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POLARIS25



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POLARIS²⁵

Implementing High-Intensity
Operational Preparation (HIOP)
of the French navy

POLARIS25 : MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF MODERN COMBAT READINESS

From 12 May to 15 June 2025, France will conduct a major high-intensity naval combat readiness exercise named POLARIS 25 (Operational preparation in air-sea combat, resilience, innovation, and superiority), which will take place in the Atlantic and the English Channel.

POLARIS 25 is a large-scale, structuring, and unifying high-intensity operational readiness (HIOP) exercise for the French Navy, simulating combat from naval bases to the open sea. From hybrid threats to amphibious actions in contested environments and operational combat support, this operational readiness training offers a rare opportunity for intensive training for all participating personnel and units. The realistic scenario is designed to prepare forces for combat in real-life conditions.



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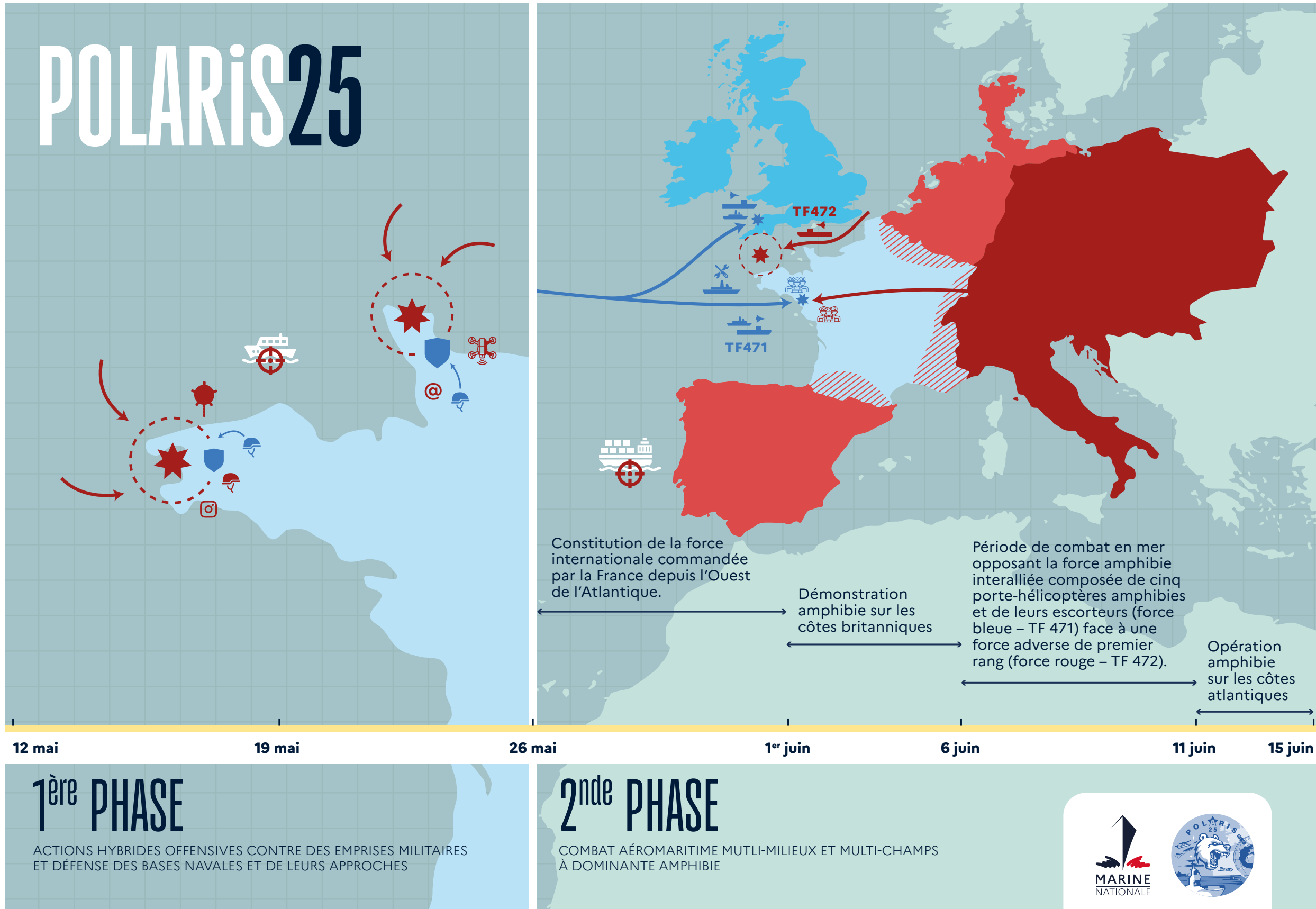
POLARIS 25 is structured around two distinct phases:

- A first period (12 to 25 May) focused on hybrid offensive actions against military sites in Brest and Cherbourg, and with defense of naval bases and their approaches.
- A second period (26 May to 15 June) of multi-environment, multi-domain air-sea combat operations, aiming to carry out a landing operation, incorporating operational logistical support and protection of civilian vessels in the conflict zone.

This training brings together nearly 3,000 military personnel, more than 20 surface ships, and more than 40 aircraft. It also enhances interoperability with participating allies and partners: Germany, Brazil, Spain, the United States, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and a NATO task group.



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« Our ambition: to build a strong and feared Navy. In the short term, this means more lethality. In the long term, it's about information superiority. »

Admiral Nicolas Vaujour,
Chief of the French Navy
November 2024.



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LETHALITY AND INFORMATION SUPERIORITY: the HIOP concept

The POLARIS concept reflects the strategic vision of the Chief of the Defense staff to 'win the war before the war and be ready to engage in high intensity.' It also aligns with the strategic plan of the Chief of the French Navy titled 'Combat Sailors,' aimed at hardening the Navy, enhancing its immediate combat capability, and maintaining superiority.

POLARIS aims to develop aero-maritime superiority in a complex and contested environment and to defend the interests of France and the French people. It allows combat units from various French services, their staffs, and support services to train together, while strengthening interoperability with allied forces. POLARIS illustrates the power projection capability of the French armed forces and its partners in a context of hybrid multi-milieu and multi-field (M2MC) threats.

The M2MC dimensions of POLARIS rigorously train personnel in the specifics of modern warfare, encompassing land, sea, air, cyber, seabed, cyberspace, space, electronic warfare, and information domains.



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HIOP exercises emphasize tactical and technological innovation, preparing participants to fight across all aero-maritime combat domains in joint operations.

Since 2021, the ongoing POLARIS exercises have brought the HIOP concept to life. The 2025 edition is distinguished by its more complex and extended scenario. This ambitious training also aims to enhance crew resilience by toughening their preparation for current challenges.

« Fighting spirit, boldness,
and innovation are what we expect
from sailors to win. The one who
adapts is the one who wins. »

Admiral Nicolas Vaujour,
Chief of the French Navy
November 2024.



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02/

CONVERGENCE OF FORCES:

The French and allied armed
forces facing current challenges



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A STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT marked by the return of high-intensity confrontations

French Navy is facing a tightening international context, especially in the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea, and is training to fully meet France's strategic priorities. With realistic planning and execution, POLARIS 25 replicates the deployment conditions and tools used by sailors, strengthening their combat readiness.

Since 2022, the world has seen the return of combat at sea. The hybrid nature of today's threats requires the French Navy to be ready and effective in all domains: from securing commercial traffic in the Red Sea, to crisis pre-positioning in the Near and Middle East, to protecting critical underwater infrastructure and defending Europe with allies.



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POLARIS 25 intensifies the high-intensity operational readiness of the French armed forces and their partners to maintain superiority across all domains of conflict. It stimulates tactical and strategic thinking and creativity. This exercise helps build a strong, resilient, and respected Navy, ready for the unexpected, even in joint-force configurations.



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ALLIED COOPERATION at the core of operational readiness

In coordination with NATO and European partners, the French armed forces work to secure and protect the approaches to the North Atlantic. POLARIS 25 supports the continued allied commitment and responsiveness of collective defense in maritime approaches and European borders. This large-scale exercise integrates many allied units and promotes shared high-intensity combat readiness standards.

POLARIS 25 will gather around ten allied and partner nations: Germany, Brazil, Spain, the United States, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and a NATO task group. It will strengthen interoperability through a realistic high-intensity conflict scenario.

Nearly 3,000 military personnel from a dozen countries, more than 20 surface ships (including a NATO task group), over 40 aircraft, five headquarters, and several support services will participate.

POLARIS contributes to the stability of European maritime approaches by demonstrating France's credibility and reliability to its allies and partners. This major high-intensity preparation event shows the French armed forces' unifying nature and ability to cooperate with European and other international partners.

As a sign of trust and reliability between France and British allies—two nations bound by shared values—the amphibious landing demonstration phase (prior to the assault landing on the French coast) will take place on British coast during the second phase of POLARIS.

03 /

**THE REALITY
OF TODAY'S
NAVAL COMBAT**

THE MULTITUDE OF UNITS INVOLVED **reflects operational ambitions**

The diversity of assets deployed in POLARIS 25, as well as its various phases enable it to address today's operational challenges.

This major event, bringing together nearly 3,000 military personnel from a dozen countries, will train five operational headquarters and numerous support services.

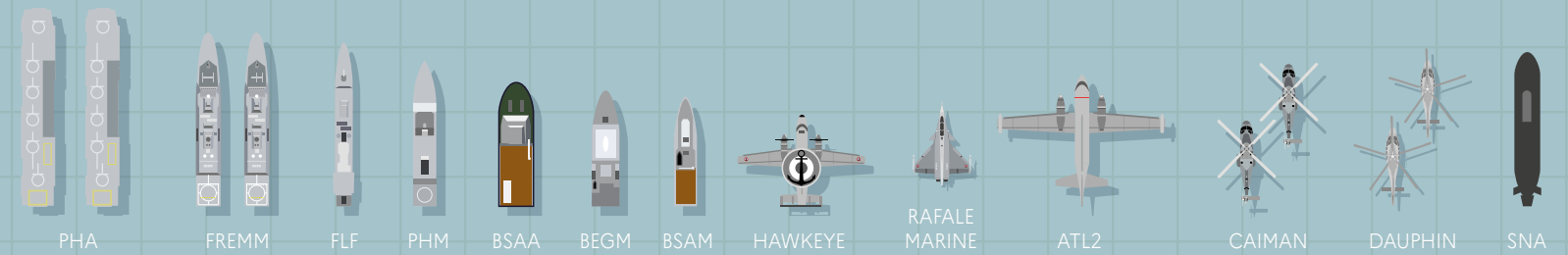


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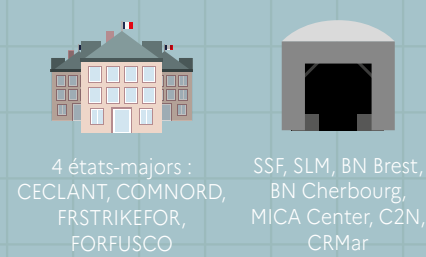
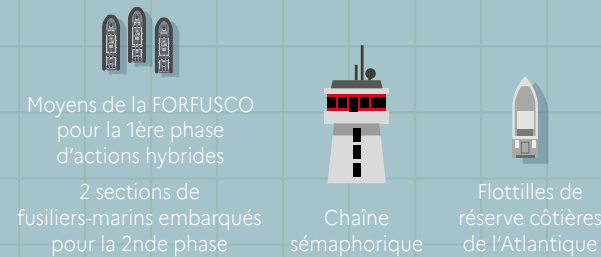
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LES MOYENS ENGAGÉS

MARINE NATIONALE



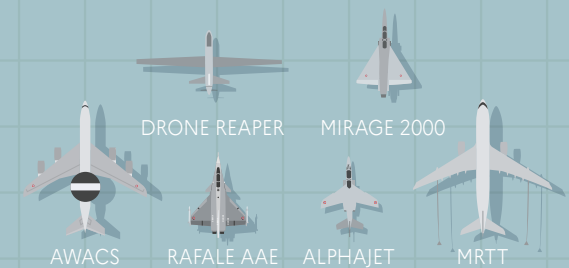
MARINE NATIONALE



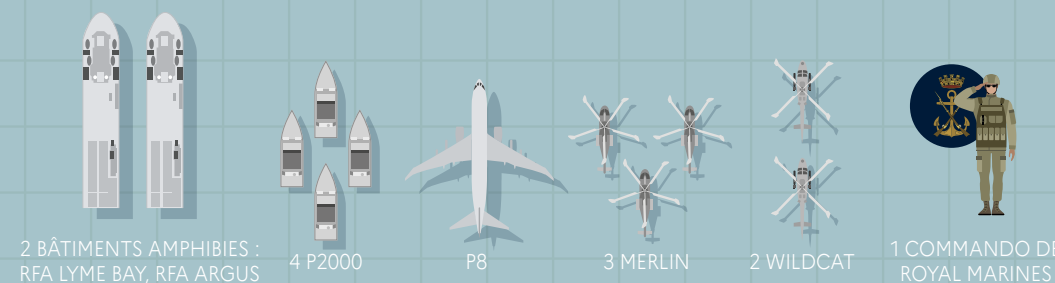
ARMÉE DE TERRE



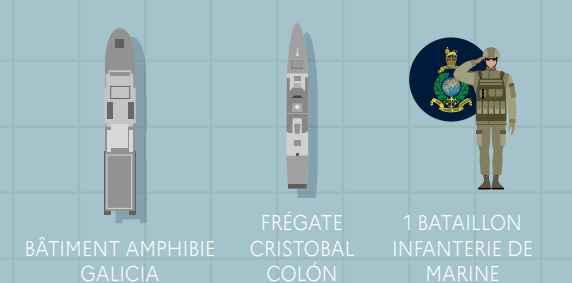
ARMÉE DE L'AIR ET DE L'ESPACE



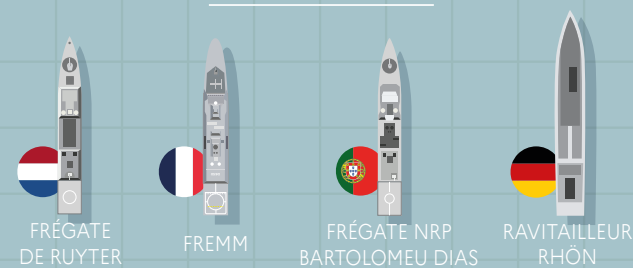
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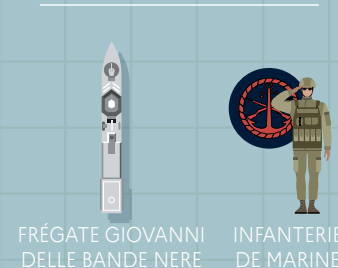
ESPAGNE



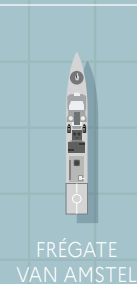
OTAN



ITALIE



PAYS-BAS



ÉTATS-UNIS



BRÉSIL



« Removing restrictions on the exercise to get as close to reality as possible. »

Captain Florian El-Ahdab,
Director of the The Naval Combat Center (C2N)
for Cols Bleus, July 2024.



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**OPERATIONAL CONDITION
AND LOGISTICS**

Realistic conditions in this exercise allow forces to train as they would in real operations, including dealing with equipment losses or damage. The Fleet Support Service (SSF) will ensure the operational readiness for surface vessels. POLARIS 25 will also test the ability to handle damaged equipment and provide intervention in or near a theater of operation. It aims to refine immediate repair capabilities, even within a multinational force.



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« A major pillar of the Navy's strategy is to strengthen cooperation with shipping companies for optimal global security. »

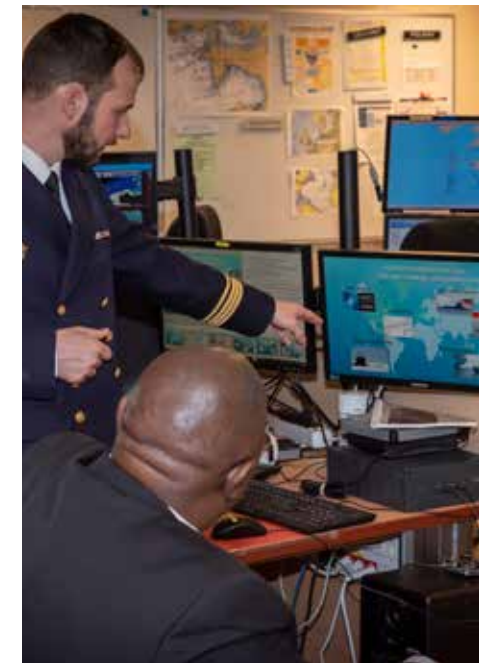
Admiral Nicolas Vaujour,
Chief of the French Navy,
February 2025.



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MARITIME SECURITY AND MICA CENTER

The need for maritime autonomy reflects the worsening threats to global maritime security seen in 2024, affecting freedom of navigation and port infrastructure security. With 85% of global trade moving by sea, maritime commerce is the backbone of the world economy. The *Maritime Information Cooperation & Awareness Center* (MICA Center) plays a key role and will also participate in POLARIS 25.



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As a French center of expertise in maritime security, MICA Center has two missions tested in POLARIS: to monitor and analyze global maritime events 24/7 and to provide ships and operators with tailored security information in high-risk areas.

The exercise aims to reinforce naval cooperation and guidelines for civilian shipping, including voluntary participation by merchant vessels. POLARIS 25 will also enhance ship reporting systems, deliver safety updates, and brief civilian security officers. One phase of the exercise will focus on supporting civilian ships under threat.



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AT THE CORE OF tactical innovation

POLARIS 25 is a major high-intensity military exercise aimed at strengthening France's ability to fight in a complex, multi-threat environment. It highlights tactical innovation, joint force cooperation, and the integration of new technologies such as drones and artificial intelligence (AI). POLARIS 25 demonstrates the strength, resilience, and fighting spirit of the French armed forces in an era of international contestation.

This year's innovation focus will be on amphibious manoeuvres: the use of reconnaissance drones (surface, aerial, and underwater), data links between Navy and Army units, and decision-support tools for onboard command. The naval combat phase will trial new escort tactics in contested environments.

Efforts will also focus on data systems, with two frigates equipped with on-board data hubs to store and analyze operational data.



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THE NAVAL COMBAT CENTER (C2N)

The C2N has been developing this exercise for months. Representing all branches of the Navy, its mission is to accelerate and facilitate tactical innovation. To this end, it plans, conducts, and analyzes exercises in modern conflict scenarios across interconnected domains.

COMBAT sailors

High-intensity warfare is no longer abstract or purely technical. French Navy crews now face real combat at sea. Preparing for this level of conflict, alongside other armed forces, is a priority.

POLARIS 25 aims to confirm operational readiness and strengthen crews. Group training of available units provides more advantages than isolated drills—exposing each unit to a range of situations and capabilities. POLARIS is a significant opportunity for all participating units.

HIOP also aims to enhance the creativity and combat readiness of sailors. For several weeks, they are placed in combat situations, ready to respond to any threat, maintaining full alertness as in operational deployments.

In the naval combat phase, real conditions apply: no replenishment of ammunition without a dedicated logistical manoeuvre; when a missile is fired, it is one less available; if a ship is hit, the impact affects the tactical outcome. This HIOP approach toughens up sailors significantly.

The multi-domain, multi-environment nature of POLARIS provides demanding training for sailors of all specialties. It tests and showcases all available skills. It is also a rare opportunity to reinforce leadership at every level, from local management to naval force command in coalition.

Our ability to respond to high-intensity conflict depends not only on our assets' performance but also on the readiness of our sailors—the Navy's most vital resource.

In addition, sailors will be put to the test in part of the exercise dedicated to dealing with large numbers of casualties in the event of missile attacks or other incidents causing mass casualties. They will train to continue fighting with resilience in dramatic situations. They will train to deal with dramatic situations, both medically (intervention by the defence medical services, first aid, etc.) and psychologically (managing the situation with composure, acting with clarity despite the situation, etc.).



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