

Deployments of the French forces in the Indo-Pacific

Regular deployments of high-level military capabilities from metropolitan France rounds out the permanent presence of French forces in the Indo-Pacific region. Since 2020, their frequency has been stepped up and their scale has been extended.

These deployments aim to protect both sovereignty and French interests, particularly in overseas territories, to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight, as well as to develop interoperability with partner forces and allies. They illustrate the permanent ability to project French armed forces over long distances autonomously at a regular pace. They are strategic signals for France's partners, allies and competitors. These deployments adopt a non-confrontational posture, in line with our Indo-Pacific approach, based on French and European strategic autonomy.

Clemenceau 2025 Mission

The Clemenceau 2025 Mission, launched in November 2025 for six months, is fully in line with this strategy. It aimed to step up France's presence in the Indo-Pacific, to secure maritime areas and to strengthen international partnerships. It enabled France to demonstrate its reliability in support of the sovereignty and safety of its partners, united around the Aircraft Carrier Strike Group (GAN).

Around the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, with the Military Staff and the Carrier Air Group (Gaé), the GAN was made up of several frigates with their helicopters, a fleet tanker, shore-based sea patrol aircraft and a nuclear attack submarine.

The Clemenceau 2025 mission enabled France to participate in several large-scale operational activities:

- The La Pérouse maritime safety exercise involving eight other countries (Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Singapore) around the Sunda, Malacca and Lombok Straits;
- The Pacific Steller exercise at sea of the Philippines, with the US and Japanese Navies, which includes three aircraft carriers and 100 aircraft in a high-intensity exercise, strengthening interoperability with the forces of partner countries;
- The Varuna bilateral exercise with the Indian Navy, off the coast of Goa, India, which concluded a significant bilateral series with Indian armed forces beginning with the GAN stopover in India in early January.

The mission enabled us to consolidate certain existing points of support (Goa, Singapore) and to develop new ones (Subic Bay in the Philippines, Lombok in Indonesia). Naval and air detachments increased the extension of GAN, with stopovers in Darwin, Okinawa, Ho Chi Minh City and Colombo.

Pegase 2024 Mission

Now organized every year, the Pegases Mission reaffirms the ability of the French armed forces to protect French overseas territories and national interests as well as illustrating France's

reliability and credibility as a military partner engaged in regional security and committed to freedom of navigation.

Based on a three-pronged capability – A400M, Rafale and A330 MRTT – the mission demonstrates France's capacity for rapid deployment over a wide range of effects, from high intensity to humanitarian support, relying on its network of prepositioned forces and partners.

From 27 June to 16 August 2024, the Pegases Mission was deployed in the Indo-Pacific region. Unprecedented, it was conducted in two parallel trajectories over more than 45,000 km, with the contribution of three European allies (Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain). At every stopover, exchanges with partner forces increased interoperability while showcasing French operational and technological know-how. Thanks to its participation in high-intensity exercises (Pitch Black in Australia, Tarang Shakti in India, Arctic Defender in Alaska), this mission demonstrated solid operational credibility. It helped to support sovereignty forces and to build partnerships and points of support in the region, with stopovers in 13 countries in 8 weeks of deployment. With stopovers in Saint Pierre and Miquelon and La Réunion, it also illustrated the Air and Space Force's ability to be deployed at short notice, far and swiftly, to protect our citizens in overseas territories.