

**Hellenic Coast Guard Commandant –
Vice Admiral Athanasios ATHANASOPOULOS**

- Born in Tsipiana of Ilia prefecture on 10-03-1960.
- He is graduate of the Panteion University (Political Science). In 1982 he joined the Army and served his term in Samos. In 1984 he joined the Hellenic Coast Guard and in 1985 graduated from the Naval Academy.
- From 1986 to 1992 and 1994 - 2006 he served as Head of Unit for Merchant Shipping. During this time he handled issues attracting pertaining to shipping activities in Greece, strengthening the competitiveness of the Greek flag ships and shipping companies, development of sea tourism. He also provided a long lasted service as Head of the Office of Shipping Companies Registry and had an active role in the establishment of the legal framework for companies operating recreational vessels.
- He served as Harbour Master in Lefkada (1992-1994), Maritime Attaché in Sydney, Australia (2006-2008) and Harbour Master in the Central Coast Guard Station of Patras, (2008-2010) where he focused mainly in tackling the problem of illegal immigration at the port and the city of Patras, a field in which he undertook critical initiatives.
- With his promotion to the rank of Commodore H.C.G. in 2010, he was appointed Director of Security and in 2011 Director of the Security General Directorate. During his term in these positions, he promoted the interagency cooperation of law enforcement agencies of the country, with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the H.C.G. in combating drug trafficking, prosecution of trafficking and dismantle organized networks trafficking of aliens in Greece. Also, from these posts he represented the H.C.G. in many bilateral, international meetings and contributed essentially to develop further the international cooperation of H.C.G. with departments and agencies (FRONTEX) of the European Union and other countries.
- In October 2011 he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral and in February 2012, in addition to the duties of the Director of Security General Directorate, he was appointed Inspector of the Aegean Sea.
- On 04-09-2012 he was appointed Inspector General of the H.C.G. During his term has taken initiatives to improve and modernize the internal control procedures of regional Coast Guard stations, and the development of an electronic based assessment system of their activities. Also he actively involved in shaping the institutional framework for the restructuring of the Regional Services of the H.C.G.
- After the Governments' Council for Foreign Affairs and Defense decision of 19-02-2014, he was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral and assumed the duties of the Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard.
- He speaks English.

Has been 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:

Military Merit A Class

(C) Awards:

Commendation Medal of the Hellenic Coast Guard Command

Star of Merit and Honor

Meritorious Command Medal A Class

Meritorious Staff Officer Commendation Medal A Class

Medal of multiannual Service A Class

- He is married and father to two daughters.