



Admiral (ret) Dimitrios BANTIAS
Honorary Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard

- Born in Crete (Chania) on 23/3/1959.
- He graduated from the First Secondary School of Chania with honors in 1976 and from the University of Athens / Faculty of Law, Department of Political Sciences and Public Administration with honors in 1981.
- During his studies, he received a two year scholarship from the State Scholarships Foundation (I.K.Y.).
- In 1982, he entered to the Hellenic Naval Academy (Coast Guard Officer's Cadet School), top of his class and in 1983 he was sworn in as Ensign of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
- He served for six years from January 1984 at the Central Port Authority of Lavrion as Deputy Harbor Master and after that, he received a fellowship from the Evgenidio Foundation in order to attend postgraduate studies at the University of Brussels (ULB) receiving his master (LLM) in the field of Maritime Law with honors.
- When he returned in October 1990, he was assigned duties at the International Shipping and Maritime Relations Directorate/ International Relations Unit, as a desk officer until the end of 1993.
- From January 1994 (Greek Presidency) to October 1996, as Lieutenant Commander, he was seconded to the Greek Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels as Representative of Greece in the Maritime Transport Group of the Council.
- Returning back to Greece, he served for several years as Head of Unit for International Organizations and European Union, and when he was promoted to Captain (H.C.G.), he became Director of the Shipping Policy and Development Directorate. During the above term of office, he participated for several years in working groups dealing with maritime issues as well as Coreper, Councils in the framework of the European Union and in the framework of International Organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He also participated in negotiations in order to conclude bilateral maritime agreements between Greece and third countries. He took part in negotiations for the adoption and application of the European, International and National Maritime Legislation in the fields of maritime safety and security, protection of the marine environment, external relations, training of seafarers and other sectors of maritime policy.
- In addition, he represented the Ministry of Mercantile Marine in a number of hearings for cases brought before the Court of Justice of the European Communities.
- He was a member for 5 years of the Administrative Board of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), in the establishment of which he had an active participation from the initial concept.

- In 2009, when he was promoted to Commodore he took up duties as Commandant of the Fifth Regional Command of the Hellenic Coast Guard consisting of thirty seven (37) Coast Guard Authorities across the Peloponnese and the southern part of mainland Greece.
- Becoming Rear-Admiral of the Hellenic Coast Guard on January 21st, 2011, he was appointed the 24th of March 2011, General Inspector of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
- From August 4th, 2011 he has been appointed by decision of the Minister of Citizen Protection as the Head of the newly established National Border Monitoring & Control Coordination Centre (Hellenic NCC), an interagency body of the Ministry of Public Order & Citizen Protection responsible for the country's border management.
- On January 23rd, 2012 he was promoted to Vice Admiral and appointed as Chief of Staff of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
- On July 19th, 2012 he has been appointed by decision of the Government Council for Foreign Affairs and Defence, chaired by the Prime Minister of Greece, as the Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
- On August 22nd, 2012 during the 4th Session of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) (Dublin, 20-22/08/2012), he undertook the Chairmanship of the Forum for the period 2012/2013.
- On February 19th, 2014 by decision of the Government Council for Foreign Affairs and Defence his mandate was terminated with merit, he is promoted to the rank of Admiral (retired) and his awarded with the title of Honorary Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
- He is fluent in English and French.
- He attended various seminars on computers, maritime safety, response to pollution incidents, vessels inspection, international negotiations etc.
- He was awarded with the following honors:

(A) Decorations:

- ❖ Commander's High Cross of the Order of Honor
- ❖ Commander's High Cross of the Order of Phoenix

(B) Medals of:

- ❖ Medal of Military Merit A Class

(C) Awards:

- ❖ Commendation Medal of the Hellenic Coast Guard Command
 - ❖ Star of Merit and Honor
 - ❖ Commendation Medal of the Hellenic Coast Guard Regional Command
 - ❖ Meritorious Command Medal A Class
 - ❖ Meritorious Staff Officer Commendation Medal A Class
 - ❖ Medal of multiannual Service A Class
- He is the second of four children of Paraskevas Bantias and Erofilii Georgilaki.
 - He is married to Vera Chatziefstathiou, Director of Organization of State Foundation of Social Insurance and they have two sons, Paraskevas, Lawyer in Piraeus (graduated from the Aristoteleio University of Thessalonica) and Alexandros, Civil Engineer (graduated from the Aristotle University of Thessalonica).
 - His hobbies include photography, shooting and swimming.