

FRENCH NAVY PRESS KIT

MISSION "JEANNE D'ARC" 2021



A joint and multilateral **operational** deployment focused on the **training** of young officers and **international cooperation**





CONTENTS

MISSION “JEANNE D’ARC” 2021.....	4
Going far away, for a long time, as a crew.....	4
One mission, three goals.....	4
COMPONENTS OF BATTLE GROUP “JEANNE D’ARC” 2021.....	8
Participation of officer cadets in training.....	8
Army detachments.....	10
Other detachments.....	11
Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) <i>Tonnerre</i>	12
Biography of Captain Arnaud Tranchant, commanding officer of LHD <i>Tonnerre</i>	14
La Fayette-class frigate (FLF) <i>Surcouf</i>	15
Biography of Commander Edouard de Vallée, commanding officer of FLF <i>Surcouf</i>	16
Press contacts.....	17



MISSION "JEANNE D'ARC" 2021

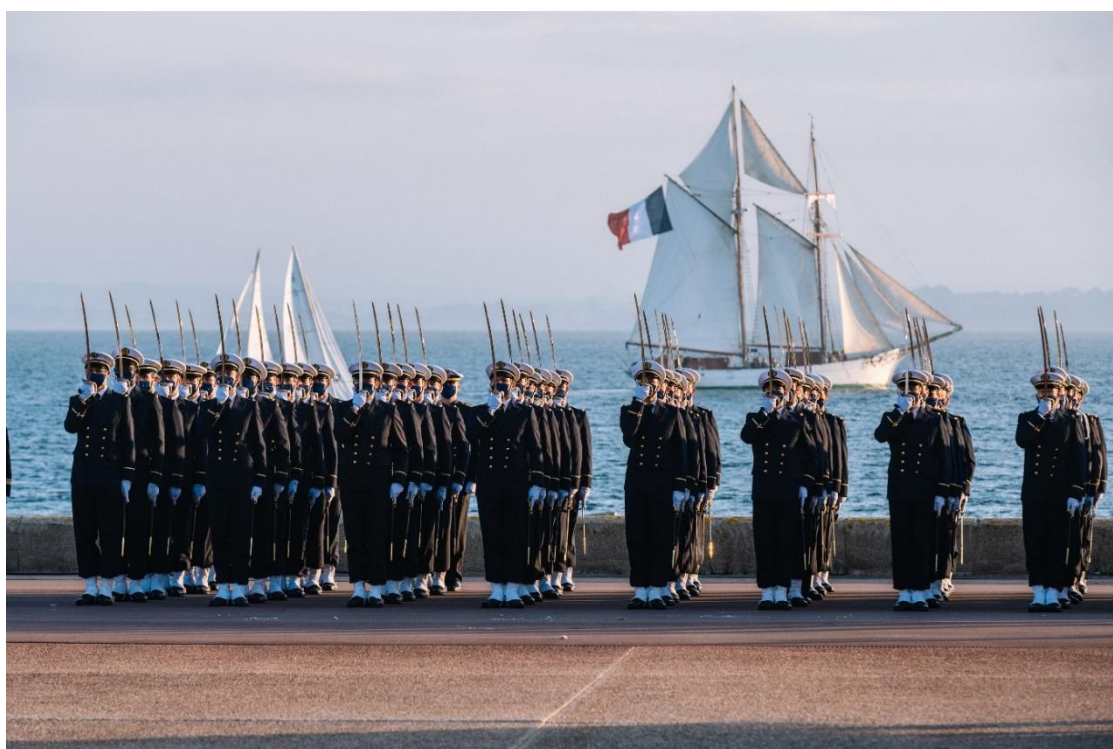
GOING FAR AWAY, FOR A LONG TIME, AS A CREW

Mission JEANNE D'ARC is a long-term operational deployment of an amphibious battle group allowing **officer cadets** of the French Navy to **learn their profession**. This genuine training school at sea will allow them to better understand the complexity of the missions and theatres of operations in which they will be deployed throughout their career as sailors. This year, this battle group includes the **amphibious assault helicopter carrier** (LHD) *Tonnerre* and the **La Fayette-class frigate** (FLF) *Surcouf*.

1 MISSION, 3 GOALS

TRAIN FUTURE GENERATIONS OF FRENCH NAVY OFFICERS

This five-month deployment constitutes a first operational experience at the end of a cycle of academic studies. The participation of trainee officers in the deployment of the amphibious battle group is an opportunity to acquire knowledge of modern naval systems by practicing their profession at sea.



Mission JEANNE D'ARC enables them to consolidate a base of common knowledge and skills, as well as operational experience in a joint and multilateral framework. This teaching is based on a sustained navigation cadence and the rapid sequence of maritime and amphibious activities, which can be carried out with the navies or more generally the defence forces of the visited countries.



In practice, the officer cadets will live during this deployment more than 100 days at sea punctuated by hours of watch, alternated with periods of instruction and marked out with port calls (the modalities of these being adapted on a case-by-case basis, depending on the evolution of the health situation in the visited countries and the port call conditions dictated by these countries).

The training is put into practice through “mentoring”: the sailors of the crews of the two ships of the battle group become de facto teachers for the officer cadets by accompanying them in their practice.

Officer cadets will participate in manoeuvre training, exercises of state action at sea, as well as infantry and warfare exercises. The training is supplemented by participation in the operational missions of the battle group and by training of the ships.

DEPLOY OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES IN AREAS OF STRATEGIC INTEREST

This year, the naval group of Mission JEANNE D'ARC will be deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Indian and Pacific Oceans via the China Sea.



The French Navy regularly deploys its units in areas of strategic interest, in accordance with the defence and national security strategic review updated in 2021. The deployment of the Jeanne d'Arc battle group makes it possible to maintain a thorough knowledge of these areas, to evaluate changes, but also to anticipate emerging crises while preserving an autonomous capacity of appreciation of the situation.





JEANNE D'ARC 2021



In addition to a **training mission**, Mission *Jeanne d'Arc* is also:

- An **operational deployment** that is in line with the French Defence strategy in the Indo-Pacific. Through a reinforced presence and intensified bilateral and regional cooperation activities, this strategy intends to reaffirm France's interest in this area. The Jeanne d'Arc battle group will thus join the Combined Task Force 150 in the Indian Ocean (fight against trafficking and illicit activities linked to terrorism, securing maritime areas) and will participate in various large-scale exercises with the navies of the partner countries present in the Indo-Pacific area (India, Australia, Japan, United States).



- **A mission geared towards international cooperation** and a real instrument of influence that will enhance France's strategic partnerships with various countries throughout the route. Interactions with neighbouring and allied navies thus tend to strengthen and optimise cooperation with our partners, particularly within Task Force 150.
- **A humanitarian assistance mission** which can be triggered at any time on the order of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. This capacity is reinforced by the participation of the Jeanne d'Arc battle group in exercises of assistance to populations. This humanitarian focus was illustrated in 2020 with Operation RESILIENCE, which saw the Jeanne d'Arc battle group diverted to provide assistance to the populations of the islands of Mayotte and Réunion as part of the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The experience feedback from Operation IRMA¹ (2017) and Operation CAOUANNE² (2019) is also valuable in this regard.



¹ In September 2017, the Dutch and French defence forces (onboard LHD Tonnerre, among others) had rescued victims in St Martin and St Barthelemy, following the passage of hurricanes Irma and José.

² In March 2019, LHD Tonnerre, deployed as part of Mission Jeanne d'Arc, was diverted to Mozambique to provide assistance to the population of the country affected by the passage of Cyclone Idai.





INTEROPERABILITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FOUNDATION OF MANY OPERATIONS

During the deployment of the task force JEANNE D'ARC, numerous cooperative activities are scheduled between the French Navy and the navies of the major partners of France.

This interoperability will be implemented in particular during operational activities and tested during exercises at two levels:

- **Joint:** The French Army participates in this mission in a significant way, thus demonstrating a very strong multilateral strategic dynamic, required for the conduct of operations within the framework of an international coalition.



- **Multilateral:** Mission JEANNE D'ARC 2021 participates in the maintenance and strengthening of the fight against terrorism, through supporting TF 150 in the Gulf of Aden and in the Arabian Sea. In the amphibious domain, the Jeanne d'Arc battle group will train with many regional partners including India, Japan, Australia, the United States and Indonesia.



The deployment of the Jeanne d'Arc battle group also helps to strengthen France's influence abroad. Its very presence is a strong signal from France and an undeniable boost for its diplomacy. As with all French Navy vessels abroad, port calls allow France to maintain and consolidate relations with the host country. Despite the current health conditions, they are an opportunity for high added value actions, in support of French influence around the world.





COMPONENTS OF BATTLE GROUP "JEANNE D'ARC" 2021

The JEANNE D'ARC 2021 battle group is built around the **amphibious assault helicopter carrier (LHD) *Tonnerre*** and the **La Fayette-class frigate (FLF) *Surcouf***. The officer cadets on board will be fully integrated into the crews of these two ships.



The group will be reinforced by an onboard tactical detachment from the French Army, as well as helicopter squadrons of the French Army (ALAT).

Officer Cadets

During Mission JEANNE D'ARC 2021, 148 officer cadets currently training at the French Naval Academy will be on board, including:

- 87 ensigns from the French Naval Academy (81 men, 6 women), including 8 foreign officer cadets from Cameroon, Germany, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Togo and Vietnam;





- 45 officers under long-term contracts, also known as the “OM/SC” career track (39 men, 6 women), including 6 from Ecole Polytechnique and 2 French officer cadets being trained at the German Naval Academy (EFENA);
- 11 officer cadets of the supply services with naval specialisation (9 men, 2 women);
- 5 young officers invited into the “exterior” track, from Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Morocco.



They will be joined for short periods by 61 trainees:

- 11 Maritime affairs officers;
- 10 military doctors starting their career in the French Navy;
- 20 trainee armament engineers from the Directorate General of Armament (DGA);
- 20 trainees from EDHEC business school's *Advanced Management Program*.



The students will be supervised by a detachment from the EAOM (Ecole d'Application des Officiers de Marine, or Naval Officers Application School), made up of 40 officers and petty officers. There will also be presentations by eight university lecturers, delivered by videoconference.



Army Detachments

155 soldiers from the French Army, in particular from the **6th Light Armoured Brigade (6^{ème} BLB)**, will participate in Mission JEANNE D'ARC, from Toulon to Djibouti, and then with part of the detachment from Djibouti to Japan.



The Army detachment will have an operational reversibility capability (in the event of an intervention being triggered), with specific freight (initial projection autonomy equivalent to 10 days of combat for on-board units) and military engineering resources to intervene, for example, in case of natural disaster.

The embedded tactical group (GTE) aboard LHD *Tonnerre* consists of a command company of the **2nd Foreign Infantry Regiment (2^{ème} REI)**, a section of the **13th Demi-Brigade of the Foreign Legion (13^{ème} DBLE)**, an armoured platoon of the **1st Spahi Regiment (1^{er} RS)**, two combat sections of the **31st Engineer Regiment (31^{ème} RG)**, a surface-to-air artillery section of the **54th Artillery Regiment (54^{ème} RA)** and a joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) team from the **3rd Marine Artillery Regiment (3^{ème} RAMa)**.



The 4th Air Combat Brigade will deploy 30 soldiers and 2 Gazelle combat helicopters from the 1st, 3rd and 5th Combat Helicopter Regiments during part of the mission.

Other detachments



In addition to the naval battle group made up of *Tonnerre* and *Surcouf*, the following units will participate in the entire mission:

- **1 Panther** helicopter from squadron 36F and its detachment of 10 sailors;
- A detachment of the **Amphibious Flotilla (FLOPHIB)** made up of a rapid landing craft (EDA-R) and 2 utility landing craft (CTM) and 20 sailors;
- The **Metropolitan Offshore Support & Assistance Vessel (BSAM) Loire**, from Brest to Suez;
- A **BSAM** on the return journey, from Djibouti to Toulon;
- Additional ships of the Naval Action Force (FAN) will also be deployed at the end of the mission in the Mediterranean as part of the final mission highlight embodied by the exercise "Etendard" (name given to the "officer cadets' war", final application and assessment of officer cadets);
- A joint beach landing unit under the orders of **1st Foreign Engineer Regiment**.





Landing helicopter dock (LHD) *Tonnerre*

Key figures

- **Commissioned:** 2007
- **Dimensions:** 199 m x 32 m; 21,600 tons
- **Speed and range:** maximum speed: 19 knots / range: 11,000 nautical miles at 15 knots
- **Staff capacity:** 850 m² of modular space with capacity for a staff of 50 to 100 people
- **Amphibious:** well deck with capacity for rapid landing craft (EDA-R), utility landing craft (CTM), and lightweight hovercraft (LCAC) up to 380 tons. For Mission *Jeanne d'Arc* 2021, 1 EDA-R and 2 CTM are on board.
- **Capacity:** 2,650 m² of hangars for vehicles and material, and 650 equipped soldiers
- **Hangar capacity:** 1,800 m², for a standard complement of 16 heavy helicopters (Caïman or Tiger type).
- **Hospital:** 1,200 m² of medical and surgery facilities (2 surgery rooms, 1 radiology room with scanner, 1 dental office, 1 biology laboratory, 1 telemedicine room, 69 hospital beds). These facilities are comparable to those of a hospital for a city of 30,000 residents.
- **Crew:** 202 sailors – average age: 32 years. Including 27 women, i.e. 13.36% of the crew.
- **Sponsor city:** Limoges, since 2009.





Missions



The LHD is a combat ship dedicated to projecting an amphibious force, with the capabilities of a helicopter carrier. As a versatile ship, the LHD can deploy assets for amphibious and air assault, troop transport, command of a maritime task force, and hospital ship. By design, these ships are used to accommodating detachments of different kinds and integrating them.

For the past 10 years, the formula for training officers with a LHD has already proven its effectiveness. The LHD is an exceptional platform to train officer cadets by confronting them with the realities of contemporary operations. Embarked on a LHD and an FLF, they are thus fully aware of the modernity of today's Navy, of the missions assigned to it and of the need for joint and multilateral cooperation which characterises the reality of operations, today and tomorrow.



Hosting officer cadets

To enable the continuous training of officer cadets, the modular area of the ship's staff quarters has been reconfigured to include briefing rooms, a 150-seat conference room and a planning room allowing access to information and command systems. During the mission, the Naval Academy has a school structure on board, the EAOM (Ecole d'Application des Officiers de Marine, or Naval Officers Application School), which provides purely academic instruction, pedagogical expertise and continuity of know-how.

Mission JEANNE D'ARC thus means:

- More than **100 days at sea**
- **148 officer cadets to be trained**
- **53 safety exercises and 8 ship visit exercises** to train each officer cadet
- **40 to 50 hours of watch** and repeated navigation manoeuvres for each officer cadet on the bridge
- **40 to 50 hours of watch at Combat Operations Centre (COC) for each officer cadets**
- **100 hours of watch in engineering** for officer cadets of specialty Energy





BIOGRAPHY OF CAPTAIN ARNAUD TRANCHANT

Commanding officer of the French LHD *Tonnerre*



Captain Tranchant was born in Paris in 1974 and joined the Navy in 1999 as an intelligence specialist. In 2000, he passed the tests to join the Naval Academy and become an operations officer.

After the application school, where he graduated as a gunnery officer, he served one year on board the helicopter-carrier *Jeanne d'Arc* as head of the general service department.

In 2003 he was appointed navigation officer on board the corvette *Commandant l'Herminier*, and escorted several submarines in the vicinity of French

Atlantic coasts, before carrying out an operational patrol in West Africa.

In 2004, he spent a few months as instructor in NAVFCO society, in order to teach the Saudi Navy about the use of their new *Al Daman* frigates. Afterwards, he served for two years as the executive officer of the diving support ship *Alizé* and was deployed in Indian Ocean and South America.

Then appointed as the amphibious officer of the Landing Ship Dock *Siroco* from 2007 to 2009, he was engaged twice in Lebanon as part of *Baliste* operation.

Promoted lieutenant commander in 2009, he became commanding officer of the diving support ship *Alizé* and was deployed three times in West Africa and one time in Indian ocean.

Appointed in FRMARFOR headquarters in 2011, as part of the above water warfare cell, he participated in the US Navy great amphibious exercise Bold Alligator 2012, as the liaison officer between the French CATG and the US CATF. Then, he embarked on board French aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* as the current operations officer of the carrier strike group staff.

After joining the War College in Paris in 2012, he was promoted commander in 2013 and assumed the management of surface officers' careers in the French Navy Human Resources Department.

In 2016, he was appointed as the executive officer of Landing Helicopter Dock *Dixmude*, and carried out two operational patrols as part of the *Corymbemission*, as well as a « *Jeanne d'Arc* » mission.

Promoted captain in September 2018, he took the position of J5 in CECMED headquarters in Toulon.

On July 23rd 2019, he became commanding officer of LHD *Tonnerre*.

Captain Arnaud Tranchant is a knight of the Légion d'Honneur. He is married and has three children.



La Fayette-class frigate (FLF) *Surcouf*

Key figures

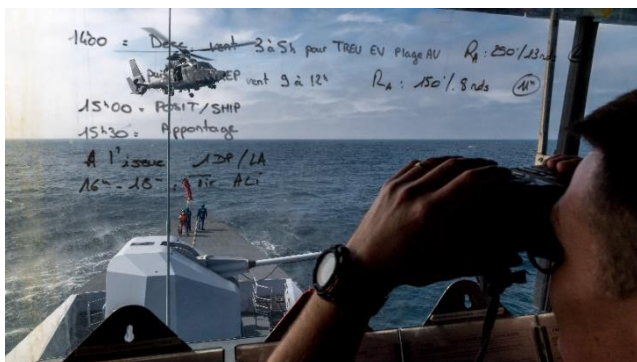
- **Commissioned:** 1997
- **Dimensions:** 124.21 m x 15.43 m; 3,903 tons (fully loaded displacement)
- **Speed and range:** maximum speed: 25 knots / range: 5,000 nautical miles at 12 knots and 50 days of food supplies
- **Crew:** 147 sailors – average age: 29 years. Including 15 women, i.e. 10% of the crew.
- **Sponsor city:** Saint-Malo

Missions

The La Fayette-class frigate (FLF) was designed to preserve and enforce state interests over maritime areas overseas and to participate in crisis management outside Europe. Her high stealth and reduced acoustic signature allow her to be deployed as a precursor to collect information that will allow the intervention of a naval force.



In the context of Mission *Jeanne d'Arc* 2021, the FLF acts as the escort of the helicopter carrier. Indeed, the capital ships of the French Navy must be escorted to complement their self-defence capabilities, particularly in the area of asymmetric combat.



The complementarity of her resources with those of the helicopter carrier *Tonnerre* provides task force *JEANNE d'ARC* with a coherent range of capabilities at the service of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, and an extremely beneficial advantage in the training of officer cadets.

BIOGRAPHY OF COMMANDER EDOUARD DE VALLEE

Commanding officer of the French frigate *Surcouf*



Commander Édouard De Vallée, was born on the 20th of August 1980 in Paris, and joined the French Naval Academy in 2001. He graduated from the Academy with a master's degree in science in 2004. After his tour as a Midshipman onboard FS Jeanne d'Arc, he served as head of the navigation and seamanship department of FS Commandant Birot (2004-2006), then as Operations Officer of FS Somme (2006-2008), both based in the Mediterranean. During these appointments, he deployed twice to the Indian Ocean and participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Herakles during the deployment of the French carrier battle group.

Subsequently, he assumed command of the Naval Academy Training Ship FS Tigre in 2008, based in Brest.

In 2009, he attended Principal Warfare Officer's course (Naval Weapons and Combat Systems School, Toulon) and graduated from the Army Transmission School (ETRS, Rennes) with a master's degree in Military Communications Networks. Then he was assigned as head of the CIS department of the anti-air warfare destroyer Cassard (2010-2012). During this two-year assignment, Cassard participated in Operation Harmattan in Libya and was deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Between 2012 and 2014, he joined the West Indies French Armed Forces where he served as the executive officer of the landing ship Dumont d'Urville based in Martinique. He then was assigned to the "United States naval Academy" in Annapolis, MD USA, as a navigation and seamanship instructor for two years.

Back in France, he served for two years at the Joint staff head quarter in Paris before attending the war college.

He served as the executive officer of the ASW frigate La Motte-Picquet (2019-2020) and took command of the frigate *Surcouf* in 2021.

Commander Édouard de Vallée has been awarded the Gold Medal of National Defence (Combat ships clasp), the Nation Reconnaissance Medal, the French Commemorative Medal (Afghanistan and Libya clasps) and the NATO Commemorative Medal (OUP Libya clasp).

He is married and has four children.



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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.