



**HEALTHCARE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD
AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF MILITARY DOCTORS
Executive Summary**



**AUDIT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC
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Executive Summary

AUDITED ENTITY

National Guard – 106 MFH

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Our Office conducted an audit of the Military Field Hospital (106 MFH) of the National Guard, in order to examine the utilization of its new infrastructure and in general the proper functioning of the Military Hospital in matters of health care. We also investigated a complaint concerning private employment and the inclusion of military doctors in the General Health System (GHS), without obtaining the necessary permission of the responsible Minister.

The most important findings are summarized in the following points:

- ◆ Between 2016 and 2019 there was a significant decrease of 72.5% in the number of patients examined in the outpatient clinics of 106 MFH.
- ◆ The first floor of the military hospital new wing remains unutilized, since it is used only for small-scale skin surgeries. This is due to the fact that 106 MFH does not operate on a 24-hour basis in order to use the wards for the hospitalization of patients, , as well as, to the shortage of doctors of various surgical specialties, which makes it impossible to perform surgeries.
- ◆ There is a shortage of medical staff, both general practitioners (without specialization) and doctors of important specialties, which creates serious problems to the provision of services and the proper functioning of the health service of the National Guard.
- ◆ Nurses serving in the 106 MFH were not registered in the Cyprus Register of Nurses and one of them was performing his nursing duties without holding a nursing degree.
- ◆ The finalization and definition of the scope of cooperation of 106 MFH with the State Health Services Organization (SHSO) is still pending.
- ◆ We have found the illegal registration of military doctors in the General Health System (GHS) and the private exercise of the doctor's profession, without obtaining the necessary licence from the responsible Minister, the systematic violation of working hours and their absence from work without permission.

We recommended that the relevant Ministries take immediate and effective measures to make the maximum possible use of the personnel, facilities and equipment of the Military Hospital. We have also indicated the possibility of both disciplinary and criminal offences on the part of the military doctors under investigation and recommended that investigations and interrogations be carried out. On the basis of our recommendations, the matter has been subjected to disciplinary investigation and the investigation of criminal offences by the Police is ongoing.