

Major General Alkiviadis STEFANIS – MILEX 13 Operational Commander



Born in 1959 in Athens, Greece, Major General Alkiviadis STEFANIS started his military career in 1978 when he was admitted to the Hellenic Military Academy (SSE) in Athens. On commissioning in 1982, he was appointed as an Armoured Platoon Commander. Later he served as an Armoured Company Commander, Armoured Battalion Commander and Armoured Brigade Commander. He also became an instructor at the Military Academy

In 1994 he attended the US Armored Advanced Course (Fort Knox, Kansas, USA) after which he served for two years as an instructor in the Armoured Officers' Training Center in Athens, Greece.

In 1997 he attended the War College, in Thessaloniki, Greece, establishing the full range of staff officer training. He subsequently conducted a Command period (1998-2000) with the 98th Armour Battalion in Lesvos. Later he was nominated as "Aide de Camp" for the President of the Hellenic Republic (2000-2002), gaining experience in military diplomacy. During this time he acquired advanced University education that concluded with an MBA degree in "Crisis Response Operations".

The following three years (2002-2005) he was assigned to NATO HQs in Brussels, Belgium, as Operational Officer of the Hellenic Military Representative (MILREP). This provided him with a wide range of knowledge in various operational issues within the Alliance.

Upon returning to Greece, he became the Director of Evolution Office within the National Defense General Staff, Joint Forces HQs (2005 to 2007). From this post he was able to reevaluate operations within the Joint Forces and introduced evolution to future challenges and environment. Parallel to the above he attended the National Defense College (via e-learning), thus enhancing his knowledge in military diplomacy and strategic studies.

In 2007, he was promoted to Colonel and was assigned as Chief of Staff at the XXIII Armoured Brigade in Alexandroupolis. In 2008 he attended the National Defense University in Washington DC, USA where he acquired a second MBA degree in "National Security Strategy".

His next assignment was as Deputy Commander of the 50th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, in Soufli. His promotion to Brigadier General followed, after which he

became the Director of Defense Planning and Programming at the Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS) in Athens, Greece.

In 2011 he was assigned as the Commander of the XXIII Armoured Brigade in Alexandroupolis, a position that enhanced his military experience as a tactical Commander.

After his promotion to Major General in 2013 he became the Director of the D' Branch within the HAGS, responsible for Defense Planning and Programming, Organization, Education and Training, Doctrine - Lessons Learned and Public Relations Directorates.

Recently, (July 2013) he was nominated as the Operation Commander (OpCdr) for the EU Operations Centre (OPSCEN) to conduct the EU Military Exercise 2013 (MILEX 13).