The French Armed Forces are heavily deployed both at home and overseas. On the security front, the terrorist threat is still assessed as high in France and operation “Sentinelle” (Guardian) continues. Overseas, the combat units are extremely active against a determined enemy and the French soldiers are constantly adapting their courses of action and their layout plans to the threat.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak, the French Armed Forces have adjusted their layout where necessary while applying enhanced pressure on terrorist groups in Sahel. In this particular situation, the French Army Chief of Staff reminded his top three priorities: continue the current operations, support the population and the civil services and preserve readiness (human resources / training).

1. **OPERATIONS**

**DEPLOYMENT OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES**

1  Army, Air Force, Navy and Gendarmerie.
OPERATIONAL NEWS

OPERATION BARKHANE:

Global Sub-Saharan Anti-Terrorist Mission

Operation Barkhane, spanning five countries in the Sahel region of North Africa, started in the beginning of August 2014 after the completion of Operation Serval. With its main base in the Chadian capital N’Djamena, it is actively present in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Chad and Niger.

In the aftermath of the Pau summit (January 13), France completed a reinforcement of the BARKHANE force with a supplementary 600 men size force.

This additional combat power allowed France and its G5 Sahel partners (Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania) to intensify their common efforts in the Liptako Gourma sector, commonly named "the region of three borders". Conducting operations in depth to search and destroy the enemy in his own sanctuary, the allies are increasing the pressure as planned.

OIR / OPERATION CHAMMAL:

Multinational Joint Operations in Syria and Irak

Launched in September 2014, on request of the Iraqi government and in coordination with allied forces, operation Chammal aims at providing air and ground support as well as training to Iraqi forces committed against Daech and other terrorist groups. The operation has been extended to Syria following the terrorist attacks on Paris in November 2015.

The detachment of the French Air Force contributes to the global efforts of the coalition conducting air activities.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, French Armed forces have initiated a temporary withdrawal of their mentorship troops from Iraq. Decided in close coordination with the Iraqi government and Coalition Inherent Resolve on March 26th and motivated by the operational pause in the coalition’s mentoring activities, this withdrawal only concerns the soldiers committed to the Iraqi armed forces training and the national support elements. Through its representation within the OIR command structures in Kuwait and Qatar, its maritime presence and its daily contribution to the air operations, France is still committed into the fight for the ISIS enduring eradication. As soon as situation allows, France will resume its activities.

OPERATIONS SENTINELLE & RESILIENCE:

Continental France Protection Missions

Operation Sentinelle was launched in the aftermath of the November 2015 terrorist attacks in France, committing 10,000 soldiers across the country in support of security forces. This operation is still ongoing.

The POSTURE of Operation Sentinelle is still composed of three responsive layers:
- a permanent operational component of 2,600 men, whose objective is to ensure permanent missions of security for the most sensitive and vulnerable places;
- a planned reinforcement echelon of 4,400 men, that helps secure occasional or seasonal events;
To support civil services who are facing the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak, the operation RESILIENCE was launched on March 26th by French president Emmanuel Macron.

Today, 13,000 soldiers, airmen and sailors are deployed in France mainland and overseas territories in the frame of these two operations.

2. FROM THE FIELD

2.1. RESILIENCE OPERATION: THE ARMED FORCES’ CONTRIBUTION IN THE COVID FIGHT

Operation RESILIENCE has been launched on March 26 upon a proposal from the Joint Chief of Staff. Its purpose is to unify the efforts granted at the local level by the Armed Forces in support of the public services. Health, logistics and protection are the three main areas identified. France mainland and overseas territories are covered through a global disposition. Operation RESILIENCE is carried out aside from the continuing operation SENTINELLE specifically designed to counter the terrorist threat. It is worth mentioning that the French Armed Forces have been heavily dedicated to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, providing field hospitals and medical transportation for the diseased persons out of the districts overwhelmed by huge number of cases. Above all, operation RESILIENCE ensures the coordination and the continuity of the Armed Forces’ contribution to the fight against this new enemy.

In this context, some Army’s specific capabilities have been fully integrated into this operation, such as some medical and logistics assets or CBRN teams from the 2nd Régiment de Dragons who helped the French Army Aviation in elaborating specific procedures for COVID-19 patients air transportation. This responsive work involved in a very short loop the Armed Forces Health Service, the 2nd Régiment de Dragons, the 1st Aviation Regiment and the Army Fight Test Group.

2.2. FRENCH DOD’S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

“We are at war” said president Macron during his interview on TV on March 16th. Commander in chief of the Armed Forces, he decided to accelerate their commitment on the front line against the virus.

In brief, the most important COVID-19 clusters have been located in the Mulhouse area, Paris region and Corsica. Therefore, military assets were deployed to support the national health care systems and the civil services, offering additive care and transportation capacities:

- Army’s response: to support the Mulhouse public hospital that faced a peak of new admissions, a Military Reanimation Unit was built up by the Army Medical Battalion on March the 24th. If needed, three more are ready to be deployed across France. In addition, the Army Aviation offers complementary airborne evacuation assets. NH-90s have been used to evacuate patients from Mulhouse to Germany (we thank Germany and other European neighbors for their precious help, proving that brotherhood goes along with neighborhood!).

- Air Force’s contribution: using a dedicated A-330 MRTT (Multi Role Tanker Transport) fitted with a long-distance reanimation kit MORPHEE, the FR Air Force has been transferring patients from the overwhelmed areas to others military or civilian medical facilities. This capacity has been used on long distances to complement the transportation trains medicalized by the national health care services (for more details see article below).
- Navy’s contribution: the French Navy deployed the amphibious assault ship *Tonnerre* to make rotations between the Corsica and the southern military medical hospitals. Considering the particular configuration that requires a strict isolation of the hospital from the other areas (separated air ventilation system), the ship only offers 12 beds with reanimation capacities. For its part, the *Dixmude*, a sister ship of the *Mistral*, was deployed in the Caribbean sea to support the French overseas territories.

![The Tonnerre in the Mediterranean Sea](image)

2.3. **INSIDE THE FLYING MILITARY HOSPITAL TREATING COVID-19 PATIENTS**

The French airborne ICU was originally designed to transport injured soldiers back home. France recently used its military airborne hospital for the first time to take civilian patients, critically ill with COVID-19, from overstretched hospitals to other facilities better able to cope. The flying medical facility is known by its French acronym, Morphée. That stands for “intensive care module for patients who need long-haul evacuation.” It allows a patient to receive the same level of intensive care aboard an aircraft as they would in hospital. The system was designed to bring seriously injured soldiers back to France from war zones, but so far, it has transported more than 24 people sick with the novel coronavirus.

![Inside the flying hospital](image)

Put simply, Morphée is like an ICU designed to be assembled inside an aircraft and can later be removed when no longer needed. **It takes just a few hours to transform an aircraft into the flying hospital.** If all the patients need to be intubated and ventilated, then Morphée can cope with six patients maximum. If they only need to be intubated, it can cope with a dozen.

Morphée doesn’t permanently reside in an aircraft—it’s designed to be able to set up in one, or taken apart, as needed. **It is now set up in the new A330 Phénix aircraft.** That allows up to 16 patients (4 in intensive care and 12 lightly injured) to be brought back to France from more than 7,400 miles away with no stopovers.

Operational since September 2006, Morphée has been used five times for military evacuations; each instance saw them transporting soldiers from Afghanistan or Kosovo.
2.4. GRADUATION FOR TF MONSABERT STUDENTS

On February 27, a graduation ceremony was held in Baghdad to certify 42 Iraqi soldiers who completed the new "ambush response" training. At the request of General Saad, commander of the 6th Iraqi Division, 42 trainees were confronted with very realistic scenarios for a week, coming as close as possible to the threats that are met day and night in the field.

At the end of this tailor-made training, the Iraqi laureates were congratulated by General Saad in person. "The Franco-Iraqi relationship is based on friendship. The very good level of this course will allow you to be even stronger, "he declared to the troops front.

During this course, the best and most capable students were identified by their French mentors. Therefore, they were given a letter of recommendation in addition to their diploma. In the perspective of the future training sessions, they have been identified as reinforcement elements to help the supervision of future training courses, in conjunction with the instructors of the Monsabert Task Force. The ultimate objective is to instruct the trainers in order to increase the effectiveness of the steps carried out.

2.5. FRENCH SHIP “NORMANDIE” READY TO FIGHT

The FFG NORMANDIE, latest of the AQUITaine class, berthed at Brest in March after a three-month mission in the Atlantic Ocean to validate her military capabilities. This deployment was the last step before being officially commissioned and joining the first five frigates of the class in the Fleet (FS AQUITAINE, FS PROVENCE, FS LANGUEDOC and FS AUVERGNE).

Indeed, the FREMM program aims to renew the surface warships component of the Marine Nationale. In 2025, the French Navy will have fifteen new generation DDG and FFG, including eight FREMM frigates specialized in anti-submarine warfare. Fitted with modern and very efficient systems, these warships are intended to ensure the control of a 3D aero-maritime space, to strike deep using the new French naval cruise missiles MdCN and to command at sea an ASW maritime force.

During her deployment, FS NORMANDIE took advantage of each interaction with Allied warships to test the robustness of her combat systems and evaluate her performance in real situations. The highlight was her integration in the Carrier Strike Group 10 (CSG10) during a C2X, January 5-21, organized by the US 2nd Fleet. With a Task Force composed of nearly twenty USN warships, FS NORMANDIE was able to validate her combat systems under full load, integrating the US tactical data networks and demonstrating its perfect interoperability.

After its American stopover, FS NORMANDIE sailed back for Europe to take part in several NATO exercises off the coast of Norway. She was able to demonstrate the full extent of her ASW capabilities and the very high level of performance of the FREMM – CAIMAN Helicopter pair.
This mission was successfully completed and the **FS NORMANDIE** will soon join the ranks of the French fleet to bear the colors of this region steeped in history as a symbol of French American friendship.

### 2.6. FNS MINESWEEPER (CMT) *CAPRICORN* RETURNS FROM A TWO-MONTH MISSION IN DJIBOUTI

On April 1st, the FNS minesweeper (CMT) *Capricorn* returned from a two-month mission where she was operating in Djibouti’s territorial waters. **The objective was to conduct preventive mine hunting operations in the strategic crossing areas and choke points of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea** for the French naval forces and commercial vessels. Equipped with a hull sonar, underwater identification drones and mine-destroying divers, the *Capricorn* has conducted seabed surveys in the maritime approaches of Djibouti’s harbor and in the Bab El Mandeb Strait.

The information collected will then be compiled in databases as essential resources for possible future mine warfare operations conducted by France in this area. The mission also aimed at ensuring the safety of navigation around these crossing points regularly used by the French naval forces.

Through its action, the crew of *Capricorn* participated in the affirmation of the French presence and the strengthening of security in a region of strategic interest for France and its allies.

This mission has also strengthened mine-fighting ties with regional partners. In this context, the *Capricorn* welcomed a liaison officer from the Djibouti National Navy, as part of bilateral agreements with the Djiboutian authorities, to enhance and develop the opportunity to share specific know-how with the Djiboutian navy and coastguard.

The partnership developed through cooperative and training dives that CMT demining divers organized for the benefit of the Djiboutian navy and the coastguard. Divers were thus able to acquire new knowledge in the implementation of underwater pyrotechnics systems and improve their skills in the field of military diving.

By ensuring better coordination in the area and by developing trust the mission has underpinned the success of current and future mine-hunting operations in and around Djibouti’s approaches.

### 3. FR - US RELATIONSHIP

#### 3.1. BARKHANE: A US MARINE CORPS OFFICER IN THE DESERT BATTLE GROUP 2

Major Philip ([name is hidden for security reason]) of the US marine corps (USMC) currently incorporated within the 6th French LIGHT ARMORED BRIGADE as part of an exchange, became the first American officer inserted in the desert battle group operational center “Centurion” of Operation Barkhane as part of the bilateral cooperation between French and American forces.

This makes him the first American to be deployed in Operation Barkhane as part of a desert battle group. Assuming the function planning officer in the S35 cell, he assists the group COS and its J3 chief in the planning of actions carried out in the field.
Speaking an impeccable French thanks to a childhood spent in Belgium and a French-speaking mother, he is definitely a great added value to the BG. At a time when interoperability between allied armed forces is essential, this kind of exchange matters particularly.

3.2. **SWEETHEARTS & PATRIOTS GALA 2020**

On Saturday February 8th, for the second consecutive year, the “Sweethearts & Patriots” gala was held at the Maison Française of the French Embassy in Washington DC, to raise funds for French Army and US Army wounded veterans. The gala was an opportunity to honor French and American veterans, and raise funds for two associations, Terre Fraternité and Code of Support Foundation, working to improve the living conditions of injured soldiers and their families. General Margail, president of Terre Fraternité, had traveled to Washington DC for the occasion, and emphasized in his speech, the strong ties that unite the French and American armed forces. He also highlighted the importance of providing veterans with efficient assistance structures to improve their daily lives.

4. **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CORNER**

4.1. **BG COTTEREAU’S ADDRESS AT THE MIW 2020**

BG Cottereau – the first French DCG of the 3rd ID (Fort Stewart, GA) – was one of the guest speakers of the 2020 Multinational Interoperability Workshop (MIW), which took place the 3 and 4 March in DC Armory. His presentation underlined the progress made during the last two years, including the French routine access to US exercises (JWA), the creation of the MFC (Multinational Fusion Cell) within the DA and - of course - the exchange of FR and US DCG.

He then pointed at what could be the two biggest risks of interoperability breaking, namely (1) a too rapid modernization pace of the US Army in terms of (a) MDO/LSCO doctrine, (b) operational and strategic readiness and (c) capacities, as well as (2) a not-enough opened information policy, which would prevent the closest allies to keep up with the fast US rhythm of change.

BG Cottereau suggested mitigation measures in three domains:

1. Training, by opening more NTC, JMRC and JRTC sessions to allies & partners;
2. Doctrine, by associating them to AFC works on MDO conceptual works;
3. Strategy, by ensuring that allies’ leadership keeps committed in interoperability matters.

BG Cottereau then had an office call with MG Gericke (HQDA G35), during which they discussed the FR-US Armies’ cooperation and interoperability. Among other subjects, BG Cottereau thanked MG Gericke for facilitating the first French participation to a WFX exercise (21-4, 6-15 April 2021) and invited the US Army to participate with a US division to a FR Rapid Reaction Corps-led exercise in 2023 or 2024.

4.2. **INTERNATIONAL WEEK AT THE FRENCH ARMY AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

As every year, young captains of the French Army Aviation are trained in tactics, logistics and administrative affairs to face their future responsibilities as Coy commanders. However, a new syllabus has just been

---

2 BG Wasmund arrived in Jan 2020 at the 3 (FR) DIV in Marseille.
implemented to reinforce the mutual knowledge among the international Aviation community.

Responding to the invitation of BG Bouillaud, commanding general of the FR Army Aviation center of Excellence, nine nations (United States, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom) each sent one captain to Le Luc from March 2nd to March 6th. Focused on operational lessons learned at the company level, the new sequence was designed and conducted by LTC Briançon Rouge and his team of the Officers Training Directorate. The main activities were:
- Operational feedbacks sharing and exchanges;
- The visit of the amphibious assault ship Mistral and a presentation on the FR Army Aviation action during the operation Harmattan (Libya);
- The visit of Airbus Helicopters facilities in Marignane;
- A diner with BG Bouillaud and his staff;
- A tactical exercise played on EDITH training system;
- A visit of the FR-GER Tiger school and of the joint NH-90 training center.

Built to enhance relationships between allied Aviations, this week will certainly be renewed in a yearly basis.

5. **INNOVATION CORNER**

5.1. **THE FRENCH ARMY VISION OF COMPETITIVENESS**

How does the French Army remain competitive within an increasingly complex environment where, on one side, the enemy is questioning the superiority of the strongest armies and, on the other side, modern forces have to anticipate large-scale fights - adapting their structures and integrating new capabilities? This was the question LTC (P) Doithier (FR HQDA, Modernization Directorate) tried to answer during a virtual Mad Scientist conference held at Fort Eustis on January 29th.

Relying on a 2035 prospective vision based on solid studies, the French Army is adapting itself to the operational competition by resolutely choosing collaborative combat within a comprehensive Army model. To achieve this goal, the French Army has developed an incremental program evolution logic and implements the assets to capture and integrate faster the innovations.

The first pillar of this ambition is the continuous prospective process maintained to preserve and develop a comprehensive Army model. Initiated during the late 1990s, the core work occurred between 2005 and

---

3 Summary of the intervention of LTC(P) DOITHIERS (FR HQDA, Modernization Directorate) during a virtual Mad Scientist conference on January the 29th
4 https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/mad-scientist/p/gpoe
2012 to give birth to Future Land Action in late 2016 and to its capability application one year ago. In a nutshell, the French Army is conducting SCORPION and preparing its 2040 extension, including the Main Ground Combat System (MGCS) and the Common Indirect Fire System (CIFS), but also the successor of the armored infantry fighting vehicle VBCI.

The second pillar is the prospective approach of the collaborative combat. Overall transformation, Scorpion represents a new way to fight based on collaborative and protection new capabilities for instant situation awareness sharing, alerts and response proposals. This early choice implies a system of systems approach tightly intermingling weapon systems, vehicle electronics (known as vetronics), information and communication systems. In this prospective, the Scorpion battle lab has been created to conduct doctrinal experimentations enhanced by simulation. To complement the layout, the Army set up the Scorpion combat experimentation force in charge of the tactical and technical exercises on the field and of the pre-deployments training periods of the Scorpion Battle Groups as of 2021.

Because - to a certain extent - Scorpion already belongs to the past, the pursuit of the transformation effort constitutes the third pillar of this evolution. Not totally defined already, this horizon of the 2040s will certainly include the Main Ground Combat System (MGCS), the Common Indirect Fire System (CIFS), advanced ground and aerial robots, deep fire assets and the internet of things concept applied to military objects. In this context, the innovative way of thinking introduced by Scorpion will definitely be a strength to draw the face of the future French Army.

To conclude, the durable competitiveness of the French Army might rely on its ability to maintain, develop its innovative way of thinking and its ability to work with France’s main allies.

5.2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE FRENCH ARMY

On 6 February 2020, the French Army has issued the "Artificial Intelligence Structural Concept". For the French Army, Artificial Intelligence is not an end-state but more a part of human-machine synergy which will support the decision-making process and provide additional capabilities with a unique final goal, improve the operational and functional processes.

Therefore, this structural concept is aimed to deliver the CSA guidance on this transverse technology as well as objectives and assets to the French Army to develop AI, especially within the SCORPION program.

The major assessment depicted in the document is the requirement to frame this new capability according to four guiding principles:

- **Freedom of action and interoperability**: requirement to develop this capability with a Joint and Multinational approach;
- **Trusted and masterized Artificial Intelligence**: combination of human judgment and algorithms to enhance the capabilities while keeping the Human as the final decider (responsible);
- **Resilience and evolution**: requirement to get an AI capability evolving in a degraded environment;
- **Sovereignty Core**: while this capability is shared and managed by a lot of external actors, the French Army needs to keep an internal sovereignty on AI technology.

This document is the first step of a more holistic approach and will in the future be updated to integrate the global environment (geopolitical, technological, social) and rely on current and future experimentations.

5.3 SCORPION PROGRAM: FRANCE AWARDS MPAC CONTRACT FOR 120 MM MORTAR GRIFFON

On 24 January 2020, the procurement contract with Nexter, Thales and Arquus for the MEPAC (the French acronym for Mounted Front-Line Support Mortar) was confirmed by the French Army. This covers the delivery of 54 additional GRIFFON VBMR (multi-role armoured vehicles) equipped with Thales’ 120-mm Rifled Recoiled Mounted Mortar (2R2M) system. GRIFFON is one of the major SCORPION platforms and is declined in numerous versions according to the branch requirements, like the STRYKER in the US Army.

The MEPAC system marks the first time the French Army will field the 2R2M, which is already in service in four other countries. The mounted mortar will provide added mobility and precision in front-line combat operations, as well as better protection for soldiers. The mortar has a strong reputation for its semi-automatic loading system and the precision of its combat-proven rifled barrel. In addition to structural...
modifications, this new version will include significant changes of the onboard optronics and the vehicle's mobility systems.

Thanks to its high rate of fire (10 rounds per minute), its great maneuverability, its cabin design and its digital connexion to the Platoon Fire Direction Center (through ATLAS, the French equivalent for AFATDS), more robust counter-battery capabilities and improved crew protection are expected by the French artillery.

After qualification of the MEPAC variant, the French Procurement Agency will take delivery of the first vehicles by the end of 2023. The remaining deliveries are scheduled between 2024 and 2027.

5.4. CONDOR: A DRONE FOR THE SOF INFILTRATIONS IN DEPTH

To operate in hostile territory, the Special Forces are using infiltration techniques. One of them consists of a parachute jump at high altitude and drifting under sail for about ten kilometers or more. As they have to deal with extreme conditions, the SOF soldiers wear heavy equipment.

In order to increase the average range of special forces infiltrations, lower the soldier burden in degraded weather conditions, Demonfort Airborne Engineering [DAE] imagined and presented for the very first time in 2015 the concept of a new UAV droppable from a C-130. In 2019, a CONDOR prototype was issued. The V-wings aircraft (3 meters long and 3 meters wide), dropped from a cargo plane, about 100 kilometers from the infiltration point, has been designed to lift a paratrooper with all its equipment. Approaching the mission area, the paratrooper is supposed to reach the objective by parachute. At the end of the sequence, the UAV joins a defined landing point in the friendly zone, shuts down its engines and uses a parachute to land. Initially built for one man, it could also be used for logistic support.

The main technical specifications of the CONDOR are a 350 Kts speed, a 110 NM range and a 650 pounds weight.

The French SOF command is currently studying this package (concept and prototype) that could bring more efficiency & durability during the deep operations in the ENY area.

5.5. SAVE THE DATES

CYBER - CIS: the Paris Cyber Week 2020 postponed

Due to COVID-19 crisis, the Paris Cyber Week has been postponed. It will be held at the end of September and be restricted to Speakers, EU delegations and Partners in 2020. Live streaming is available.

https://www.paris-cyber-week.com/

EUROSATORY 2020 CANCELLATION

For the same reasons, many registered exhibitors are no longer able to manage their participation to Eurosatory scheduled in June 8 – 12 (difficulties for their international trips, the equipment transportation used for the exhibition, B to B meetings cancelled). Consequently, the organization team assessed that the required conditions cannot be met in 2020 anymore. In this context, the GICAT (the French Airland Defence and Security Industry Association) announced with a great disappointment the cancellation of the event. Therefore, the next edition will be held in 2022 from June 13 to June 17. https://www.eurosatory.com/?lang=en
6. THE FRENCH ARMY VOL. 4: THE FRENCH ARTILLERY

6.1. THE ORIGINS OF THE MODERN ARTILLERY

The French Artillery has, throughout modern history, always been recognized as the key enabler of the maneuver on the battlefield ("Ultima Ratio Regum": the last and decisive weapon for the kings). Since 1674, the French Artillery has been at the spearhead of technical and tactical developments and educated numerous great military leaders, the most famous being Napoleon Bonaparte and Maréchal Foch. It contributed also to the US Army Field Artillery mentoring and training for the use of new matériel during WW I, when the United States deployed the American Expeditionary Force in Europe.

6.2. THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION AND MAIN ASSETS OF THE FRENCH ARTILLERY

In the French Army, Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery are merged in a unique branch: Artillery. Like the US Army, the different echelons integrate Fires cells (FSCC 1 for Corps, FSCC 2 for DIV, FSCC 3 for BCT) in their Task-Organization.

- DIV level: the 1st (FRA) DIV has organically under its command the 1st FA Regiment with MLRS (Rockets), while the 3 (FRA) DIV commands the 54th ADA Regiment (MISTRAL). These units can be split into modules for specific missions and be attached to other commands in exercises and operations.

- BCT level: each BCTs has under its command one Field Artillery Regiment (between 800 and 1000 soldiers) composed of: 3 Field Artillery batteries, 1 Air Defense Artillery battery (VSHORAD), 1 Fire Support battery, 1 Regiment Support battery and 1 Reserve battery.

In addition to these units, specific Artillery units are attached to the INTEL command (UAS, GEO).

For training and education, the Artillery school in Draguignan is co-located with the Infantry/Maneuver and Aviation Schools and is in charge of the Captain's Career Courses/BOLCs/Advanced Training Courses. The Basic Combat Trainings and Advanced Individual Trainings are under the responsibility of the regiments and BCTs. An Artillery evaluation group is in charge of assessing the operational level of the units before their deployment in operations.
6.3. **The Future**

After having been deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq (Task Force Wagram), the French Artillery is now focused on acquiring new capabilities which will enable it to be more mobile, adaptive and accurate, especially in an urban environment, while taking into account the greater spectrum of its responsibilities in a large-scale combat operation.