



**MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES
ET DES ANCIENS
COMBATTANTS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRENCH MINISTRY FOR THE ARMED FORCES

AND VETERANS

Paris, 21 May 2026

Exercise MARARA 26

From June 3 to 18, 2026, the French Armed Forces in French Polynesia (FAPF) will organize the inter-service and international Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) type exercise, MARARA 26.

- Meaning "flying fish" in Tahitian, MARARA 26 is an international-level exercise that will bring together fifteen partners (Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, United States, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, United Kingdom, Tonga, Tuvalu).
- The scenario is based on the conduct of a humanitarian assistance and rescue operation following a natural disaster in a Pacific island country.
- MARARA 26 illustrates France's commitment to security and stability in the

Pacific. By organizing this exercise, France demonstrates its ability to cooperate with the nations of the region for the protection of populations.

The South Pacific is the region of the world most exposed to the effects of climate change. Natural disasters there are becoming increasingly violent and frequent. In the face of these challenges, humanitarian management of extreme weather events now requires, in most cases, the use of the projection capabilities of the armed forces to assist affected populations. As a Pacific nation, France shares the same risks of natural disasters with the countries in the region. In this context, the French Armed Forces in French Polynesia (FAPF) organize, every even year, an inter-service and international exercise of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) type. The French Armed Forces in New Caledonia (FANC), for their part, organize the CROIX DU SUD exercise in odd years. MARARA 26 will mobilize all units of the FAPF. An A400M from the Air and Space Force will reinforce the device from the Hexagon, as well as means from participating partner countries, including the deployment of a U.S. C130 and the participation of GUARDIAN patrol boats from the Cook Islands and Kiribati. This exercise will include a deployment phase to the atolls of Makemo and Hao, in the heart of the Tuamotu archipelago, located more than 500 km from Tahiti, where the force constituted around France will train on a realistic scenario to conduct a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation at the request of an affected state. The exercise will also include a cyber challenge and a medical seminar focused on this theme.

1/ Press program schedule for the MARARA 26 exercise from June 3 to June 18, 2026

03/06/2026: opening ceremony in Tahiti

- Official opening ceremony of the MARARA 26 exercise;
- Press briefing.

13/06/2026: press trip to Makemo

- Day trip (via FAPF means) to the atoll of Makemo to attend a large-scale evacuation exercise involving air and maritime means.

15/06/2026: VIP Day in Makemo

- Day dedicated to authorities at the exercise site in Makemo.

16/06/2026: exercise closure

- Exercise review at the military camp in Arue (Tahiti) ;
- P ress conference ;
- Closing ceremony.

2/ Special arrangements for the press

Media wishing to cover this exercise are invited to make themselves known by email to cab-cema-com.relation-presse.fct@def.gouv.fr by June 1, 2026.

The following must be specified:

- the number of participating individuals ;
- first and last names of each participant ;
- the name of the media outlet and its contact details (email + phone) ;
- attach to the accreditation request a scan of a valid ID (front/back) passport as well as press cards associated with each participant.

Medias contact

État-major des armées

French Armed Forces Headquarters

cab-cema-com.relation-presse.fct@def.gouv.fr

09 88 68 28 61 / 09 88 68 28 62 / 09 88 67 77 99

French Armed Forces in French Polynesia - FAPF Communication Advisor

alexandre.tiraboschi@intradef.gouv.fr

+689 89 70 14 79

French ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans

Public affairs office

media@dicod.fr

+33 9 88 67 33 33

Délégation à l'information et à la communication de la défense

DICOD

Centre médias du ministère des Armées

60 boulevard du général Martial Valin

CS 21623 - 75009 Paris Cedex 15