

## **Hellenic Armed Forces**

Greece has embarked since 2019 in an effort to revamp its armed forces addressing needs that have remained unattended for years.

The first move that Athens made was the procurement of 18 Rafale fighters (12 used and 6 new) that will be delivered starting in mid-2021. Along with this it became obvious that the ships of the Hellenic Navy were showing their age, and new ships (frigates) were needed while a mid-life upgrade for the MEKO 200 frigates was also desperately needed.

This is obviously the costliest of the programs being contemplated by the Hellenic Armed Forces. So far the suitors for the new frigates are: France with the digital frigates "Belh @ ra", the USA with the MMSC, Germany with four new A-200 frigates or two plus two A-200 and A-300, Dutch with the "Karel Doorman" (s.s. probably as the intermediate solution) and a possible new Onega class ships, Italy with the FREMM, and Spain with the F-110 Navantia. Germans offer for additional two type 214 submarines. Greece already has 4 type 214 submarines

This in turn again brings forth the need to speed up the processes for the selection and acquisition of heavy torpedoes for the Type 214 submarines. The Navy sees this as a top priority while the willingness to procure torpedoes is reiterated as often as possible.

Both the Air Force and the Navy are looking for sub-strategic weapons to equip the new and upgraded aircraft and the new frigates.

### **Army programs**

Although the interest is concentrated in the programs of the Air Force (PA) and the Navy (PN) with a focus on the acquisition of the 18 Rafale F3R as well as the four frigates, the Greek Army (ES) is also making efforts to launch armament programs.

One of the most important programs for the Army is the renewal of personal weapons as well as soldier equipment. The goal is to replace the G3A3 / A4 rifle with a new model. At the same time, there will be enrichment in the arsenal of the Special Forces with new weapons as well as new sniper rifles covering a longstanding need. At the same time, with the new rifle (whether 5.56 mm and/or 7.62 mm), the General Staff of the Army (GS) intends to acquire a new 9 mm pistol.

The will of the political leadership is to have a plan where both the new rifle and the new pistol will be co-produced by the Hellenic Defense Systems (EAS) in order to stimulate the production of the factories. The German HK433 of Heckler & Koch is of great interest, while there are also significant proposals at the national level.

A program is already underway to improve the combat equipment of Special Forces units by acquiring Elmon Molle plate carriers in order to obtain a total of 7500 pieces. Also, the Special Forces Directorate intends to acquire tactical level drones for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering missions intended for Expeditionary Units.

The Special Forces, have proceeded to a program for the acquisition of new high-speed personnel transport boats for the Amphibious Squadrons of the 13th Special Operations Command. The selected boat is the type Munin S1200 made by VIKING Norsafe. A total of 41 speedboats will be built to replace the obsolete Magna 960.

One of the most immediate and urgent needs of the Army is the renewal of rolling stock. The GES

wants a comprehensive program to replace general purpose trucks (approximately 10000 Steyr 680M trucks), other vehicles (M / S 290GD and M / S 240GD) as well as specialized vehicles. This is a top priority program as the above vehicles are the backbone of Army logistics. The ideal would be the development of a family of “domestic” vehicles that would entail increased domestic added value with a focus on the Greek defense industry.

The Army is expected to launch a program to upgrade the Leopard 1 A5 and Leopard 2 A4 tanks. The most burning issue for the Army Air Force is the signing of the sixth amendment to the original supply contract for a total of 20 NH90 helicopters. To date, 14 state-of-the-art helicopters have been received due to very low availability due to non-signing of a technical support contract. The signing of the sixth amendment to the original contract is expected to regulate the deliveries of the remaining six NH90 helicopters as well as the technical support of all the helicopters.

The modernization of the AH-64A is crucial and as Army Air Force officials note 2021 will be a milestone. In the medium term, the Army Aviation Directorate wishes to proceed with the program for the homogenization of the Greek Chinooks at level F.

The Artillery branch is awaiting the modernization of the Multiple Missile Launchers (MRS) RM-70 as well as the MLRS M-270. In addition, the General Staff intends to acquire new ammunition for these weapons systems.

The Infantry, in addition to the new small arms and new materials, is in talks with Israel about Rafael's Spike lethal anti-tank weapons, a weapons system necessary for the Greek arsenal. The issue of the new AIFV/APC always remains relevant but requires large sums of money. The same applies to the weapon systems of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery. On the table remains the modernization of the existing APC fleet as well as the domestic development of a, AIFV/APC given the hundreds of such vehicles need to be replaced in the long run.

The Army acquired 300 more Milan AT ATGWs and is planning on further acquisitions of TOQ missiles, but the need for more such weapons is still there. It is certain that the Army is looking with great interest at the Israeli Spike family of weapons to greatly augment its firepower.

Following the recent similar training of the personnel of the Joint Special Operations Directorate of the Armed Forces General Staff in UAE, between 19-25 February, its personnel were trained in the free fall simulator (wind tunnel) owned by the United Arab Emirates.

The General Staff has set as a goal the construction of a wind tunnel in Greece in a very short period of time, for the benefit of the Special Operations Forces in a Military Camp in Attica that has already been selected.

## **Drones**

Greece currently has very limited capabilities in this sector. It will be interesting to see how this issue develops, as it will become discussed to a great extent by the General Staff and the relevant parliamentary committee. Obviously if there are moves in this direction by the armed forces they will certainly look to assembly, or construction in Greece. So far the Navy has expressed the need for four UAVs to be launched from the new frigates.

## Hellenic Police purchases

For the last 18 months, the Ministry of Civil Protection and Hellenic Police (ELAS) have been implementing an extremely large and ambitious plan for the equipment of the police services. For 2021, the Secretary General of the Civil Protection Ministry stated that it has "an ambitious program, worth approximately 23,000,000 euros, for the purchase of motorized operational equipment", which includes, among others:

- 40-80 patrol cars with a specially designed special cage for transporting detainees and those brought with coronavirus, or other infectious diseases or suspected of suffering from a disease,
- 4 ambulances for ELAS, - 5 wheeled armored vehicles, - 4 special operational vehicles.

For the program implemented in 2020, the Secretary General stated that, in addition to 2,450 vehicles of all types, acquired through tenders or seizures, about 20,000,000 euros were allocated for the purchase of operational equipment and personal protective equipment for police, that had not been purchased in the last 15 years. Among the equipment purchased in 2020, Mr. Tsouvalas mentioned: 23,000 bulletproof vests, over 8,000 business uniforms, complete equipment for 4,000 cyclists throughout Greece. Also, 675 patrol vehicles were also purchased. The budget of the re-equipment program exceeds 31 million euros.

## Hellenic Coast Guard

Procurement of 9.3 million euros for equipment and clothing for the Hellenic Coast Guard. The supply is analyzed as follows:

Purchase of tactical business clothing as well as specialized diving equipment and search and rescue materials for the staff of the Underwater Missions Unit, with a total budget of € 1,207,390.

Purchase of complete tactical business clothing and specialized equipment for all the executives of the Special Missions Ladders throughout the country, as well as the Piraeus Special Operations Group (EOEP), with a total budget of € 2,052,070.

Purchase of tactical business clothing and specialized equipment for the executives of the Liaison Service – Rescuers, with a total budget of € 312,110.

Purchase of tactical business clothing for all ship / boat crews and for all Hellenic Coast Guard executives, with a total budget of € 2,458,570.

Purchase of tactical modern bulletproof vests with accessories for the crews of the boats and the executives who patrol and operate in the areas of responsibility of the Hellenic Coast Guard, with a total budget of € 3,285.0000.

<https://doureios.com/ekpaidefsi-elftheras-ptoseos-se-aerosiraga-sta-iae/>

<https://doureios.com/promitheia-300-antiarmatikon-vlimation-milan-3-gia-to-elliniko-pezikoi/>

<https://doureios.com/ellinikos-stratos-o-ptohos-syggensis-sta-exoplistika/>

[https://www.ethnos.gr/politiki/121677\\_enoples-dynameis-ta-opla-tis-elladas-kai-ti-allazei-me-tin-promitheia-ton-fregaton](https://www.ethnos.gr/politiki/121677_enoples-dynameis-ta-opla-tis-elladas-kai-ti-allazei-me-tin-promitheia-ton-fregaton)

<https://hellasjournal.com/2020/09/exi-mnistires-gia-tis-nees-fregates-mas-irthe-i-ora-tis-epilogis-pia-inc-ta-kritiria/>

<https://newpost.gr/amyna/6045d7fed68eaeef0a35e8d9/rampage-kai-spice-apo-to-israil-kai-scalp-naval-gia-tis-belharra-allazoyn-to-topio-yper-tis-elladas>

<https://defencereview.gr/ellinikos-stratos-to-programma-ton-ex/>

<https://defencereview.gr/elliniki-astynomia-anaskopisi-toy-ex/>

[https://www.ptisidiastima.com/new-rifle-and-vehicle-decision-in-2021/?fbclid=IwAR2tlcObSebCZ8UtiQKemZhNQCIV0XRFjYBMDjT1ACMMhTKra\\_bQEQLt6g](https://www.ptisidiastima.com/new-rifle-and-vehicle-decision-in-2021/?fbclid=IwAR2tlcObSebCZ8UtiQKemZhNQCIV0XRFjYBMDjT1ACMMhTKra_bQEQLt6g)

[https://www.ptisidiastima.com/coast-guard-proc-9million/?fbclid=IwAR0UZyLz51ZU65LTjbbPQmPCb9nO18wlob92JzscAL\\_vLRam1YIADO11fJU](https://www.ptisidiastima.com/coast-guard-proc-9million/?fbclid=IwAR0UZyLz51ZU65LTjbbPQmPCb9nO18wlob92JzscAL_vLRam1YIADO11fJU)