

# PRESS RELEASE OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF THE ARMED FORCES

Paris, July 13, 2023

### Mission JEANNE D'ARC 2023 - review of five months of deployment

- After 155 days of deployment and 27,500 nautical miles covered, the Landing helicopter dock (LHD) Dixmude, the frigate La Fayette, their 650 sailors and 150 soldiers, are back in Toulon on July 13.
- They left France on February 8, to begin a complete world tour and mission full of learning, operations, training and international cooperation.

#### TRAIN: 640 class hours and 45 watch hours completed by 160 cadets

The first objective of the JEANNE D'ARC 2023 mission was to train the 140 student officers of the French Navy and 16 officers from partner navies. After their theoretical training, they discovered their specialisation and learned from experienced sailors in the real conditions of a long and demanding deployment. To train them, the LHD and the frigate carried out 112 engine damage simulations; 13 visit, board, search and seizure exercises; 94 refueling maneuvers at sea; 1700 landings; and 53 firefighting drills. The French cadets are now ready to practice their profession on the French Navy ships for their first assignment in a few weeks.

# PROTECT AND SECURE: through the fishing police, the fight against drug trafficking and the support to populations

As part of ATALANTA, a European mission to fight against piracy and illicit trafficking, the Jeanne d'Arc group seized more than one ton of narcotics in the Indian Ocean. To contribute to the protection of fishing resources, the two ships of the French Navy took part in the fishing police's missions in French waters of the Pacific Ocean. In total, the task force has patrolled for 28 days in the French exclusive economic zone in the Mediterranean, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. A team of soldiers from Dixmude landed on the French atoll of Clipperton, 6,000 km from Tahiti and east of the Mexican coast, to carry out a depollution and mine clearance operation. Finally, the course of the JEANNE D'ARC mission enabled the group to integrate the training and exercises of the French forces in New Caledonia (CROIX DU SUD), in French Polynesia, and in the West Indies (TCHEMBE) on themes like security and support to populations following a natural disaster.

The circumnavigation of the Jeanne d'Arc group thus helped to assert French sovereignty in its territories: the network of French sovereignty forces and points of support in partner countries made it possible.

## **DEVELOP OUR INTEROPERABILITY with foreign partner armed forces**

At sea, Dixmude and La Fayette conducted exercises with 10 foreign navies (Australia, Egypt, Spain, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States). On land, the Embedded Tactical Group (GTE) from the 6th light armored brigade and the helicopters from the Light Aviation of the French Army (ALAT), embarked on the LHD, carried out six exercises with the local military units during the stopovers: WAKRI in Djibouti, FRINJEX in India, exchanges with the Singaporean army, GARUDA GUERRIER in Indonesia, and training with the Australian and Mexican Army.

Media contacts:

French Navy Public Relations Office (SIRPA Marine) sirpa-marine.relation-presse.fct@intradef.gouv.fr +33 9 88 68 46 65

Centre media du ministère des Armées <u>media@dicod.fr</u> 09 88 67 33 33 60 boulevard du général Martial Valin CS 21623 - 75009 Paris Cedex 15