



## French Armed Forces Update July 2020



**This paper is NOT an official publication from the French Armed Forces. It provides an update on the French military operations and main activities. The French Defense Attaché Office has drafted it in accordance with open publications.**

**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. IN MEMORIAM



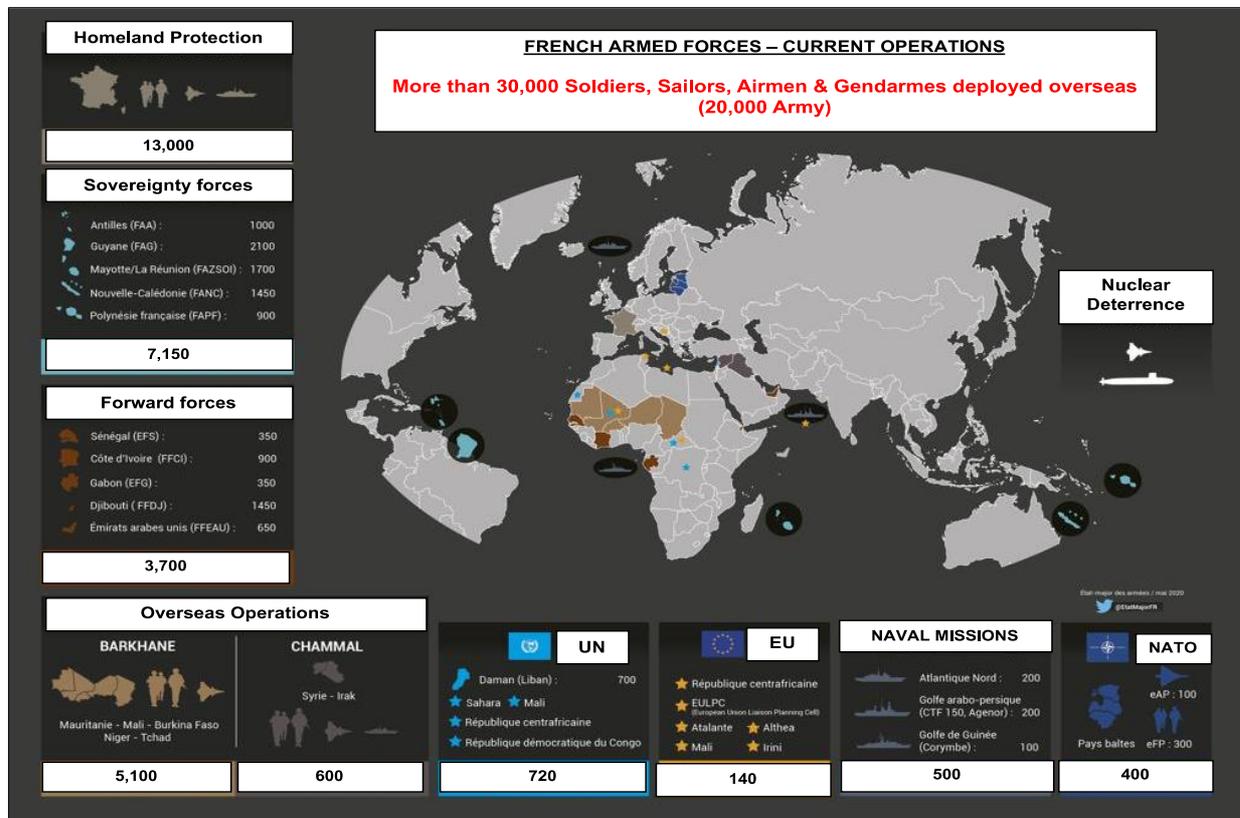
**On May 4, 1st class legionnaire Kévin Clément, 1st Foreign Legion Cavalry Regiment (Carpiagne), died in action** during an operation led by the Barkhane force in the Malian Liptako. Seriously injured during an ambush, he was evacuated by helicopter to the Gao hospital where he died.



**In the late afternoon of April 23, Brigadier Dmytro Martynyuk’s tanker truck was hit by an improvised explosive device** in the Malian Liptako while his unit immediately faced an intense contact with the enemy. Evacuated by helicopter to Gao and transported in France the day after, Brigadier Dmytro Martynyuk, 1st Foreign Legion Cavalry Regiment (Carpiagne), died on May 1 of his injuries.

## 2. OPERATIONS

### DEPLOYMENT OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES



### 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.

*Additional combat power deployed in February allowed France and its G5 Sahel partners (Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania) to increase their common efforts in the Liptako Gourma sector, commonly named “the region of three borders.”*

*During the last weeks, this effort consisted in a series of air and airmobile attacks in depth against the enemy.*



*FR Army Aviation EC-665 Tiger in operation*

## 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 in November 2015.

*After the withdrawal of the Army mentorship troops from Irak decided in March, the detachment of the **French Air Force supports the main part of the Nation's contribution to the global efforts of the coalition in the area.** Based in Jordan and in the United Arab Emirates, it participates to the allied air strikes against ISIS.*



*FR Air Force Rafale*

## OPERATIONS SENTINELLE & RESILIENCE:

### **Continental France Protection Missions**

**Operation Sentinelle was launched in the aftermath of the November 2015 terrorist attacks,** 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;*
- *a strategic reserve of 3,000 men in the hands of the French President.*



*FR Air Force A-400M Atlas on its way to the Carribean*

**To support civil services who are facing the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak, operation RESILIENCE was launched on March the 26<sup>th</sup> by French president Emmanuel Macron.** This mission is still continuing, even after the lifting of many lockdown restrictions.

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

## **3. FROM THE FIELD**

### **3.1. IN DEPTH ACTION FOR BARKHANE**

In April, the Tactical Airmobile Desert Group (GTD-A) "Hombori", supported by the Multi-sensor Intelligence Group (GRM), conducted a **vast harassment fight based on search and destroy actions against Terrorist Armed Groups (TAGs).**

The operation conducted in the Malian Liptako area known as the three borders (Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger) included three main phases:

- Collection of intelligence mixing several types of sensors;
- The destruction of the main sites and hubs identified with planed operations in depth;
- The hunt of the remaining enemy elements.

Facing GATs disseminated in vast territories, **the flexibility of the airmobile assets is a priceless advantage.** For Col. Fernando, GTD-A commander during the operation, the keys of success are an accurate and updated evaluation of the ratio strength, consolidated coordination between the blue elements, discretion, permanence of radio links and quick exploitation of the intelligence.

In this fight against this huge threat over the security in Africa, **the support provided by the allies of France is critical to maintain the pressure on the enemy. This includes logistic rotations (United States of America – United Kingdom – Spain – Germany – Belgium – Canada) and troops on the ground (British and Danish helicopters, Estonian infantrymen).**

### 3.2. IN DEPTH ACTIONS IN THE GUYANESE JUNGLE AGAINST TRAFFICKERS

As part of **Operation HARPIE**, the French Army is committed in the **fight against illegal gold panning and any kind of traffic** alongside the *Gendarmerie*. Recently, two punching actions have helped to severely hit smuggler networks that don't hesitate to threaten isolated populations in the jungle (violent intimidations, rackets, murders) and destroy the environment using widely banned chemical products.



*An AFD in operation*

At the end of April, an Autonomous Forest Detachment (AFD) composed of *legionnaires* reinforced by *gendarmes*, was deployed by air to attack and dismantle illegal sites. Combining blocking and sweeping actions against the traffickers, many illegal gold panners were captured. A clandestine 30 hut-village has been discovered following the armed action during the meticulous search of the *legionnaires* and the *gendarmes*. A huge amount of equipment and illegal products was captured: chemicals like mercury, hydrocarbons, narcotics, light weapons, mining tools and machines and quad vehicles.

Through its permanent presence in the Jungle, the French Army strongly contributes to the protection of the nation and the preservation of a unique ecosystem against the *garimpeiros*.

### 3.3. HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR ARMY

**In May 26, 1445, in Louppy-le-Châtel (in Bar-le-Duc area), the king of France Charles VII created the Ordnance Companies. This new units constituted the first permanent army** and replaced the forces built-up with vassals and mercenaries. At this time, each company was commanded by a captain appointed by the King and includes one hundred garnished lances each one composed of six men.



Today's French army soldiers are their heirs and cultivate their spirit.

### 3.4. BLUE, GREEN AND KHAKI BOOKS

**In the French Army, 3 booklets are summarizing the main principles of leadership**, the importance of ethics and the roots of the warrior spirit. They have been issued (or re-issued) since 2016 and foreworded by the previous Chief of Staff of the French Army. In April 2020, they have been translated in English. They are **available online** and are very useful for France's partners and allies to enhance our mutual understanding.



**“The Exercise of Command in the French Army, Command and Fraternity”**, 2016. Also known as the blue book, this 75-page booklet displays the foundations of command (six key principles) within the FR Army. Previously published in 2003; this is completed by a part called “Exercising command today” and a bibliography, which could be compared to the CSA's reading list. <https://www.calameo.com/read/0000633023a821b007fee>



**“The alliance of meaning and force”**, 2018. Also known as the green book, this booklet (46 pages) is an update of the 1999 edition dedicated to the exercise of the profession of arms in the Army. It was made necessary by the overall evolution of the context, and especially the end of the draft. It explains why “there is no victory for those who have lost their souls” and deals with ethics and moral education.



<https://www.calameo.com/read/0000633024f0b4f3eb98a>

“**The roots of the warrior spirit**”, 2019. Also known as the khaki book, this 62-page book is an updated version of a booklet published in 2003 called “Identity, Esprit de corps and Traditions in the French Army”. It deals with the topics listed above and explains why and how the regiment is the crucible of the French Army. <https://www.calameo.com/books/00006330221f78fdc54d9>

### 3.5. FRENCH DESTROYERS EARN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

**French destroyers Bretagne (D-655) and Auvergne (D-654) earned the prestigious Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Excellence “Hook ‘Em” award**, as a recognition of their exceptional skills and the great job done, alongside the naval surface and air assets from Italy, Spain, and the U.S., **in support of the deployment of the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and the French aircraft carrier FS Charles De Gaulle (R91), in March 2020, and the dual carriers operations that were completed on this occasion.**

**The award has been presented by Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, commander, U.S. 6th Fleet (C6F), in Naples, Italy, June 24, 2020.** “I continue to be impressed by the tactical acumen and professionalism of my French maritime counterparts and their significant contribution to ASW mission objectives during our joint operations,” said Franchetti. “I’m confident that our forces can seamlessly integrate, collaborate, and overcome any challenges we face in the maritime environment.”



“This recognition is a real honor for the talented crews of Auvergne and Bretagne and demonstrates the remarkable trust and interoperability established between our Navies, Fleets, and ships in all areas of operation,” said French Vice Adm. Laurent Isnard, Commander-in-Chief of French Forces in the Mediterranean. “Anti-Submarine warfare requires years of dedicated and sustained effort to achieve a high level of competence and, more importantly, to conduct genuinely coordinated operations. As a result, **our forces are ready to ‘Plug and Fight’ together.** I am very proud and deeply moved by the trust our brothers-in-arms have in French units.”

## 4. THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES INTO THE COVID FIGHT

### 4.1. FROM THE FIELD

#### Logistic support to isolated populations in French Guyana

The implementation of the confinement in French Guyana and the border closure with Suriname have complicated the supply of many isolated villages on the rivers. To cope it, the 9th RIMa escorted a convoy of 3.5 tons of food and hygiene products between SaintLaurent du Maroni and Papaïchton for two days.



#### Dismantlement of the Field hospital in Mulhouse

Following the lockdown decision made by the President of the Republic Emmanuel Macron in March 2020, **a military resuscitation unit was deployed** in Mulhouse to release pressure over the civil hospitals of the region, one of the most severely impacted by the sanitary crisis.

**Built in eight days** by the Army Health Service, the field hospital fulfilled its mission. The last patient leaves on May 7, 2020 and its deconstruction began on May 12 followed by the disinfection of the area. On May 17, the last elements left the area.



## The mission continues in the Caribbean

Deployed as part of Operation Resilience since April 17, 2020, the amphibious ship Dixmude went back to Toulon, its homeport.

After a first phase dedicated to equipment transportation from France to strengthen the local authorities' capabilities, the Dixmude completed protection and medical transport missions. Taking advantages of its presence in the area, it also carried out amphibious maneuvers and recognition activities to prepare the cyclone season.

Considering the stabilization of the pandemic and the confinement lifting, the Dixmude sat sail from the Martinique island on May 17. However, the mission is still running for several land units remained in the Caribbean as the French Army Aviation detachment (two SA330-PUMA) and the CBRN team of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons Regiment.

More generally, the land **units of the sovereignty forces are continuing to support the civil authorities and the population by carrying out deliveries, distribution of water and air transportation.**



*FR Army Aviation SA-330 PUMA Taking off from the Dixmude*



*The Dixmude leaving Fort de France*

## 4.2. RECRUITING & TRAINING DESPITE THE PANDEMIC



More than a hundred Army **Recruitment centers** organized into 5 regiments have progressively **resumed their activities** across France and the French overseas territories. This density and local presence allow an essential proximity between recruiters and future recruits. In 2020, the Army's recruiting brigade was tasked with recruiting 16,000 young people (15,000 in 2019). As a reminder, recruiting stations only operated by phone and email during the pandemic and by April 27, 30% of them had reopened.

The priorities are still to encourage young recruits, maintain the 75% level of contractual military personnel and encourage internal promotion (**50% of NCOs are former soldiers and 50% of officers are former NCOs**).



Meanwhile, the recruitment and training of new officers have been adapted to the covid situation: exams have been postponed or amended (**no oral evaluations**) and on-going lessons and lectures at the academy have been delivered via **eLearning**. **Compulsory wear of mask has been imposed to any personnel present on campus.**

For its part, the pace of activities has also been adjusted at the NCO Academy. The new students are officially integrated into the school but the return on campus will take place later. Around 20% of them are physically present.

For the young enlisted personnel, the initial training has been progressively resumed from May 11 with sanitary measures. To complement the collective training at the platoon level, the activities at the company and the battalion levels have been progressively reintroduced last month.

In several training centers, the courses have been densified (weekend work) to gain time and shorten the physical presence. This has been the case at the Infantry and Artillery Centers of Excellence in Draguignan (south-east of France).

Finally, preparation and training has been maintained under normal condition for operational units expected to be deployed.

## 4.3. ONLINE SOLIDARITY TO SUPPORT THE *BLEUET DE FRANCE*

Constrained to cancel its annual collection on the streets initially scheduled from May 2 to 9 2020, the National Office for War Veterans and Victims called for public generosity online for the May 8 celebrations.

For the Cornflower of France Association, the objective was also to maintain at least one event of national solidarity at the benefits of veterans, wounded soldiers, war



widows, pupils of the Nation and victims of terrorism. The goal was also to compensate the financial losses linked the cancellation of the public collections in the streets.

## 5. FR - US RELATIONSHIP

### 5.1. BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER<sup>1</sup>

As part of the strategic bilateral objectives with the U.S. Army's Strategic Vision Statement, the French Army's vision is to conduct a lasting and long-term commitment to JWA. The main reason is that this exercise is considered as a key event for improving interoperability at the brigade level, as well as testing new concepts. This long-term trend has been confirmed by the results obtained during the first French commitment in JWA in 2018 at Grafenwoehr, Germany. Thanks to the preparation of the 7th Armored Brigade and the exercise environment enabled fruitful interactions with the teams of the 1st Infantry Division (ID) up to the integrated level in some specific areas, including Command Information Systems (CIS) and digital fires.

To consolidate this approach, the FR Army commits its liaison officers present in the US to:

- Exploit the knowledge and the understanding of the FR liaison officers on how the US Army is organized and conducts operations within a multi-domain environment in order to facilitate the commitment of its units;
- Contribute to allies' general efforts to build interoperability. During the 2019 edition, French liaison officers served at different echelons and positions within the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division HQ and the Joint Multinational Interoperability (JMNI) assessment team;
- Preserve the continuity of the French participation throughout the years.

This commitment was made possible by the excellent interaction between Joint Modernization Command (JMC, Fort Bliss) and the French liaison officer in Fort Sill. "Non-resident liaison officer" to JMC, he was the officer in charge for the exercise for the French elements. This engagement highlighted that the first and main condition of interoperability is of human essence. Finally, the French Army identified several key lessons learned:

- For the next French participations: exchanges and consolidation of the procedures used, the digital connection networks, the national capabilities engaged and the insertion of liaison officers prior to the exercise;
- More generally: reflections over a stronger force protection (ADA, CBRN, EW, Space, Cyber) and the integration of multinational partners in key U.S. structures, like the Multinational Intelligence Fusion Cell, the Multi-Domain Task Force or the Theater Fires Command. Indeed, these commitments will create a closer loop to get access to multinational capabilities and authorities and will provide the Joint Force Commander with additional flexibility and firepower.

### 5.2. A NEW FR-US PARTNERSHIP



U.S. Army LTG Christopher G. Cavoli (right), commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, USAREUR, and LTG Vincent Guionie (left), commander of French Land Forces, CFT, signed a memorandum of partnership at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany on March 7, 2020. The purpose of the memorandum is to establish a framework for the partnership program between brigades, regiments and battalions belonging to USAREUR and the CFT. **The cooperation will primarily involve interoperability events, support NATO transformation and help maintain good personal and professional**

**FR-US relationships.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Summary of an article of a News From The Front (NFTF) published by the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). Link to the digital version: <https://call.army.mil>

## 6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CORNER

### 6.1. AN ESTONIAN ROBOT IN MALI

Last May, Milrem Robotics and the Estonian armed forces published a first feedback on the ground robot THeMIS first deployed in Gao in the framework of the French operation Barkhane. As a reminder, **a light infantry detachment of three Estonian platoons has been committed in Mali since summer 2018** to contribute to the protection of the Gao desert operational platform.

In May 2019, a THeMIS (Tracked Hybrid Modular Infantry System) robot was proposed for experimental purposes. Comparable to small vehicle (2.40 m length and 2 m width), THeMIS has a maximum of 22 km/h, a 10-hour endurance in hybrid mode and 1.5 hour in full electric motion. For its first deployment in Mali, TheMIS completed a wide range of missions: transport of food, ammunition, light weapons, equipment and observation thanks to its cameras.

Mainly operated in the Gao camp and during local patrols, THeMIS has demonstrated some valuable qualities for its first operational evaluation:

- Survivability within a harsh environment (1,200 km travelled and operated for more than 330 hours with temperatures of 50 °C and more, dust, sand), weak thermal signature and great resistance. On July 29, 2019, it survived to the blast of a suicide vehicle loaded with 200 kg of explosives and used by a jihadist group during an attack on the Gao camp. Exposed at just a few meters, the robot was still operational;
- Reduction of the patrollers' burden (loads carrying);
- Several successful tests: air transportation in a UK CH-47 CHINOOK and towing trials with a VBCI (French infantry combat vehicle, 32 tons);
- Promising aptitudes with upgrades for ISR or EW missions.



*The Finnish THeMIS robot towing a 32 ton FR VBCI*

### 6.2. REDEPLOYMENT OF THE SPANISH DETACHMENT MAMBA IN SENEGAL

After more than 5 years of presence in Gabon, the Spanish detachment MAMBA flew to Dakar where it will continue its mission in support of French operations in Africa. This departure was marked by a ceremony to honor the Spanish soldiers first deployed in 2014 in Libreville.

From this base, the **MAMBA detachment was able to provide a great support to its international partners: French operation Barkhane, European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM), UN operation**

**MINUSCA** (United Nation Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic), **UN operation MINUSMA** (United Nation Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) **and the G5 Sahel Joint Forces** (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger).

Strong of 50 soldiers and operating a CASA C-295 aircraft, the Spanish detachment had been providing air logistical support and transportation of equipment or personnel. Its contribution (5,000 flight hours, 13,000 people and 2,000 tons of freight transported), demonstrates the commitment of Spain alongside France and the regional partners for security in Africa.



*The CASA of the Spanish MAMBA detachment*

### 6.3. INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISE IN LEBANON



*Finnish soldiers in the exercise*

In the framework of the cooperation implemented by the French soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Finnish contingent deployed in reinforcement since 2017, common trainings and exercises are regularly conducted to enhance interoperability.

In May, a live exercise was conducted to test the health support chain organized by the Medical service of the Force Commander reserve. Its teams are manned by French personnel but also by Finish doctors and

nurses inserted within the fighting units.

The main objective was to evaluate process implemented by the two partner nations. Following the first aid and the evacuation of the wounded soldiers by the Finish medical teams, the French doctors had relayed their partners and nurses in the emergency room of the Role 1. During the relaying phase, the mastering of effective procedures is critical to avoid misunderstandings and overcome the slight differences in terms of equipment. In addition, this kind of regular training is assessed as particularly relevant to maintain and consolidate the medical support provided to the Blue Helmets engaged in South Lebanon.

## 7. INNOVATION CORNER

### 7.1. TWO INNOVATIVE PROJECTS TO FIGHT THE PANDEMIC

#### A new generation of respirator



Cost-effective and easily manufacturable, the MakAir respirator has been designed and developed within a tight deadline by an innovative and collaborative community. More than 250 persons coming from the University of Nantes, the University Hospital Center of Nantes, the association Makers For Life and manufacturing partners were part of the project.

Chosen among more than 2,550 innovative solutions competing within the call for projects organized by the French Ministry of the Armed Forces to fight the SRAS-COV2, **it was rewarded by the Defense Innovation Agency with a € 426,000 fund.** Thanks to a design purposefully **light, simple and inexpensive to produce and operate, the system is aimed to quickly provide additive ventilation capacities.**

Once the certification agreement obtained from the National Health Authorities, several hundred units could be manufactured per day in a very short term. MakAir is the first university project funded by the Defense Innovation Agency of the French Ministry of Armed Forces.



*The Mak Air respirator*

#### Nomorecov: a new screening technology



This second project selected within the same competition consists in the development of a **mobile, modular and connected testing machine to detect and diagnose a coronavirus infection in less than 30 minutes.** **Rewarded by the Defense Innovation Agency with a €1.8 million fund,** the project encompasses the development, the evaluation and the qualification phases of the first prototype.

The main interest of "Nomorecov" is to develop key capabilities and enhance decontamination process with:

- Reliable and rapid sample screenings on site for suspected SRAS-COV2 infected persons without the support of central laboratories;
- Faster testing capabilities for surfaces and polluted air in confined spaces like hospitals or ships.

In the past years, BforCure has developed and improved the Fastgene™ technologies allowing fast virus infection diagnosis in ten minutes. Developed from the latest version of Fastgene™, **Nomorecov is to be validated in short terms by the virology laboratory of the Saint-Louis Hospital (Paris).** **Once this step achieved, it will be ready for industrialization and mass production.**

### 7.2. A NEW HELMET FOR THE AUGMENTED INFANTRYMEN

Developed by the Scalian company in partnership with the Defense Innovation Agency (AID), **the Fast helmet has been designed to offer a complete immersion into the digital battlefield.** Currently evaluated within the FR Armed Forces, it improves the tactical situation awareness providing to the infantrymen **real-time information displayed with augmented reality technologies.** It also fosters the circulation of information from the field to the command posts.



*The Fast helmet*

## 8. THE FRENCH ARMY VOL. 4: THE LOGISTIC COMMAND (LOG CMD)

The FR LOG CMD commanding general is the FR Army COS logistics advisor. Subordinated to the Land Forces Command, the LOG CMD is a divisional level command and represents the head of chain for the operational logistics. For its part, the maintenance is headed by another divisional command.

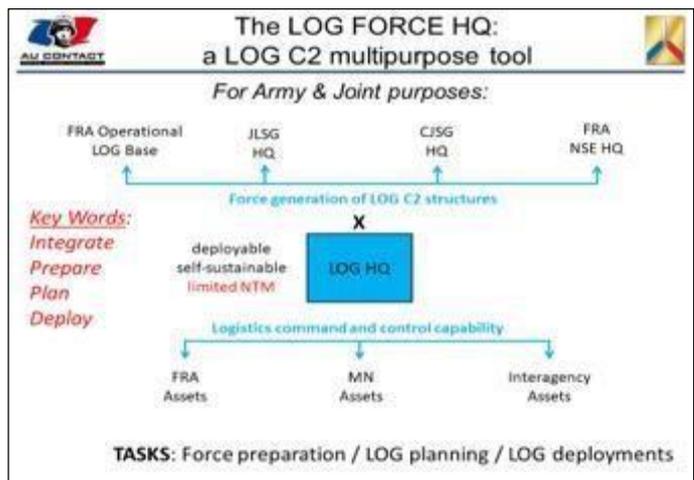
### 8.1. MISSIONS

The LOG CMD overall missions are:

- Propose the Army sustainment units design in France and in deployments;
- Participate in the sustainment doctrine writing;
- Coordinate the sustainment readiness for the logistic modules deployed in operations;
- Optimize the Army transportation capabilities;
- Ensure the logisticians' leaders education to guarantee their readiness.

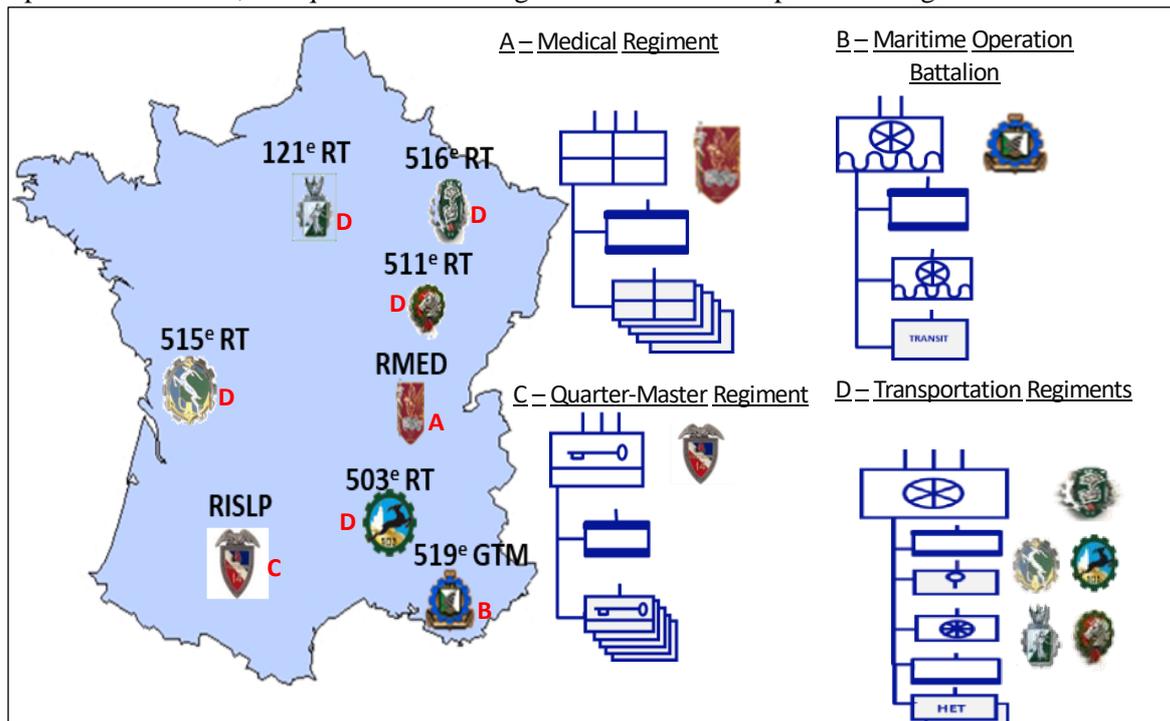
A three-level integrated command structure:

- LOG CMD HQ: Concepts / Doctrine / Operational preparation and planning;
- LOG Forces HQ (diagram on the right side): Integration / Operational LOG C2 / Training & Deployment supervision;
- LOG Units: Integration / Tactical LOG C2 / Training & Deployment execution;
- NB: The LOG COM is on charge of the all the soldiers driving education needed to fulfil the missions.



### 8.2. LOCATIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE FRENCH LOGISTICS BATTALIONS

Present in the main regions of France, the logistics units count one Medical Regiment, one Maritime Operation Battalion, one quarter Master Regiment and five Transportation Regiments.



### 8.3. THE MAIN ASSETS

#### The road workhorse of the FR Army: the PPLOG multi-purpose logistic carrier.

This vehicle is a 8x8 multipurpose logistics truck (can be armored) equipped with an autonomous loading & unloading system. In service in several countries, it belongs to the latest generation of logistics vehicles.

#### Recovery assets

The PPLD belongs to the latest generation of 8x8 multipurpose heavy recovery trucks in service in the FR Army (can be armored). The PPLD is designed to handle heavy loads and recover vehicles that weight up to twice its own mass.

#### The utility trucks of the FR Army

To transport heavy vehicles, the FR Army uses two generations of heavy tactical carriers: the Renault TRM 700-100 (700 HP, 100 tons) first revealed in 1987 and specially designed to transport the Leclerc MBT at high speeds (with its a special reinforced trailer) and the Sisu E-Tech 480 HP that was first revealed in 2000.

To increase the versatility and flexibility of the logistics operations on the field, the Sisu truck can be used with two types of trailers (50 & 70 tons).

#### Mobility support and traffic control missions



The units responsible for the traffic control and the reconnaissance of the main axes are equipped with highly mobile vehicles: motorcycles, 4x4 and light armored vehicles. The armored assets are mainly operated in operations overseas.



### 8.4. TRANSPORTATION CORPS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

The Transportation Corps (TC) was created by Napoleon 1st in March 26 1807 in order to avoid to employ civilian contactors in military affairs. Today, March 26 in the TC's Memorial Day.

Every year, the memorial ceremony takes place at the TC monument in Verdun to remember the "Voie Sacrée" (VS), Sacred Way, during the battle of Verdun (February 21 to December 19, 1916). The VS was a logistic road that connected Bar-le-Duc to Verdun. As soon as March 1916, transport vehicles were on the move day and night ferrying troops, armament, and supplies to the soldiers fighting in the hell of Verdun along its 45 miles. From the initial German attack (February 21 to March 22), 600 trucks per day had already delivered 48,000 tons of ammunition, 6,400 tons of equipment and 263,000 men to the battlefield. After March 1916, one truck used to pass every 14 seconds.

The TC was fully part of the successful defense of Verdun.

