



THE UNITED STATES & GREECE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Updated 2023

Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean form a region of great geopolitical importance to the United States. It is in the best interest of the U.S. for this region to be politically, economically, and socially stable. Greece is a pivotal ally to ensure this stability, protect democratic values, and promote the goals of the U.S. within this region.

DEFENSE AGREEMENTS

U.S.-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) | Renewed 2021

The MDCA with Greece has been repeatedly renewed since its establishment in 1990. The most recent version increased U.S. presence and access at Greek military bases.

Comprehensive Technical Agreement (CTA) | 2001

Modernized the SOFA for U.S. forces in Greece and the SOFA for Greek forces in the U.S.

Defense Industrial Cooperation Agreement (DICA) 1986

Ensured that discussions would occur to prevent potential negative impacts on the defense industrial base of each country.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) | 1986

Protects and secures classified military information shared between the two countries.

NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) | 1954 / 1956

Greece joined the NATO SOFA in 1954, and reached an additional agreement in 1956 which specifically established a SOFA with the United States.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) | 1952

Greece became a member of NATO in 1952 and has since been “a strong and long-standing contributor” according to the Department of State. (See more on page 3)

RECENT LEGISLATION

U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act | 2021

Authorized \$1.8 million per year in International Military Education and Training (IMET) assistance to Greece for FY2022 – 2026.

Established an interparliamentary group among Cyprus, Greece, Israel and the United States for the legislative component of the 3+1 process.

Expressed that the President can expedite future F-35 sales to Greece, and that direct loans should be given to Greece for defense articles, defense services, and design and construction services.

Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act | 2019

Authorized the United States-Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center to facilitate energy cooperation among the U.S., Israel, Greece, and Cyprus, and required reporting on security and energy cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Authorized Foreign Military Financing (FMF) assistance for Greece, and IMET assistance for Greece and Cyprus.

SPENDING

\$11.29 Billion
In active sales with the U.S.

Through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) system, including:

- Upgrade of 84 F-16 aircraft to V configuration
- Purchase of seven MH-60R Seahawk helicopters
- Modernization package for 11 S-70B Aegean Hawk helicopters

\$465 Million
From 2019 - 2021

In Direct Commercial Sales (DCS), including:

- Military electronics (\$231.2 million)
- Gas turbine engines and associated equipment (\$34.7 million)
- Aircraft and related articles (\$20.2 million)

\$282 Million
Since 2017

Through the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program, including:

- 1,200 U.S. Army M-1117 armored security vehicles
- 70 OH-58D Kiowa Warriors
- 10 CH-47 Chinook helicopters
- 4 Mark V Special Operations Craft
- 4 Island Class Patrol Boats

\$30 Million
In 2022

In Foreign Military Financing

\$4.3 Million*
From 2017 - 2022

For the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program

*NDAA FY22 includes \$1.8 million per year in IMET funding for FY2022 – FY2026

OPERATION HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Operation Atlantic Resolve

Greece enables the US Army's 10th Combat Aviation Brigade to enter the European theater through the port of Thessaloniki and to depart through Alexandroupolis.

Operation Althea

Military deployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina to supervise the implementation of the Dayton Agreement.

KFOR Mission / Operation Joint Enterprise

A NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo to deter hostilities, ensure public safety and order, and support the international humanitarian effort.

Operation Sea Guardian

NATO's maritime protection mission in the Mediterranean, handling three tasks: "security capacity building, support to maritime situational awareness, and maritime counter-terrorism."

Operations Desert Storm & Dessert Shield

Allowed the U.S. to conduct joint USN/USAF reconnaissance missions and air refueling support. Greece also provided Air Force pilots, support staff, and the HS *Elli* frigate.

Operations Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom

Allowed the U.S. to conduct joint USN/USAF reconnaissance missions and air refueling support.

Operations Active Endeavor & Ocean Shield

Provided counterterrorism and counter-piracy in the Mediterranean Sea and off the Horn of Africa.

Operation Resolute Support

Provided military advising and training to Afghan security forces.

FACILITIES HIGHLIGHTS

Athens

- Salamis Naval Base

The largest naval base of the Hellenic Navy.

Crete

- USA NSA Souda Bay

The most prominent U.S. naval base in the Eastern Mediterranean. Allows U.S. vessels, including aircraft carriers, to dock, repair, and resupply, without returning to Naval Station Norfolk. Hosts expeditionary sea base USS Hershel "Woody" Williams.

- Hellenic Navy Crete Naval Station
- Hellenic Air Force Souda Air Base
- NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI)
- NATO Maritime Interdiction Operations Training Center (NMIOTC)
- NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defense Centre of Excellence
- Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center

Alexandroupolis

"A critically important transportation and logistical hub for U.S. Army forces." - U.S. Army

Referred to as the "Souda of the North" by the Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, Konstantinos Floros. An important staging point for supplying equipment to Ukraine and Europe's Eastern flank.

- Camp Giannoulis

Thessaloniki

- NATO Joint-Command HQ
- NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (NRDC) Greece
- Sedes Air Base

JOINT GREECE-U.S. TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

"Thousands of our soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen, and special operators have trained together to increase our combined interoperability, adaptability, warfighting capability, and resilience. These engagements have helped make Greece a more capable Ally and increased regional defense cooperation." - U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs

Thracian Cooperation

Exercise on standardized battle techniques and offensive and defensive operations

Stolen Cerberus

Training to assess airbases and perform initial airfield operations to enable rapid standup of combat operations.

Trojan Footprint

"The premier special operations forces exercise in Europe" - SOCEUR Collective military readiness training across Southeastern Europe, the Baltics and the Black Sea.

Alexander the Great

Amphibious training held annually, on battalion-level command and control and company-level combined arms training.

Poseidon's Rage

Annual event to bolster readiness and interoperability between the United States Air Force and the Hellenic Air Force.

Orion

Combines field tactic maneuvers, artillery maneuvers as well as air-space surveillance technology with joint air-ground integration centers composed of command teams from 13 nations.

Iniochos

Strengthens interoperability of allied and partner air forces during joint operations and air defenses in order to maintain joint readiness.

Defender Europe

Exercise to increase readiness and interoperability between NATO, the U.S. and partners.

“The United States views Greece as an indispensable partner and NATO Ally at a time of unparalleled global challenges.”

- Antony Blinken, United States Secretary of State
March 25, 2023

“The defense relationship between the United States and Greece has never been stronger.”

- Lloyd Austin, United States Secretary of Defense
July 18, 2022

EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Aircraft

- F-16 Fighting Falcon
- Dassault Rafale
- Dassault Mirage 2000
- F-4 Phantom II
- C-130 Hercules
- AS332 Super Puma
- AH-64A Apache
- CH-47D Chinook
- ATLAS 204 Drone
- EMPUSA X6 Drone
- Aeronautics Defense Orbiter

Ships

- Glavkos class submarine
- Poseidon class submarine
- Okeanos class submarine
- Papanikolis class submarine
- Hydra class frigate
- Eli class frigate
- Kimon class frigate
- Super Vita missile boat
- La Combattante IIIb missile boat
- La Combattante IIIa missile boat
- La Combattante IIa missile boat
- Osprey HSY-56A gunboat
- HSY-55 gunboat
- Asheville class gunboat
- Mark V SOC Spec. Ops. craft

Armor

- Leopard 2A6 HEL
- Leopard 2A4/GR
- Leopard 1A5/GR
- M48A5 MOLF
- M60A3 TTS

Fighting Vehicles

- M-113
- Marder A1A3
- M1117 Guardian
- M1059A2 SGC
- M1025A2 HMMWV
- Typhoon MRAP GSS 300

Artillery Systems

- M72 LAW
- M109A2-A5 Howitzer
- M110/A2 A/C Howitzer
- PzH 2000
- M270 MLRS
- RM-70 MLRS
- AN/TPQ-36 & 37

Aviation Munitions

- AGM-114 Hellfire Missile
- Hydra 70 Missile

Air Defense

- FIM-92 Stinger Missile
- MIM-23 Hawk
- ASRAD-R
- Crotale NG
- Velos SHORAD
- Rheinmetall Mk20

PERSONNEL FACTS

Greece has compulsory military service for males 19-45 years of age for a period of 9-12 months. As of 2022, Greece has approximately 125,000 active duty personnel (90,000 Army; 15,000 Navy; 20,000 Air Force) and approximately 35,000 National Guard. The CIA estimates approximately 2,000,000 additional males and 2,000,000 additional females are “fit for military service.”

NATO

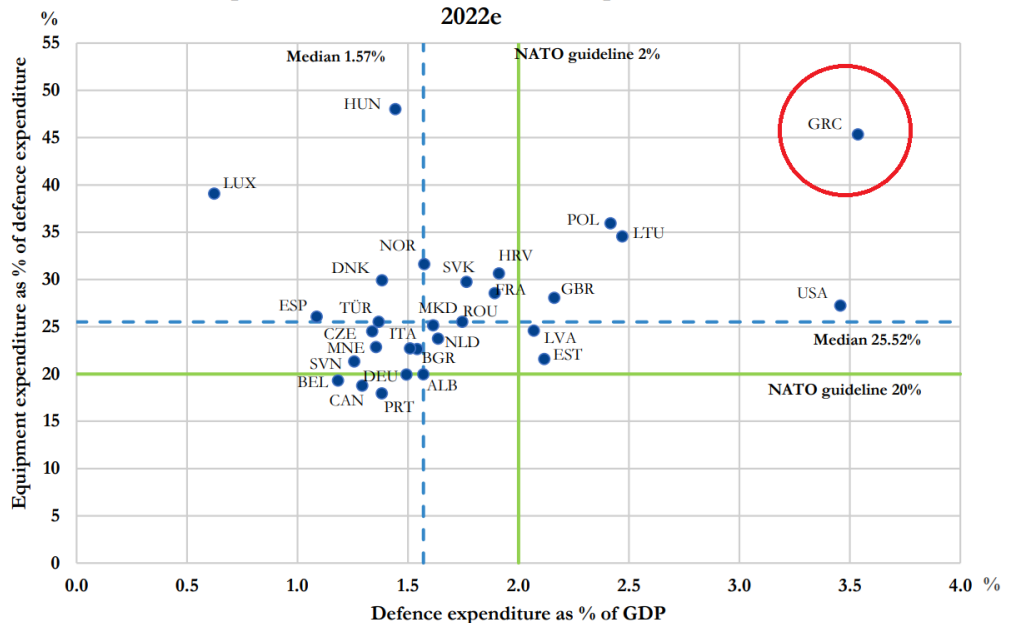
A NATO ally since 1952, Greece has been one of a few NATO countries to maintain the 2% minimum standard for military expenditures.

In 2022, Greece spent **3.54%** of its GDP on its defense budget.

“Greece’s demonstrated commitment to meeting its NATO obligations to invest at least two percent of its GDP in defense spending and its history of cooperation with the United States make it one of our most steadfast allies.”

- The White House

Defence expenditure as a share of GDP and equipment expenditure as a share of defence expenditure



THE AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

The American Hellenic Institute is an independent non-profit public policy center and think tank that works to promote the interests of the United States in the Southeast Europe and Eastern Mediterranean regions by strengthening relations between the United States, Greece, and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community.

AHI was founded in 1974 and has worked closely with U.S. policy makers ever since. Our headquarters is located five blocks from the White House at the Hellenic House building on 16th Street N.W.



Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff General Konstantinos Floros meeting with AHI President Larigakis at the Hellenic Ministry of Defence.



AHI President Larigakis touring new Dassault Rafale fighter jets at the Tanagra Air Base, home of the 114th Combat Wing of the Hellenic Air Force.



AHI President Larigakis & Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff Lt. General Themistoklis Bourolias outside of AHI headquarters.



AHI President Larigakis & Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff General Konstantinos Floros meeting at AHI headquarters.



AHI President Larigakis welcoming to AHI headquarters Hellenic National Defence General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis.

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