

# Exercise INIOCHOS 2023 at Andravida AFB

Between 24 April and 5 May 2023, the blue skies of Hellas were shaken by the sounds of fighters participating in exercise INIOCHOS 2023. Three new members were welcomed to the ever expanding INIOCHOS family this year: India, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Due to the current global geopolitical climate and the building of new alliances, INIOCHOS 2023 had enormous political and military importance beyond the narrow borders of Hellas. New friendships were made and existing ones refreshed and renewed. New technologies were tested and existing standards were raised for future exercises.

## History of Exercise Iniochos

Exercise INIOCHOS was established in 1988 as a Hellenic Air Force exercise without participation of foreign Air Forces. In 2013, it was decided to upgrade the exercise into a INVITEX-exercise, meaning that invitations are being sent to different Air Forces, asking if they want to participate, and to implement the so called "Single Base" concept, according to which all participating squadrons are operating from one single base. This was done for synergy effects and in order to create a realistic environment for the simulation of real combat operations with the opportunity of a better analysis of the results. Andravida AFB in the western Peloponnese was chosen as the host base. The two main reasons for this decision were the extended free airspace in western Hellas and over the Ionian Sea, which is something very rare today in most parts of Europe and the existence in Andravida AFB of the Hellenic Air Force Air Tactics Centre (KEAT). In 2014, this concept was put through test with the first INIOCHOS exercise run under the new rules, still only with Hellenic Air Force

