

ESPS Santa María



Frigate



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Frigate: Santa Maria class**Length:** 137,7 m**Beam:** 14,3 m**Draft:** 7,8 m**Displacement :** 4,100 t**Speed :** 29 kts

OVERVIEW

Spanish Frigate SANTA MARÍA (F-81) is the first of the Spanish Fleet's 41st Escorts Squadron, and she takes her name after the Flag Ship of Cristobal Colón expedition, who discovered America the 12th of October of 1492.

SANTA MARÍA home port is Rota Naval Base in the southwest of Spain. She is fitted with an AB-212 helicopter that completes her crew capabilities and ensures she conducts missions and tasks assigned by EUNAVFOR MED Force Commander.

"Santa María" class frigates are 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: known as "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. This is achieved by identifying, intercepting, boarding, searching, and if necessary, the detention of suspect vessels;
- Protection of High Value units: the intended task for the "Santa Maria" class was to act as the ocean escort for battle groups or merchant ships.

**Contact details**

**European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation Sophia
Media and Public information office**

Tel: +39 06 4691 9442 ; +39 06 46919451 (IT Office hours)

Mobile: +39 334 6891930 (Silent hours and weekend)

Email: spokesperson@euohq.difesa.it ; eunavformed.pi@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.eeas.europa.eu/eunavfor-med

