

Portugal, a maritime nation

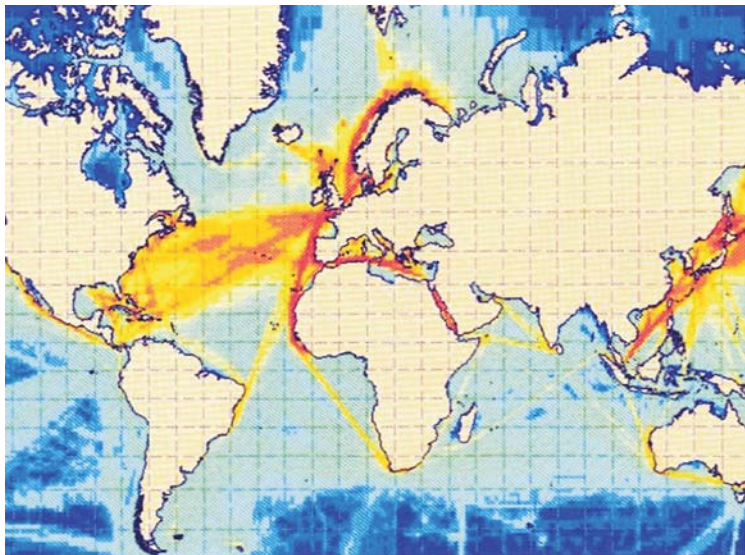


The Portuguese History could be summarised as a series of efforts to take advantage of the territory's Atlantic possibilities.
Jaime Cortesão

Globalization and the sea

Globalization is a phenomenon of the utmost importance to Humanity in the beginning of the XXI century. It is responsible for the permanent multiplication of the international relations that originate an interdependent political, economic, social and military system, characterized by the growing trade of goods and information. A determining feature of this system is that the world economy is based in the free trade, particularly that conducted by sea, which is responsible for approximately 90% of the world's trade. That and the strategic position of Portugal are the reasons why approximately 53% of the EU's foreign commerce passes on waters under Portuguese jurisdiction. Furthermore, around 60% of all Portuguese foreign trade is performed by sea and approximately 70% of national imports come by sea, including all of the oil and nearly 2/3 of the country's natural gas consumption.

Under these circumstances, Portuguese and global stability largely depend upon maritime security. However, direct threats to the use of the sea and to those who take advantage of it have multiplied and present themselves in different ways, including, terrorism, piracy, armaments' proliferation, drug traffic, human traffic, illegal immigration, marine pollution and illegal exploitation of marine resources.



The Portuguese sea is located at the crossroad of very important maritime routes and is sailed by a high number of ships everyday. (Source: *Atlas mondial des densités de trafic de commerce*)

All these threats force Portugal to double its attention and adopt a proactive attitude, in order to defend national interests and to contribute to global stability.

In the absence of guarantees from a supranational authority, maritime security is determined by each country's efforts, individually or in the context of actions promoted by international organizations.

The importance of the sea to Portugal

- 11% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹
- 12% of the employment¹
- 17% of indirect taxes¹
- 90% of tourism revenues²

Sources:
1 - Portuguese Catholic University (*Universidade Católica Portuguesa*), 2004
2 - National Statistics Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Estatística*), 2004

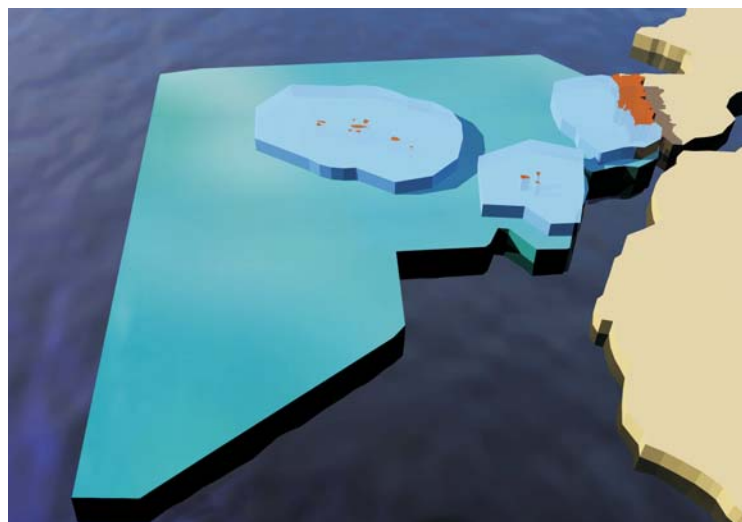
The maritime dimension of Portugal

The need of acting at sea, in order to assure its adequate use, is particularly relevant to a country whose maritime spaces have such an extraordinary extension. Indeed, Portugal has a territory with approximately 91.760 square kilometres, but has sovereignty or jurisdiction over a considerable maritime area, of around 1.720.560 square kilometres, including inland waters, territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone. This maritime area consists of around 18.7 times the size of the territory.

	Territory	Inland Waters	Territorial Sea	EEZ	SAR Areas
Mainland	88.600	6.510	16.476	287.715	572.438
Madeira	833	825	10.823	442.316	
Azores	2.331	6.083	23.660	926.149	5.220.302
Total	91.763	13.419	50.960	1.656.181	5.792.740

Territorial waters and maritime areas of Portugal (square kilometres).

Moreover, the Portuguese state has committed itself, via international agreements, to guarantee a Search And Rescue (SAR) service in an area with nearly 6 million square kilometres, approximately 63 times the surface of its land territory.



EEZ and SAR areas of Portugal.

It is also worth mentioning that Portugal is establishing the outer limits of the Portuguese Continental Shelf, with the active participation of the Navy. This process constitutes an opportunity for the country to further increase the extension of the seabed under national sovereignty.



Portugal, a maritime nation



Portugal is thus a country with a modest terrestrial surface, but with an immense sea under its jurisdiction. That sea must be protected, surveyed, exploited and defended, in order to safeguard national interests. That implies, not only the defence of sovereign rights, but also the assumption of national responsibilities in the maintenance of the stability, in which today's global life rests. In order to accomplish that, the country must possess a modern Navy, capable of performing, with efficacy and efficiency, three fundamental functions:

- ✘ Military defence and support to foreign policy;
- ✘ Security, safety and state authority;
- ✘ Economic, scientific and cultural development.



"Vasco da Gama" class frigate.

A dual-role Navy

In some countries these functions are carried out by several distinct organizations: Blue Water Navies, focused on military defence and support to foreign policy; Coast Guards, committed to security, safety and state authority; and other agencies dedicated to specific tasks, such as maritime Search and Rescue, scientific investigation or maritime culture.

In other countries, such as Portugal, the Navy ensures the functions typically performed by a Blue Water Navy as well as the functions typically attributed to a Coast Guard, allowing efficient use national resources. Thus, the Portuguese Navy, whose commander is simultaneously the National Maritime Authority, ensures a military role (in defence and support to foreign policy) and a non-military role (regarding security, safety and state authority, as well as economic, scientific and cultural development), exemplifying the dual-role Navy paradigm.



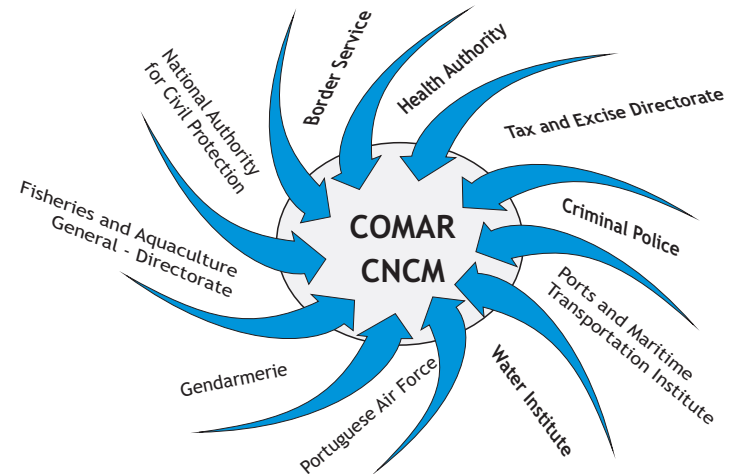
Such a Navy makes possible an economy of effort and develops important synergies, by sharing knowledge, resources and capabilities. Therefore, it also ensures the most efficient use of public funds, while fulfilling objectives that would otherwise demand diversified and potentially redundant structures.

The operational performance of our dual-role Navy has been certified by thorough training and evaluation processes and it is constantly evidenced by, for instance, the high success rate of the Search and Rescue service.

Inter-agency articulation

Current geostrategic environment has led to the involvement of an increasing number of governmental agencies and departments in cooperative and coordinated actions in the maritime areas under national sovereignty or jurisdiction. Naturally, no state agency or department can, by itself, answer the multiple challenges presented in the Portuguese sea. Therefore, the Navy undertakes a proactive attitude, assuming a key role in the articulation of the various state actors with competences related to the sea. With that purpose, the Navy supports the actions of other state departments, through operational protocols, such as the *Criminal Police (Polícia Judiciária)*, in the fight against drug trafficking, the *Border Service (Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras)*, in the fight against illegal immigration, and the *Ports and Maritime Transportation Institute (Instituto Portuário e dos Transportes Marítimos)*, in the inspection of foreign ships.

The articulation of the various governmental agencies and departments was further reinforced by the creation of the *National Maritime Coordinating Centre (Centro Nacional Coordenador Marítimo)*, which uses the infra-structures and facilities of the *Navy's Maritime Operations Center (COMAR - Centro de Operações Marítimas)*. This institutional body aims to eliminate possible duplication of efforts, while guaranteeing the permanent



A Navy firm in defence, committed to security and partner in development

The close liaison between the Navy and the Portuguese Nation is dictated by the Portuguese geography, namely by the vast maritime spaces of sovereignty and jurisdiction originated by the mainland territory and by thirteen Atlantic islands. The integrated and complementary action of the Navy (ships, Marines forces, Diving Teams and Maritime Police agents) in military defence and support to foreign policy, in security, safety and state authority, and also in economic, scientific and cultural development guarantees the most efficient utilization of existing resources. At the same time, it creates vital synergies for the country, allowing the Navy to evolve in a continuous search for excellence, with a posture **firm on defence, committed to security and partner in development**. This posture is essential for the country to continue using the sea in a degree compatible with its interests.