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2026

MISSION
Jeanne d'Arc

Training, operations, cooperation

FOR FRANCE,
ON THE SEAS,
WE FIGHT.

French Naval Academy motto



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2026** p 04

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JEANNE D'ARC

ONE MISSION, several objectives

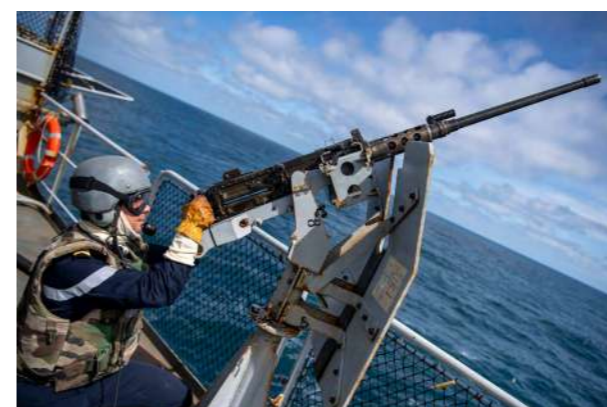
The mission JEANNE D'ARC 2026 (JDA26) is an annual long-term operational deployment through which France ensures its presence in several areas of interest, enabling it to maintain strategic partnerships while offering a concrete, realistic and high-quality training framework to the young officers, also called midshipmen of the Naval Academy. From 17 February to mid-July 2026, more than 800 military personnel, including 515 sailors, 162 midshipmen, and 160 soldiers from the army's embarked tactical group (GTE) will embark aboard the amphibious helicopter carrier (LHD) *Dixmude* and the La Fayette-type frigate (FLF) *Aconit*. They will form the «Jeanne d'Arc Task Group».

This mission offers the opportunity to deploy all the strategic functions of the French Navy: «knowledge - anticipation», «prevention», «influence» and, if the situation requires it, «intervention», to protect its interests around the world and particularly in its overseas territories.

2026



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TRAINING at the heart of operations

The mission illustrates its dual character as both training and operational, preparing officers of the French Navy to conduct operations far away, at sea but also on land.

Plunged into the heart of operations, the midshipmen on board will be subjected to high standards in order to meet the challenges of tomorrow. They will therefore have to understand the challenges of conducting operations, develop the skills essential to their job as naval officers, and demonstrate their ability to adapt, while improving their knowledge of the areas they pass through and familiarising themselves with the geostrategic issues involved.

By comparing their perceptions with those of other future French and foreign military executives in the maritime world, they will address the global nature of the action of a naval officer.



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STRENGTHENING combined and joint interoperability

After a deployment across the North Atlantic in 2025, the JEANNE D'ARC 2026 mission is deploying this year across the Indo-Pacific region. During its journey, the group will conduct numerous exercises with partner armies as well as sovereignty and presence forces. It is an opportunity to demonstrate amphibious, land and airmobile know-how in the projection of power and military forces during complex operations.

The JDA 26 mission also enables the French armed forces to improve their autonomous assessment of situations, guarantee their freedom of action and maintain partnerships in Africa, America and the Far North. This deployment is a recognised vehicle for international cooperation, which strengthens the security and defence relations that France maintains with its strategic partners.

The army's embarked tactical group (GTE) including an airmobile sub-group (S/GAM) on board the PHA *Dixmude* provides a favourable framework for honing skills in various amphibious and air-land manoeuvres, enabling the conduct of a joint mission. Requiring a high degree of tactical coordination between the various military components involved, these operations demonstrate the capacity for long-range and ashore actions. The amphibious group and its embarked reaction force demonstrate the complementarity between the Army and the Navy, ensuring adaptation to all situations encountered.

PROTECTING French interests around the globe

The JEANNE D'ARC mission ensures France's presence in several areas of strategic interest and contributes to respect for sovereignty in overseas territories.

Boosting military cooperation, this deployment mobilises the forces of presence and sovereignty and the partner countries of the regions crossed in complex exercises ranging from the protection of populations in the face of political and climatic crises to the fight against illicit trafficking at sea.

If necessary, the amphibious group and its embarked helicopters could react quickly to protect French and European interests.

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AS PART OF ITS 400TH ANNIVERSARY,

the Navy has signed a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Education for a year-long educational project aimed at primary and secondary schools, with the aim of promoting the shared values of openness to others and to the world, as well as the team spirit embodied in the crew spirit.

One of the initiatives will enable classes to maintain contact with GEAOM officer midshipmen who, throughout the deployment, will produce regular videos on topics related to the areas they are passing through. The aim is to invite students to discover the Navy through these videos or by taking part in the 'Youth and Territories' events in May-June 2026.

Around twenty videos covering topics from the school curriculum (maritime transport, straits, EEZs, etc.) will be produced based on the areas crossed by the Jeanne d'Arc task group. They will be supplemented by four or five longer, more detailed videos on more complex subjects such as the fight against trafficking, maritime issues for France and the law of the sea.



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Newsletters dealing with maritime issues, the history and missions of the Navy will soon be delivered to secondary schools that have pre-ordered them. For Year 6 pupils, educational kits on the Charles de Gaulle have been produced in partnership with the Ligue de l'Enseignement.

In addition, teachers have access to more than a hundred documentary resources posted on the 400th anniversary website to help them contextualise their teaching for their pupils.

For 400 years, the Navy has protected the French people across all oceans. That's four centuries of commitment at sea, of men and women serving France. The 400th anniversary celebration will be a moment of pride, popular appeal, focus on youth and the regions, and momentum for the future.



Admiral Nicolas Vaujour,
Chief of Naval Staff

A deployment IN STRATEGIC AREAS

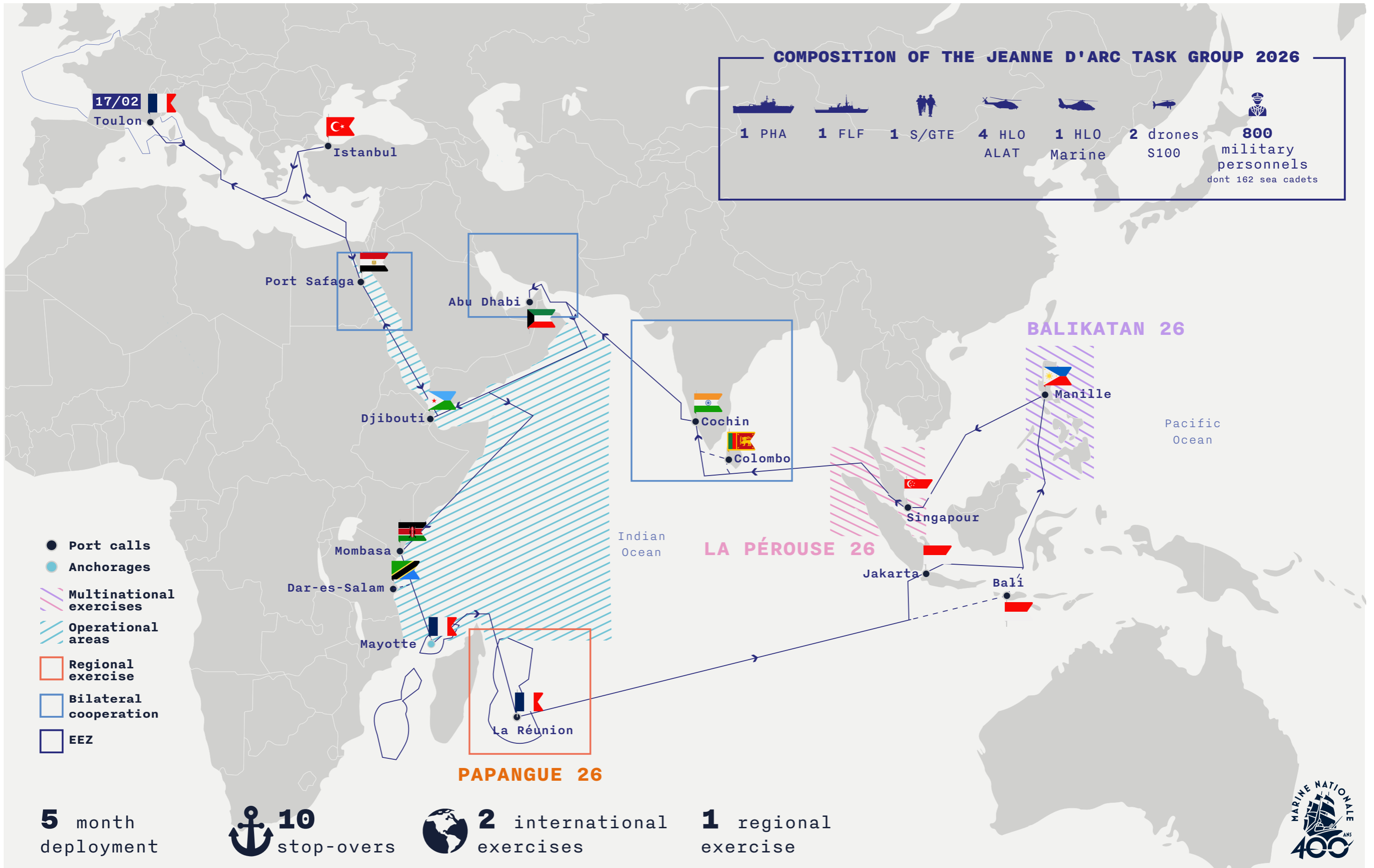
From February 2026 and for almost five months, the LHD *Dixmude*, its GTE and the frigate *Aconit* will be sailing around three continents. This deployment to the Indo-Pacific particularly reaffirms France's interest in this region and its commitment to keeping it free, stable and open.



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MISSION JEANNE D'ARC 2026

Application campaign for 162 midshipmen





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Focused mainly on the Indo-Pacific region,

the JDA mission demonstrates France's ability to act in this area, from the African coast to South-East Asia. This operational capability enables France to assert its legitimacy, strengthen its partnerships and contribute to the stability of these regions, as well as to assist populations affected by natural disasters, as a reliable and supportive partner.

During this deployment, in addition to overseas national engagements, cooperation activities will be carried out with a dozen partner countries, both at sea and ashore. In this respect, the JDA 26 mission is a tool for outreach and influence that offers multiple opportunities for diplomatic engagement.

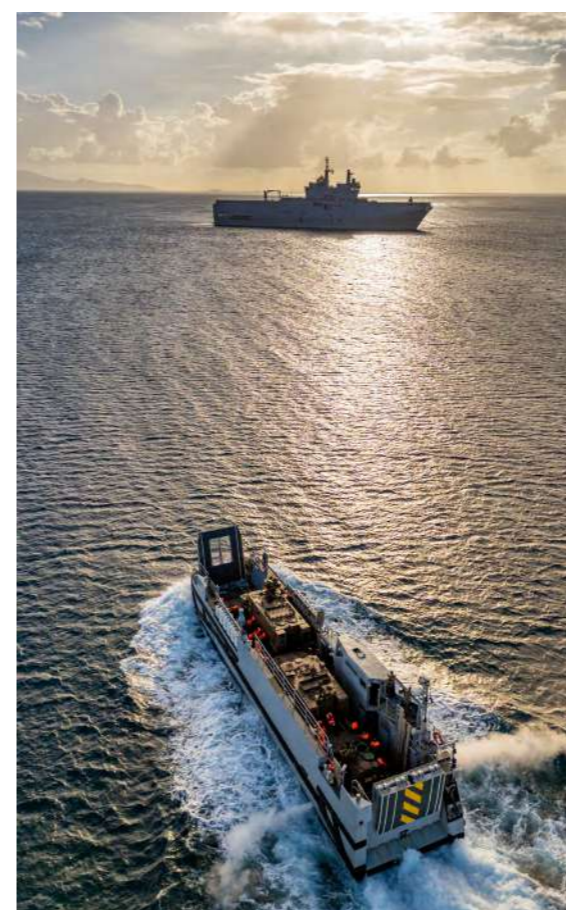
The mission across the Indian Ocean will transit eleven straits and span three continents, from the Mediterranean to the China Sea. It will sail along the African coast, in the southern Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, reach the Indian subcontinent, then patrol the Persian Gulf before passing through Djibouti and making a Mediterranean portcall in Istanbul on the return journey.



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The maritime and air-land components of JDA 26

will conduct numerous exercises with partners and pre-positioned French forces. These exercises will provide an opportunity for the group to demonstrate its naval, amphibious, land and air-mobile capabilities. Its ability to assist populations affected by security or climate crises will also be tested. Throughout the deployment, these sequences will assess the Jeanne d'Arc Task Group's ability to operate in a multi-alliance and joint environment.

In addition to the training sequences, the group will carry out operational activities by assisting in operations to combat drug trafficking and piracy, as well as in state action at sea and sovereignty missions in French exclusive economic zones.

DEVELOPING THE TALENTS

OF TOMMOROW'S NAVY



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You have chosen to serve at sea.
Do not limit your challenges but challenge
your limits, because the one who wins is
the one who adapts.



Admiral Nicolas Vaujour,
Chief of Naval Staff

Training THE OFFICERS OF TOMORROW'S NAVY

For future naval officers, the JEANNE D'ARC mission represents the culmination of two and a half years of training at the Naval Academy in Lanvéoc-Poulmic (Finistère), a major school of the French Navy.

This mission takes its name from the cruiser and then the helicopter carrier Jeanne d'Arc, on which the EAOM (School for naval officers) has been deployed since 1931.

Over a period of more than five months, the midshipmen will spend more than 100 days at sea, punctuated by watch hours, international exercises, operations and training periods provided by the crews of the two ships and by their instructors from the EAOM (School for naval officers).

2 COURSES

They will also be trained in the various surface specialities for which they will be eligible at the end of their Jeanne d'Arc campaign, grouped according to

- NAVIGATION OPERATIONS (OPS)
- ENGINEERING OPERATIONS (ENERG)



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Subject to monitoring and continuous assessment throughout their «Jeanne» as well as to progressive selection, they will deepen these lessons from the mid-mission onwards, according to the speciality assigned to them.

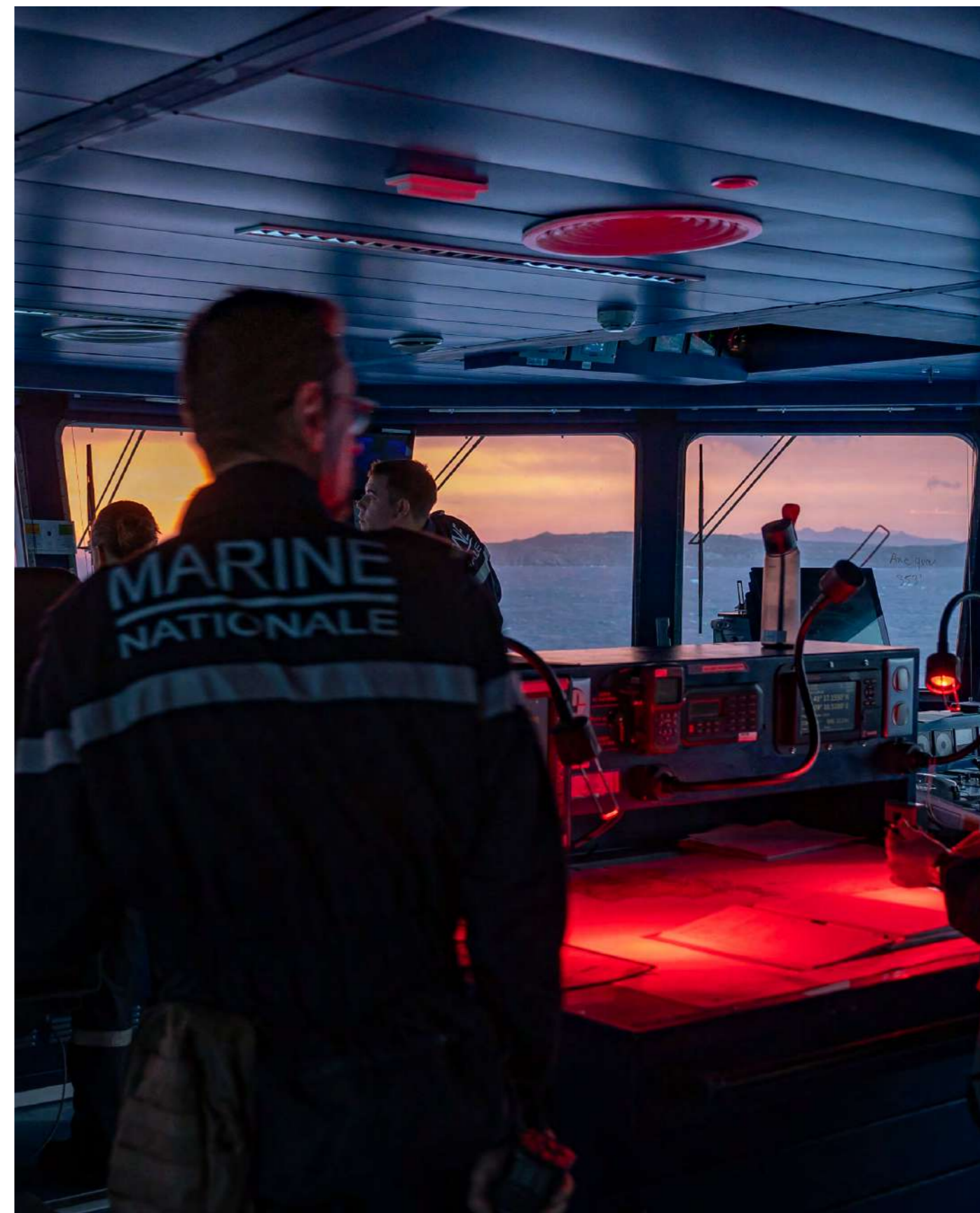
After the Jeanne d'Arc mission, students in the «operations» course will first complete a year's employment in the naval task force, before being assigned to surface units, submarines, naval air bases or commando units as:

- **RADARMEN (ANTI SURFACE WARFARE) ;**
- **GUNNERS (ARTILLERYMEN) ;**
- **ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE OFFICERS*;**
- **OFFICERS SPECIALIZED IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SIC)*;**
- **FIGHTER CONTROLLERS (OPC3D);**
- **MINE CLEARANCE DIVERS;**
- **NAVAL AVIATION PILOTS;**
- **TACTICAL COORDINATORS IN THE NAVAL AVIATION;**
- **GUNNARY OFFICER (aboard nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines);**
- **NAVY COMMANDOS.**

** These two specialities are employed on surface vessels and submarines*

Midshipmen in the engineering branch will be assigned to:

- **SURFACE SHIPS (ENERG/SURF) ;**
- **AIRCRAFT CARRIER CHARLES DE GAULLE (NUC/SURF) ;**
- **SUBMARINES (NUC/SOUM) ;**
- **NAVAL AIR BASES (ENERA).**



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The Jeanne d'Arc task group, humans and material

ASSETS FOR A UNIQUE TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

The JDA mission exposes midshipmen to a unique joint and allied operational environment. It thus constitutes an excellent learning experience for these future naval officers as well as for the forces involved. It also mobilises significant human and material resources, offering excellent maritime and military training for future naval officers. This learning environment makes the JDA mission one of the most renowned in the world and attracts the most promising officers from partner navies.

Supervised by various instructors, the midshipmen will be tested, evaluated and pushed to their limits, thus preparing them for the exercise of their future responsibilities as naval officers and department heads. Finally, this deployment gives them a glimpse of their future within the crews and forces, where the expertise and experience of sailors, whatever their rank, is a constant source of learning and progression.

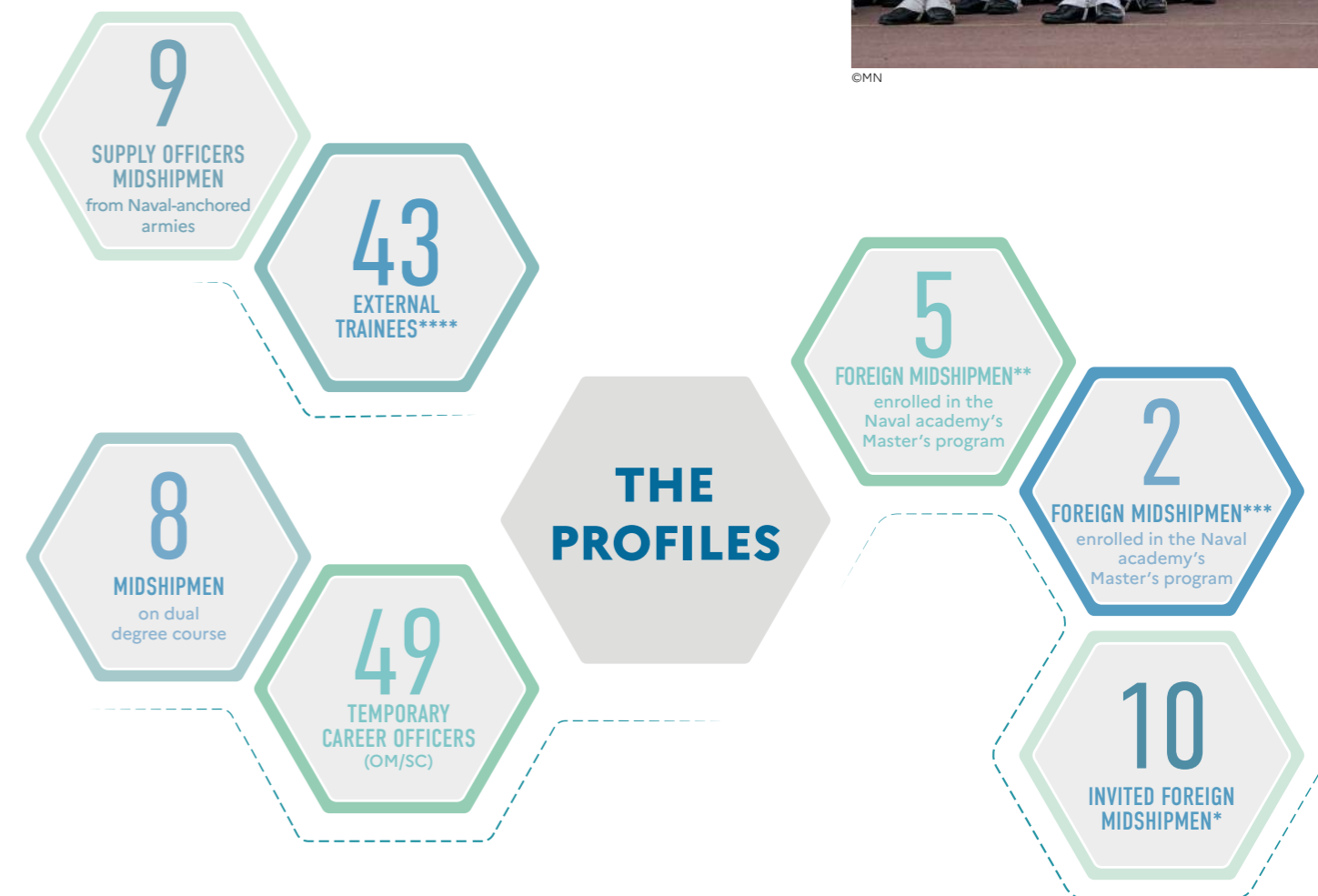
This is the raison d'être of the JEANNE D'ARC mission: to provide the Navy of tomorrow with officers ready to serve, command and fight.

NAVY MIDSHIPMEN and trainees

Most of the midshipmen on the JDA26 are «bordaches», the usual nickname for students of the Naval Academy (in homage to the Borda, the name of the ship that historically hosted it). Among the 162 midshipmen, there will also be 49 temporary career officers (OM/SC), 17 foreign midshipmen and 9 cadet supply officers from the Army. Maritime affairs administrator students (AFFMAR), army doctors and trainees from the EDHEC Business School will only carry out part of the mission.



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* From Australia, Belgium, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Morocco, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Singapore and Sweden.

** From Benin, Congo, the Ivory coast, Madagascar and Tunisia.

**** From Germany and Cameroon.

**** Including 13 from the school for maritime affairs administrators, 12 students from EDHEC Business School and 10 student doctors from the Navy's military medical school.



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NAVAL ACADEMY instructors

Throughout the JDA 2026 mission, the midshipmen will continue their theoretical and practical training in line with the curriculum followed at the Lanvéoc-Poulmic Naval Academy. 36 instructors from the School for Naval Officers (EAOM) will provide some of the training on board. They will also be in charge of monitoring and evaluating the midshipmen. From time to time, around fifteen civilian and military speakers will give lectures and additional lessons to the OE.

DIXMUDE AND ACONIT CREWS and their detachments

The sailors from the LHD *Dixmude* and the frigate *Aconit* crews will also be key instructors for the future officers.

The 205 sailors from the *Dixmude* and the 148 sailors from the *Aconit* will share their know-how and experience throughout the mission. They will represent the diversity of specialities to which the OE aspire.

In addition, detachments from 34F and 36F Flotillas, manning the Dauphin helicopter and a system of Camcopter S100 drones on board during the mission respectively, as well as the 21 sailors from the amphibious flotilla (FLOPHIB) operating amphibious assets on board the LHD, will provide their expertise to the School for Naval Officers Group (GEAOM).

In order to meet the objectives in terms of watch hours for the midshipmen, additional ships may be deployed and integrated into the Task Group.

This year, around thirty naval and aerial drones will be deployed aboard LHD *Dixmude* in order to increase the group's capabilities tenfold in the areas of logistics, defence and surveillance.



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THE EMBARKED TACTICAL GROUP (GTE) of the 9th BIMA, comprising a sub-group of the 3rd marine infantry regiment and an aerocombat sub-group (SGAM) of the 3rd rhc.

An amphibious operation is a joint mission that requires close cooperation between the French Navy and the Army. This is why the JDA mission always includes an Army detachment called an embarked tactical group (GTE).

This year, the GTE of the 9th BIMA is composed of an infantry-dominant SGTE from the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment manned with 100 soldiers and an SGAM from the 4th BAC manned with 60 soldiers, 2 Caïman and 2 Gazelle from the 3rd RHC.

The JDA officer midshipmen will have direct contact with the various specialities of the Army (infantry, cavalry, air combat, communications).

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FIRST-CLASS OPERATIONNAL

ASSETTS

The landing helicopter deck **DIXMUDE**

Commissioning: 2012

Dimensions: 199 m x 32 m / 21,500 tons

Speed and range: maximum speed 19 knots / range: 11,000 nautical miles at 15 knots

Crew: 205 sailors

Command: 850 m² of modular accommodation for a staff of up to 200 people.

Aircraft capacity: 16 Caiman or Tigre class combat helicopters.

Amphibious capacity: A hangar for up to 80 armoured vehicles and an 885 sq. m. well deck for different types of craft: fast amphibious landing craft (EDA-R), standard amphibious landing craft (EDA-S), cargo transport craft (CTM) or Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC).

Accommodation capacity for troops and detachments : up to 450 equipped soldiers.

Military medical facilities: 2 operating theatres, 1 X-ray room with scanner, 1 dental surgery, 1 biology laboratory, 1 telemedicine room, 30 medical beds or 60 beds in conventional configuration.

Sponsor city: Marseille



LHD

LHDs are multi-purpose ships capable of positioning offshore, both to deploy forces (helicopters, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment) from sea to land, and to carry out relief operations (disaster assistance, evacuation of nationals). Their modularity enables them to embark a staff and set up a command post for large-scale joint and combined operations at sea or on land. They distinguished themselves during Operation BALISTE in Lebanon, Operation LICORNE off the coast of the Ivory Coast, Operation HARMATTAN off the coast of Libya, Operation IRMA in the West Indies, Operation AMITIE in Lebanon and in providing medical support to the people of Gaza.

LHD fulfil three major functions :

1.

AN EMBARKED STAFF TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS

The LHD is able to accommodate an embarked joint staff of up to 200 people, to conduct a national or multinational operation from the sea.

2.

A HELICOPTER CARRIER

From their flight deck, LHDs can deploy a complete airmobile force of combat helicopters, for kinetic effects or territorial surveillance operations. The maximum embarkation capacity is 16 attack or manoeuvre helicopters.

3.

AN AMPHIBIOUS SHIP

Thanks to their loading, storage and unloading capabilities, both by air and by sea, LHDs are suitable for amphibious missions, enabling them to transport and project troops, vehicles and equipment from sea to land, as well as carrying out rescue operations.

Employed for more than 10 years on JEANNE D'ARC Missions thanks to their modularity, LHDs have proved their worth as a support for the training school at sea, enabling midshipmen to be confronted with the realities of operations.



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The stealth frigate **ACONIT**

COMMISSIONING: 1999.

Dimensions : 125 m x 15 m / 3,600 tons (fully laden displacement).

Speed and range: maximum speed 25 knots / range: 7,000 nautical miles at 15 knots / 50 days' provisions.

Crew: 148 sailors.

Sponsor city: Chalon-sur-Saône.

La Fayette-class frigates (FLFs)

are multi-purpose combat ships, designed to protect and enforce the interests of the French state in maritime areas, and to take part in crisis resolution operations, including in areas far from French territory.

As such, they can be called upon to support an intervention force, protect commercial traffic, carry out

special operations or carry out humanitarian missions. Their high degree of stealth means they can be deployed as a precursor, to gather intelligence that will enable the intervention of a naval force, for which they are a prime asset. These ships are designed to carry a helicopter and its detachment. Five La Fayette-class frigates (FLF) are currently in service within the French Navy, all based at Toulon: *Aconit*, *Courbet*, *Guépratte*, *La Fayette* and *Surcouf*.

Over the last 20 years, the stealth frigates have been successfully involved in numerous maritime and joint operations: *ATALANTE*, *CORYMBE*, *BALISTE*, *HARMATTAN*, *IRINI*, *Enduring Freedom*, *AGENOR*...



©M. DENNIEL/MN

The *Aconit*, one of the stealth frigates that underwent a mid-life refit to extend its operational capabilities, can now take on new missions such as escorting SSBNs along the coast of Brest, thereby helping to reinforce the naval units operating under the operational control of Atlantic Command (CECLANT).

As part of the JEANNE D'ARC 2026 mission, *Aconit* will escort the LHD. Indeed, the French Navy's high value units are escorted to supplement their self-defence capabilities. This range of capabilities is extremely beneficial to the training of midshipmen, giving them an insight into as many duties and postings as possible, which they will then be called upon to occupy throughout their careers.

THE EMBARKED detachments



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THE AMPHIBIOUS FLOTILLA (FLOPHIB)

An amphibious flotilla detachment comprising a fast amphibious landing craft (EDA-R) and a new-generation standard amphibious landing craft (EDA-S). The detachment comprises 21 sailors.



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THE 36F FLOTILLA AND ITS DRONE SYSTEM

A detachment of the 36F Flotilla and its S-100 Camcopter drone system will also be embarked for the JEANNE D'ARC mission. This drone, which arrived in the flotilla's fleet in 2024, is capable of carrying out tactical reconnaissance, maritime surveillance and intelligence missions. To operate it, four remote pilots are needed on the flight deck, as well as two technicians.



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THE 34F FLOTILLA AND ITS DAUPHIN HELICOPTER

A Dauphin helicopter from 34F Flotilla and its 11 sailors will carry out maritime surveillance, Jeanne d'Arc Task Group support, logistics support, search and rescue missions. The Dauphin's versatility, qualified to land on the stealth frigates in addition to the LHD, will add an extra dimension to the manoeuvres and operations that the midshipmen will discover in situ.

THE EMBARKED detachments

THE EMBARKED TACTICAL GROUP (GTE)

160 soldiers from the GTE of the Army will be engaged alongside the sailors to conduct the amphibious manoeuvres that will punctuate the JEANNE D'ARC 2026 mission. The GTE will embark on board the LHD Dixmude more than 30 tactical vehicles including GRIFFONS, light wheeled armoured vehicles (VBLs), GBC-type cargo and personnel transport trucks, as well as various engineering vehicles (EGAME, EGRAP, D6).

This GTE will have operational reversibility capability. Throughout its mission, it will participate in several exercises as well as operational preparation and bilateral cooperation activities with partner nations bordering the Mediterranean and North Indo-Pacific regions, but also with the Armed Forces of the South-East Indian Ocean (FAZSO) and potentially with the French Forces in the United Arab Emirates (FFEAU). This force also constitutes an initial core that can be reinforced depending on the type of engagement and mission. It may also participate in missions such as the evacuation of nationals (RESEVAC) or Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief (HADR).

The GTE is organised as follows:

An embedded sub-group from the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment comprising 100 military personnel:

- A tactical staff from the 3rd RIMa ;
- An amphibious commando group from the 3rd RIMa ;
- A command section from the 3rd RIMa reinforced with a role 1, mechanics, ammunition specialists and logisticians;
- Two infantry sections from the 3rd RIMa ;
- A light cavalry platoon (reconnaissance and intervention platoon) from the 1st RIMa ;
- A combat engineering group from the 6th RG ;
- A JTAC team from the 11th RAMa ;
- A beach intervention unit from the 6th RG.

An air combat sub-group from the 3rd RHC comprising 60 soldiers :

- 2 transport and assault helicopters ;
- 2 reconnaissance and attack helicopters.

The maritime transit phases will be specifically used to obtain or maintain qualifications for deck-landing (day/night) and to enable crews and support personnel to gain experience in operations from a Royal Navy vessel. This 'mixed' SGAM, composed of Gazelle and Caïman helicopters, will offer a wide range of tactical effects. It will be used operationally at sea or in the context of land-based operations, with or without deployment on land.



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THE 3RD MARINE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Comprising more than 1,100 active military personnel, the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment is divided into seven companies, plus two reserve companies.

Created in 1838, its history is intertwined with the military history of France. It distinguished itself particularly at Bazeilles in 1870 as part of the Blue Division. The first professional regiment since 1970, the 3rd RIMa has participated in all major interventions involving France for more than 50 years. It demonstrated its qualities as an assault troop in Ati, Chad, in 1978, in As Salman in 1991 during the Gulf War, and in Bosnia in 1995 during the recapture of the Verbanja bridge. The regiment also distinguished itself in Kosovo, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Mali.

Based in the Vannes garrison since 1963, the 3rd RIMa is a light armoured infantry unit specialising in amphibious operations and equipped with GRIFFON armoured personnel carriers. It draws its spirit, style and soul from the traditions of its branch of the armed forces, and its character, rigour and discipline have been forged in the granite of Brittany. A trained and effective combat tool served by generous and supportive men and women, the '3' is faithful to its guiding principle: 'action, a way of life'.

THE 3RD COMBAT HELICOPTER REGIMENT

The 3rd RHC (Combat Helicopter Regiment) in Etain belongs to the Army Light Aviation (ALAT). Nicknamed the 'night regiment', it established itself as a specialist in night combat through its early use of the VIVIANE sight on Gazelle helicopters. The 3rd RHC is based in the Meuse region, which is particularly well-suited to different types of flight: high or very low altitude, navigation or combat, day or night or in poor weather conditions, at all tactical levels (from a single combat helicopter to multiple squadrons). Like the other two RHCs, the Grand 3 participates in air combat missions through exercises and external operations in a combined arms and/or joint framework.

The 3rd RHC has been paired with the PHA Dixmude since 2016. The regiment is undergoing a transformation to accommodate new-generation helicopters. After the arrival of the Caïman in 2021, the regiment will receive the Guépard from 2029 onwards. It will be the first RHC to be fully transformed by 2030 with the delivery of Serval combat vehicles as part of the Scorpion programme. Maintaining a partnership with the French Navy, the ALAT regiments participate every year in the JDA 26 mission.



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THE EMBARKED means

THE GRIFFON MULTI-ROL ARMoured VEHICLE

Dimensions: L: 7.58m, H: 2.6m (height with body) ; 3.5m with Hornet turret; width: 2.54m.

Speed: 90 km/h.

Range: 800 km.

Gradually replacing armoured personnel carriers, the GRIFFON is a 24-tonne multi-role armoured vehicle. Its mission is to transport troops and support the combined arms tactical group (GTIA) in the contact zone. In its various versions, the Griffon can also serve as a command post, a communications relay or provide artillery observation.

Mobile and easy to maintain, the Griffon has a remote-controlled turret equipped with a machine gun, Galix smoke grenades or an automatic grenade launcher (40 mm). It can carry up to 10 fully equipped combatants, including the driver and gunner.



©ARMÉE DE TERRE



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THE CAÏMAN TRANSPORT AND ASSAULT HELICOPTER

Dimensions: L : 19.56 m, l : 4.52 m, H : 5.23 m.

Maximum weight: 10 600 kg.

Range: 3h00.

Cruising speed: 260 km/h.

Maximum number of passengers: 20.

Internal cargo capacity: 2 500 kg.

Sling transport capacity: 4 000 kg.

Optional equipment: winch, EVASAN kit, MAG58, aerorope, M3M.

THE GAZELLE RECONNAISSANCE AND ATTACK HELICOPTER

Dimensions: L : 11.95m, l : 2.04m, H : 3.19 m.

Maximum weight: 2 100 kg.

Cruising speed: 200 km/h.

Range: 2h10.

Armament: 4 HOT missiles or GATLING machine gun or precision firing stabiliser arm for on-board gunner.

A reconnaissance and attack helicopter, the Gazelle entered service in 1973 with the Army light aviation unit. Robust and versatile, it carries out missions ranging from armed reconnaissance to the destruction of armoured vehicles. Armed in its first version with HOT anti-tank missiles, the latest version of the Gazelle is now also equipped with an M13 GATLING machine gun, providing it with greater firepower to support ground troops. Thanks to its agility and element of surprise, the Gazelle has proven its effectiveness, particularly during Operation HARMATTAN in Libya.



©ARMÉE DE TERRE

The CAÏMAN is a manoeuvre and assault helicopter developed as part of a European cooperation programme. Versatile and technologically advanced, it is used for a variety of missions ranging from tactical transport to medical evacuation. Capable of operating day and night in difficult environments, the Caiman is a key component of land forces. Modular and robust, it is a major asset for military land and amphibious operations.

BIOGRAPHIE

CAPT. DELRIEU, Commanding officer of the LHD *Dixmude*



Captain Jocelyn Delrieu joined the French naval Academy in 2000, and graduated in 2003 with a master's degree in Naval Engineering and operations. He also holds a postgraduate qualification in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW).

After completing the initial Midshipmen's six-month training cruise on board the helicopter carrier *Jeanne d'Arc* in 2003, he was

assigned to the frigate *Nivôse* and the patrol ship *La Rieuse* in the Indian Ocean. He deployed in support of anti-smuggling interdiction operations within the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition. Subsequently, he conducted patrols to enforce the French naval presence in overseas territories. When he returned to mainland France, he served on board the ASW destroyer *Latouche-Tréville* based in Brest. In 2007, he took command of the training ship *Chacal*.

On completion of the Principal Warfare Officers' course in Toulon in 2008, he was appointed as Head of the ASW Department on board the destroyer *De Grasse* based in Brest. Missions included operations in support of SSBNs and a tour in the Indian Ocean as *De Grasse* was assigned as the flagship of Operation Atalanta, conducting antipiracy operations within the European coalition.

From 2012 to 2014, he served as the Operations Officer on board the destroyer *Aquitaine* – which included the challenge of preparing a first-of-class multipurpose destroyer for active service. He took command of *Lieutenant de vaisseau Lavallée* in 2015. He deployed in the far North within a NATO task group and two times for a *Corymbe* mission in West Africa. He is a 2016 graduate from the 20th Advanced Command and Staff Course, United Kingdom. Then, he joined the Naval Staff and the Joint Operation Command Center in Paris.

In 2021, he was appointed as executive officer on board LHD *Mistral* and conducted several operational deployments (*Jeanne d'Arc*, *Cèdre Bleu*) and major exercises (*Cormoran*, *Orion*). In 2023, he joined FRSTRIKEFOR as Head of the Standing Joint Amphibious Cell.

On March 11, 2024, he took command of LHD *Dixmude*.

His personal awards include various campaign and service medals. He is married and father of three.

CV GARREAU, Commandant la FLF *Aconit*



Born on 29 April 1983 and a graduate of the École Polytechnique class of 2003, Captain François Garreau chose to serve in the submarine forces.

After two years on the patrol vessel *La Fouguese* in Martinique as Operations Officer and then Executive Officer, he was assigned in 2009 to the SSN *Perle* as officer of the watch.

He was then posted to the SSN *Emeraude* to serve as division officer and head of underwater warfare.

In 2013, he took command of the patrol vessel *La Moqueuse* in New Caledonia. During his command, he conducted sovereignty and fisheries enforcement missions.

In December 2014, he was assigned to the SSBNs *Le Terrible* and then *Le Vigilant*, where he successively held the positions of chief of underwater warfare and deputy Operations Officer.

In 2017, he returned to Toulon on the SSN *Saphir*, then on the *Emeraude* as deputy commander of operations. He was subsequently assigned to the *Perle* as executive officer. During these assignments on the three SSNs, he primarily conducted anti-submarine security missions in the Atlantic Ocean and the Far North.

In 2019, he completed the submarine command course, concluding his career on the "black boats" after 13,600 hours submerged.

He then served for a year in the SSN squadron before joining the Mediterranean Operations Centre in August 2020, where he supervised the activities of submarines and surface ships on mission.

After graduating from the War College in 2022, he was assigned to the multi-mission destroyer *Provence* as executive officer. He carried out several missions in the Mediterranean Sea, ranging from autonomous situation assessment to submarine tracking.

He took command of the frigate *Aconit* on 7 January 2025. At its helm, he carried out his first mission in the Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea, respectively in support of French nuclear deterrence and under NATO command.

Captain François *Garreau* is a Knight of the Legion of Honour and the National Order of Merit, holder of the Croix du Combattant (Combatant's Cross) and four commendations.

He is married and has four children.

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