



**MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**Marine nationale
Etat-major de la Marine
Pôle « opérations aéronavales »**

Paris, *le 3 mars 2025*

Dear Commodore

Exercise ORION 2026 will be conducted from 8 February to 2 March 2026 in the North-Eastern Atlantic, off the French coasts. This 3-yearly major joint exercise will take place in a multi-domain environment to train, proof and enhance interoperability and combat readiness, in full appliance with STANAGs.

The French Navy will commit most of its major assets, to include the Carrier Strike Group around the nuclear carrier 'Charles de Gaulle', a French amphibious task group around two LHD, destroyers, surface combatants, maritime patrol aircraft, submarine forces and special forces. As is customary, the French Air Force and French Army will also contribute with numerous assets to ensure a well-resourced multi-domain environment.

Exercise ORION 26 will consist of three successive phases of one week each.

The first phase (8 to 15 February) will focus on air operations and create the opportunity for the carrier vessel wing to conduct long range flights and collaborate with air force assets to establish air superiority and conduct first deep strike operations. This first phase will be used by naval forces notably to conduct serialised force integration training.

The second phase (15 to 23 February) will focus on multi-domain naval operations, an opportunity for all participants to fight for air-sea superiority as well as to finalize and execute the amphibious phase. This phase will be the main focus in terms of maritime training.

The third phase (24 February to 1 March) will focus on land operations, following the amphibious phase. During this phase, maritime forces will partially disperse and have the opportunity for an initial de-brief ashore in Brest.

The main planning conference (MPC) will be held in Paris during week 24 of 2025 (early June), with the final coordinating conference in week 47 (mid-November).

It is my conviction that such a high-profile joint training will be beneficial to all participants, and I have the pleasure to invite the Estonian Navy to take part in it. Should you decide to investigate the matter further, CDR Martial Guibert from my staff (address below) will be your point of contact. He will assist yours in devising the best participation options and related solutions.

An indication of willingness received before the MPC in June 2025 would be greatly appreciated.

We demonstrate a good level of interoperability notably in Baltic Sea. I am convinced that Orion 26 will help us to develop that interoperability and will allow us to demonstrate it. With my kind regards,

Vice-Admiral Emmanuel Slaars
Navy Staff Commander for Operations,

TO :

- Commodore Ivo Värk, Chief of Navy, Estonia.