

Increase FY 20 Funding for Greek Military Participation in the International Military Education & Training (IMET) program

<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>FY20 Budget Request</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
State Department Appropriations International Military Education and Training	\$550,000	Provide \$2M total IMET funding for Greece in FY 20 SFOPS Appropriations bill

Background:

- In the final Fiscal year 2018 SFOPS Appropriations conference agreement, \$1M was provided for Greek participation in the IMET program. This funding was fully spent.
- In Fiscal year 2019, Congress provided \$1M for Greek participation in the IMET program in the final SFOPS Appropriations conference agreement but demand for the program exceeded \$1M and went approximately \$90,000 USD over budget.
- The number of applications from Greek Military students and overall demand for participation in the IMET program continues to grow. For 11 fiscal years (FY2006-FY2017) we estimate that 400-500 Hellenic officers, of which 20 to 30 are general officers, have not been able to participate in the IMET program due to lack of funding.
- Greek officers participate in a vast array of education and training programs. In 2018 and 2019 these ranged from Engineering, Intelligence, Special Ops, Air Planning, Medical, Emerging Threats, Field Artillery, Air Defense Artillery, Logistics, Infantry, Armor, Language Training, Transportation and Naval Command, among others.
- Current IMET funding has resulted in a substantial increase in Greek participation in military education and training programs. For instance:
 - A Greek Army Officer will attend the National Defense University War College 2019-2020 post-grad program. The War College's mission is to educate future military and other leaders for high-level policy, command and staff responsibilities by conducting a senior-level course of study in national security strategy.
 - In 2018 Greece expressed strong interest in having a Greek Officer attend the NDU Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy (Industry studies and logistics). There has been no Greek attendance at the Dwight Eisenhower School yet due to cost issues. An increase of IMET funding for Greece in the amount of 2 million USD would allow for Greek participation in this and other important NDU programs.
 - In 2018, with the available IMET funding, the Greek Navy was able to request participation in the following 3 training programs:
 - Naval Command College
 - International Officer Supply Course (Resident and Travel)
 - Combat Systems.
- For 2019 (FY 2020), the Greek Navy has requested participation in the above 3 programs plus 2 new programs in the fields of Combat Systems and Electrical Engineering.
- The additional investment of providing \$2M for IMET in FY 20 would allow for a significant increase in additional military student participation in this important program.
- On April 9th, Senator Menendez and Senator Rubio introduced the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019, which "authorized" \$2,000,000 for International Military Education and Training (IMET) assistance for Greece

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