

Inauguration of the Navigation Simulator of the Hellenic Naval Academy

The Minister of National Defence, Nikos Dendias, paid an official visit on Tuesday, 16 December 2025, to the Hellenic Naval Academy, where he attended the inauguration of the new Navigation Simulator. The simulator is a donation by the “Athena I. Martinou” Foundation (Non-Profit Civil Company). During the ceremony, the honorary rank of Captain (Honoris Causa) of the Hellenic Navy was conferred upon the President of the Foundation, Ioanna Martinou.

In his address, Minister Dendias underlined that the Naval Academy constitutes the bastion of Greece’s naval tradition and the foundation of the Fleet’s strength. He stressed that it is within these walls that the character and capabilities of the officers who will command the Fleet are forged officers who will shoulder the responsibility of safeguarding the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Minister expressed particular satisfaction at the inauguration of a modern simulation system that enables naval personnel to acquire essential experience through controlled and progressively complex scenarios. “We are entering a new era,” he noted, “and this era requires new tools.” He highlighted that Greece’s Military Academies have been significantly upgraded in recent years following a decade-long financial crisis that had left them materially weakened, adding that their modernization constitutes a core pillar of the Ministry’s “Agenda 2030”.

Mr. Dendias emphasized that a substantial portion of this necessary work is being carried out through private funding rather than through the contribution of Greek taxpayers. Such initiatives, he said, reflect the long-standing national tradition of benefaction, as well as an understanding of the demanding geopolitical environment, which calls for unprecedented—but indispensable—levels of national power to ensure security and survival.

He also recalled that the present donation follows a previous contribution by the same Foundation for the renovation of the Officers’ Club of the Hellenic Navy General Staff. This, he noted, sends a clear message to multiple audiences: to Naval Cadets, that their training environment is recognized as vital for the nation’s future; to the Armed Forces as a whole, that society stands firmly by their side through tangible acts; and to Greek society at large, that beyond the State and its institutions, every citizen bears individual responsibility to contribute to the collective national effort.

The Minister further referred to Ms. Martinou’s remarks on the broader geopolitical context, praising her understanding of challenges that go beyond the role of a benefactor. He encouraged attendees to read the newly published U.S. National Security Strategy, noting that it clearly illustrates the strategic realities faced by states lacking the ability to project power.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Dendias conveyed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the State, the Ministry of National Defence, the Armed Forces, and the Hellenic Navy, emphasizing that it is not only the donation itself, but also the spirit and manner in which the Foundation and its leadership support the Armed Forces, that merit deep appreciation.



He further noted with satisfaction that the Presidential Decree conferring Ms. Martinou's honorary rank had already been signed, allowing him henceforth to address her as "Captain". Following the inauguration, the Minister toured the simulator facilities. The new NAUTIS-3 Navigation Simulator provides Naval Cadets and officers alike with the opportunity to train under highly realistic conditions across a wide range of scenarios, at zero cost, ensuring the continuous maintenance and enhancement of maritime proficiency.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials, members of parliament, the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force, senior naval commanders, and distinguished guests.

The NAUTIS-3 Navigation Simulator installed at the Hellenic Naval Academy is based on the NAUTIS maritime simulation platform, which is developed and supplied by VSTEP, a simulation technology company headquartered in the Netherlands. The NAUTIS series, including advanced navigation and full-mission bridge simulator systems—is a product line of maritime training simulators created by VSTEP Simulation for professional maritime education and training institutions worldwide.

The NAUTIS-3 Navigation Simulator is a full-mission maritime simulation platform designed to provide highly realistic training in navigation, ship handling, collision avoidance, and bridge operations. It is widely used by maritime academies and naval training institutions to support both initial instruction and advanced proficiency training.

The system enables trainees to conduct navigation and passage planning exercises, including route design, steering, collision avoidance, and watchkeeping, across simulated open-sea and confined-water environments. Advanced ship-handling models accurately replicate vessel responses to helm, propulsion, wind, current, and wave effects, allowing realistic manoeuvring under varied operational conditions. The simulator also supports emergency and special scenarios, such as search and rescue operations, man-overboard procedures, and other critical incidents.

NAUTIS-3 supports full bridge team and crew coordination training through multi-station configurations under instructor supervision. An integrated Instructor Station provides comprehensive control, real-time monitoring, and detailed post-exercise assessment, including replay and performance analysis.

The platform is modular and scalable, ranging from desktop trainers to Class A full-mission bridge simulators with wrap-around visual displays and authentic bridge consoles. It can integrate real or certified navigation equipment, including radar and ECDIS systems, and be configured to comply with STCW and IMO training standards. High-fidelity 3D visuals, realistic hydrodynamics, and optional specialist modules further enhance operational realism and training flexibility.

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