

Projection of a Large-Scale
Air Intervention in South-East Asia



MISSION PEGASE
in the Asia-Pacific region
from 19 August to 4 September 2018





In August 2018, under the command of Air Corps General Patrick Charaix, the French Air Force will be taking part in a mission in South-East Asia with a force comprising three Rafale fighters, one A400M transport plane and one C-135 refuelling tanker. This deployment will contribute to the reinforcement of France's presence in this zone of major strategic interest and will enable us to deepen our ties with many partners in the region, while at the same time taking part in a programme of preventive action.

The French Air Force has a key power that has changed the course of military operations: this power stems from its unique mastery of time and space, offering the capability for rapid mobilization over a wide area. Recent interventions of the French Air Force in the Caribbean, in the aftermath of hurricane IRMA, or in Syria, are telling illustrations of this capability.

The French Air Force therefore contributes to the security of its fellow citizens, both in metropolitan France and in the French overseas territories across the globe. This projection of military force also provides a constant reminder of our ability to defend the nation's political interests all over the world.

During Mission PEGASE (Pegasus), the French Air Force will especially be taking part in an exercise providing major operational added value. Exercise

"Pitch Black", organized by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), aims to train aircrews for entry missions against a foreign state power. Consequently, it will contribute to the operational preparation of our

aircrews in a country with which France is developing a strong partnership, both in operations and in the field of defence equipment.

During the full course of our deployment, the French Air Force will consolidate the ties that France maintains with several States in the region and will provide points of support that will benefit not only the Air Force but also our joint-force actions. Also, in line with its systematic practice, the French Air Force will accompany our defence industry in our partner countries, to help represent French technological expertise.

This deployment provides the opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of France to security and stability in the Asia-Pacific, in conformity with the conclusions of the Strategic Review ("*Revue Stratégique*"). It will emphasize the attachment of France to international law and to freedom of navigation and supply. It will demonstrate the ability of the Air Force to respond rapidly and to ensure a presence in this part of the world, with due attention to the political and economic considerations at stake and to questions of national sovereignty.

Deploying armed forces to the other side of the world is no small matter. It requires specific resources, such as refuelling tanker aircraft and appropriate training. This capability, which only a small number of nations possess, is the mark of a top-class air force. The existing capability will be further reinforced by the new LPM, which stipulates the modernization and targeted increases in purchases of our MRTT Phenix refuelling tankers, together with the continued delivery of the A400M transport aircraft.

Général d'armée aérienne André Lanata,
French Air Force chief of staff

The large-scale air operations conducted jointly in the framework of NATO, the European Union and in coalition rely on tried and tested interoperability and very good knowledge of one another. While these operations are easier to implement between the Western allies for obvious reasons of geographical proximity, it is nevertheless necessary to develop them beyond this scope in order to consolidate or construct partnerships and relations all over the world.

For many years, the French Air Force (AAF) has been initiating cooperation projects, with the aim of preparing for the future and protecting the interests of France. In particular, the AAF has turned to targeted partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region, by maintain-



France is the only European country to maintain a permanent military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. In relatively close proximity to the SEA and SA zone, which is otherwise remote from France's metropolitan mainland.. The French Air Force contributes to this presence through its air base 186 in Noumea, air detachment 190 in Tahiti and air detachment 186 in Réunion.

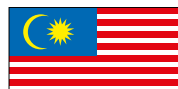
ing privileged relations with the Australian, Indian, Singaporean, Malaysian, Indonesian and Vietnamese air forces, through activities implemented by assets stationed in metropolitan France or in France's overseas territories.

South-East Asia (SEA) and South Asia (SA) are regions of strategic importance for French interests, as has been reaffirmed by the 2017 Strategic Review of Defence and National Security ("Revue Stratégique de Défense et de Sécurité Nationale").

The 2013 White Book on Defence and National Security ("Livre Blanc sur la Défense et la Sécurité Nationale") and the 2017 Strategic Review ("Revue Stratégique de Défense et de Sécurité Nationale") identify Asia-Pacific as a zone of major strategic interest.

"We have the same concerns about the risks and threats confronting the Indo-Pacific region, the rivalries between powers, identity-related tensions, trafficking of all kinds that prosper from the lack of development, due in large part to climate change. Our shared priority is to build this strong Indo-Pacific axis, to simultaneously guarantee our economic and security interests. [...] The trilateral talks between Australia, India and France will play a central role (...)"

Emmanuel Macron, president of France,
during his visit to Australia on 2 May 2018



In French Polynesia, the action of "ALPACI" (the French Navy Admiral in command of the maritime zone and naval forces of the Pacific Ocean) focuses on the protection of local populations (natural disasters, sea rescue, etc.), affirming the sovereignty of France (118 islands dotted over an area as large as Europe) and monitoring the Exclusive Economic Zone (5,5 million km²), which is integrated with the French Polynesia maritime zone (where the maritime action of the State covers 22 million km²).

With the neighbouring countries (Cook, Kiribati, Pitcairn, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, etc.), and in coordination with the armed forces of New Caledonia, ALPACI maintains a regional cooperation framework expressed in particular by multilateral accords with our American, Australian and New-Zealand partners to provide assistance to the island states of the Pacific in the event of natural disaster and to assist them in monitoring their own EEZs.

Additionally, ALPACI defends French interests and the principles of international law through the presence of pre-positioned forces, which France is the only European country to maintain on a permanent basis in this zone.

Due to the geographical remoteness and dispersion of the five Polynesian archipelagos (Marquesas, Tuamotus, Society, Gambier and Austral), the French armed forces in French Polynesia (FAPF) constitute a frontline air-sea force on the Pacific theatre, in coordination with the armed forces of New Caledonia.

The main roles of FAPF are as follows:

- protect the interests of France and affirm the presence of France in the Pacific
- demonstrate and guarantee French sovereignty, support the nation in the exercise of its sovereign competencies in the five Polynesian ar-

chipelagos and the 5,030,000 km² of the Exclusive Economic and Zone (EEZ)

- participate in public service actions, in particular in the domains of sea rescue and population support, when requisitioned by the Prefect responsible for the zone.

The FAPF forces, as the main point of support of the Pacific theatre, together with the armed forces of New Caledonia (FANC), are responsible for the regional intervention capacity of the zone, ensuring the maritime component and coordinating with the FANC for the air and land component.

The assets of the French Air Force included in FAPF essentially consist of two Casa-200 cargo aircraft of the ET 82 "Maine" squadron and a military air station as part of Air De-

tachment 190 (DA 190) in Tahiti. This air detachment, which is of smaller format than an air base, is the centre for stationing, implementation

and engagement of the air assets required to conduct the operational contracts and missions entrusted to these units by joint forces command (EMA) under the Senior Commander of French Polynesia (COM-SUP-PF).

The Armed Forces of French Polynesia (FAPF) guarantee the protection of national territory and coordinate regional cooperation from the overseas administrative centre of Polynesia. They constitute the main - essentially maritime - point of support of the Pacific theatre, in coordination with the Armed Forces of New Caledonia (FANC).



THE ARMED FORCES OF NEW CALEDONIA (FANC)

The French Air Force is present in the Pacific with Air Detachment 186

The forces of FANC form part of the French sovereign forces based in the overseas territories. In this capacity, they contribute to the exercise of French sovereignty and to preserving the interests of France in this region. The permanent responsibility zone (ZRP) of the FANC comprises the maritime zone of New Caledonia, together with the territories, territorial waters and airspace in the surrounding area, in particular those of Aus-

Back on the interventions of 2017:

Casa

4,218 dropped paratroopers
753 flight hours
17 Takeoffs on alert.

Puma

534 flight hours
26 takeoffs on alert
20 aeromedical evacuations
29 wounded evacuated.

Military air stop

7,632 registered passengers
473 treated devices
308 tons of freight handled.



tralia and New Zealand, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and the territory of New Caledonia, its dependencies and Wallis and Futuna.

The mixed transport squadrons of the French Air Force - a key overseas advantage

Deployed all over the world, the Casa and Puma aircraft of the French Air Force play a major role in the military presence forces (Djibouti) and sovereignty forces (Guyana and New Caledonia). They form part of the mixed transport squadrons, which are navigating units with the particularity of comprising a mix of extra-long cargo planes in conjunction with helicopters for access to isolated zones. Their crews work in a busy operational environment. Search and rescue, air transport, action against illegal gold-washing, air drops, support for humanitarian operations, health evacuation, information support and fire support. The missions are varied and take place in arid or tropical environments.

As a combat facility of the French Air Force in the South Pacific, Air Base 186 in New Caledonia ("Lieutenant Paul Klein" Air Base) is home to various aircraft, including Transport Squadron 52 (ET 52 "Tontouta"), which has two Casa tactical transport aircraft (CN 235-200) and three high-maneuvrability Puma helicopters.

The Armed Forces in New Caledonia organize Exercise "Croix du Sud" every two years, alternating with Exercise "Equateur" (Equator). "Croix du Sud" is a major joint-force allied exercise involving a multinational force, composed in particular of military personnel and aircraft from Australia, New Zealand etc. The exercise simulates a large-scale deployment following a natural disaster, for example a cyclone such as Winston in March 2015. In this exercise, the French squadrons train to operate in conjunction with their counterparts from the neighbouring countries. The exercise is increasing in size and scope with each edition. It is replicated in French Polynesia by Exercise "Marara" conducted by FAPF. These exercises also provide France with a good means of consolidating its place in this strategic zone.

Did you know?

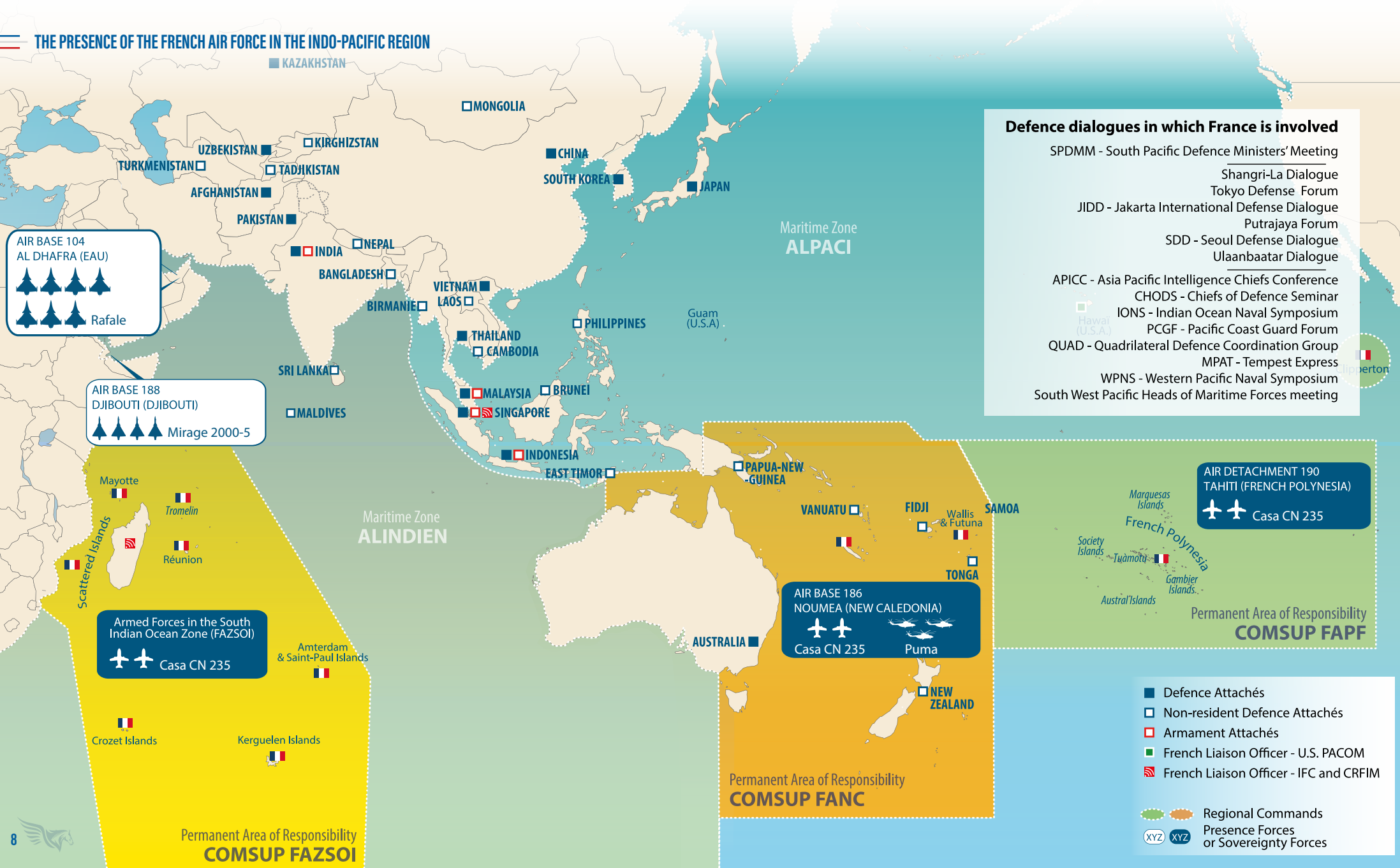
Exercise "Croix du Sud" (Southern Cross) has been organized by France every two years since 2002 and is one of the biggest exercises in the South Pacific. This year's exercise was on an unprecedented scale, mobilizing 2100 military field personnel, 13 planes and helicopters, including 5 belonging to the French Air Force (2 Pumas and 3 Casa CN 235-200s) for 10 participating nations.



The aircraft of the French Armed Forces of New Caledonia (FANC) stationed at Air Base 186 in Tontouta, guarantee the protection of national territory and coordinate regional cooperation from the territory of New Caledonia. They constitute the principal land-air point of support of the Pacific theatre, in coordination with the Armed Forces in French Polynesia (FANC).



THE PRESENCE OF THE FRENCH AIR FORCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION



Defence dialogues in which France is involved

SPDMM - South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting

Shangri-La Dialogue

Tokyo Defense Forum

JIDD - Jakarta International Defense Dialogue

Putrajaya Forum

SDD - Seoul Defense Dialogue

Ulaanbaatar Dialogue

APICC - Asia Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference

CHODS - Chiefs of Defence Seminar

IONS - Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

PCGF - Pacific Coast Guard Forum

QUAD - Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group

MPAT - Tempest Express

WPNS - Western Pacific Naval Symposium

South West Pacific Heads of Maritime Forces meeting

AIR DETACHMENT 190
TAHITI (FRENCH POLYNESIA)

Casa CN 235

Permanent Area of Responsibility
COMSUP FAPF

AIR BASE 186
NOUMEA (NEW CALEDONIA)

Casa CN 235

Puma

Permanent Area of Responsibility
COMSUP FANC

Armed Forces in the South
Indian Ocean Zone (FAZSOI)

Casa CN 235

Permanent Area of Responsibility
COMSUP FAZSOI

- Defence Attachés
- Non-resident Defence Attachés
- Armement Attachés
- French Liaison Officer - U.S. PACOM
- French Liaison Officer - IFC and CRFIM

- Regional Commands
- XYZ XYZ Presence Forces or Sovereignty Forces

From 27 July to 17 August, the French Air Force will be taking part in the biennial Exercise "Pitch Black" in Australia, with three Rafale B fighter planes from metropolitan France and one Casa from the Armed Forces of New Caledonia (FANC). Organized by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from the Darwin and Tindal bases, this multinational exercise aims to train crews to

Training aircrews for the entry mission: the difficulty of the missions will be progressive, and the number of mission participants will be limited, as in a real conflict.



undertake an entry mission against a State power. Additionally, it contributes to the operational training of our crews and reinforces military cooperation with the 16 participating states. The contribution of American assets in the Pacific (Pacific Air Forces and United States Marine Corps) will also help to reinforce interoperability with this key partner.



"The Rafales of the French Air Force participating in Exercise "Pitch Black" and subsequently in Mission Pégase come from Strategic Air Force Command (CFAS) and Air Force Command (CFA). This contribution follows a logical goal of equity and sharing, in order to work together on our interoperability and standardizations."

Commandant Antoine, commanding officer of the fighter detachment (Exercice "Pitch Black")



The participation of the Rafale B

The aim of this first entry exercise is to plan, execute and debrief complex missions in a multinational framework. Conducted in a realistic non-permissive tactical environment, it will include various different threats.

Week 1 "Famweek":

Familiarisation with simple missions. Two night-flights will enable the crews to work in this specific environment.

Weeks 2 and 3:

Two COMAO missions will be carried out daily (day and night).

Aims:

- Prepare, brief, execute and debrief COMAOs.
- Develop and validate combat tactics and entry-force air operations in a multinational context against air and land threats.
- "Entry Force" is the capability to establish "first entry" in a country equipped with air-to-air and ground-to-air defence.
- Develop expertise during missions in a crowded electromagnetic environment.
- Radar/GPS/radio jamming.
- Participate in Offensive Combat Air (OCA) missions.
- Protection of a High Value Airborne Asset (HVAA), such as an E-3F or transport plane flying at low speed.
- Participate in missions in a non-permissive environment, with the use of air-to-ground cannon (planned air strikes).
- Validate the Entry Force.
- Establish international relations through exchange of experience between the different participating countries.

* Combined Air Operations - operations combining several aircraft of different types, requiring significant preparation time to ensure good coordination

The participation of the Casa 200

The first week of the exercise is a week of familiarization with simple missions and of reconnaissance of the exercise zone (bare base airfields).

> A night-flight for reconnaissance of the bare base, with placement of 6 markers, will also be conducted.

Week 1 "Famweek":

Progressive integration with the actors of the air mission (air controller, fighter etc.). Night flights with summary terrain in six beacons will be made during this training phase.

Weeks 2 and 3:

Very low altitude missions with penetration into an enemy zone under the protection of coalition fighter planes will be realized. In addition, small packages and ground-based drops are programmed.

Operational environment

The Darwin platform will host 71 fighter planes, giving a total of 140 aircraft shared with the Tindal platform, together with almost 2500 flight personnel. The following aircraft will be provided by the participating countries (9 nations out of 16 participants)"

Australia: F/A-18F, F/A-18A, E/A-18G, C-130J, C17, C27J, KA350, E-7A, PC-9, CCT, KC-30 (MRTT)

Canada: CC130HT

France: Rafale B, Casa-200

India: SU30MKI, C-130J

Indonesia: F16

Malaysia: F/A-18D, A400M

Singapore: F-16, F-15, KC-135, G550

Thailand: Gripen

United States: F-16CJ, B52, F/A-18C-D, KC-130J, MV22, UH-1.

Australia is providing an Airbus A-330 MRTT air-to-air refuelling tanker to help ferry the French aircraft from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Darwin, where the exercise will be held.



THE MISSION PEGASE

The French Air Force deploys its wings in Asia-Pacific

On completion of Exercise *Pitch Black*, the return itinerary to metropolitan France via UAE provides an opportunity to conduct Mission PEGASE (Pegasus), from 19 August to 4 September, including stages respectively in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and India.

What does PEGASE mean?

The winged horse Pegasus, after which the mission is named, is one of the symbols of wisdom.

Power projection

The Rafale (which means "gust of wind" and "burst of gunfire" in French) is a byword for power projection, while the A400M and C-135 are fail-safe logistical solutions.

Large-scale

The French Air Force deploys to the antipodes, everywhere in the world.

South-East Asia

The three coloured roundels on the aircraft and the wings of France are projected to the Indo-Pacific region.



The air assets of the French Air Force projected for this mission are three Rafale 2-seat planes, one A400M, one A310 and one C-135 for certain stages.

Mission PEGASE is commanded by Air Corps General (2S) Patrick Charaix.

This projection reinforces the presence and diplomacy of France in the Indo-Pacific region and demonstrates that the French Air Force is participating fully in our country's missions of political and cultural influence. It emphasizes our capabilities for projecting air power and our aerospace and defence industry. By displaying the blue, white and red roundel, the French Air Force also demonstrates the attachment of France to freedom of navigation and freedom of the air, in compliance with international law and strict neutrality.

This mission also contributes to reinforcing the reputation of the French Air Force, highlights the strategic partnerships of France with India and Australia and offers opportunities for reinforced bilateral cooperation with Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

Planned during the summer of 2018, Mission Pegase, which is validated by the General Chief of Staff of the French Air Force (CEMAA):

1. contributes to the operational preparation of the aircrews and the use of equipment in exceptional conditions.

2. contributes to the strategic functions of knowledge, anticipation and intervention.

> Meeting the guideline requirements of the Strategic Review (Revue Stratégique), these regular deployments in zones of strategic importance enable us to update our knowledge of the zone while maintaining a rapid response tool to tackle crises.

3. conforms to international air law.

> This projection complies with international law and the standard practice of the French Air Force.

4. implements projection assets that will enable the French armed forces to deploy anywhere in the world.

> This capacity is based on refuelling tankers, tactical and strategic transport planes, and the ability to project fighter aircraft or additional resources in support of the air manoeuvre, such as information and communication systems, air transit systems etc.

5. demonstrates that France is a reliable and credible partner, recognized by many countries.

> The quality and performance of its equipment and the expertise of its crews are highly appreciated. The French Air Force has ultra-modern, top-performance combat assets. It is one of the

"The aim of Mission Pegase is to illustrate the expertise of the French Air Force in the domain of power projection. Deployed with about a hundred aviators, three Rafale fighter planes and a technical fleet comprising one A400M and one C-135 refuelling tanker, this mission contributes to demonstrating the expertise of its aviators and of the French aerospace industry"

General (2S) Patrick Charaix, commander of Mission Pegase, during the press briefing of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces, on 7 June in Paris

rare air forces of the West capable of covering the majority of the air mission spectrum. These capabilities have in particular been demonstrated in the Middle East and the Sahelo-Saharan strip, or, more recently, in the air strikes in Syria.

6. embodies the excellence of the French Air Force's expertise and demonstrates a part of its capabilities.

> This mission presents a real technical and logistical challenge for the approximately one hundred crew members of all specializations taking part. The mechanics will have to ensure that the aircraft are fully equipped and in condition to enable the crews to carry out their missions.



The French Air Force (AAF) is implementing projection resources that will enable the French armed forces to deploy anywhere in the world.

This capacity is based on refuelling tankers, tactical and strategic transport, and the aptitude to project fighter aircraft or additional resources in support of the air manoeuvre.



Australia, with its experienced armed forces and modern equipment, is today one of the western military powers having genuine projection and intervention capabilities. It is currently engaged in various external operations: 2,400 military personnel, including 1,300 in the Middle East, out of a total of 60,000.

Its international relations are structured by its dual relations with the United States (major historic and strategic partner) and China (main economic partner).

The major strategic preoccupations of Australia concern the surveillance of the frontiers of this country-continent (one and a half times the size of Europe), the stability of both its immediate regional environment (Indonesia and the Pacific Islands) and more remote regional environment (Philippines, North Korea and China) and counter-terrorism. Compliance with international law, and in particular the law of the sea, is a major concern for Australia.

Its defence budget is currently growing rapidly and will attain 2% of GDP in 2020

Dynamic operational bilateral cooperation

This cooperation is mainly regional and is expressed in particular, on a daily basis, in operations, exercises or exchanges with the French forces in New Caledonia (FANC) and French Polynesia (FAPF), especially in the framework of the QUAD accords (Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group - cooperation between the armed forces of Australia, New Zealand, the United States and France in combatting illegal activities and trafficking by sea) or the FRANZ accords (cooperation between France, Australia and New Zealand during rescue operations for populations hit by natural disasters: these operations are very frequent, especially in 2015, after cyclone PAM). Numerous and regular exercises enable our two armies to train under real conditions and to maintain a very high level of interoperability.

- For example, in October 2014, Australia decided, to assist the operations against Daesh by providing the international coalition with its air-to-air refuelling capability (KC 30A, the Australian version of the Airbus MRTT) in addition to the engagement of its fighter aircraft (up to 7 F18s) and the commitment of an airborne early warning and control aircraft (E7A Wedgetail). This offer corresponded to a real operational need of the French forces. So, jointly and in record time, qualifications and technical arrangements enabled the fighter planes of the French Air Force to refuel on the KC-30As of the RAAF. In this framework, the Rafales stationed in UAE were able to conduct recurrent refuelling operations. The domain of in-flight refuelling is a form of cooperation offering high operational added-value, with the operations of the coalition based in the countries of the Persian-Arabian Gulf.

> *The RAAF has been deployed in the United Arab Emirates since late 2014, as part of Operation OKRA*, conducted to aid the combat against Daesh (ISIS/ISIL), with 1 KC-30A, 1 E-7A Wedgetail (B.737), a detachment of 400 people and a support mission equipped with C17s C-130s.*

* Contribution of Australian defence in Iraq, as part of the operations against Daesh.

- For Exercise *Pitch Black*, the outward journey of the Rafales from UAE to Darwin is assured by a KC-30A of the RAAF.

> *This ferrying operation and the participation of France in the exercise reinforce the operational ties already established in the skies above Iraq during the interventions against Daesh.*

- At regional level, the air cooperation led by FANC includes the joint participation of senior officers and assets in the Australian and French-international exercises in New Caledonia.

> *"Exercise Pitch Black" (the last edition was conducted in August 2016 with the participation of one Casa in Australia)*

> *"Exercise Croix du Sud" (the last edition of this exercise was conducted in May 2018 with the participation of one C27J +1 Beechcraft in New Caledonia). This exercise, which has become a benchmark exercise for the preparation of HADR-type operations (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) and for the evacuation of local populations (French acronym "RESEVAC") from crisis zones, enables France to reaffirm its role in cooperation between the countries of the zone.*

Bilateral cooperation for pilot training

Since 2015, the French Air Force has seconded one pilot to the Australian KC-30A MRTTs of No. 33

The origins of fraternity

Australia is a strategic partner, maintaining strong bilateral relations and dynamic defence cooperation with France. The bilateral defence relations have their origins in the brotherhood of arms established between the French and Australians on the battlefields during the First World War, a foundation stone of the young nation that Australia was at the time. Since then, it has become a major partner. Military cooperation is occasional for specific actions in the Middle East and systematic and close in the Pacific.

Franco-Australian bilateral air cooperation is expanding massively.

air-to-air refuelling squadron based in Amberley. This line of cooperation could also lead to the sharing of operational and technical support in the framework of Hub-and-Spoke support points (in combination with the draft Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA) between our armed forces and services, currently in process of finalization). Several academic exchanges and various joint training courses have been organized on a regular basis over the last few years between the two air forces (air school, survival courses etc.).

An Australian fleet close to the French fleet

The AAF and RAAF have made similar choices of aircraft, with the MRTT A330, PC 21 and C-130J.





Indonesia occupies a strategic position due to its unique geographical characteristics, the extent of its territory, its control over eleven straits, its human characteristics (with 250 million inhabitants, it is the country with the highest Muslim population in the world) and economic importance (GDP growth of about 5%). As a state power, it is ideally located between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Given the size of the country and its strategic stakes (security of the straits and shipping routes), its needs for defence equipment remain high and provide numerous opportunities.

Indonesia is the 14th biggest customer of the French defence industry.

An Indonesian fleet close to the French fleet

The AAF and TNIA-AU have made similar choices of aircraft, in particular the Casa CN-235, Caracal, Super Puma and Puma.

Growing bilateral air cooperation

France maintains regular defence relations with Indonesia:

- For example, air cooperation with Indonesia takes the practical form of various annual training courses, such as the set of JFAC* courses for different levels provided by CASPOA.
- Partnership with the armed forces of New Caledonia (FANC), which have invited the Indonesian armed forces to take part in Exercise "Croix du Sud" as observers in 2018 in Nouméa. The regional exercises with the FANC and cooperation in the field of capacity are the vectors of development of this cooperation.

Hadi Tjahjanto, Air Chief Marshal (ACM)

The current overall Commander in Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, appointed on 8 December, was formerly the Air Chief Marshal. He has met General Lanata twice (at the Avalon Air Show - "Salon Aéronautique et Espace" - in Australia and Le Bourget). The Indonesian commander in chief attaches high importance to cooperation between the armed forces and to systems networking (starting with air surveillance).

* Joint Force Air Command



France maintains regular and rich defence relations with Malaysia. Malaysia is the 11th biggest customer of the French defence industry, and France is its number one supplier of defence equipment.

A Malaysian fleet close to the French fleet

The AAF and RMAF have made similar choices of aircraft, A400M, CASA CN 235, Caracal. In the Asia-Pacific zone, Malaysia is the only country to have A400Ms.

Une coopération bilatérale air croissante

This pragmatic cooperation is based on exchanges, exercises and equipment purchased by the Malaysians (H225M Caracal, A400M).

Bilateral cooperation for training Malaysian aircrews

The operational experience acquired by our aircrews on the A400M has been the object of exchanges for the benefit of the RMAF. This cooperation is aimed at achieving greater interoperability, on the basis of a common fleet and the principle of a hub-and-spoke structure that would permit technical support during stops in Malaysia.

> For example, a senior engineering officer has been posted at RMAF headquarters since 2015 to assist in building up the capability of the RMAF's 22 squadron (SQN) A400M (located at the Subang air base) and to deal with the problems of navigability. Since late 2016, cooperation has been especially rich, with three expert missions for the benefit of 22 SQN:

- Expert mission on Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization (CAMO) conducted by a member of the EM ATT command team based in Orleans.
- Technical expert mission "Check C"
- Operational expert mission conducted by two specialists (pilot and loadmaster engineer) from the A400M team based in Orleans.

Since 2012, French naval fusiliers have been taking part in the biennial "Exercice *Malfran Dagert*" for combat survival and personnel recovery, organized in the Malaysian jungle with the Malaysian commando fusiliers (Paskau).

- The French parachute and commando (CPA) unit 30 and the Paskaus* special forces have also taken part in an exercise in France in 2014 and Malaysia in 2016.

Event

National celebration on 31 August (anniversary of independence in 1957).



Malaysia is one of France's two main partners in ASIA, the other being Singapore.



* The Malaysian air force has its own special forces unit called PASKAU (Paskuan Khas Udara), specializing in counter-terrorism and the protection of key Malaysian installations.





Cooperation between France and Vietnam is based on a convergence of views on many strategic subjects. Franco-Vietnamese cooperation also hinges on close dialogue in the domain of capacity.

A Vietnamese fleet close to the French fleet

The AAF and the VPAF have made similar choices of aircraft, in particular Casa and Caracal.

Historic bilateral cooperation

The year 2018, which marks both the 45th anniversary of Franco-Vietnamese diplomatic relations and the 5th anniversary of the strategic partnership between France and Vietnam and the numerous high-visibility interactions that this has brought, will contribute to the development of our bilateral defence relations.

Bilateral cooperation for aircrew training

Bilateral cooperation focuses in particular on the domain of air safety.

- In 2017, a pilot from Brigade 918 (transport squadron) had the benefit of a training course at the French Institute of Aviation Safety (IFSA), and a new place was offered to Vietnam in 2018.

- Brigades 918 and 935 (Sukoi-30) have repeatedly opened their doors to French delegations (expert missions on flight safety in October 2017, Joint Defence Committee in January 2018, and the visit by ALPACI in March 2018). These meetings have underlined the openness and expectations of Vietnamese operational staff with regard to the French Air Force.

This dynamic country, which has the most modern armed forces of the region, constitutes a strategic partner, through its geographical position, its close relations with the United States and China on the one hand and its natural privileged ties with Malaysia and India on the other.

A Vietnamese fleet close to the French fleet

The AAF and RSAF have made similar choices of aircraft - MRTT, Caracal, Super Puma and PC21.

Operational bilateral air cooperation

In the domain of operational cooperation, the RSAF deployed a KC-135R to Qatar in 2016, and again in 2017, and most recently from April to June 2018 for use by the coalition engaged in combating Daesh. Our aircraft have already had occasion to refuel from this tanker. This deployment should be the last before the pilots make the transformation to the A330 MRTT.

For this event, the aircraft of the French Air Force had the opportunity to refuel on this KC-135R. In the context of the purchase of the AS-TER 30 and its delivery in 2018, a working group has been established between AAF and RSAF.

Historic bilateral cooperation in pilot-training

The permanent detachment of the Republic of Singapore Air Force is an Advanced Jet Training School for fighter pilots, and, since 2015, for navigators/combats systems officers (CSOs) of the RSAF. The trainee pilots spend 10 to 12 months at the school (8 months for navigators/combats system officers), constituting the final phase of their training, which lasts a total of approximately two and a half years. More than 180 RSAF fighter pilots and 6 CSOs have graduated from Cazaux between 1998 and today. Currently the RSAF detachment comprises a total of 130 Singaporeans at the air base (BA 120). Sixteen Singaporean trainees are currently in RSAF 150

Squadron, representing 5 fighter pilot promotions and 2 CSO promotions.

This cooperation also includes the hosting of a cadet in Salon-de-Provence and is particularly evidenced by the presence of a Singaporean squadron (150 Squadron) at Cazaux air base for advanced training of their fighter pilots on the M346.

> *This strong presence at Cazaux illustrates the solidity of the bilateral defence relationship. It should be noted that the Singaporeans use the PC21 for basic training (training in Australia).*

Besides local military ceremonies, in which they take an active part, the Singaporean detachment participates in numerous commemorative, cultural, sporting and singing events. Since 1998, RSAF 150 Squadron has participated in 24 air shows.

Events

> 50-year anniversary of the Singaporean Air Force.

> 12 July 2018 marked the 20-year anniversary of the presence of squadron 150 at Cazaux air base.





France is a nation that has a coastline in the Indian Ocean, in the form of Réunion Island, a French administrative "département" with a population of 850,000. France also has military support points in Abu Dhabi and Djibouti, which consolidate its strategic position in this region.

New Delhi is a pole of stability in a zone exposed to serious threats to collective security (terrorism, Pakistan's military nuclear programme, the fragility of many nation states and ongoing border disputes). In the United Nations, India,

The Franco-Indian partnership is founded on five pillars:

- defence (first sale of fighter planes in 1953)
- space (cooperation between CNES and ISRO since the 1960s)
- civil nuclear power
- security (information, counter-terrorism and cybersecurity)
- maritime security (since 2016).

which is a candidate for permanent membership of the UN Security Council, is one of the world's top three contributors to the blue helmets.

An Indian fleet close to the French fleet

The AAF and IAF have made similar choices of aircraft, such as the Mirage 2000.

The IAF has become a major air power in Asia, approaching western standards. Cooperation between the IAF and AAF is expanding. Exercise "GARUDA" (next edition in 2019) represents the high point of this cooperation.

Historic bilateral air force cooperation

Initiated in 1953, bilateral cooperation between the IAF and AAF is historic. This cooperation is pragmatic and organized around several shared assets. It still represents a long-term commitment, with the imminent arrival of the Rafale in India.

Bilateral air force cooperation is an essential component of the "Defence" pillar of the Franco-Indian strategic partnership.

Defence cooperation between India and France is long-standing, in particular in the aviation domain (planes: Ouragan, Mystère, Jaguar and Mirage; helicopters: Alouette and Lama). This cooperation was consolidated by the signature of the contract to buy 36 Rafales on 23 September.

The level of operational cooperation opens the way for high-quality, targeted activities corresponding to shared interests.

> This was especially seen during the two reciprocal visits of the two Chiefs of Air Staff, BS Dhanoo and General André Lanata, which took place respectively in France in July 2017 and in India in February 2018.

In June 2014, Exercise "GARUDA 5" was conducted at the Jodhpur air base and marked the first participation of four Rafales and a C-135. The next edition, "GARUDA 6" in 2019, enters the planning stage this year and will enable us once again to measure the excellent interoperability level of our two air forces.

Did you know?

In the Asia-Pacific zone, India is the only country to have placed a contract for the purchase of the Rafale. At present, this is the biggest military aircraft contract signed by France and the biggest ever military contract placed by India. It will play a structural role in bilateral cooperation between our two countries for the next 50 years.



THE RAFALE

A jewel of the French Air Force and aerospace industry

Operational since 2006 in the AAF, the Rafale has demonstrated its perfect operational versatility in its engagements on national territory, as part of the permanent security posture (policing of the sky, nuclear deterrent etc.), or in external theatres of operation (Afghanistan, Libya, Mali, Central African Republic and the Middle East).

Technical specification

The Rafale is the first French fighter aircraft that is "omni-role", both in the diversity of its missions and in its flexibility, which enables it to carry out consecutive missions of different nature during the same flight. Meeting the F3 standard, it is equally effective in accomplishing air defence missions and ground attack or reconnaissance missions.

Squadron

Two Rafales will come from the 4th fighter wing, stationed at air base 113 in Saint-Dizier. This wing comprises fighter squadron (EC) 1/4 "Gascogne", Rafale Transformation Squadron (ETR) 3/4 "Aquitaine" and the technical air support squadron (ESTA) 15/4 "Haute-Marne".

One Rafale will be provided by the 30th fighter wing, stationed at air base 118 in Mont-de-Marsan, which includes three fighter squadrons: EC 1/30 "Côte-d'Argent", EC 2/30 "Normandie-Niemen" and EC 3/30 "Lorraine". In addition, this wing includes ESTA 15.030 "Chalosse" and the Rafale 23.030 information centre.



The Rafale, which currently has pride of place in the 30th fighter wing, conducts daily missions from the projected air base in the Middle East. Its characteristics make it decisively important for conducting the missions of the French armed forces.



Max Speed	Mach 1.8/750 kts
Approach speed.....	120 kts
Takeoff length	400m
Rolling bearing distance at landing.....	450m
Rate of climb.....	+300m/sec
Operational ceiling.....	+15,240 m



THE AIRBUS A400M

The Airbus A400M for logistical mission support

In a context where power projection beyond the frontiers of France is an essential condition of France's intervention capability, the performance of the A400M Atlas has heralded a new era in French military air transport.

Technical specification

The A400M is a tactical transport aircraft with new-generation strategic capabilities, epitomizing technological innovation and new air transport capacities for the French Air Force. The extended capacity and speed of the A400M Atlas vastly increase its immediate intervention capability from the air bases in metropolitan France. The deployment of a projected air base, the entry



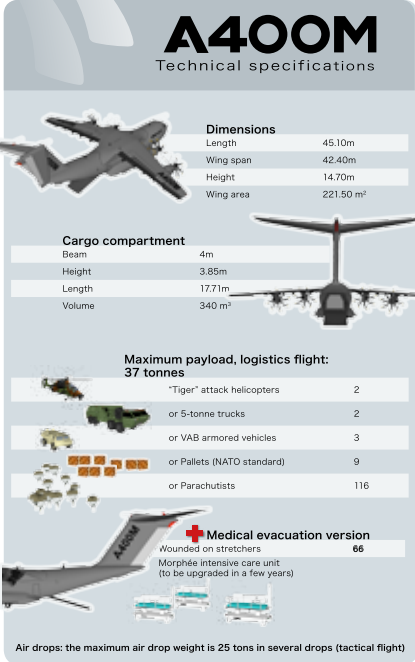
The first humanitarian mission of the A400M Atlas

After leaving Orleans on 9 September 2017, the first of the three A400Ms deployed by transport squadron 1/61 "Touraine" landed in Saint-Martin to reinforce the assets in place. It carried 20 metric tons of equipment, including a Puma helicopter. The second A400M, which arrived a few hours later, carried military reinforcements and medicines. The A400M was able to complete a total of 76 rotations, in particular between Fort-de-France and Pointe-à-Pitre. The storm had barely passed before the A400M was already on the tarmac in Saint-Martin to provide emergency assistance. Immediately after the cargo was unloaded, the hold version had to be changed to turn it into a passenger transport plane with about a hundred seats. After a flight of 49 minutes, the A400M landed in Martinique. And it needed only just over 800m to come to a standstill. A total of 391 rotations were completed in the islands, including 76 by the A400M.

force in a theatre of operations and the airlifting of combat or support equipment to locations very close to operations are expert characteristics that constitute the rapid response capability of France and its capability to autonomously respond to a crisis thousands of kilometres from national territory. This aircraft contributes to maintaining the permanent missions of the French Air Force, especially for inter-ministerial assistance missions in the event of a disaster in metropolitan France and its overseas regions and departments (DOM-COM).

Squadron

Transport squadron 1/61 "Touraine" is stationed at air base 123 in Orleans-Bricy.



THE BOEING C-135 FR

An indispensable tool for the projection of fighter aircraft

While complying with the deterrent posture contract, the air assets of the Strategic Air Force (FAS) contribute to all the conventional missions of French combat aircraft. The C-135s have been refuelling all French and foreign combat aircraft during operations for several decades. They hold specific alerts and conduct missions in the domains of logistical transport, health evacuations and public service missions.

The success of the offensive missions of fighter aircraft depends in particular on the complementary activity of the "high value-added" aircraft that conduct the vital missions of information, aerial refuelling and airborne command: this is the case of the C-135. It enables fighter pilots to make contact with the refuelling drogue while flying at 300 knots (540km/h), with fuel flowing at the rate of 625 litres per minute.



Fiche technique

Boeing C-135 FR	A330-MRTT Phénix
7 metric tons of fuel delivered for an autonomy of 4 h 30 over a zone of 2,000km	50 metric tons of fuel delivered for an autonomy of 4 h 30 over a zone of 2,000km
25 metric tons over a distance of 8,000km	40 metric tons over a distance of 8,000km
73 passengers over a distance of 9,000km	271 passengers over 9,000km
Up to 8 Morphée modules over 8,000km	Up to 10 Morphée modules over 12,000km
Command relay (Iridium)	Command relay (SATCOM, followed by SATCOM HD). Information relay

Escadron

The C-135 attached to aerial refuelling Group 2/91 "Bretagne" is part of the 31st refuelling and strategic transport wing (EARTS).

Did you know?

During the night of 13 to 14 August 2018, six C-135 refuelling tankers were mobilized above Syria, representing 50% of the overall fleet. They enabled each fighter to refuel 5 times, accumulating a total of 10 flight hours.



Event

The delivery of the first Phénix is scheduled for autumn 2018, and the second in 2019, with a total of 12 aircraft by 2023. The decision to raise the target to 15 aircraft by 2027, or an increase of 25% for the format, is essential to cover the needs of the airborne nuclear component, aerial refuelling and strategic transport.





General (2S) Patrick Charaix

Promotion 1978 "Général Pineau" from École de l'air

Certified fighter pilot in 1981
2,700 flying hours

- 1981:** Pilot, EC 3/30 "Lorraine", Reims
- 1987:** Escadrille commander, RC 2/30 "Normandie-Niemen", Reims
- 1989:** Second-in-command and subsequently commander EC 3/12 "Cornouaille", Cambrai
- 1991:** Editing Officer, Air Defence and Air Operations Command (CDAOA), Taverny
- 1994:** Commander EC 3/5 1/5 "Vendée", Orange
- 1996:** Collège Interarmées de Défense (Joint Defence Forces College), Paris
- 1997:** Chief of the Air Cell, Joint Forces Operations Command, Paris
- 2000:** Head of the General Affairs Office, Inspection Générale des Armées Air (General Air Forces Inspectorate), Paris
- 2002:** Commander of the air forces and air base 188 in Djibouti
- 2004:** Auditor of the Centre des Hautes Etudes Militaires (CHEM) and the national session of the Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale (IHEDN), Paris
- 2005:** Deputy Bureau Chief of the Research and Military Strategy office of the Etat-Major des Armées (joint forces command)
- 2006:** Fighter Brigade Commander, air force command, Metz
- 2008:** Vice-marshal for the national territory, Air defence and air operations command, Paris
- 2010 :** Deputy Commander, commandement de la défense aérienne et des opérations aériennes, Paris
- 2011 :** Deputy Commander, commandement des forces aériennes stratégiques, Villacoublay
- 2012 :** Commander, French Strategic Air Forces, Villacoublay
- 2014 :** Retired from the Air Force
- Since 2015 :** Air force representative

Promotion: 1 september 2012 : Air Marshal

Decorations

Knight of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur)
Officer - National Order of Merit (Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite)
Cross for Military Valour (Croix de la Valeur Militaire)
Aeronautical Medal (Médaille de l'Aéronautique)



Colonel Arnaud Brunetta

Promotion 1993 "Général Pineau" from École de l'air

Certified fighter pilot in 1997
2,500 flying hours

- 1997-2005:** Fighter plane pilot and instructor
- 2009-2012:** Fighter squadrons "Côte d'Or" and "Île-de-France", Dijon and Orange
- 2005-2008:** Operational planner/NATO Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples
- 2010-2011:** Strategic adviser/Strategic command USCENTCOM, Tampa
- 2012-2016:** Assistant to the Director General of EU Military Staff/European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels
- 2016-2017:** Head of the asset coordination division/Defence zone command, Lyon
- Depuis 2017:** ETeacher of Master's course in International Relations - Security and Defence/Lyon III University

Qualifications

Engineering graduate of Ecole de l'Air
MA in mechanical engineering, option aerospace

Decorations

Knight of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur)
Officer - National Order of Merit (Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite)
National Defence Medal - gold level (Médaille de la Défense Nationale)





Commandant Antoine

Promotion 2002 "Commandant Longy" from École de l'Air

Certified fighter pilot in 2007
2,400 flying hours, including 570 flight hours in 121 war missions

2007: air base 120 - Trainee pilot
2008: air base 102 - Navigating officer, Escadrille 3 SPA 12, GC 1/2 "Cigognes"
2011: air base 118 - Navigating officer, Escadrille 3, RC 2/30 "Normandie-Niemen"
2012: air base 118 - Commander, Escadrille 3, SPA 91, RC 2/30 "Normandie-Niemen"
2015: air base 118 - Air Activity Chief, 30th fighter wing
2016: air base 118 - Second-in-command, RC 2/30 "Normandie-Niemen"

Operations:

February - April 2009: Émirats arabes unis
January - March 2010: Émirats arabes unis
January - March 2011: Émirats arabes unis
May - July 2011: *Harmattan*
January - February 2013: *Serval*
October - November 2013: *Serval/Épervier*
October - December 2014: *Barkhane/Sangaris*
August - October 2015: *Chammal*
October - November 2016: *Chammal*
December 2017-January 2018: *Chammal*

Décorations:

Cross for Military Valour (Croix de la Valeur Militaire) with 4 bronze stars
Combatant's Cross (Croix du combattant)
Overseas Medal (Médaille d'Outre-Mer), with vermillion campaign clasp, Chad, Sahel and Middle East
National Defence Medal - Gold (Médaille d'or de la Défense nationale) with 1 bronze star
Certificate of the nation's gratitude
National Defence Medal (Médaille de la Défense Nationale), gold level with clasps for Combat Air Force,
External Operations Mission, Air Defence
French commemoration medal, Libya clasp
Medal for the Military Protection of the Territory (Médaille de la Protection Militaire du Territoire) with
Trident clasp



Commandant Marc-Antoine

Promotion 2002 "Commandant Longy" from École de l'air

Certified fighter pilot in 2007
2,200 flying hours, including 1200 in Rafale in 90 war missions

2002: air base 701 - Trainee pilot - GFIO 10.300
2003: Exchange US Air Force Academy
2005: air base 705 - Trainee pilot - EAC 00.314
air base 709 - Trainee selection PN - EPAA 00.315
2006: air base 120 - Trainee pilot - ETO 00.008
2007: air base 113 - Navigating officer - EC 1/7 « Provence »
2012: United Kingdom - Exchange pilot on Typhoon - 1 (F) SQN
2015: air base 118 - Commander of Escadrille 3 - RC 2/30 « Normandie-Niemen »
2016: air base 118 - Operations chief - EC 3/30 « Lorraine »
2017: air base 118 - Second-in-command d - EC 3/30 « Lorraine »

Opérations:

March - June 2011: *Harmattan*
December 2011: Tchad
February - April 2012: Émirats arabes unis
May - June 2014: Azotize (Uk-Lituanie)
June - July 2015: Azotize (Uk-Estonie)
February - April 2016: *Barkhane*
December 2016 - February 2017: *Chammal*
January 2018 - April 2018: *Chammal*

Décorations:

Overseas Medal (Médaille d'Outre-Mer), vermillion level, with Middle East campaign clasp
Combatant's Cross (Croix du combattant)
Overseas Medal (Médaille d'Outre-Mer) Sahel campaign clasp
Medal of the nation's gratitude (Médaille de reconnaissance de la nation)
National Defence Medal - gold level (Médaille de la Défense nationale), with clasp 1 air forces
and clasp 2 external operation missions
Baltic air policing medals
Cross for Military Valour (Croix de la Valeur Militaire), bronze level
French commemorative medal





Captain Cédric
Promotion OSC 2001C

Licensed transport pilot in 2005
3,800 flying hours

- 2005: air base 118 - CASA CN235, ET 3/62 Ventoux
- 2010: air base 365 - instructor CASA CN235, ETOM 00.058 Le Lamentin, Martinique
- 2012: air base 123 - A400M, MEST 01.338
- 2014: air base 123 - instructor A400M, Head of flight safety cell, ET 1/61 "Touraine"

Operations:
Ivory Coast, Chad

Décorations:
National Defence Medal - gold level (Médaille de la Défense nationale)
Overseas Medal (Médaille d'Outre-Mer), vermillion level

The French Air Force is an instrument of power and security at the service of France and the protection of French citizens both on national territory and external theatre of operation. Since it permanently guarantees the protection of French national airspace, the nuclear deterrent posture, and entry force capability ("first entry") on theatres of operation, the Air Force is both the manifestation and the guarantee of our country's freedom of political action and sovereignty in all places, at all times and in real time.

In an uncertain context, our aircrews, engaged in a joint collective effort, hunt terrorists to their hideouts, from the Sahelo-Saharan Strip to the Middle East, while also confronting the resurgence of threats on the frontiers of Europe. Consequently, the French Air Force, with its capability for action covering the full spectrum of air operations, affirms its status as a top-level aerospace power in all corners of the world.

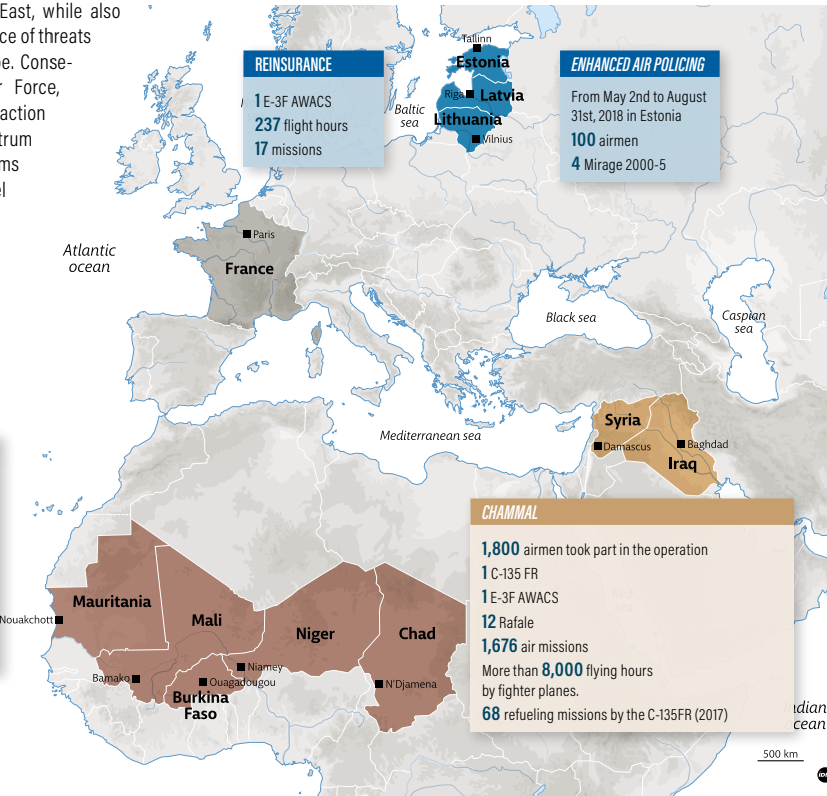
The French Air Force remains durably committed, beyond its operational contract, both on French territory and in external operations. Alongside the military personnel of the other armed forces, aircrews commit themselves totally to the protection of France and French citizens.

Zoom on the operation in Syria

In the night of 13 to 14 August 2017, the French Air Force conducted strikes in Syria with its American and British joint forces allies. This proportionate and targeted operation was aimed at targets linked to the clandestine chemical weapons programme of the Syrian regime.

BARKHANE

- 8 Mirage 2000
- 1 C-135 FR
- 10 à 15 transport planes
- 5 drones
- 2,140 air missions
- 40,000 transported military
- 6,260 tonnes of freight transported
- 5,700 flying hours for the Reaper





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Photos and videos are available at the web link below

www.air-actualites.com/pegase

The French Air Force is also present on social media

#PBK18
#ExPitchBlack18
#MissionPEGASE18
#FrenchAirForce



ABOUT THE FRENCH AIR FORCE

The Law of 2 July established the French Air Force and defined its general organization. The creation of an identity took form with the selection of the "Louise Blue" uniform, mandatory cap, the dagger, which symbolizes command and the first promotion from Ecole de l'Air in 1935,

The French Air Force was built up gradually. On the foundation of a solid and durable doctrine, nourished by the dreams of its pioneers, tested by the configurations of the 20th century, the French Air Force has now imposed itself as an indispensable component of French power.

Today, the French Air Force is permanently committed to the successful completion of its principal missions for the protection of France and French citizens:

- **PROTECT:** The French Air Force guarantees France's airspace and also carries out space surveillance. It protects populations and reinforces public service.
- **DETER:** The French Air Force continues to provide the airborne component of France's nuclear deterrent, as it has done without interruption since 1964. As the cornerstone of the French defence concept, the nuclear deterrent protects the interests of the Nation.
- **INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY:** The French Air Force is capable of deploying a combat force extremely rapidly. It can project force and power or provide assistance. Its aircrews, engaged on every front, are permanently ready to intervene in a wide variety of operations, ranging from humanitarian crisis to counter-terrorism.

Its 43,000 flight personnel share the values of respect, integrity, sense of service and excellence. As the founding principles of the institution, these values are among the fundamentals of the French Air Force.

