


MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

PRESS KIT

AIGLE mission Romania



CONTENTS

1. Mission AIGLE3
2. A multinational force in Romania.....7

1. Mission AIGLE (Mission EAGLE)

Reinforcement of NATO's deterrent and defensive posture



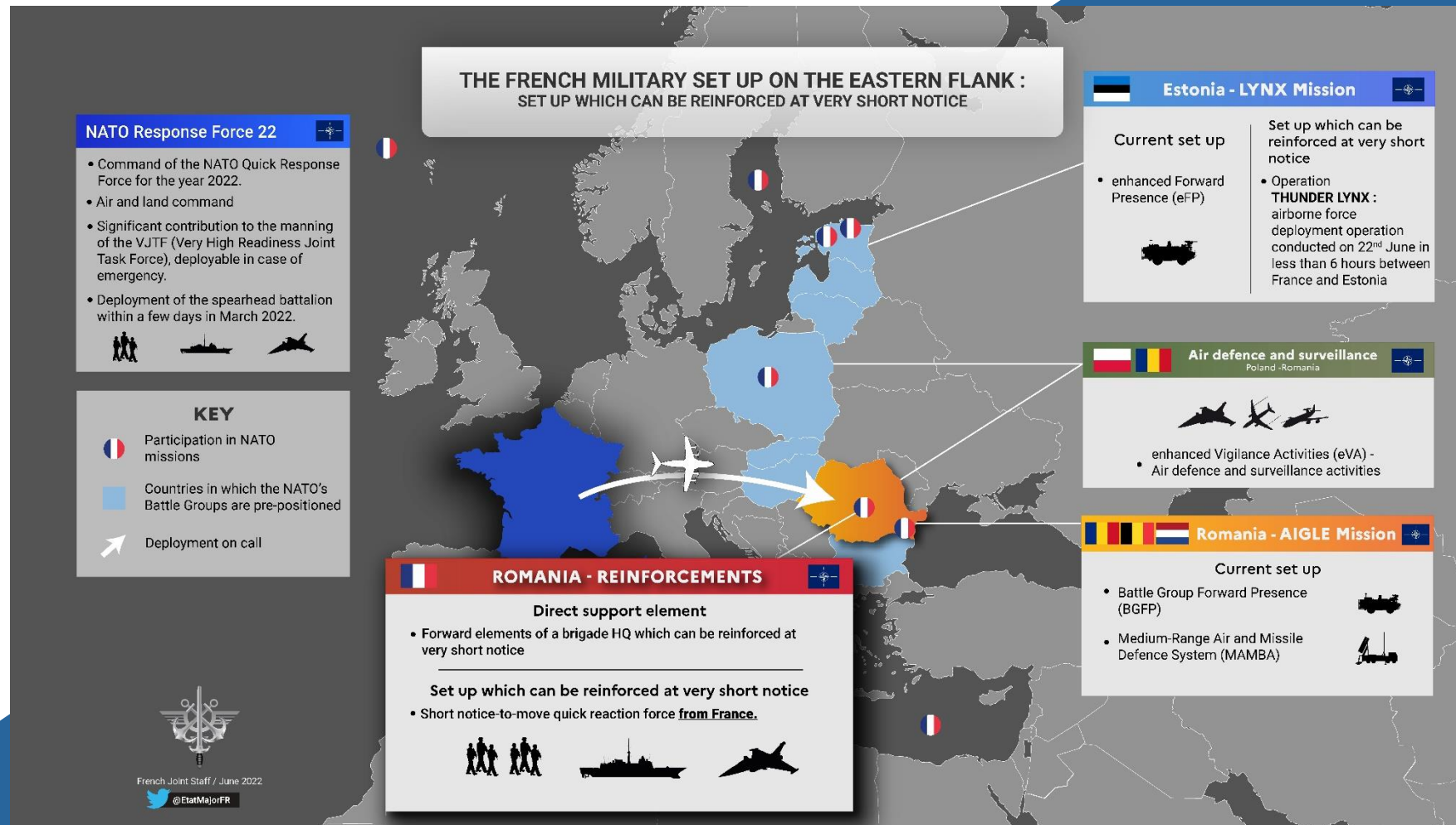
Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is one of the most serious violations of the security order in Europe for several decades. Romania, as a bordering state, fears that the conflict could spill over on to its territory.

In response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, Supreme Allied Command Europe (SACEUR) received the green light from the North Atlantic Council (NAC) to activate the *Graduated Response Plans* (GRPs), the first stage in the Alliance's regional defence plans.

The implementation of these measures is designed to prevent the conflict between Russia and Ukraine spreading beyond Ukraine's borders into NATO member states.

As part of this phase, France, acting **in the framework of Mission AIGLE**, has deployed a battalion to Romania (starting with the spearhead battalion of the rapid response force on February 28th, followed by the ***battle group forward presence since May 1st***) in order to reinforce the Alliance's deterrent and defensive posture against Russia.

France is fully committed to reinforcing the strategic solidarity that is the foundation of the North Atlantic Alliance, and **the French armed forces have already been contributing actively to NATO's reassurance missions with measured, progressive and rapid response deployments.** We are playing our full part in strengthening the various NATO capabilities, as is illustrated by the support provided at short notice to Estonia and Romania in the first hours of the war.





With this deployment, France is reinforcing its presence and commitment alongside its allies on Europe's eastern flank. It is also demonstrating the response capabilities of its armed forces and reaffirming France's strategic solidarity with Romania and the other members of the NATO Alliance.

For the first time, France is assuming the role of leading nation in a NATO reassurance mission, thereby confirming its status as a **reliable, credible and loyal ally that is fully involved in the operational activities of NATO.**

The long-term deployment of a battalion commanded by France also testifies to the reinforcement of bilateral military relations between Romania and France.



FOCUS: France as leader of the *NATO Response Force (NRF)*

The NRF is NATO's rapid response force. It is a high-readiness force deployed by decision of the North Atlantic Council in the event of a severe crisis.

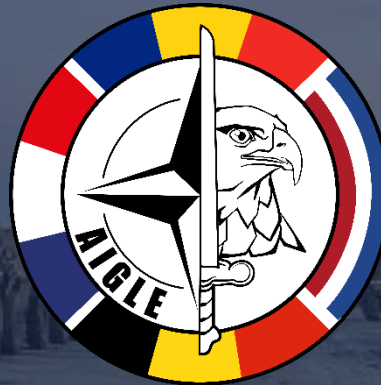
In 2022, France has a key role to play, since it holds the rotating command of the land and air components and also provides the core of the CBRN force (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear).

France commands and implements the 3 levels of engagement of this joint force response:

- the rapid response force ("spearhead" battalion), which is able to deploy in less than 7 days and is currently deployed in Romania as part of the "very high readiness joint task force" (VJTF),
- the Initial Follow-On Forces Group (IFFG), which can be mobilized within 30 to 45 days,
- the third echelon, which can be deployed in 45 to 60 days.

These units are coordinated by a central command and control element and by the commands of the individual force components (sea, air, land and special operations forces).

FOCUS: AIGLE mission - why the name



""Aigle" in French means "Eagle", and this name was chosen as a reference to the Romanian coat of arms. The four flags illustrate the engagement of forces from France, Belgium and the Netherlands in support of Romania.

2. A multinational force in Romania

750 soldiers make up the multinational force in Romania, composed of the following units:

- Battle Group Forward Presence (BGFP), in Cincu and Mihail Kogalniceanu
- Medium-range surface-to-air defence detachment (SAMP) MAMBA in Capu Midia
- Engineer detachment (DETGEN) in Cincu
- National support echelon (NSE), in Cincu and Mihail Kogalniceanu
- Senior National Representative (SNR) and liaison detachment, in Bucharest



Battle Group Forward Presence (BGFP)

Since May 1st, the multinational battalion has constituted the Battle Group Forward Presence (BGFP) in Romania, with France as the lead nation. Deployed to reinforce NATO's deterrent and defence capabilities on its eastern flank, the BGFP follows on from the spearhead battalion of the NATO Response Force (NRF). The BGFP is a multinational battalion tasked with reinforcing the operational capabilities of the deployed troops, demonstrating the determination of NATO and Europe to stand up to every threat and fully integrating into Romania's defence plan.

Under the command of a multinational brigade based in Craiova, the BGFP has specially adapted capabilities that have been deployed by France and the Netherlands. So, the BGFP beefs up the NATO capability already established by the Italians, Germans and Americans.

The Battle Group Forward Presence takes part in joint actions and missions based on the shared foundation of NATO standards, which enable the multinational forces to work together with unified concepts and methods.. These actions and missions are conducted with the armed forces of the other nations present at the Constanța base, consisting mainly of Romanian and American military personnel together with Dutch, German, Italian and British forces. **All the forces present are united in the common goal of contributing actively and tangibly to the various deterrent and defensive capabilities deployed by NATO on Europe's eastern flank.**



Battle Group Forward Presence (BGFP)

The BGFP, a battalion comprising forces from France and the Netherlands, consists of the following units:

- An infantry company of France's 8th Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment ("8^e RPIMa") from Castres.
- An armoured squadron from the 1st Hussar Parachute Regiment (1^{er} RHP), based in Tarbes.
- A tactical staff and combat supply group No.2 (logistics detachment) of 8^e RPIMa.
- A Dutch infantry company.

In August, under the command of **Colonel Christophe Degand**, commanding officer of 8^e RPIMa, the battalion will have more than **500 soldiers** (almost 400 French and 130 Dutch) with the following equipment:

- **6** wheeled armoured tank destroyers (**AMX 10 RC**), **30** armoured personnel carriers (**VAB**), **13** light armoured protected vehicles (**PVP**), **25** light armoured vehicles (**VBL**) and **37** tactical 4x4 vehicles (**VT4**) from **France**,
- **27 Jeeps** (Mercedes CDI G280), **3 quads** and **4 trucks** (Scania WLS) from the **Netherlands**.



Medium-range surface-to-air detachment (SAMP) MAMBA



Since 1 May 6th, 2022, at the request of the Romanian authorities and NATO, the French forces have deployed the MAMBA latest generation ground-to-air defence system at the Capui Midia base in Romania.

Operated by around 100 airmen, the MAMBA medium-range surface-to-air system (SAMP) is a sophisticated weapon system that can provide:

- a protective bubble for the benefit of a moving land force and other forces deployed in an operating theatre,
- the protection of high-value sites,
- simultaneous 360° defence against all types of threat from the air (fighter planes, drones, cruise or ballistic missiles etc.).





The MAMBA air defence system is composed of several interconnected modules and has the mission of **guaranteeing the air defence of the forces operating in the coverage area,**

Each launch unit of the system can salvo fire **up to eight ASTER 30 missiles**, each weighing 465 kg. The ASTER 30 missile reaches a speed of over 5000 km/h and can hit a target more than 100 km away. Several missiles can be fired simultaneously against different targets in every direction.

To increase the efficiency of the MAMBA system, it is **connected and integrated via a tactical data link to the Romanian defence system and to the NATO defence system**, which commands it. Following a test phase, the MAMBA system was certified and is now fully integrated in the NATO Integrated Air Missile Defence (IAMD).

Again, this reaffirms the status of France as a **reliable, credible and loyal ally**, demonstrating its tangible solidarity by its readiness to respond to a need expressed by the Alliance and **contributing directly to the defence and protection of Europe's eastern flank.**

The deployment of this weapon system marks the **boosting of cooperation in defence and bilateral military relations between France and Romania** (in place since 2007, especially in the surface-to-air domain), **Belgium and the Netherlands**. It also testifies to the reality of France's commitment to its European partners.

Engineer detachment (DETGEN)



136

French engineers have been deployed since May 2nd, with 82 vehicles and machines. Their mission is to support the deployment of the AIGLE force. Currently, they are concentrating their work on the military camp at Cincu, to **increase the camp's capacity to 1000 men and women** by the end of the year. Since July 1st, 55 Dutch engineers have reinforced this detachment with 70 vehicles and machines,, relieving a part of the Romanian engineer detachment. On August 7th, this detachment will be completed by 20 to 40 Belgian engineers, illustrating the multinational nature of this mission.

5

capabilities provided by DETGEN

- Topography
- Horizontal works
- Vertical infrastructure
- Energy production
- Water production



National support echelon (ESN) and liaison detachment



The ESN is responsible for the logistical support of all the French detachments deployed in the Romanian theatre. It operates in different logistic domains. It is distributed between the Mihail Kogalniceanu air base in Constanta and the Cincu camp

The Senior National Representative (SNR), **Colonel Flavien Garrigou Grandchamp**, assisted by a liaison detachment, is based at Romanian Defence Staff headquarters in Bucharest. He ensures the operational control of the French detachments placed under the authority of NATO and ensures their integration with the Romanian defence plans.



Contact

Bureau relations médias de l'état-major des armées

Tel.: +33 (0)9 88 68 28 61– +33 (0)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)

