



U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay is a remote forward-operating station that enables operational warfighters from the shore. The cooperation and interoperability of our Greek partners, codified by the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, is foundational to our operations on the island of Crete. Together, we continue to forge a strong and enduring military, diplomatic, and economic relationship between the United States and our Greek allies. The NATO facilities in Souda Bay support both NATO and U.S. Naval operations that enable NATO and coalition operations in the strategically important Eastern Mediterranean to provide for the collective protection of Southeastern Europe.

The U.S. Navy has had a continuous presence at Souda Bay since 1969, when a team of 16 people established U.S. Naval Detachment, Souda Bay, in order to provide base support facilities for U.S. Naval forces operating in the Mediterranean. Today, Naval Support Activity Souda Bay hosts around 1,000 people, including active duty military, U.S. civilian employees, local national employees, contractors, and family members assigned to NSA Souda Bay or tenant commands.

NSA Souda Bay contributes an average of 48 million euro to the local economy each fiscal year, including local national employee salaries, leases and direct payments, procurements, and other local spending.

Our strategically beneficial location stands at the crossroads of three of our U.S. Geographical Combatant Commands: U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Central Command (U.S. Central Command includes Egypt, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia). The ships, aircraft, and personnel transiting through, or operating from, NSA Souda Bay are a platform for military power projection into these regions, making this an operationally advantageous place to refuel, resupply, repair, launch, and recover as needed.

In addition to the three Geographic Combatant Commands, we also support U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Transportation Command, the U.S. 5th and U.S. 6th Fleets, and NATO Forces.

NSA Souda Bay operates as a tenant on the Hellenic Air Force Base commanded by the 115th Combat Wing. Our daily coordination and communication with our Hellenic Air Force liaisons is elemental to our mutual successes. To that end, Greek local national employees make up approximately one-third of our workforce. The Greek men and women we serve alongside every day are more than just our teammates, partners, and allies; they are our hosts, our friends, and our neighbors.

NSA Souda Bay is a cornerstone for a network of capabilities for the U.S. Navy, starting with Souda Bay itself. Tourists love it for the beautiful beaches; we appreciate that it is a natural deep-water port and the home of the NATO Marathi Pier Complex.

The Hellenic Navy manages the NATO Marathi Pier Complex. Our Port Operations team works closely with them every day to facilitate arrivals and departures of U.S., NATO, and partner ships. The logistics and ship service facilities here enable NATO's deterrence and maritime security throughout the Mediterranean. As vessels arrive,

we provide port security and ensure the environmental protection of this incredible bay. We support maintenance requirements and facilitate loading cargo, mail, food provisions, supplies, ammunition and fuel. Our sustainment services are available both in-port or used to facilitate a replenishment-at-sea, providing greater flexibility for ships to remain underway and mission focused. Most notably, the NATO Marathi Pier Complex is the only military deep-water pier facility in the Mediterranean with the capability to accommodate a U.S. Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier pier-side. These port calls provide an incredible opportunity for visiting crews to have some rest and relaxation, visit nearby towns, and support the local economy while conducting resupply.

Complementing our pier, NSA Souda Bay accesses an all-weather airfield capable of accommodating all NATO aircraft types along with the Hellenic Air Force 115th Combat Wing and the Chania International Airport. We recently completed a U.S. Apron Expansion project, increasing the number of aircraft we can sustain at any given time, which in turn increased the level of support we can provide to U.S. and partner aircraft. A recent U.S. Underground Fuel Hydrant project allows an aircraft to refuel continuously from a hydrant rather than using fuel trucks – saving time and reducing costs. Our Air Operations team also offers flight planning, cargo handling, and passenger services.

Our operational capabilities depend on our ability to take care of our Sailors. NSA Souda Bay also provides lodging facilities, food, and postal services, banking, contracting and business support services, and our Navy Exchange services – we are small, but we are effective and impactful.

Our strong relationship with our Hellenic military and civilian counterparts is critical to every operational capability we enable and we are extremely grateful for their hospitality and deeply respect their expertise. We seek and pursue every opportunity for joint training with our Greek and other NATO Allies to increase interoperability and understanding, as well as fortify our collective combat capabilities and operational readiness. It is these close relationships, the day-in and day-out cooperation and familiarity, which makes NATO seamless in its ability to operate.