

Defense Minister Nikos Dendias Visits F/G SPETSAL Ahead of Deployment for Operation SHIELDS



Minister of National Defense Nikos Dendias visited the Salamina Naval Station on Friday, September 27, 2024, to address the crew of the F/G *SPETSAL* frigate before its departure to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, where it will join the European Operation SHIELDS.

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This operation is of particular importance due to geopolitical developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea, highlighting Greece's role in European defense efforts.

Dendias emphasized the national significance of the mission, referring to the *SPETSAL* taking over from the *PSARA* frigate, which had successfully deployed the Greek-produced CENTAUROS anti-drone system, a key component in Greece's future anti-drone defense capabilities. He underscored the importance of Greece's presence in strategic areas beyond Greek-Turkish issues, extending to the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa, the Gulf, and Sub-Saharan Africa, as part of Greece's broader national security interests.

In his address, Dendias praised the navy's training and readiness, noting the risks involved in the mission and reaffirming the critical role of Greece's Armed Forces in ensuring national survival. He concluded by wishing the crew well and presenting the Governor with an icon of Agios Nikolaos, the patron saint of sailors, symbolizing protection for their mission.

The Minister also noted his intention to present the anti-drone dome project to Parliament soon, with the CENTAUROS system playing a crucial role in national defense. He expressed hope that the crew would return safely before Christmas.

