities to all the personnel in uniform within the Services that are mainly based on their overall professional skills and qualifications. As a result, a remarkable increase in the entrance of the female cadets in the Military Academies is documented for this year. Moreover, according to a recent law (09/2006), women can enter the Hellenic Armed Forces in all the specializations as Professional Privates.

Since 2002, the Hellenic Armed Forces have been undertaking, a significant transformation effort, and placing jointness at the core of it. In this context, specific revolutionary steps have been proceeded, such as the establishment of a new joint command structure, the creation of various joint doctrines, the revision of operational plans and those of readiness and crisis management systems, the promotion of joint training and education, the development of a new defense planning procedure and the adoption of a more effective mechanism for the operational assessment of our combat units. The gender aspect has been considered in each single step of the transformation effort.

Following the increase of the participation of the personnel in the operational deployments, new initiatives have become the focus of interest for the military, to ensure the integration of gender aspects in the every day practices for the benefit of the participants.

The office of gender equity, which first established in March 2004 at the Ministry of Defense, has successfully completed its third year of active involvement mainly as:

- a. Intelligence, selecting information from the Services to form a central cases data base for future research work.
- b. Mediator, through a networking of selected POCs within the services.

This particular role is expanded to include the successful cooperation of the Office with respective organization at National level. The office has proceeded several studies on gender mainstreaming within the Hellenic Armed Forces and currently examines the establishment of professional centers for servicewomen's support.

TRAINING

Within the framework of the reform process, training represents a fundamental parameter that can guarantee the professional qualifications and overall performance of the personnel in uniform. The promotion of jointness within the Hellenic Armed Forces has paved the way to the implementation of a very demanding goal, which is joint training. The establishment of the Supreme Joint War College, a university level institution, where officers of both sexes have access represents one of the first positive steps made so far towards the fulfillment of this goal.

Women officers attend the Staff Colleges and the schools respective to the services.

EMPLOYMENT

Active duty women serve alongside their male counterparts and have the same rights, obligations, promotion and salaries. Today women are serving in a variety of posts than ever before. Service careers are managed on a gender neutral basis and new opportunities for development are provided.

DEPLOYMENTS

Female personnel are deployed in Peacekeeping Operations. National military guidelines establish the participation of women in deployments. The percentage of servicewomen in deployments is 3% of the total number of the military personnel serving in deployments.

CONCLUSION

Women today have an active involvement in the Hellenic Armed Forces and are successfully engaged in demanding roles and duties. The status of their integration is getting improved reflecting the support provided at Ministerial level and through the whole Chain of Command.

LtCol Panagiota Dimitriou
Greek Delegate to the CWINF

Hellenic National Defense General Staff
Evolution Project Office
Mesogion Avenue 227-231
Holargos, Athens
GREECE

Tel: 0030 210 657 6246
e-mail: metexelixi@hndgs.mil.gr