



MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

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FRENCH JOINT STAFF PRESS RELEASE

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- Mission LYNX - Airborne Operation THUNDER LYNX

- On 22nd June 2022, the French Armed Forces conducted Operation THUNDER LYNX, a force projection operation towards Estonia.
- Operation THUNDER LYNX enabled, at very short notice, to deploy c. 100 paratroopers from the 11th Airborne Brigade over an area secured by two platoons of Estonian soldiers.
- This airborne operation illustrates the ability of the French Armed Forces to intervene, in emergency, to support an allied country, as had been done in February in Romania for the deployment of the NATO Rapid Reaction Force's on alert battalion after the attack of Ukraine by Russia.
- France is a reliable, credible and solitary ally for its NATO allies and European partners. It is attached to the fundamental principle of strategic solidarity.

About a hundred paratroopers from the French 11th Airborne Brigade were deployed by an Air and Space Force A400M above the Estonian territory, to be dropped over a drop zone held by a platoon from the Estonian Army. This air-dropping was following by a joint tactical ground manoeuvre between French and Estonian units.

Operation THUNDER LYNX recalls the ability of the French Armed Forces to urgently deploy, at short notice, in any time and any place, to support allied countries in Europe.

France shows that it is a reliable, credible and showing solidarity towards its NATO allies and European partners. It is attached to the fundamental principle of strategic solidarity, the very basis of the Atlantic Alliance. It participates in the strengthening of NATO's deterrence and defensive posture on its flanks, especially in the Baltic countries and Romania.

Linked by a Defence Agreement since 2012, France and Estonia have a dense bilateral military relation. The integration of Estonian soldiers within the Barkhane force and the engagement of French units in NATO missions in Estonia for the enhanced Forward Presence and enhanced Air Policing missions, have further strengthened interoperability between the French and Estonian forces. It now enables French and Estonian soldiers to work together for the security of Europe.

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