2015

THE JEANNE D’ARC MISSION

Ensign training integrated into the operational deployment of Landing Helicopter Dock Dixmude and destroyer Aconit
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THE JEANNE D’ARC MISSION

CONDUCTING TODAY’S OPERATIONS WHILE PREPARING
THE FUTURE FRENCH NAVY

From March to July 2015, an amphibious group composed of LHD Dixmude and LSF Aconit will be deployed in the Indian ocean and then beyond the south of the sea of China even reaching the sea of Japan. Military operations and bilateral co-operation actions will be conducted during the mission. Meanwhile, the trained officers from the 2012 French Naval Academy promotion, as well as foreign officers, will carry out their first operational deployment. This will make these young officers acquire a solid military leader and seaman status through this “embedded” training, an experience of taking responsibilities opening their minds to the issues linked to this strategic area.

FOUR MISSIONS

AN OPERATIONAL MISSION

- Strategic pre-positioning: under the Chief of Staff’s command, the group can conduct operations of various kinds, ashore or at sea.
- Supporting the fight against piracy and against terrorism.

A CO-OPERATION MISSION

- Operational preparation.
- Interoperability with major allies.
- Bilateral training with the local Navies.

A LARGE-SCALE MISSION

- Naval support to diplomacy.
- Support to exports.

A TRAINING MISSION

146 cadets will take part in the deployment, going far, for a long time and fitting in a crew.

- « FAR »: this deployment through the Indian Ocean, and then to the Pacific, to the sea of Japan, is a unique opportunity for them to apprehend different frameworks in economics, politics and culture.
- « FOR A LONG TIME »: the fast pace of navigating and the quick succession of activities enable the future officers to be fully operational and trained for the responsibilities they will undertake at the end of their mission.
- « IN A CREW »: members of the crew, surrounded by Navy values, knowledge and know-how to acquire an intense, various and most representative seaman experience.
A 5 MONTH-MISSION
A MULTIDIMENSIONAL DEPLOYMENT
CONSTITUTION OF THE PROMOTION
146 CADETS

The extended deployment of the amphibious group and the variety of its missions enable the trained officers – from various professional backgrounds and eighteen different nationalities - to receive a practical training:

- 79 lieutenants including 13 international trainee officers who joined the 2012 French Navy School, come from Saudi Arabia (2), Cameroon, Madagascar, Togo and Tunisia.
- 7 supply officers called upon to start their career in the French navy.
- 11 shipping masters.
- 8 military doctors expected to start their career in the French Navy.
- 13 international trainee officers invited to an external training and coming from Brazil, Benin, Canada, United-States, Gabon (2), Indonesia, Morocco, United Kingdom, Senegal and Vietnam.

Others will join them for short periods:
- 10 sub-lieutenants from Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan.
- 13 armament engineer trainees.
- 7 supply officers called upon to start their career in the military health service.

In parallel, 18 EDHEC trainees will join the trainee officers for a short stay onboard.
THE LANDING HELICOPTER DOCK
DIXMUDE

LHD is multifunctional:
- an assault helicopter carrier
- an amphibious ship
- able to deploy troops and vehicles
- a NATO approved headquarter
- a hospital ship able to provide health support on combat operations or humanitarian crises
- a forward base for special forces during overseas deployment

Maximum speed: 19 knots
Displacement: 22000 tons
Draught: 6,50 meters
Range at 15 knots: 11000 Nq
Compliance with standards Solas (Safely Of Life at Sea) and MARPOL (Maritime Pollution)
Length: 199 meters
Beam: 32 meters
OUTSTANDING MANOEUVRABILITY

The PODs and the bow thruster can be controlled by a dynamic positioning system. The ship can easily turn on her own length. This capability is essential to conduct amphibious operations and access to poorly-equipped landing sites.

COMBAT SYSTEM

LHD is fitted with the SENIT 9 system, one of the latest evolutions for combat direction system in the French Navy. Air and surface picture compilation by multi-sensor tracking capabilities. Self defence systems: 2 x SIM BAD anti-air missiles, 2 x 20 mm and 4 x 12.7 mm guns.

LANDING CRAFT

The well-deck can carry 4 Landing Craft Units (LCU) or 2 Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC) or 2 Landing Catamarans (LCATs). All troops and vehicles can be deployed in less than 2 hours.

AVIATION CAPABILITIES

- Up to 16 heavy helicopters (Tigre, Caïman Marine, NH90 ALAT)
- 6 landing spots
- 2 elevators
- The flight deck (5 200 m²) can operate all types of helicopters including Super Stallion
- Helicopter hangar: 1 800 square meters.
TROOPS

- 110 armoured vehicles or 13 main battle tanks stationed on 2 decks (2 650 square meters)
- Comfortable living quarters designed for long-term deployments for 450 troops.

HQ AREA

Approximately 850 square meters are dedicated to the battle staff with a full blend of command and control tools to conduct operations. This area benefits from a wide range of information systems with access to civil, military, French, European or NATO networks. Several command and control units can be deployed in the armoured vehicles hangar.

HOSPITAL

The hospital has been fitted with two surgical units, a comprehensive technical platform and 69 medical beds. These medical facilities can be expanded with additional medical shelters in the helicopter hangar.
THE EMBARKED REACTION FORCE

The LHD Dixmude embarked forces are an essential part of the amphibious group which was made up for the Jeanne d’Arc mission.

THE AIRMOBILE GROUP

The amphibious group is composed of four aircraft units coming from the helicopter regiment of the Army.

Material means: 2 maneuver and assault helicopters PUMA
Human means: 40 soldiers

Material means: 2 reconnaissance and attack helicopters GAZELLE

THE DETACHMENT OF THE AMPHIBIOUS FLEET

Material means: 1 speed amphibious landing utility (EDA-R)
Human means: 2 mechanized landing crafts (CTM)

Material means: 25 amphibious fleet seamen
CAPTAIN PIERRE DE BRIANÇON
COMMANDING LHD DIXMUDE

Born on November 7th 1968, Captain Pierre de Briançon made his first steps in Toulon, southern France. Having completed his high school diploma and two years of scientific studies, he joined the French Navy in 1989 as a cadet officer at the Naval Academy of Brest.

During his first assignment from 1992 to 1994 he served as third officer and, being promoted shortly after, as Executive Officer (XO) on board a 400-ton patrol ship named « La Railleuse », based in Tahiti, conducting border controls and rescue missions.

Later, having passed an elite selection process in 1994, Captain Pierre de Briançon served until 2005 as a Commando in the well-known French Special Operations unit Commando Hubert. After being trained as a naval frogman and certified paratrooper instructor, he was assigned in every kind of commando position, for the most part in his Alma Mater, the Commando Hubert. Commanding this unit until the summer 2005, he has been involved in every major operation of the French armed forces since 1994, such as the operations in former Yugoslavia, Africa, Afghanistan, Middle-east or the Indian Ocean. Graduated in 2006 at the ESFAS (Spanish War College) in Madrid, he was assigned to continue his career in Paris at the naval headquarters as a specialist of SPECOPS and coastguard matters.

Having accomplished this task, he joined back the surface fleet from 2008 to 2011 as an Executive Officer (XO) of LCC « Foudre » and Commanding Officer (CO) of La Fayette class frigate « Guépratte », conducting missions in the Gulf of Guinea, the Gulf of Aden (Atalanta) and off the coast of Lybia during the French Operation Harmattan.

From 2011 to 2013, however, he served as the Mediterranean Maritime prefect’s chief of staff, finally being chosen to command BPC Dixmude from July 8th 2013 until today.

Captain de Briançon has been awarded with the French Légion d’Honneur. Furthermore, he has received five times the French military merit cross and several other merit and commemorative medals.

He has been married for 23 years and he is the father of six children.
THE MULTI-MISSION STEALTH FRIGATE (FLF)  
ACONIT

The attention paid to her acoustic and radar stealthiness, her modular design and her high level of automation designate her as a first tier warship. Multi-mission stealth frigates La Fayette leads missions such as:
- Knowledge-and anticipation
- Prevention of crises or conflicts
- Sovereignty in national waters
- Special operations
- Humanitarian missions.

Maximum speed: 25 knots
Displacement: 3750 tons
Draught: 4.50 meters
Length: 125 meters
Beam: 15.4 meters
DETECTION

- 2 CONSILIUM radars (DRBN 35: used as navigation radar and helicopter control radar)
- 2 DAGAIE decoy system
- 1 surface-to-air surveillance radar V15
- STI combat management system
- Satellite transmission system

WARSHIP EQUIPMENT

- 8 MM 40 EXOCET surface-to-surface missiles.
- 1 CROTALE anti-air short-range missile system.
- 1 100 mm gun-turret (CADAM).
- 2 20 mm F2 guns.
- 1 medium-heavy helicopter (PANTHER able to operate up to sea state 5/6)

PERSONNEL

- 13 officers
- 80 petty officers
- 53 seamen
- 1 helicopter detachment (9 people), capability to embark a commando unit
CAPTAIN JEAN-PIERRE HELLUY
COMMANDING FLF ACONIT

Captain Jean-Pierre Helluy was born on March 18th 1975 in Chevreuse. He joined the French Naval Academy in 1995 after preparing the entrance competitive exam of Janson de Sailly High School.

After completing the French Naval Academy curriculum onboard LPD “Jeanne d’Arc”, he chose to serve as Gunnery Officer first on the corvette “Jean Moulin” then on SSN “Casabianca”. He later served on the Southern Seas Patrol Boat “Albatros”.

Promoted as lieutenant in 2002, he was entrusted with the command of “Athos”, a patrol boat based in Bayonne, on the Gascony Gulf. He then joined the Navy Weapons and Combat Systems School in Saint-Mandrier, near Toulon, where he chose to specialise in ASW (Anti Surface Warfare).

He then was deployed in the Indian Ocean, being posted as head of department on the frigate “Guepratte”. In the Summer of 2005, he embarked aboard the aircraft carrier “Charles de Gaulle” as head of missiles bureau, Operations Watch Officer, representative for junior officers Staff member.

In 2007, he was appointed Head of the weapons’ bureau in the training department of the Fleet. He was responsible for designing and organising high profile training for French Navy ships. Promoted lieutenant commander in 2008, he planned and led the training of the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle and its escort in the first quarter of 2009.

In 2009, he was appointed OPSO onboard Air Warfare Destroyer “Jean Bart”. The ship got to be deployed in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

In September 2010 he joined the “Général de Gaulle” promotion of the French War College in Paris.

In July 2011, he is posted within the Multi Mission European Destroyer Task Group where he cooperates with fellow Italian military and manufacturers to design the “FREMMs” Weapon System.

He was promoted captain in the fall of 2012.

He was given the command of the frigate “Aconit” on August 18th 2014.

Captain Jean-Pierre Helluy is married and has 7 children.