



**MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES**

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PRESS RELEASE
OF THE FRENCH NAVY

Paris, 30 June 2022

USS Kearsarge and 2,500 US troops in Brest

Today, June 30, 2022, the American Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), will begin a technical stopover at the Brest naval base before continuing its deployment off the coast of Europe.

The 47,000-ton ship, under the command of the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet, carries some 30 vehicles, 20 aircrafts (AV-8B Harrier and MV-22 Osprey) and helicopters (AH-1Z Cobra and UH-1Y Venom), as well as 2,500 Sailors and Marines.

Movements of vehicles, personnel and aircraft are planned during the period of the call, either for training with the French Navy and army marine units, or for logistical manoeuvres. They may cause noise pollution in the vicinity of Breton military bases, in particular the Landivisiau and Lann-Bihoué naval air bases. If necessary, the population will be informed by means of a press release.

Finally, as part of the stopover, a delegation from the USS Kearsarge will participate in the Fourth of July ceremony organised by the city of Brest at the American monument, cours Dajot in Brest.

The USS Kearsarge will not be open to the public or to the press.

The Brest Naval Base - a base for NATO navies

The Brest Naval Base provides a strategic support point for NATO Allied navies in their operational deployments in the Atlantic. Its facilities enable it to accommodate different types of military units, both ships and submarines, allowing them to regenerate their operational potential.

A close partnership between the French Navy and the US Navy

The French Navy and the US Navy have long been allies and enjoy a close and valuable partnership. The cooperative relationship between our two navies is reflected in a very high level of interoperability at

the top end of the spectrum, both in exercises and in operations. In the Atlantic, France-American cooperation takes place on a daily basis and in many areas of combat. It contributes directly to the reinforcement of NATO's deterrent and defensive posture on the north-eastern flank of Europe and to the defence of the sovereign interests of our two countries.

On 17th of December 2021, the two navies signed the Strategic Interoperability Framework (SIF). The result of two years' work, this action plan commits them to continually deepening their interoperability over the next 20 years, to achieve the goal of plug and fight, i.e. the integration of their units in combat using fully compatible systems and procedures.

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