MF-264(NEO) INIOCHOS 2026

INIOCHOS 2026 was a multinational air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force at Andravida Air Base, Greece, from March 9–20, 2026. Participants included Greece, France, Slovenia, Albania, and Poland (SOF), with observers from Georgia, Serbia, Croatia, and India. The exercise featured 914 sorties across the Athens FIR, focusing on offensive/defensive counter air, combat search and rescue, and low-level tactical navigation through the Vouraikos Canyon (Diakopto–Kalavryta). INIOCHOS 2026 enhanced NATO interoperability through integrated live and simulated air



Suggested Aircraft:

The mission demands a mix of tactical fighters for canyon runs and rugged transport aircraft for logistics support.

- **General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon (Greece), Mirage 2000D (Greece, France) ,Pilatus PC-9 (Slovenia), F-4E Phantom II (Greece), Rafale (France)**
- **Lockheed C-130H Hercules, C-17 Globemaster III, A400 M**
- **Note:** The Hellenic Air Force **F-4E Phantom II** made a rare and memorable appearance in the Vouraikos Canyon during the pre-exercise training, making it a highlight.

Flight Schedule:

1. **Ramstein AB (ETAR) → Andravida (LGAD)**
   - Distance: ~650 NM
   - Block Time (C-17): ~2h 30m
   - ETD/ETA: 08:00 - 10:30 GMT | Strategic heavy deployment. Transports ground support vehicles, palletized spares, and personnel to the exercise hub.
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2. **Andravida (LGAD) → Vouraikos Canyon (LLTTA) → Andravida (LGAD)**
   - Distance: ~70 NM (circuit)

- Block Time (F-16/PC-9): ~1h 30m (multiple passes)
- ETD/ETA: 13:00 - 14:30 GMT | The core mission. Low-level navigation through the Vouraikos Canyon (Diakopto to Kalavryta). Terrain masking, steep walls (up to 500m), and narrow corridors (50-100m). Multiple runs simulated.

3. **Andravida (LGAD) → Souda Bay (LGSA) → Andravida (LGAD)**
    - Distance: ~300 NM (round trip)
    - Block Time (C-130H): ~2h 00m (total)
    - ETD/ETA: 15:30 - 17:30 GMT | Tactical support shuttle. Ferries personnel and small parts between the main exercise base and the naval/air hub in Crete.

4 The VIP Shuttle (Staff Transport)

- Route: Athens Eleftherios Venizelos (LGAV) → Andravida (LGAD)
- Aircraft: Gulfstream V / ERJ-135 / C-12 Huron
- Payload: High-ranking officers and official delegations.
- Flight Time: Approx. 25 – 35 minutes.

4. **The "Canyon Runner 2" (choose another Aircraft)**

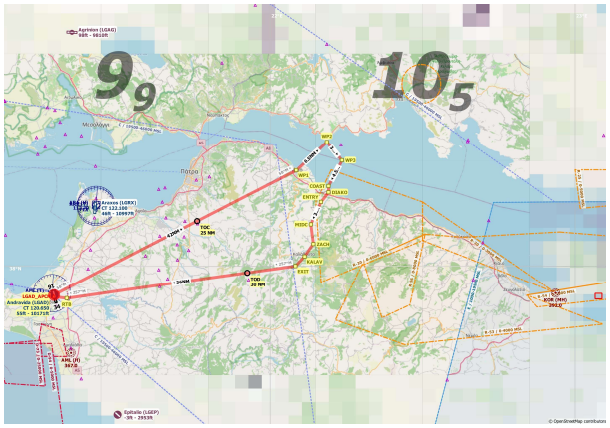
    - Route: Andravida (LGAD) → Diakopto (Visual Reference) → Vouraikos Canyon (LLTTA) → Kalavryta (Visual Reference) → Return to Andravida (LGAD)Distance: ~70 NM (circuit)
    - Block Time (F-16/PC-9): ~1h 30m (multiple passes)
    - ETD/ETA: 13:00 - 14:30 GMT | The core mission. Low-level navigation through the Vouraikos Canyon (Diakopto to Kalavryta). Terrain masking, steep walls (up to 500m), and narrow corridors (50-100m). Multiple runs simulated.

Notams:

- **Weather & Environment: VMC required for canyon operations. Spring conditions in the Peloponnese are typically favorable. Terrain awareness is critical inside the canyon — no margin for error.**

Vouraikos Canyon visual reference: 38°11'N, 22°12'E (Diakopto area)

<u>Vouraikos Canyon - Operational Overview:</u>



The **Vouraikos Canyon** (also spelled Vouraikos Valley or Vouraikos Gorge) is a dramatic limestone canyon located between **Diakopto** (on the Gulf of Corinth) and **Kalavryta** (in the mountains). It is famous for the **Odontotos Rack Railway**, a narrow-gauge train that clings to the canyon walls.

Why It's Used for INIOCHOS 2026

Terrain Masking: The steep canyon walls (up to 500m/1,600ft high) provide excellent radar cover, allowing aircraft to practice low-level penetration and terrain-following flight .

R**ealistic Training:** The narrow corridors (as tight as 50-100m in some sections) simulate real-world threat evasion scenarios.

Photography Hotspot: The area has become a premier location for aviation photographers, with multiple vantage points accessible by train or hiking .

Vantage Points for Spotters (Simulated for your VA)

According to spotter reports, the following locations are used :

1. **Diakopto Bridge Area** - Easy access, views of aircraft entering the canyon from the north.
2. **Mid-Canyon Railway Stops** (e.g., Zachlorou, Triklia) - Accessible via the Odontotos train, offering elevated views.
3. **Kalavryta Plateau** - Views of aircraft exiting the canyon to the south.

How to Run the Canyon Operation

Canyon Flying Procedures (Simulated)

- **Entry Point:** Diakopto (visual reference - coastline/gulf)
- **Exit Point:** Kalavryta (mountain plateau)
- **Altitude:** Below canyon rim height (approx. 500-1,000 ft AGL)
- **Speed:** Varies by aircraft type (PC-9: ~200 kts, F-16: ~350-400 kts)

- **Frequency:** Monitor Andravida Approach (military) and coordinate with exercise controllers
- **Weather:** Clear visibility required (VMC) for canyon ops. Spring conditions in the Peloponnese are typically favorable.

NOTAMS

- The canyon runs east-west, with the Gulf of Corinth to the north.
- Terrain rises sharply on both sides; maintain situational awareness.
- The Odontotos railway runs along the canyon floor - use as a visual reference.

Here is a complete **realistic flight plan file** for the Vouraikos Canyon low-level leg, compatible with **Prepar3D, FSX, and MSFS2024**. :

FSX/Prepar D3

XPlane

MSFS2020

MSFS2024

VFR Visual References:

- **Diakopto**: Coastal town at the mouth of the Vouraikos River
- **Vouraikos River**: Follow the river upstream through the gorge
- **Odontotos Railway**: The 750mm gauge rack railway runs through the canyon
- **Mega Spilaio Monastery**: Visible near Zachlorou at ~600m altitude

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Waypoint Overview

Waypoint	Name	Coordinates	Altitude (MSL)	Purpose
LGAD	Andravida Air Base	37°55'16"N, 21°17'26"E	44ft	Departure/Arrival
COAST_IN	Coastline Entry	38°12'30"N, 22°11'30"E	500ft	Gulf of Corinth entry
DIAKOPTO	Diakopto Town	38°11'30"N, 22°11'30"E	500ft	Visual checkpoint
CANYON_ENTRY	Vouraikos Canyon Entry	38°10'00"N, 22°10'00"E	800ft	Begin canyon navigation
MID_CANYON	Mid-Canyon	38°06'30"N, 22°08'00"E	1,000ft	Highest canyon point

Waypoint	Name	Coordinates	Altitude (MSL)	Purpose
ZACHLOU	Zachlorou / Mega Spilaio	38°03'30"N, 22°08'30"E	900ft	Monastery checkpoint
KALAVRYTA	Kalavryta Town	38°01'30"N, 22°06'45"E	700ft	Southern terminus
CANYON_EXIT	Canyon Exit	38°00'00"N, 22°05'00"E	500ft	End of low-level zone
RTB_LGAD	Return to Base	37°55'00"N, 21°20'00"E	1,500ft	Climb before landing
LGAD_APCH	Andravida Approach	37°55'16"N, 21°17'26"E	44ft	Landing

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For Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024:

MSFS2024 uses a **new XML schema** that is currently **not fully backward compatible** with legacy PLN files. Use the **SimBrief method** instead:

1. **Option A (Recommended) - Import via MSFS2024 Planner:**
    - Open the MSFS2024 **web-based flight planner** or **in-game EFB**
    - Select **Load Flight Plan**
    - Navigate to your saved INIOCHOS_2026_Canyon_Run.PLN
    - The EFB will attempt to parse it and load the route
2. **Important MSFS2024 Note:**
    - The "Send to Avionics" feature currently works reliably only with **Asobo/default aircraft**
    - Some third-party aircraft (e.g., iniBuilds A400M, A321 V2) may not accept the transfer
    - For those aircraft, manually enter the waypoints in the FMS

- **"Can't send route to avionics (grayed out)":**This feature is aircraft-dependent. Currently works reliably with Asobo default aircraft

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