

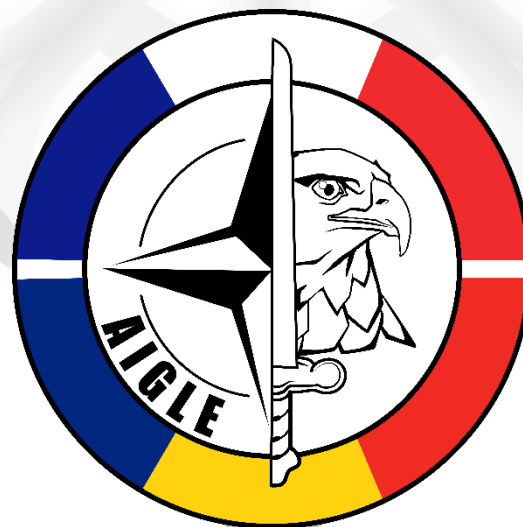
  
MINISTÈRE  
DES ARMÉES

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

# PRESS KIT

## Mission AIGLE

Romania



October 2022

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# 1. Mission AIGLE

*Reinforcement of NATO's deterrent and defensive posture*



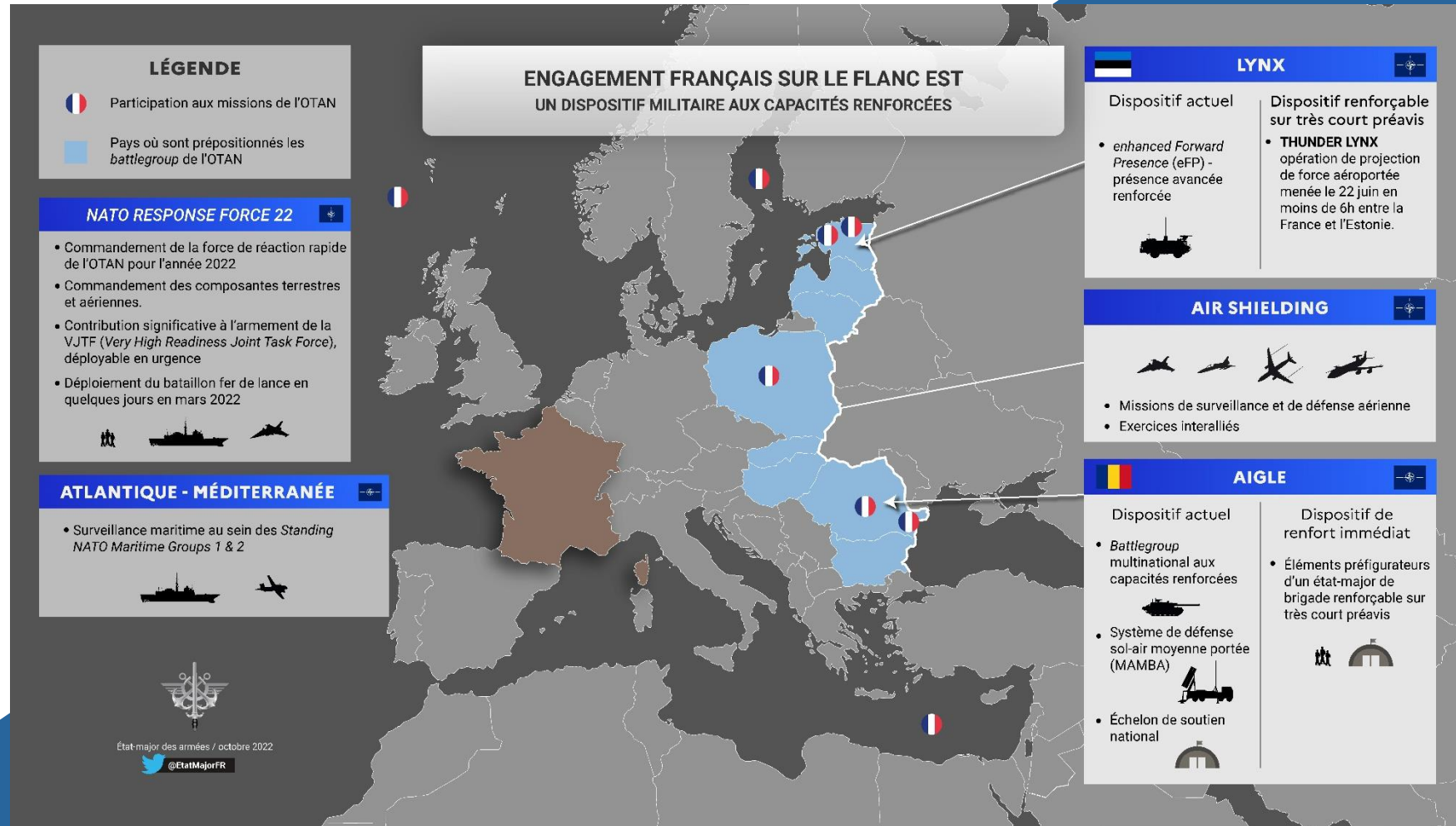
Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is one of the most serious violations of the European security order for several decades. Romania, as a bordering state, fears that the conflict could spill over on to its territory.

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

These measures are implemented in order to prevent the conflict between Russia and Ukraine from spreading beyond Ukraine's borders into NATO member states' territories.

In this regard, France has set up deployed in Romania first a spearhead battalion of the rapid response force on February 28, 2022, and then the **battle group forward presence** on May 1, 2022. France also sent a MAMBA surface-to-air defence detachment on May 16 so as to reinforce NATO's deterrent and defensive posture in Eastern Europe,

France is fully committed to reinforcing the strategic solidarity which is at the core of the North Atlantic Alliance. **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 NATO's various capabilities as is illustrated by the support provided on 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 its 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, 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 major crisis.

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

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

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

## Mission AIGLE, origin of the name



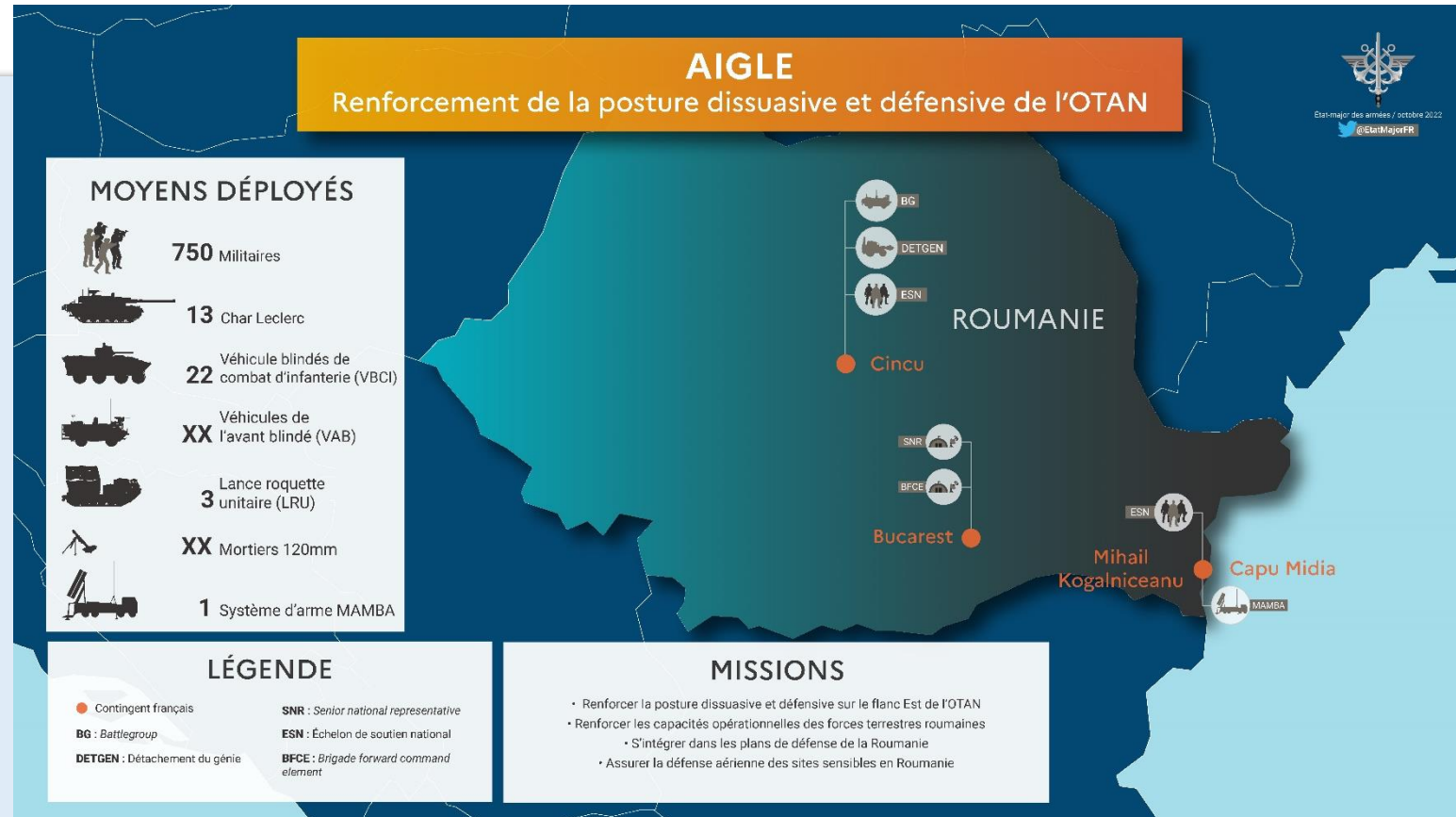
"Aigle" means "Eagle" in French. This name is a reference to the Romanian coat of arms. The four flags illustrate the joint involvement of France, Belgium and the Netherlands in support of Romania.

## 2. A multinational force in Romania

# 750

**soldiers** make up the multinational force in Romania. It is made up of the following units:

- Collective Defence Battle Group (CDBG) 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 (ESN) in Cincu and Mihail Kogalniceanu
- Senior National Representative (SNR) and liaison detachment in Bucharest





## Battlegroup Romania

Since May 1, 2022, the multinational battalion has constituted the Collective Defence Battle Group (CDBG) in Romania, with France as the lead nation. Deployed to reinforce NATO's deterrent and defence capabilities on its eastern flank, the CDBG took over NATO Response Force (NRF)'s spearhead battalion that was engaged since February 28, 2022. The CDBG is a multinational battalion whose mission is to reinforce troops that were already present in Romania, to fully fit into the Romanian defence plan and to display NATO and Europe's determination to face any threat in Eastern Europe.

Under the command of a multinational brigade based in Craiova, France and the Netherlands, within the framework of the CDBG, provides capacities adapted to the evolution of the conflict in Eastern Europe.

Shared standards and methods within NATO allow its members to carry out joint missions efficiently. These operations are conducted by soldiers from Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania and the United States. These forces live in the camps of camps of Constanța, Cincu, Caracal and Craiova. They all have in common a same objective: **actively and efficiently participating in the various deterrent and defensive NATO missions in Eastern Europe.**



**The units that constitute the CDBG are the following:**

- An armoured squadron of the 1st Regiment of Chasseurs (1<sup>er</sup> RCh) from Verdun
- A French infantry company of the 152nd Infantry Regiment (152<sup>e</sup> RI) from Colmar
- A Dutch infantry company.
- A tactical staff and combat supply group n°2 (logistics detachment) of the 1<sup>er</sup> RCh

**Colonel Alexandre Péllisier de Féligonde**, commanding officer of the 1<sup>er</sup> RCh, commands the **750 soldiers** of the CDBG along with the following equipment:

- **6 AMX 10 RC** (wheeled armoured tank destroyers), an **armoured squadron of Leclerc tanks**, **around 20 VBCI** (armoured vehicle for infantry combat), **30 VAB** (armoured personnel carriers), **13 PVP** (light armoured protected vehicles), **25 VBL** (light armoured vehicles) and **37 VT4** (tactical 4x4 vehicles) from **France**
- **27 Jeeps** (Mercedes CDI G280), **3 quads** and **4 trucks** (Scania WLS) from the **Netherlands**



## The deployment of reinforced capacities in Romania

The objective of constituting a **1,000-soldier interallied battalion in Cincu** during the first semestre of 2023 is a **pledge made to NATO at the outset of the Ukrainian crisis**. It implies for instance the establishment of an operational and logistical support point at the Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base (MKAB) that will enable the base to receive 300 soldiers. **France, as leader of the CDBG, contributed to reinforcing the capacities of the battle group by deploying Leclerc tanks and armoured vehicules for infantry combat (VBCI).**

The deployment of reinforced capacities is in line with the battle group progressively building-up as the conflict in Ukraine settles. France keeps its promises by following its initial projection plan of deploying first a spearhead battalion, then a multinational battalion and now reinforced capacities. Consequently, French deployments in Romania consists of:

- A Leclerc-tank squadron
- An infantry company → around 20 VBCI, sanitary elements (SAN) and commanding elements (PC)
- An engineering combat company
- A mixed artillery battery
- 2 Leclerc-tank repair vehicules



The deployment of reinforced capacities consolidates troop's operational capabilities on the ground and maintains their ability to organise the projection of major equipment. This is also the opportunity to control the viability of transport axis that are indispensable for a rapid deployment of force in case of a major crisis. This logistical manœuvre required a subsequent number of actors whether they were military or civil, French or foreign. Furthermore, railway transport to Eastern Europe, developed since 2017, is secured and preserves the operational capacities of the equipment transported.



## Le détachement Sol-air moyenne portée (SAMP) MAMBA



Since May 16, 2022, at the request of Romanian and NATO authorities, 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 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 both the Romanian and the NATO defence systems** which command it. Following a test phase, the MAMBA system was certified and is now fully integrated into the NATO Integrated Air Missile Defence (IAMD).

Again, this reaffirms France's status as a **reliable, credible and loyal ally** demonstrating its solidarity and 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 boosts **the military cooperation between France and its partners namely Romania (since 2007, especially in the surface-to-air area), Belgium and the Netherlands.** It also testifies to the reality of France's commitment to its European partners.

## Le Détachement génie (DETGEN)



≈ 80

**French engineers** are currently deployed with roughly 40 vehicles and machines. Their mission is to support the deployment of the CDBG. They currently focus their efforts on preparing the Cincu military camp to host 1,000 men during the first quarter of 2023. Since summer 2022, 65 Dutch, 63 Belgian and 5 Romanian engineers have reinforced the detachment with 56 vehicles thus illustrating the multinational dimension of their mission.

### 5 capabilities of the DETGEN :

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



## L'Échelon de soutien national (ESN) et l'élément de commandement brigade



The ESN guarantees the support of all the French detachments deployed in Romania. It operates in different logistic domains in the camps of Cincu, MKAB and Constanța.

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



Following the Madrid Summit in June 2022, France has decided to deploy a **Brigade Forward Command Element (BFCE)** in November in Romania. It consists of a defence staff whose tasks revolve solely around key commanding issues (C2 – Command & Control). Around 10 soldiers belong to this entity that works in relation with NATO South-East multinational division located in Bucharest.



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