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MISSION CLEMENCEAU 21







CONTENTS

MISSION CLEMENCEAU 21	4
OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE FRENCH CARRIER STRIKE GROUP	4
OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY	5
1. Deployment in areas of strategic interest	6
2. Fight against Islamist terrorism	8
3. Strengthening partnerships	8
CARRIER STRIKE GROUP	9
A UNIQUE STRATEGIC TOOL	9
COMPOSITION OF THE CLEMENCEAU 21 MISSION	11
<i>Aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle</i>	11
<i>Onboard headquarters staff structure: High readiness maritime force (FRMARFOR)</i>	11
<i>Carrier air wing</i>	12
<i>Frigates, an expanded defence</i>	13
<i>Foreign escorts, levers of cooperation</i>	14
<i>Supply ship, operational logistical support</i>	15
<i>Nuclear submarine, ears under the sea</i>	15
<i>Maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique 2, eyes above the sea</i>	15
<i>Biography of Rear Admiral Marc Aussedat, commanding officer of Task Force 473</i>	17
<i>Biography of Captain Guillaume Pinget, commanding officer of aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle</i>	18
<i>Press Contacts</i>	19



MISSION CLEMENCEAU 21

OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE FRENCH CARRIER STRIKE GROUP

From February to June 2021, France deploys its carrier strike group (CSG), formed as *Task Force 473*, around the aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* and its air wing. This naval force will be engaged in the eastern Mediterranean, in the Persian Gulf and in the Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea).

The carrier strike group will participate twice in *INHERENT RESOLVE* in the Persian Gulf and eastern Mediterranean.

This long-term deployment builds on the unique capabilities of the aircraft carrier to deepen knowledge of the areas visited, and to contribute to the stabilization of strategic zones (Euro-Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, Red Sea and Indian Ocean). The carrier group will ensure an operational presence, both reactive and adaptable, able to respond to regional security issues and to continue the fight against jihadist terrorism in the Middle East, complementing the French forces already involved in this theatre of operation.



This apparatus will see its abilities optimized thanks to the integration of allied resources (European and NATO), which implements the common engagement in the treatment of security threats.

As a robust prevention and response capability, the carrier group will also contribute to the bilateral cooperation with most of the partner countries bordering on its route, both in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean.





OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY

CLEMENCEAU 21 follows on from the eponymous mission completed in 2019, through its footprint in the Indian Ocean and through the same dynamic of cooperation with the allies of the Indo-Pacific region (Japanese, Australian and Indian).

The major cooperation exercises that took place in 2019 will be executed again during the 2021 edition of *CLEMENCEAU*.

The program and the deployment areas will also demonstrate continuity with the 2019 mission. *CLEMENCEAU 21* will take a path similar to that started two years earlier by the carrier strike group (eastern Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian Ocean) and will pursue the same objectives of security and defence of freedom of action in these strategic areas.



The name of this mission refers to the architect of the 1918 victory, celebrated once again on the occasion of this deployment. The character of Georges Clemenceau illustrates the effort of cooperation and partnership towards the East, a path that the "Tiger" himself took in 1920. It also underlines the bond he had with the United States, a nation that participates in the 2021 mission (contribution of a US escort ship to the carrier strike group and cooperation actions).

Finally, this mission follows on from previous missions bearing the name of former French aircraft carriers (*BOIS-BELLEAU, ARROMANCHES, FOCH*).



1. DEPLOYMENT IN AREAS OF STRATEGIC INTEREST

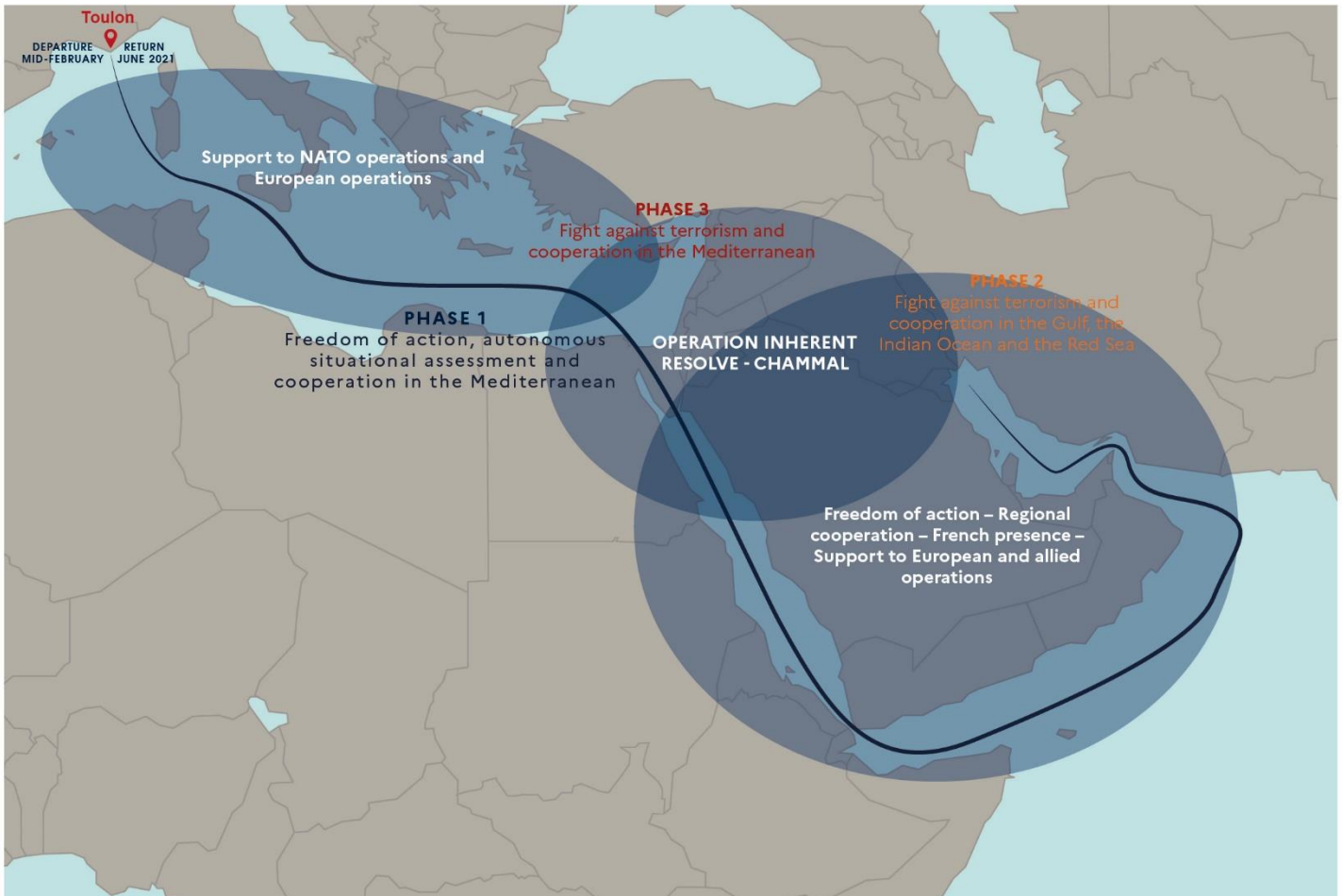
With mission *CLEMENCEAU 21*, the French Navy is deploying a versatile and relevant military presence in areas of strategic interest: the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

Strategically pre-positioned, the carrier strike group offers a capacity for graduated action at any time, from a simple deterrent presence to in-depth strikes, according to the demands of the political and military authorities.

Combining means of surveillance, protection and intervention, France strives to maintain its autonomous capacity for situational assessment and to reduce destabilizing and risk factors, thus contributing to the preservation of free movement and maintaining geopolitical stability.



CLEMENCEAU 21





Mediterranean

The Mediterranean occupies a strategic location: 25% of the world's maritime flows cross it. Projecting the carrier strike group in this area of tension makes it possible to position a naval aviation force for surveillance, autonomous situational assessment and intervention, ready to act depending on operational needs and according to the directives of the political power. Since 2011, the French Navy has ensured a permanent French naval presence in the Eastern Mediterranean and thus participates in monitoring the situation in the Middle East.

Persian Gulf

Securing the Persian Gulf, which constitutes a strategic area because it is surrounded by vital nerve points for the world economy (Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez), is the subject of constant attention by France and its allies, as illustrates the operation AGENOR of protection of European interests in Hormuz.



The presence of the carrier strike group and the regular deployment of naval assets within this tense and contested area help to ensure safety and freedom of action. At the same time, the fight against terrorism is a major issue in this area. The carrier strike group is deploying its resources to fight Islamist jihadism there, which represents a major threat to Europe, France and its allies.

Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is the gateway for 25% of world trade and 75% of EU exports. France is the only European country to have a permanent military presence in the Indian Ocean. French Navy ships contribute to the stabilization and protection of national interests.

This deployment will strengthen our connections with our strategic partners in the area, by developing strong relationships and working habits and by promoting mutual knowledge.



2. FIGHT AGAIN ISLAMIST TERRORISM

The French Navy plays a significant part in the fight against terrorism, in particular by deploying its ships in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. French Navy vessels are permanently deployed in this area for surveillance and intelligence gathering missions.

The operational deployment of *CLEMENCEAU 21* illustrates France's determination to bring the military defeat of Daesh to its conclusion while at the same time countering any re-emergence, in coordination with our allies.

During the mission, the carrier strike group will join the military apparatus of Operation CHAMMAL. Launched on 19 September 2014, it represents the French participation in Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. At the request of the Iraqi government and in coordination with the allies of France present in the region, Operation CHAMMAL supports the action of local forces engaged on the ground against Daesh by aiming to destroy the military capacities of the terrorist group.

Between 2015 and 2021, the carrier strike group has been involved several times, within a coalition, in the fight against Daesh in the Middle East. This support, which has been illustrated during operations *ARROMANCHES I, II* and *III*, *CLEMENCEAU* and *FOCH*, will be renewed during the *CLEMENCEAU 21* mission.

3. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS



"These multilateral initiatives are complementary to the bilateral relations that we maintain with our partners, notably our German, British and American partners, in particular on the operational and capacity aspects. These bilateral relations are exemplified by the French-German defence councils, the treaties of Lancaster House or the common fight against jihadist terrorism."

Excerpt from the French Military Planning Law 2019-2025

This deployment will strengthen the exchanges with our strategic partners, by developing strong links, work habits and mutual knowledge essential to operational efficiency.

The deployment of the TF 473 underlines the interest that France has in these regions and in the cooperation with partner navies.



CARRIER STRIKE GROUP



A UNIQUE STRATEGIC TOOL

The French carrier strike group, as *Task force 473*, is an asset for political/military and diplomatic power. It is a truly strategic tool which delivers a graduated range of options, adaptable to the needs of political authorities.

It produces multiple effects:

- Reversibility and strategic mobility (the aircraft carrier is capable of traveling 1,000 km per day, with a freedom of movement guaranteed by the nature itself of the maritime space);
- Power projection giving France the ability to enter a theatre first with high reactivity, including for high intensity combat, thanks to the Rafale Marine fighter aircraft and naval cruise missiles. A Rafale Marine can take off every 30 seconds from the aircraft carrier.

The carrier strike group enjoys a command capability from the sea, as close as possible to major theatres of operation. Its ability to last during operations makes the carrier strike group a tool of diplomatic and military messages, and of deterrence thanks to the nuclear naval aviation force (FANu) that it deploys.

This important naval aviation force, thanks to its multiple and modern sensors, provides an autonomous assessment of the situation and ensures, in all three dimensions (above, on and under the sea), a commitment to the fight against threats that weigh on our interests.

It brings together allied resources, particularly European ones. The Belgian frigate *Leopold I*, a Greek *Spetsai*-class frigate and US destroyer *Porter* will take part in TF 473 during *CLEMENCEAU 21*. The carrier strike group is a real lever for cooperation with regional partners. This international dimension of the carrier strike group demonstrates the interoperability and high level of cooperation and trust between Allied navies.



The carrier strike group's 13th deployment since 2001

For the last 20 years, after the equivalent of 24 round-the-world trips in nautical miles covered, and more than 40,000 launches of fighter aircraft, the CVN *Charles de Gaulle* and its carrier group were engaged in most of the international conflicts in which France participated and in the fight against terrorism:

- **HERACLES:** between December 2001 and July 2002, support operations to troops deployed in Afghanistan in the frame of the multinational operation ENDURING FREEDOM (activated after the 9/11 terrorist attacks).
- **AGAPANTHE:** between 2002 and 2011 (4 campaigns), regular power projection missions in support of land operations in Afghanistan.
- **HARMATTAN:** in March 2011, engagement of the aircraft carrier in Libya during 145 successive days.



- **BOIS BELLEAU:** from November 2013 to February 2014, mission of cooperation with allied navies and deployment in areas of strategic interest (eastern Mediterranean, Arabian Gulf).
- **ARROMANCHES:** between 2015 and 2016 (3 campaigns): 14 months of deployment in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Arabian Gulf.
- **CLEMENCEAU:** between March and July 2019, deployment of the carrier strike group in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Indian Ocean.
- **FOCH:** between January and April 2020, deployment of the carrier strike group in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Atlantic Ocean.



COMPOSITION OF THE CLEMENCEAU 21 MISSION

CARRIER VESSEL NUCLEAR CHARLES DE GAULLE



Crew: 1,200

Main mission: control of air and maritime operations and power projection.

New generation carrier vessel nuclear (CVN) *Charles de Gaulle* gives France a versatile and graduated range of options; all deliverable from the sea. This is a strategic asset thanks to the freedom of action delivered by its maritime areas. This enables a kind of autonomy of action, flexibility, power projection, mobility and endurance.

The French CVN in numbers

A displacement of 42,500 tons (4 times the weight of the Eiffel Tower);
 Average age of the crew: 30 years; proportion of women: 15.4%;
 A 75-meter deck for catapult launching and landing aircraft weighing 15 to 25 tons (i.e. an acceleration from 0 to 260 km/h in less than 3 seconds during a launch for the pilots of Rafale Marine and Hawkeye, the equivalent of 5g).
 Catapult launching possible every 30 seconds.

ONBOARD HEADQUARTERS STAFF STRUCTURE:

FRENCH MARITIME FORCE (FRMARFOR)

Crew: 75

Main mission: commanding the task force from aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*.



Rear admiral Marc Aussedat is running the high readiness maritime force (FRMARFOR) and the Task Force 473, from the CVN *Charles de Gaulle*. He has at his disposal an operations control centre, an intelligence centre, a strategic planning team and logistical support. He is in direct contact with national, joint and combined command structures.



Deployed during peacetime, a crisis or a conflict, the FRMARFOR (French Maritime Force) is organised and equipped to take part to a national mission, or among NATO, the EU or a coalition. FRMARFOR is thus qualified to operate as part of the NATO Response Force (NRF), of which it will be the maritime component (MCC) on alert in 2021.



CARRIER AIR WING:



20 Rafale Marine (F3R) fighters

Main Mission: power projection, air defence, reconnaissance.
As France's most modern combat aircraft, it is a multipurpose fighter with a long-range intervention capability, including an air-to-air refuelling capacity.



2 E-2C Hawkeye aircrafts

Main mission: detection and air traffic control.
This is the only advanced observation embarked aircraft.



2 Dauphin Pedro helicopters

Main Mission: search and rescue missions.



1 Caïman Marine helicopter

Main mission: naval warfare (anti-submarine warfare, ship attack, logistical cargo capacity).





FRIGATES, AN EXPANDED DEFENCE



The carrier group always includes first-rate frigates, essential to guarantee the freedom of action of the aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*.

The replacement of former anti-submarine (FASM) and anti-aircraft frigates (FAA) by air defence (FDA) and multi-mission frigates (FREMM) has been providing a more extensive action capability.

These new ships carry state-of-the-art weapons systems, capable of firing Aster 15 and 30 missiles, MU90 torpedoes, or naval cruise missiles (MdCN) to perform in-depth strikes.

As part of the 3D control of maritime space, the FDAs and FREMMs have a detection capability and firepower that usefully complement those of the carrier wing.

Air defence destroyer *Chevalier Paul* (FDA)

Crew: 195

Missions: air defence and command of air operations



Multi-mission frigates *Provence* and *Auvergne* (FREMM)

Crew: 125

Missions: naval warfare (anti-submarine & anti-surface warfare), power projection, projection operations support

Onboard Helicopter: 1 Caiman Marine



FOREIGN ESCORTS, LEVERS OF COOPERATION

Ships from other European and allied navies will take part in mission *CLEMENCEAU 21*: the *FFGH Leopold I* from Belgium, a *Spetsai*-class frigate from Greece, and *USS Porter* from the USA. Alongside the French frigates, they will participate in the defence of the carrier strike group, a formidable aggregator of European and international assets. This international task force proves the interoperability between allied navies but also their high level of mutual trust and cooperation.



Belgian frigate *Leopold I* (*Karel Doorman*-class)

Crew: 145

Missions: *Karel Doorman*-class frigate, very well suited to escort missions

Onboard Helicopter: Alouette III

Greek *Spetsai*-class frigate

Crew: 173

Missions: surface warfare capabilities

Onboard Helicopter: Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk



American destroyer *USS Porter*

Crew: 210

Missions: *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer



SUPPLY SHIP, OPERATIONAL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

The mission of the command and replenishment ship (BCR) is to deliver fuel, water, food, ammunition and spare parts to all the units of the carrier strike group.



Command and supply ship *Var* (BCR)

Crew: 165

Missions: logistics and replenishment at sea

NUCLEAR SUBMARINE, EARS UNDER THE SEA

Playing the role of a scout, the nuclear submarine (SNA) provides early warning for the force. When the carrier strike group operates in a defined area, the submarine provides discreet and effective protection by placing herself between potential threats and the aircraft carrier. She is also capable of carrying out other missions ranging from discreet intelligence gathering to anti-submarine warfare and deploying special forces.



1 nuclear submarine (SNA)

Crew: 70

Missions: intelligence gathering and intervention against naval or submarine threats

MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT ATLANTIQUE 2, EYES ABOVE THE SEA

The Atlantique 2 maritime patrol aircraft, based on land and integrated into the carrier strike group, perform intelligence missions on the high seas, as well as anti-submarine warfare. They can also participate in power projection missions and deliver weapons on land targets (laser-guided bombs).



1 maritime patrol aircraft *Atlantique 2*

Missions: maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare, land and naval air attack, intelligence gathering





BIOGRAPHY OF REAR ADMIRAL MARC AUSSEDAT

Commanding officer of Task Force 473



Having joined the French Naval Academy in 1988, he served successively aboard the test and experimentation vessel *Commandant Rivière*, the patrol ship *Quartier-maître Anquetil* (operations in the Adriatic off the former Yugoslavia, in the Red Sea as part of mission *Artimon* and in the Indian Ocean) and the anti-aircraft frigate *Jean Bart*, as gunner and later as detector.

After a time in the training division of the Naval Action Force Staff (ALFAN), in 1999-2000 he commanded the hydrographic vessel *Laplace* which he brought from New Caledonia to mainland France.

Assigned in 2000 to Lorient to follow the fitting-out of frigate *Guépratte*, he assumed the functions of deputy commanding officer for operations. Once the ship was commissioned, he led her first missions, including *Heraclès - Enduring Freedom*, in the Indian Ocean.

In 2002, he was appointed head of the training group for above-water warfare at the naval training centre in Saint-Mandrier.

After graduating from the 11th class of the French war school, he joined the directorate of navy military personnel, where he was in charge of officers' recruitment from 2004 to 2007.

In 2005, he graduated from the HEC Executive MBA.

He commanded the frigate *Courbet* from December 2007 to July 2009. He then led the first mission of a French ship within the maritime UNIFIL off the coast of Lebanon. Engaged in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia, the frigate contributed in particular to the release of the hostages of the French sailboat *Carré d'As IV*.

From 2009 to 2011, he served with the deputy chief for international relations of the French joint staff. He coordinated the action of the divisions involved in international relations and the relationship between the naval staff and the joint staff in this field.

He commanded the air defence frigate *Forbin* from July 2011 to July 2013. His ship was deployed three times on operational missions in the eastern Mediterranean.

He is an auditor of the 63rd session of the Centre for Advanced Military Studies (CHEM) and of the 66th session of the Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defence (2013-2014).

From 2014 to 2018, in the capability coherence division of the joint staff, he was a member of the college of operational coherence officers, before becoming its secretary general in 2017, during the preparation of the French Military Planning Law 2019-2025.

Appointed deputy commander of the maritime component of the French high readiness force, he joined FRMARFOR in August 2018. From January to May 2019 he was deputy commander of operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA during the transition from Northwood (UK) and Rota (Spain).

Promoted to rear admiral on 1 June 2019, he commanded the carrier group (CTF 473) from 2 June to 7 July 2019 during mission *CLEMENCEAU*.

In 2020, He commanded CTF 473 from January to April during the FOCH mission.

He has been in command of the high readiness maritime force since 1 September 2019 and he is also deputy to the commander of the French naval action force (ALFAN) for the operational training of the force staffs.



BIOGRAPHY OF CAPTAIN GUILLAUME PINGET

Commanding officer of aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*



Having joined the French Naval Academy in 1993, he chose the specialty of detecting officer at the end of the 1995-1996 campaign of the naval officers' training school group aboard the *Jeanne d'Arc* helicopter carrier.

He graduated from the French School of Combat Systems and Naval Weapons, option above-water warfare, in 2001, was a student of the 16th class of the French Joint Defence College (2008-2009) and obtained the certificate of navy atomic engineer, option reactors in June 2016.

An auditor of the 68th session of the Centre for Advanced Military Studies and of the 71st session of the Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defence (2018-2019), **he has been in command of the nuclear aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* since 6 July 2019.**

His on-board assignments led him to serve aboard the following ships:

- patrol ship *La Moqueuse*, in the Pacific, from 1996 to 1998, as operations officer, then second officer; he took part in presence and maritime surveillance operations in the archipelagos of New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and in the countries bordering their maritime areas.
- anti-submarine frigate *Primauguet*, in the Atlantic, from 1998 to 2000, as head of the operational information sector, then electromagnetic detection; in particular, he participated in several operations to support the Strategic Oceanic Force (SSBNs) and in a deployment north of the Arctic Circle.
- patrol ship *Commandant Ducuing*, based in Toulon, from 2001 to 2003, as operations officer; he was deployed to the Indian Ocean when Operation Enduring Freedom began after the September 11 attacks.
- air defence frigate *Jean Bart*, from 2003 to 2005, as head of the information service, integrated into the carrier strike group for two deployments in the Indian Ocean (Agapanthe 04) - including a phase of support for operations in Afghanistan - and in the Atlantic (FRAME 05).

He was in command of:

- patrol ship *Commandant Birot* from 2005 to 2007, with which he was deployed in the Indian Ocean as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- light stealth frigate *Guépratte* from 2012 to 2014, with which he took part in the ATALANTA operation to combat piracy and in two operations to combat drug trafficking in the Mediterranean.

He has experience as a staff officer:

- during temporary missions to Naples (2001) at the COMSTRIKEFORSSOUTH headquarters and then in Bahrain (2005) as a liaison officer to the U.S. admiral commanding the 5th fleet;
- as chief of staff to the admiral commanding the French Naval Action Force from 2007 to 2008;
- as military assistant to the Chief of the Joint Defence Staff from 2009 to 2012.

His recent experience is focused on the carrier strike group and nuclear aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*:

- within the carrier group staff from 2014 to 2016, he served as deputy for operations, and then chief of staff for the two deployments ARROMANCHES 1 and 2, during which the carrier group was engaged in the Middle East as part of operation CHAMMAL;
- as second in command of the nuclear aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*, he was again engaged in the Middle East as part of operation CHAMMAL from September to December 2016, before the aircraft carrier started its half-life refit.



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The French Navy operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, on and under all the seas of the world, in the air and on land, in order to ensure the safety of the French people and to defend national interests. Its 42,000 sailors (military and civilian) lead five major missions:

Deterrence

At least one nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) is permanently deployed since 1972 to protect France's vital interests;

Protection

The French Navy acts constantly to protect maritime approaches from threats at sea or coming from the sea. It also participates in State action at sea, intervening daily in areas under French sovereignty and jurisdiction;

Prevention

The French Navy adopts a stance of permanent vigilance in strategic areas to prevent the outbreak or deterioration of crises;

Knowledge and anticipation

Leveraging the various intelligence gathering assets it deploys around the world, the French Navy exploits many sensors enabling it to maintain its knowledge of potential crisis areas and to detect, as soon as possible, the appearance of new tensions;

Intervention

With its means of projecting power and force, the French Navy intervenes as close as possible to threats and crises, alone or as part of multilateral coalitions and cooperation. It is committed to long-term action and stands ready to intervene without delay in the event of a deterioration in the situation at sea or on land.

The French Navy works to prevent crises that can threaten France in an international context of extremely rapid change. For this purpose, it permanently deploys at least one nuclear ballistic missile submarine, on average 35 warships, 5 aircraft, as well as commando units, i.e. nearly 4,500 sailors on, under and above the sea and on land, serving the interests of France and of the French people.

In 2020, the French Navy recruited and trained more than 3,500 seamen and women, aged between 17 and 30, with an educational background starting with a Year 10 to a Master. In order to update its know-how and maintain its operational capability, the French Navy each year recruits future seamen in more than 50 professions.

It is supported by a network composed of 45 CIRFAs (Centres d'information et de recrutement des forces armées / Joint centres for information and recruitment) organised on the French territory but also overseas. More information on:

www.etremarin.fr.