



إيدكس
2021



نافدكس
2021

OFFICIAL **SHOW
DAILY**

PUBLISHED BY

دولة
nation shield

DAY

3

TUESDAY
23 Feb. 2021

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UAE at the Forefront of Superior Military Technology

The UAE has placed itself at the forefront of high level military technology making the country a pioneer among the Arab world, said General Konstantinos Floros, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDS). Speaking exclusively to *Nation Shield* on the sidelines of the ongoing IDEX 2021, he also termed HOPE's entry into Mars orbit a "momentous" achievement and congratulated the UAE.

General Konstantinos Floros, Chief of HNDS



"What makes the UAE stand out in holding IDEX and NAVDEX is in its capability to host such global events as well as in its proactiveness in being an active participant in the expos," the General said. "I am very much impressed with the shows even though this is a first time for me here. The sheer effort that has gone in to make this happen, taking into account Covid restrictions and the preventive measures that had to be put in place for the visitors and exhibitors to interact in a safe manner is indeed noteworthy," he said.

"In regards to my participation, I have to stress that I was planning to come over for quite some time, and I am very happy that I made it, despite the difficult circumstances. Furthermore, I feel being pretty much at home too," he said. General Konstantinos also highlighted that Lt. General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces was the first Chief of Defense (CHOD) to visit him in

Athens when he took office last year.

He said his official visit this time is for a number of reasons and is also combined with the deployment of a Greek frigate HS HYDRA,

which sailed from Greece to be part of NAVDEX 2021, the global event which nobody should miss, like the IDEX. A team of Greek paratroopers are also here for free fall training. The General said IDEX and NAVDEX are special both in terms of magnitude and quality – and significantly all major defence companies are present here, which speaks for its importance. The events offer deep insights in military capabilities development connected with high technology.

"It is worth mentioning that C4IRS is being taken to a higher level than ever before in terms of high speed networks, with huge amount of data being exchanged to facilitate establishing a comprehensive view of the modern battlefield and also to present interconnected targeting capability which provides unprecedented options of intervening with surgical accuracy," he said.

The General said he was impressed with all the offerings displayed at the exhibition, but this year what attracted him most was the loitering munitions sector. "Defence exhibitions are also an important tool for establishing the appropriate networking, which is a prerequisite for entering into right contracts and deals. It also provides opportunities for in-depth discussions and interactions between governments, militaries, and the defence industry in general. It would be very difficult to achieve such an insight in short times without defence exhibitions." He said Greece is revitalising the expo sector through Defence Exhibition Athens (DEFEA), despite



struggling to overcome COVID-19 restrictions, and there is a lot to learn from the experience of IDEX, especially in terms of organising a strong health control system, capable of securing the necessary interaction between exhibitors and visitors.

On the defence cooperation between the two countries, General Konstantinos said that it has reached the level of being characterised as a deep special relationship. "We have both worked very hard to make it happen. I have personally been part of the process in my previous capacities and certainly in my present one, I know we can do more for the benefit of our militaries and our people."

"Greece and UAE are a lot closer than the geography permits, and what connects both countries seamlessly is our dedication to the rule of law, our unconditional support to peace and stability, our firm belief in good neighbourly relations and our efforts to achieve prosperity through cooperation and fair agreements. It goes without saying that such a disposition certainly supports our

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"Greece and UAE are connected by our unconditional support to peace and stability"

common interests in the region, by making us both security providers instead of security consumers, and this noble cause by which we abide is what brings us closer than ever," the General said.

He said Greece and the UAE's cooperation goes a long way back, and it includes basically every aspect of strong defence and military interaction, covered by a political agreement at the highest level.

"In terms of what this is all about in military terms, it starts from logistics and extends to all levels of operational training, including bilateral and multinational activities and exercises, personnel and information exchange, provision of land and facilities and so forth. We are doing really well and I firmly believe we can do a lot better, because it is in our common interest. There is no other way around it, and it has to do with meeting the expectations of our peoples, and mark my words, we will meet them in full," General Konstantinos said.

On the UAE's role in maintaining peace and resolving conflicts regionally and internationally, he said the UAE is a security provider and a strong supporter of peace and stability both regionally and internationally with a strong reputation.

"Your efforts to stabilise the MENA region as a whole and more specifically your recent participation in the Abraham Accords and in the Al Ula Agreement speaks for itself," he said, adding that the UAE showed great courage and utmost dedication to peace processes.