



**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
PRESS OFFICE**

ph. (+30)2310 997158 e-mail: press@auth.gr

Administration Building «K. Karatheodori» AUTH, P.C. 541 24, Thessaloniki

[@Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [@authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [@Auth_University](https://twitter.com/Auth_University)

PRESS RELEASE

**100 Years of the Military Medical School: A Century of Shared History
with Aristotle University**

27 October 2026

A commemorative event marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Military Medical School (SIS–SSAS) took place today, Tuesday, 27 October 2026, in the Ceremonies Hall of Aristotle University (AUTH).

As part of the event, AUTH Rector, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, delivered a speech highlighting the historical journey of Aristotle University and the Hellenic Army Officers Academy (SSAS), the strong ties connecting the two institutions, and the importance of bringing university education together with the national mission.

The University subsequently honoured Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, General Dimitrios Houpi, while SSAS presented an award to former AUTH Rector Anastasios Manthos.

The Shared History of Aristotle University and SSAS

In his speech, AUTH Rector, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, stressed that the anniversary offers an opportunity to highlight a partnership that has taken shape and evolved over time, supporting the scientific training of Armed Forces personnel while also strengthening the University's academic community.

“Today, we celebrate a century of shared history between the Military Medical School and Aristotle University. And this is no coincidence. It is no coincidence that we share the same lecture halls and the same commitment to our homeland and its values,” he said.

As he pointed out, the founding of the University in 1925 and the Military Medical School in 1926 reflected the same national need: investment in knowledge, science and the country's human resources. He then referred to the re-establishment of the Military Medical School in 1946, with its headquarters in Thessaloniki, and the integration of its cadets into AUTH's academic life from 1947 onwards.

The Rector stressed that the presence of the Military Medical School in Thessaloniki made a substantial contribution to the development of AUTH's School of Medicine, increasing its student population and highlighting the need to strengthen the infrastructure, staffing and resources required to train military doctors.

He also referred to the expansion of the School's academic scope, as the development of new university departments made it possible to train officers in other fields. As he noted, the renaming of the Military Medical School as the Hellenic Army Officers Academy in 1970 reflected this broader mission, with the addition of specialisations beyond the Health Sciences, including Law, Economics, Psychology and Computer Science.

"The two institutions did not simply follow parallel paths. They evolved together. And this shared journey stands as one of the most successful examples of bringing higher education together with the national mission," he emphasised.

Knowledge, Integrity and Duty as Shared Values

The Rector placed particular emphasis on the importance of university education in shaping officers in specialist corps, noting that scientific training is not merely an additional skill but an integral part of their mission.

As he explained, the State's decision to link military training with university education has stood the test of time. SSAS cadets study at Aristotle University, using the same lecture halls, laboratories and university clinics and participating in the same academic life.

"The military uniform and the academic gown do not symbolise two different worlds. They symbolise two different expressions of the same mission: service to humanity and the homeland," he said, expressing his pride in the long-standing cooperation between the two institutions.

He also noted that their shared history has fostered a community built on knowledge, mutual respect and trust. SSAS graduates have returned to Aristotle University as distinguished professors, while university academics have contributed to the education and training of the Academy's cadets.

Referring to the values that connect science with the national mission, the Rector underlined that SSAS brings together three important traditions: science, virtue and duty. *"Because knowledge without sound judgement can become dangerous. Power without values can become destructive. And technology without ethics cannot lead to any real progress,"* he pointed out.

Technology and the Quality of Human Resources

Addressing SSAS cadets, the Rector stressed that their choice involves more than pursuing a profession; it means undertaking a mission that carries increased responsibility towards the homeland and society.

“Most people your age choose a profession. You have chosen a mission,” he said, noting that future officers must respond to an ever-changing environment in which artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity, hybrid threats and emerging technologies are transforming the landscape of defence, security and healthcare.

“In this new environment, a country’s true strength will not be measured solely by its weapons systems. Increasingly, it will be measured by the quality of its human resources, the level of their education, and their ability to generate knowledge, innovate and adapt. Consider the example of Ukraine, where, in four years of war and under relentless pressure from a technologically and numerically superior adversary, its people have succeeded in developing systems that are now becoming models for the most advanced armed forces.”

The Rector emphasised that major institutions prove their worth not only by preserving their historical legacy but also by renewing their work to meet the needs of each new era.

New Opportunities for Cooperation in the Second Century

Referring to the future of cooperation between Aristotle University and SSAS, the Rector noted that the centenary of their shared history creates the conditions for further strengthening their ties while respecting each institution’s distinct role.

As he stressed, there is considerable scope for deepening cooperation in education, research, innovation and lifelong learning, with the aim of better connecting scientific knowledge with practice and with the actual needs of society and the country.

“One hundred years ago, some people had the courage to bring us together, and history proved them right. Today, we must go even further,” he said, identifying as priorities the creation of new opportunities for cooperation, further investment in research and innovation, the upgrading of educational programmes and the development of international partnerships.

In closing, he affirmed that cooperation between the two institutions would continue dynamically, guided by their shared commitment to science and the homeland.

“Ultimately, a country’s true strength lies not only in the power of its weapons, its social mobility or the growth momentum of its economy. It lies in its people,” he emphasised.

He concluded by stressing that SSAS and Aristotle University continue to share a common mission, as both institutions have spent a century serving knowledge, integrity, responsibility and the homeland.

“This is what the Hellenic Army Officers Academy has served for a century. This is what Aristotle University has served for a century. And this is precisely what we owe to our ancestors and our descendants,” he concluded, extending his best wishes to the Hellenic Army Officers Academy on its anniversary.

Photographs are attached.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.