



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Frigate:** Santa Maria class**Length:** 138 m**Beam:** 14,3 m**Draft:** 7,5 m**Displacement :** 3,900 t**Speed :** 29 kts**Propulsive power:** 44.000 CV

OVERVIEW

ESPS CANARIAS is the sixth frigate of the 41st Escorts Squadron; she was built by Navantia in Ferrol, and delivered to the Navy in December 1994. ESPS CANARIAS is fitted with a helicopter AB-212 and Marine Boarding Team that completes her capabilities. The Santa Maria Class is a multirole warship able to carry out several kind of missions and operations. In 1996, 1998 and 2000, the "Canarias" formed part of the Standing NATO Naval Group 'STANAVFORMED', while in 1999 and 2006 she participated in UNITAS manoeuvres in South America. Furthermore, in 2005 she deployed as part of the SNMG-2 (Standing Naval Maritime Group-2) Task Force. Furthermore, she took part of Operation Enduring Freedom (2003), Operation Atalanta (2009 and 2011) and has already been deployed as part of EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA in 2015. The Santa Maria class frigates, like destroyers and corvettes, are given the generic name of escorts with the main task of protecting other units and maintaining sea lines of communications. However, their versatility allows the F-80 frigates to carry out a wide range of missions, which can be grouped into two broad categories: Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), these consist of shipping control in a given area to ensure the maintenance of safe passage within any given restrictions or regulations as ruled by International Organisations; and Protection of High Value units. The "Canarias" has a crew of 218 officers and enlisted a number which includes both the crew of the helicopter and the Marine Security Team. Of these 218, 23 are women. The 3rd SQDN FLIGHT UNIT on board ESPS CANARIAS is composed of 14 navy and marines members. They operate the well-known and venerable helicopter AGUSTA BELL 212 in updated version. This unit has been deployed in EUNAVFORMED operation SOPHIA four times since December 2015, on board ESPS 'CANARIAS', 'NUMANCIA', 'REINA SOFÍA', AND 'NAVARRA'.



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