



PRESS KIT - FRENCH NAVY

MISSION CLEMENCEAU 22



Carrier Strike Group Deployment





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MISSION CLEMENCEAU 22

OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE FRENCH CARRIER STRIKE GROUP

From February to April 2022, France deploys its carrier strike group (CSG), formed as *Task Force 473*, around the carrier vessel nuclear (CVN) *Charles de Gaulle* and its air wing. This naval force will be mainly engaged in the Mediterranean during the mission CLEMENCEAU 22.



This deployment throughout the Mediterranean basin will enable the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) to project power in support of the fight against terrorism in the Middle East, to maintain a high level of independent situational awareness, to affirm France's attachment to freedom of action and to freedom of maritime and air navigation, and to participate in the protection of the European continent, while France took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months, from 1 January to 30 June 2022.



This long-term deployment builds on the unique and complementary capabilities of the aircraft carrier and its CSG to deepen knowledge of the areas visited, and to



contribute to the stabilization of strategic zones of permanent competition. The carrier strike group will ensure an operational presence, both reactive and adaptable, able to respond to regional security issues and to continue the fight against terrorism in the Middle East, complementing the French forces already involved in this theatre of operation.

Finally, in the context of reassurance and situation assessment measures, a destroyer is planned to be dissociated from the CSG in order to reach the Black Sea area. Rafale Marine flights are also planned above the Black Sea.

Deployed in a complex strategic environment within mission CLEMENCEAU 22, the CSG will set sail on 1 February, after a ramp-up phase following the technical shutdown of the aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* in the summer of 2021. This ramp-up phase was marked in particular by exercise POLARIS 21, an unprecedented major event of operational preparation for a high-intensity engagement, which saw the CSG's capabilities tested in all fields and environments of conflict, in a realistic scenario, taking into account the reality of current upper-end threats.

A unique military capability in Europe, which fosters cooperation

The CSG brings together an international air-sea force, with multi-domain military capabilities (at sea, under the sea, in the air, on land, in cyberspace and in electromagnetic fields). Set up as TF 473, it contributes simultaneously to the control of vast air and sea spaces, to the maintenance of an autonomous situation assessment capability, to the projection of power far and in depth and to the ability to enter first into a theatre, including in a contested environment.





As the only military capability of this level in Europe, the CSG constitutes a lever of cooperation that is particularly valued by the partner nations and allies of France. As a natural aggregator of capabilities provided by international assets, the CSG gives substance to the ability of the French armed forces to command combined projection and intervention missions. During mission CLEMENCEAU 22, TF 473 will integrate units from various navies of the European Union (Belgium, Spain, Greece) and NATO (United States), which will participate in the protection of the aircraft carrier alongside French ships.

These integrations are a testament to the high level of cooperation and trust between the allied navies, but also to their commitment to securing Europe and its maritime approaches. Interoperability between partner nations will also be strengthened, a guarantee of effectiveness in the Allied and European ability to react at short notice to a crisis on the flanks of Europe.



Focus : the French-Greek partnership in the spotlight

The interactions with our Greek strategic partner during mission CLEMENCEAU 22 will illustrate the will of France and Greece to act together.



Signed on 28 September 2021, the strategic partnership agreement between France and Greece aims to consolidate and sustainably structure defence cooperation between the two countries. It also participates in strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy and sovereignty, in particular by ensuring respect for international law, including the law of the sea. Finally, it takes the form of frequent high-level meetings, reinforced bilateral military cooperation, as well as shared capability projects. The interactions carried out in this context will materialise in particular by a call of the CSG in Piraeus, the port of Athens.



In-depth defence of France and Europe

Supported by high-level capabilities, which enable action over the entire spectrum in a graduated and modular way, TF 473 is part of the strategic functions “knowledge and anticipation”, “prevention” and “intervention”.

This deployment thus contributes to the autonomous situation assessment capability that is essential for France to prevent crises and, if necessary, to intervene to defend its interests and those of its partners, Europe and NATO in particular.



This deployment, in a strategic area marked by hardening regional tensions, underlines France’s attachment to freedom of action and to freedom of maritime and air navigation. As part of CLEMENCEAU 22, the CSG is also able to support France’s operational commitments to the European Union (EUNAVFORMED IRINI¹), within NATO and the area of responsibility of SACEUR (Supreme Allied Command for Europe), or another coalition (CHAMMAL).

Focus on European cooperation actions

As illustrated by the deployment of the CSG during mission CLEMENCEAU 22, France is a credible and unifying partner, as it maintains a significant and regular military presence in Europe and its approaches.

During its deployment in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the CSG is able to support European operations such as IRINI or ALTHEA², but also to interact with the various armed forces of the European countries bordering its deployment zones.

These different types of cooperation contribute directly to the creation of European strategic sovereignty, compatible with NATO commitments. A destroyer of the carrier strike group is planned to sail to the Black Sea during mission CLEMENCEAU 22. Exercises between the Rafale Marine of the Carrier air wing and the Romanian Air Force are also planned.

¹ Launched on 31 March 2020, Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI aims to enforce the United Nations arms embargo on Libya with air, space and maritime assets. At the same time, it contributes to the enforcement of United Nations measures aimed at preventing the illicit export of oil from Libya, and to the capacity building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard.

² Since 2004, Operation ALTHEA, led by the European Union force (EUFOR) and supported by NATO, has brought together various member countries cooperating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a border area of the European Union which has gone through periods of tensions and clashes in the 1990s. In order to guarantee the stability of the area, the French military cooperated with their European partners within the framework of stabilisation operations.



Continuity of the French military effort in the fight against terrorism in the Middle East

In the Eastern Mediterranean, the CSG will be integrated into Operation CHAMMAL, the French component of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR), bringing together 78 countries and 5 international organisations. OIR's mission is now one of advice, assistance and facilitation. At the request of the Iraqi government, it continues the fight against ISIS (Daech), which today has been reduced to an insurrection, by supporting the ISF in acquiring operational autonomy.

In coordination with the Iraqi government and France's allies present in the theatre, Operation CHAMMAL provides military support to local forces engaged in the fight against ISIS on their territory.



This participation of the CSG in CHAMMAL/OIR is part of the continuous action of the French armed forces carried out since 2014 in the Middle East, within the coalition, to allow the regional security forces to prevent the reconstitution of the capacities of ISIS, which is now engaged in an asymmetric fight against the Iraqi state. Since the defeat of its territorial caliphate in 2019, ISIS no longer controls any territory in the Middle East. The jihadist group has however changed its modes of action, and still constitutes a threat. OIR and Operation CHAMMAL have continuously adapted to support the ramp-up of local forces, which France and the coalition continue to support in their fight.



During CLEMENCEAU 22, the Rafale Marine and E-2C Hawkeye aircraft from the carrier air wing will reinforce the action of the French military capabilities deployed in the Middle East. Complementary to the Rafale of the French Air and Space Force engaged in this theatre, the aircrafts of the carrier air wing will take part in the air missions of CHAMMAL. The Rafale Marine, to the F3-R standard, have cutting-edge armament and capabilities, particularly suited to intelligence and ground troops support missions.



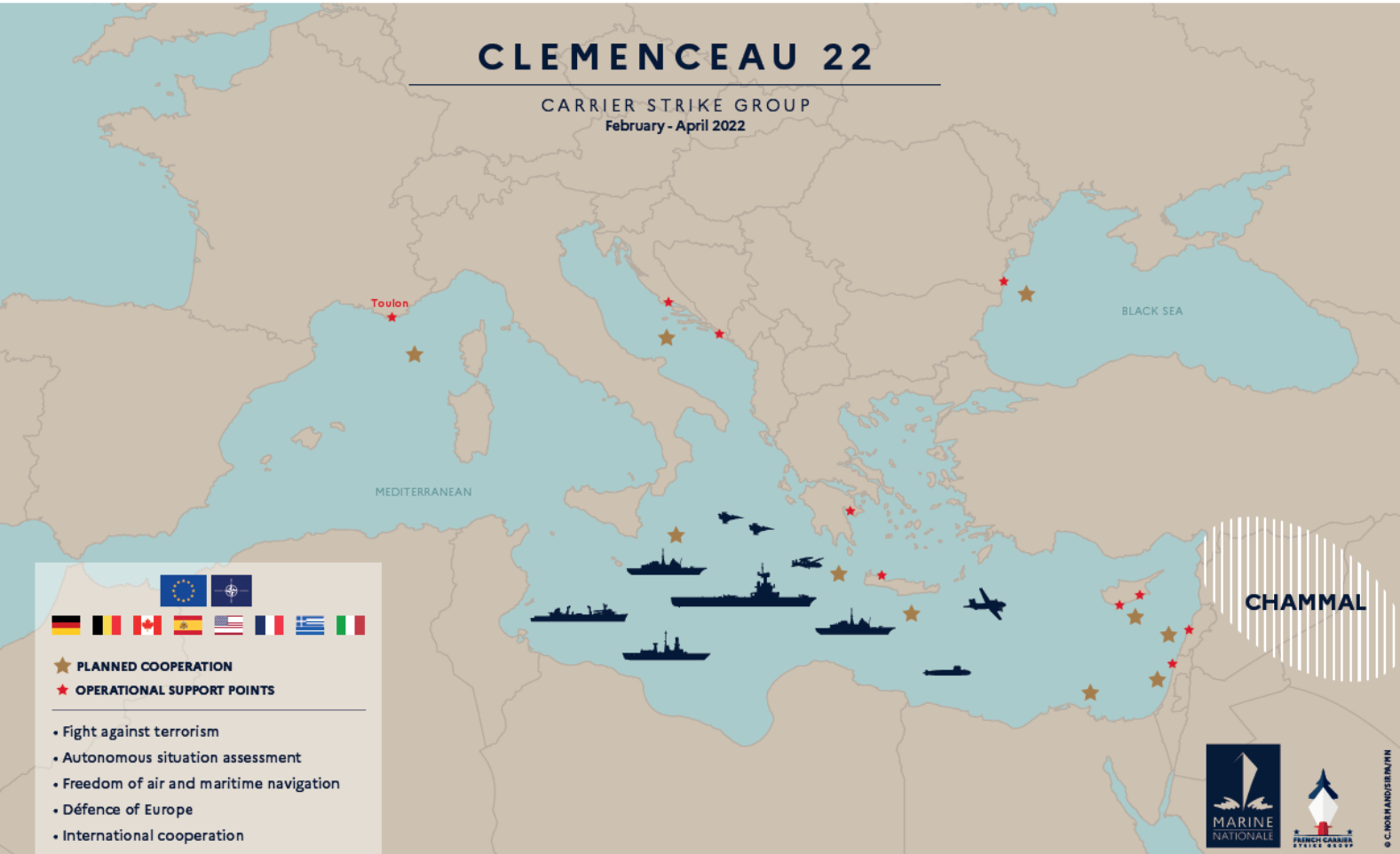
By reinforcing Operation CHAMMAL/OIR with air-sea capabilities for surveillance, autonomous situation assessment and intervention, the CSG illustrates France's determination to counter any resurgence of the ISIS in the Middle East and confirms the high degree of France's commitment within this coalition.

Focus : CHAMMAL/INHERENT RESOLVE

Since 2014, this will be the 7th integration of the CSG within CHAMMAL/OIR, after missions ARROMANCHES I, II and III, followed by the deployments CLEMENCEAU 19, FOCH in 2020 and CLEMENCEAU 21.



CLEMENCEAU 22, CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECURITY OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT IN A STRATEGIC AREA



CLEMENCEAU 22

This mission is a continuation of the Operation CLEMENCEAU carried out by the CSG in 2019 and 2021, from which it takes its name. The mission bears, as previous missions (ARROMANCHES, BOIS-BELLEAU, FOCH) did, the name of a former French aircraft carrier. This name also refers to the architect of the 1918 victory. The character of Georges Clemenceau illustrates the effort of cooperation and partnership towards the East, a path that the “Tiger” himself took in 1920.

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.





THE 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 federates allied capacities, in particular from Europe. The Spanish F100-class destroyer *Juan de Borbón*, the Greek Eli-class frigate *Adrias*, a Greek submarine and the American Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS *Ross* will be integrated into TF 473 during CLEMENCEAU 22. These naval capabilities will also be joined by a Belgian NH90 helicopter detachment, on board the French destroyer *Forbin*, and by an American P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft.

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.



COMPOSITION OF THE CLEMENCEAU 22 MISSION

Onboard headquarters staff structure: High readiness maritime force (FRMARFOR)

Crew : 80

Main mission : commanding the Task force 473 ships from aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*.



The CSG is ran, from the carrier vessel nuclear *Charles de Gaulle*, by the commanding officer of the French High readiness maritime force (FRMARFOR) and commanding officer of the Task force 473, Rear admiral Christophe Cluzel. 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 has been the maritime component (MCC) on alert in 2021.



Carrier vessel nuclear (CVN) *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 and to its capacity of power projection. This enables a kind of autonomy of action, flexibility, power, mobility and endurance.

The French CVN in numbers

42 500 tons (4 times the weight of the Eiffel Tower)

30 years of average age of the crew members

15.4% women proportion

75 meters: the length of the deck for catapult launching and landing aircrafts weighing **15** to **25** tons

0 to 260 km/h in less than **3 seconds** during a launch of Rafale Marine and Hawkeye aircrafts

30 seconds: the interval needed between two catapult launchings.

Focus : 13th deployment of the carrier strike group

For the last 20 years, after the equivalent of 24 round-the-world trips in nautical miles covered, and more than 50.000 launches of fighter aircrafts, 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.





Carrier air wing

Crew : 458

20 Rafale Marine (F3R) fighters

12F and 17F Squadrons

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.

2 E-2C Hawkeye aircrafts

4F Squadron

Main mission: detection and air traffic control.

This is the only advanced observation embarked aircraft.



1 Dauphin Pedro and 1 Panther helicopters

35F and 36F Squadrons

Main mission: search and rescue missions.

1 Caiman Marine helicopter

31F Squadron

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





Destroyers, an expanded defence

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

These modern units (air defence destroyer – FDA (*frégate de défense aérienne*), multi-purpose destroyer – FREMM (*frégate multi-missions*) and multi-purpose destroyer with reinforced air defence capabilities – FREMM DA, resulting from the renewal of the air defence component of the French Navy) provide an extended capacity for action.

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.

CLEMENCEAU 22 is the first operational deployment integrating a FREMM DA, *Alsace*, commissioned in November 2021.



Air defence destroyer (FDA – frégate de défense aérienne) *Forbin*

Crew: 195

Missions: air defence and command of air operations

Onboard Helicopter: 1 Belgian NH-90

Multi-mission destroyer (FREMM) *Normandie*

Crew: 125

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

Onboard Helicopter: 1 Caïman marine



Multi-mission destroyer with enhanced air defence capabilities (FREMM-DA) *Alsace*

Crew: 125

Missions : air defence and command of air operations, anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare



Supply ship, operational logistical support

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



Command and supply ship *Marne*

Crew : 165

Missions : logistics and replenishment at sea

Onboard helicopter : 1 Alouette III

Nuclear-powered attack submarine, a discreet and enduring scout

Playing the role of a scout, the nuclear-powered 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. It is also capable of carrying out other missions ranging from discreet intelligence gathering to anti-submarine warfare and deploying special forces.

1 nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN)

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 attack, intelligence gathering.

© Anthony Pecchi



Foreign escorts, levers of cooperation

Units from several allied navies participate in full or more occasionally in mission CLEMENCEAU 22. Alongside the French destroyers, 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. Several foreign officers are also integrated into the crews and the on-board general staff of the CSG, coming from partner nations: Germany, Belgium, Spain, United States, Greece and Italy.



Greek frigate *Adrias* (Eli-class)

Crew : 198

Missions : anti-aircraft and anti-ship warfare

Date of integration into the CSG: 2 February

Greek submarine

Date of integration into the CSG: 7 February

Belgian NH90 helicopter detachment, on board destroyer *Forbin*

Crew: 13

© Belgian Defence on Facebook



Spanish destroyer *Juan de Borbón* (F100 type)

Crew: 250

Missions : anti-aircraft and anti-ship warfare

Date of integration into the CSG: 1 February

© Armada Española

American destroyer *USS Ross* (Arleigh Burke-class)

Crew: 210

Missions : anti-aircraft warfare and air operations command, anti-ship warfare, power projection through cruise missiles

Date of integration into the CSG: 1 February

© US Navy



1 maritime patrol aircraft P8 *Poséidon*

Missions : maritime patrol, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering

© US Navy







BIOGRAPHY OF REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHE CLUZEL, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE TASK FORCE 473

Rear Admiral Christophe Cluzel is married and a father of 5. He is a 1994 graduate from the French Naval Academy. Following his graduation he was successively assigned to the patrol boat *Grèbe*, the LSD *Ouragan*, the anti-air destroyer *Cassard* and the frigate *Ventôse*, between 1994 and 1998. He took part in fishing survey mission, especially in the French Southern and Antarctic islands, but also in the very first counternarcotic operations in the Caribbean sea. He graduated from the Naval warfare and weapons school in 1999 and embarked on the antisubmarine destroyer *La Motte-Picquet* for a CORYMBE mission in West of Africa as well as the KHOR ANGAR operation in the Red Sea. From 2001 to 2002, he commanded the patrol boat *La Moqueuse* based in New Caledonia.



He became operations officer aboard anti-submarine destroyer *Montcalm* and took part in the operations AMARANTE and ENDURING FREEDOM, before integrating the French Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in 2004 for the Operation AGAPANTHE in the Indian Ocean. Assigned as the weapon systems officer of the air defence destroyer *Jean Bart* in 2004, he took part once more in the FRAM deployment of the French CSG. Early 2006, he was commissioned as the commanding officer of the frigate *Enseigne de vaisseau Jacoubet*, deployed twice in the Indian Ocean in Enduring Freedom operation and took part to the fight against piracy off Somalia.

In 2008 he graduated from the Collège Interarmées de Défense before being appointed at the Délégation aux affaires stratégiques - former French OSD -, responsible for the ballistic missile defense and the fight against piracy. In 2010, he became executive officer of the air defence destroyer *Forbin* and has been deployed both in the French CSG deployment in the Indian Ocean and HARMATTAN Operation off Libya.

As the head of operations of the ALINDIEN COMFOR EAU Joint head quarter for the next 3 years, he assumed operational control of the joint operations within the Middle East/Indian Ocean area, including several hostage release operations, and contributed to numerous multilateral defense plans.

In 2014, he became chief of staff of the French CSG and held the duty on board *Charles de Gaulle* during the Arromanches deployment, during which the TF473 took part in the Operation INHERENT RESOLVE over Iraq. He assumed command of the air defence destroyer *Forbin* from August 2015 to August 2017 and drove his crew during more than 8 months in the frame of the Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, especially during ARROMANCHES III deployment, within the French CSG, but also within different US CSG.

He was privileged to be selected in 2017 for the Centre des Hautes Études Militaires before joining the military office of the Minister of the Armed forces, as military advisor for operations and international relations, from 2018 to 2020. He is appointed in August 2020 as deputy commander of FRMARFOR. He is deployed as force commander of operation AGENOR (CTF474) from end of August 2020 to mid-January 2021. He is promoted Rear Admiral on January 1, 2021.

Since September 1, 2021, he is designated as commander of the French Maritime Force (COM FRMARFOR).





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For more pictures during the mission

Media library : <https://www.mediatheque.marine.defense.gouv.fr/categories>

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 2022, 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.