

  
MINISTÈRE  
DES ARMÉES

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

# PRESS KIT

## Mission AIGLE

[Mission EAGLE]  
Romania



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# 1. NATO's enhanced Vigilance Activity posture

## *enhanced Vigilance Activities*

To respond to the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, NATO's Supreme allied command Europe (SACEUR) received the approval of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) to activate the Graduated response plans (GRP), the first part of the Alliance's regional defence plans. The implementation of these measures enables to avoid an expansion of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine beyond the borders of Ukraine, to NATO member countries.

In that respect, France deploys the "spearhead" battalion of the NATO response force (NRF) to Romania, to strengthen the deterring and defensive presence of the Alliance against Russia, in the framework of Mission AIGLE.

Placed under the NATO integrated command, the French and Belgian units operate from the military base of Mihail Kogalniceanu near Constanța in Romania. They form the **Spearhead battalion** of the NATO response force.

France actively participates in the reassurance effort with its **Airnaval Group (GAN)**, deployed in the central Mediterranean, as well as, its contribution to air policing above Romania, Bulgaria or Croatia, thanks to its Rafale, to the Hawkeye of the embarked Air Group and to the two aerial refuelling tankers of the Air and Space Force.



Besides, in Poland, the French armed forces contribute to the surveillance and air defence missions on the eastern flank of the Alliance. Deploying from the Air Bases in Mont-de-Marsan, Saint-Dizier and Istres, the Rafale and the aerial refuelling tankers of the Air and Space Force have carried out daily missions since 24<sup>th</sup> February. These air operations are placed under the operational control of NATO and are conducted in co-ordination with our allies who are present in the European sky.

## EUROPE – Reinforcing the eastern flank

The infographic features a central map of Europe with France and Romania highlighted. A blue arrow points from France to Romania. To the left is a photo of a column of military vehicles. To the right is a photo of a line of tanks. A yellow box above the Romania label lists the units and mission type. A white box below the Romania label lists specific military units.

**Mission AIGLE**

France

Romania

**Romania – reinforcement**  
Ground reassurance mission

**27<sup>e</sup> BCA (27<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Battalion)**  
**126<sup>e</sup> RI (126<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment)**  
**4<sup>e</sup> RCH (4<sup>th</sup> Light Armoured Regiment)**  
Supporting elements from the **93<sup>e</sup> RAM**  
(93<sup>rd</sup> Mountain Artillery Regiment)  
**Combat Service Support** elements



With this deployment, France reinforces its presence and commitment towards its allies on the eastern flank of Europe. It thus shows the reaction capability of its armed forces and confirms its strategic solidarity towards Romania and the members of the Atlantic Alliance. It also confirms its deployment capabilities by participating in Exercise BRILLIANT JUMP in Norway and in Missions Lynx and Enhanced Air Policing in the Baltic states.

Like all the other measures taken by France since the attack of Ukraine by Russia, this deployment shows that France is a reliable, credible partner which shows its solidarity and is fully involved in NATO's operational activities.



## FOCUS: France, framework-nation of the NATO response force (NRF)

The NRF is NATO's on alert rapid reaction force. It is triggered by decision of the North Atlantic Council in the case of a serious crisis.

In 2022, France has a quite specific role, since it commands the land and air components and mans the key nucleus of the CBNR (chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological) force.

It commands and implements the 3 levels of engagement of the joint set up:

- the rapid reaction force, with a notice to move of less than 7 days and to which the Spearhead Battalion deployed to Romania belongs;
- the second echelon initial force group, which can be mobilised in 30 to 45 days;
- the third-echelon group, which can be deployed in 45 to 60 days.

To those units, one must add a command and control element as well as the component commands (land, air , naval, special forces).

## 2. AIGLE: deployment of a multinational battalion in Romania

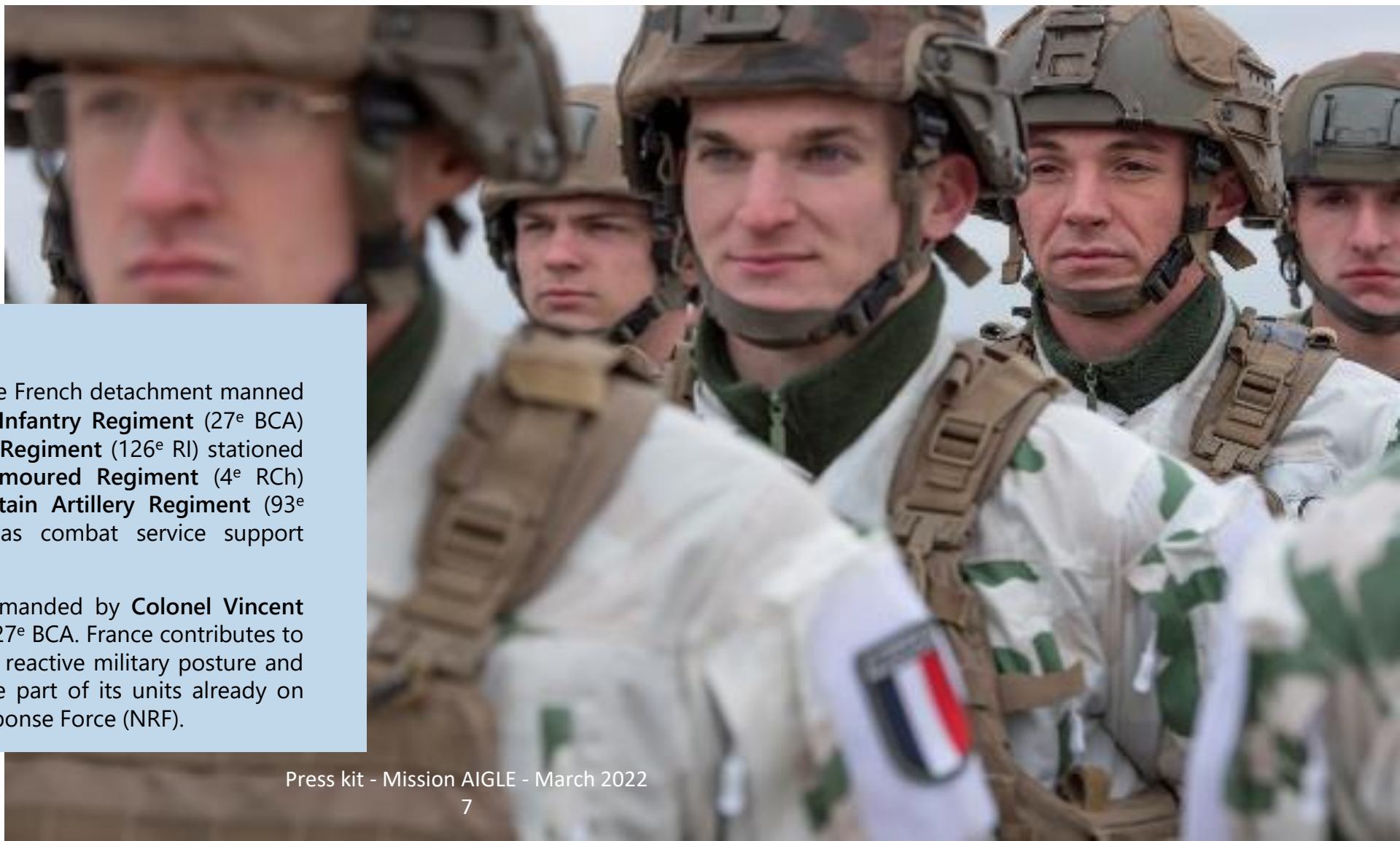
*What the combined arms battalion is made of*

# 500

**soldiers** make up the French detachment manned

by personnel from the **27<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Regiment** (27<sup>e</sup> BCA) stationed in Annecy, the **126<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment** (126<sup>e</sup> RI) stationed in Brive-la-Gaillarde, the **4<sup>th</sup> Light Armoured Regiment** (4<sup>e</sup> RCh) stationed in Gap and the **93<sup>rd</sup> Mountain Artillery Regiment** (93<sup>e</sup> RAM) stationed in Varcès, as well as combat service support elements.

Located on **Constanța base**, it is commanded by **Colonel Vincent MINGUET**, Commanding Officer of the 27<sup>e</sup> BCA. France contributes to the strengthening of the defensive and reactive military posture and deploys on the eastern flank of Europe part of its units already on alert in the framework of the NATO Response Force (NRF).



## FOCUS: Mission AIGLE, the origin of the name



The eagle reminds of the emblem on the coat of arms of Romania. The three flags show the commitment of French and Belgian units in support of Romania.



Placed under NATO's integrated command, **French and Belgian units are deployed on Mihail Kogalniceanu base near Constanța in Romania.** They form the Spearhead Battalion of NATO's Reaction Force.

The battalion is approximately **800-personnel strong** (with c. 500 French and 300 Belgian soldiers), implementing **6 wheeled AMX 10 RC tanks** (armoured wheeled-gunned vehicles), **43 VABs** (armoured personnel carriers), **19 PVPs** (small protected vehicles) and **27 VBLs** (light armoured vehicles). The Belgians have deployed **16 Piranha vehicles, 3 Dingos and 6 Lynx.**



### 3. The mission of the Reaction Force in Romania

*A multinational build-up for security and protection*



The mission of the Spearhead Battalion is to reinforce the Alliance's deterring and defensive posture in Romania and on the eastern flank of Europe.

The Spearhead Battalion develops its interoperability with the multinational forces deployed within the Multinational Division South-East. The goal is to maintain at the highest possible level the ability of the battalion to be deployed for the missions it will receive, depending on the situation on the eastern flank of Europe.

The interoperability of the Spearhead Battalion enables it to work within an international military coalition. Robust equipment and battle-hardened soldiers from various branches are gathered in Constanța to preserve peace on the eastern flank of Europe.

The forces making up the Spearhead Battalion make the most of all their tactical know-how to be able to intervene defensively, should the situation require it.

The Spearhead Battalion conducts daily training activities and missions to preserve its high operational level.



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des armées / France

Placed under the command of a Bucharest-based multinational brigade, the Spearhead Battalion has adapted capabilities deployed by France and Belgium. It thus complements the NATO set up already put in place by the Italians, Germans and Americans.

Owing to the NATO standards, enabling to standardise the concepts and methods, **the Spearhead Battalion participates in common actions and missions.** The latter are conducted with the other armed forces present in Constanța, made up of Romanian and US soldiers, but also Dutch, German, Italian and British ones. **All those forces have a common goal: to actively participate in the various deterring and defensive set ups deployed by NATO on the eastern flank of Europe.**



## A mission highlighting the importance of being familiar with the environment



The Spearhead Battalion of NATO's Reaction Force is fine-tuning its build-up and its operational training by preserving the highest level of operational readiness of its soldiers and equipment, by perfectly understanding its area of responsibility through **reconnaissance missions** and through its **reassuring posture**.

In that respect, **joint exercises and training activities** are conducted to fully master the NATO procedures and reinforce interoperability. **A number of missions** are also carried out to **deepen the knowledge of the terrain**, with the approval of and in co-ordination with the Romanian armed forces.



# THE KEY FIGURES

**800**

**military personnel**  
500 French and 300 Belgian ones

**6**

**AMX 10 RC wheeled-gunned vehicles**

**43**

**Armoured Personnel Carriers**

**27**

**Light Armoured Vehicles**

**19**

**Small Protected Vehicles**



# THE KEY DATA



**Constanța**  
Mihail Kogalniceanu base



**28th**  
February

Arrival of the first French soldiers  
in Romania



## Contact:

Joint Staff / Media Office

Phone: +33 9 88 68 28 61– +33 9 88 68 28 62

Email: [cab-cema-com.relation-presse.fct@def.gouv.fr](mailto:cab-cema-com.relation-presse.fct@def.gouv.fr)

