

December 10, 2025

General Steven S. Nordhaus
Chief of the National Guard Bureau
National Guard Bureau
111 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear General Nordhaus:

We write in support of assigning the Hellenic Republic of Greece as an additional partner nation to the Tennessee National Guard under the State Partnership Program (SPP). For more than thirty years, the Tennessee National Guard has demonstrated exceptional success and strategic value through its longstanding partnership with the Republic of Bulgaria, one of the earliest and most effective relationships in the SPP. Tennessee is uniquely positioned to expand this success by partnering with Greece to enhance regional interoperability while improving Guard readiness.

Since 1993, Tennessee and Bulgaria have built a steady and effective partnership through regular engagements, joint training, and participation in NATO exercises such as *Thracian Sentry*, *Falcon Responder*, and *Best Warrior*. Adding Greece as a second SPP partner is a natural extension of this work and directly supports U.S. priorities in the region. Greece brings strong military capability and a long track record as a reliable NATO ally. Tennessee's experience in the region will help Greece and Bulgaria work more closely together, strengthen cooperation between two important partners, and improve overall regional stability.

Tennessee would also benefit from a partnership with Greece. We understand that the Tennessee National Guard would gain access to additional training opportunities across air, land, maritime, and cyber missions, improving readiness here at home. A new partnership would also open doors for Tennessee businesses and strengthen academic collaboration, research, and student exchanges. Adding Greece as a second partner will build on Tennessee's thirty years' success with the program, strengthen U.S. relationships abroad, and advance American interests in a strategically important part of the world.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact our staff.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Bill Lee
Governor of Tennessee



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Matt Van Epps
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress