



MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES ET DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS

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PRESS RELEASE FROM MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES ET DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS

Paris, the 14th october 2024

Space : France joins the multinational force - Operation Olympic Defender

- France formally joined the multinational force - Operation Olympic Defender (OOD) on 14th October 2024, during a meeting held in Paris between Major General Adam, French Space Commander, and General Whiting, Commander of the US Space Command (USSC) in the presence of representatives from the other OOD participating nations.
- The multinational OOD force was created by the United States in 2013. It is presented by the American authorities as an ideal vehicle for operational cooperation in the field of space control. It has been opened up to the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia between 2018 and 2021.

France, along with Germany and New Zealand, has been officially invited to join the Multinational Force - OOD during the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, in April 2024. On the 14th of October, France confirms joining this permanent military operation, the scope of which covers Space Domain Awareness (SDA) and the defense of space capabilities. This move is a logical continuation of the french Defence Space Strategy (DSS) established in 2019, which aims to strengthen France's sovereignty with complete transparency and to protect and defend its space interests.

It will enable France to:

- improve data and information sharing with its allies;
- strengthen its space capabilities, improve their resilience and help to discourage competitors;
- create a common operational culture in the space sector;
- improve its understanding of the space environment, especially by consolidating its ability to attribute events engaging security;
- support the progressive implementation of actions in space, including training for its operators.

« For France, joining the multinational force - Operation Olympic Defender is a return to the spirit of La Fayette, in order to defend together freedom in space against growing threats, says General Adam. It marks a new stage in the conduct of military space operations as part of a coalition and sends out a clear message of strategic solidarity with our allies. »

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