



MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

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PRESS RELEASE FRENCH MINISTRY FOR THE ARMED FORCES

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The French Minister for the Armed Forces, Sébastien Lecornu, took part in the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore

- **The French Minister for the Armed Forces attended the Shangri-La Dialogue, the leading summit on political-military issues in the Indo-Pacific region.**
- **On the sidelines of the Dialogue, the Minister held talks with his Japanese, Singaporean, South Korean and Chinese counterparts.**

Every year, the Shangri-La Dialogue, co-organised by the Singaporean Government and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), brings together Defence Ministers and stakeholders from the Indo-Pacific region, as well as many European delegations.

Taking the floor at the Second Plenary Session (Enhancing Crisis Management amid Rising Competition), the Minister reaffirmed France's commitment to regional co-operation in response to crises and in support of international law. The Minister also confirmed France's desire to step up its exchanges with the co-operation and defence structures of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+) and the South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting (SPDMM). On the sidelines of the Dialogue, the Minister met with four counterparts :

- At the first meeting between the Minister and his Japanese counterpart, KIHARA Minoru, France reaffirmed its commitment to co-operation with Japan and called for more dynamic exchanges between both countries, notably through the implementation of the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), a key legal framework, as well as the development of bilateral relations in the field of cyber, space, and industrial co-operation.
- During their meeting, the Minister and his Singaporean counterpart, Dr Ng Eng Hen, welcomed their shared analysis on the developments in the Near and Middle East region, with a focus on the situation in Gaza, Ukraine, and the China sea. Both Ministers recalled the excellent defence relationship they share. The Singaporean Minister notably thanked France for having hosted the 150th Squadron at the Cazaux Air Base for the past 26 years, as well as for having accommodated a Singaporean medical team aboard the LHD Dixmude ship during its humanitarian mission to provide medical support to wounded Palestinians in Egypt and technical support to the army for humanitarian airdrops into Gaza. Finally, the Minister expressed his wish that Singapore become a key partner for France in the field of military artificial intelligence (AI) in 2025.
- The Minister met with his South Korean counterpart, Shin Won-sik, for the first time. They underlined strategic convergences on the main issues in the region, notably regarding the North Korean threat. Both Ministers then expressed a desire to further develop their bilateral defence relationship in order to strengthen their deterrence posture, particularly in the capability, space, cyber and AI fields. The study trip of the Saint-Cyr-Coëtquidan Military Academy's "Capitaine Goupil" class to South Korea next July was also mentioned.
- The Minister met with his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun. This first meeting took place in the framework of 60 years of diplomatic relations between France and China. It

provided an opportunity to assess the proper functioning and usefulness of the recently established communication channel between the French Pacific Command (ALPACI) and the Chinese Southern Theatre Command. This meeting also allowed for discussions on the relations between the French and Chinese Armed Forces based in Djibouti, as well as on the responsibilities shared by the two nuclear powers in terms of counter-proliferation.

**Délégation à l'information et
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