



COMMANDEMENT DE LA ZONE
MARITIME OCEAN INDIEN
(ALINDIEN)

PRESS RELEASE

Washington, DC – March 14, 2023

Multilateral exercise "La Pérouse" – Indo-Pacific

- **On March 13 and 14 2023, the multilateral cooperation exercise "La Pérouse" brought together seven nations involved in maritime security in the Indo-Pacific area: Australia, Canada, the United States, France, India, Japan and the United Kingdom. Eight ships and seven aircraft came together in the Bay of Bengal to conduct a series of high-level training exercises to strengthen interoperability between the partner navies. France was represented by the "Jeanne d'Arc" Group.**

The French ships Dixmude and La Fayette, INS Sahyadri, INS Jyoti, USS Charleston, HMS Tamar, HMAS Perth and JS Suzutsuki gathered on the morning of Monday, March 13, to start the first manoeuvres together. A first replenishment at sea was conducted between the Jyoti and the Perth before a gunnery exercise on floating targets in formation. The training continued with a series of crossdecks conducted by the Dauphin and Gazelle helicopters of the "Jeanne d'Arc" group, the Alouette III helicopter of the INS Sahyadri, the MH160 of the USS Charleston and the SH160 of the JS Suzutsuki. The first day ended with a joint anti-air warfare exercise.

The next day, the units conducted a simulation of air defence exercises, followed by further aviation manoeuvres between the helicopters and the ships, before concluding with an advanced tactical evolution exercise in formation, under the surveillance of the Indian maritime patrol aircraft P8. Finally, the commanders of the various ships involved in the exercise met on board the LHD Dixmude for an exchange moment.

The eight ships then separated to continue their respective patrols and missions in the Indian Ocean. The Dixmude and the La Fayette are heading for Singapore, the next stage of their circumnavigation, before participating in the major exercise CROIX DU SUD in New Caledonia and to conduct patrols in France's exclusives economics zones in the indo-pacific.

Within 48 hours, about ten training sequences were carried out, including about twenty crossdecks. These numerous sequences enabled the strengthening of mutual knowledge between our navies, supporting the preservation of an international stability based on the respect of international maritime law and safety at sea.

Mission "Jeanne d'Arc" 2023

For five months, the JEANNE D'ARC group will contribute to asserting French sovereignty in its maritime space and strengthening cooperation with partner nations, while fully participating in the training of tomorrow's French Navy officers.

The JEANNE D'ARC group is composed of the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) Dixmude and the frigate La Fayette, which embark nearly 800 sailors and soldiers, including nearly 160 student officers. The JEANNE D'ARC group also includes an embedded tactical group (GTE) with 150 soldiers and 40 vehicles of the French Army, an amphibious flotilla detachment, a drone S-100 and a Dauphin helicopter of the French Navy and two Gazelle helicopters of the French Army.

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