



MINISTÈRE  
DES ARMÉES  
ET DES ANCIENS  
COMBATTANTS

Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité



# ORION 26 :

*Ready to act, determined to protect*

Press briefing January 22, 2026



# ORION 26

## Large-scale exercise in a multi-Domain Environment



By its scope, scale, and nature, ORION 26 prepares the French Armed Forces for high-intensity warfare in a multi-domain environment against a peer adversary. It demonstrates the Nation's ability to engage massively by deploying a powerful force, assuming the role of framework nation in a coalition, and mobilising both state institutions and the population.

### ORION

#### 1 OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Breaking down political decisions into a credible, comprehensive, and sustained military operation.

### ORION

#### 2 TROOP DEPLOYMENT IN COALITION

Demonstrating France's ability to conduct and lead theatre entry with allies during a high-intensity operation.

### ORION

#### 4 TROOP DEPLOYMENT IN NATO

Affirming France's ability to fully integrate into a NATO operation.

### ORION

#### 3 INTERMINISTERIAL WARGAME

Assessing interministerial coordination in response to national repercussions of a major overseas engagement of the French armed forces. In parallel, "Ex ORION JEUNESSE" delivers activities to raise awareness and conduct situational exercises around defense issues.

Operational  
planning

8 Feb 2026  
15 Feb 2026

Initial Land  
Entry

23 Feb 2026  
1 Mar 2026

Interministerial crisis  
on National territory  
30 Mar - 31 Mar 2026

16 Apr 2026

17 Apr 2026  
30 Apr 2026

**O.1**

Oct 2025  
Jan 2026

Air and  
Maritime  
superiority

**O.2**

16 Feb 2026  
22 Feb 2026  
MEDIA DAY  
In Saint-Nazaire  
19 Feb 2026

Territorial  
Recovery

**O.3**

ORION JEUNESSE  
23 - 29 Mar 2026

**O.4**

MEDIA DAY  
at the  
Lille Citadelle

Deployment of  
Army Corps under  
NATO command

# ORION 26

## FICTION IN THE SERVICE OF REALITY



A fictional but credible scenario, inspired by NATO standards, to recreate all forms of modern combat, from hybrid threats to high intensity, and to test our forces in some of the most realistic combat conditions.

### SCENARIO

In Europe, Mercure, an expansionist nation, seeks to destabilise its neighbour Arnland to maintain its regional influence and prevent Arnland's accession to the European Union. Throughout 2025, Mercure escalates hybrid actions and increases support for militias operating within Arnland's territory. On 6 January 2026, France assumes leadership of the ORION coalition to defend Arnland and preserve European stability. ORION 26 embodies this escalation, from invisible war to high-intensity confrontation. It represents the ultimate test for Europe, France, and its allies.



# Significant national and international commitment

## Inter-service, interministerial and allied mobilisation



Headquarters at the Corps and Divisional level with 10 Joint Brigades



a Carrier Strike Group and Amphibious Task Group



and a wide range of aircraft, drones, air defense.



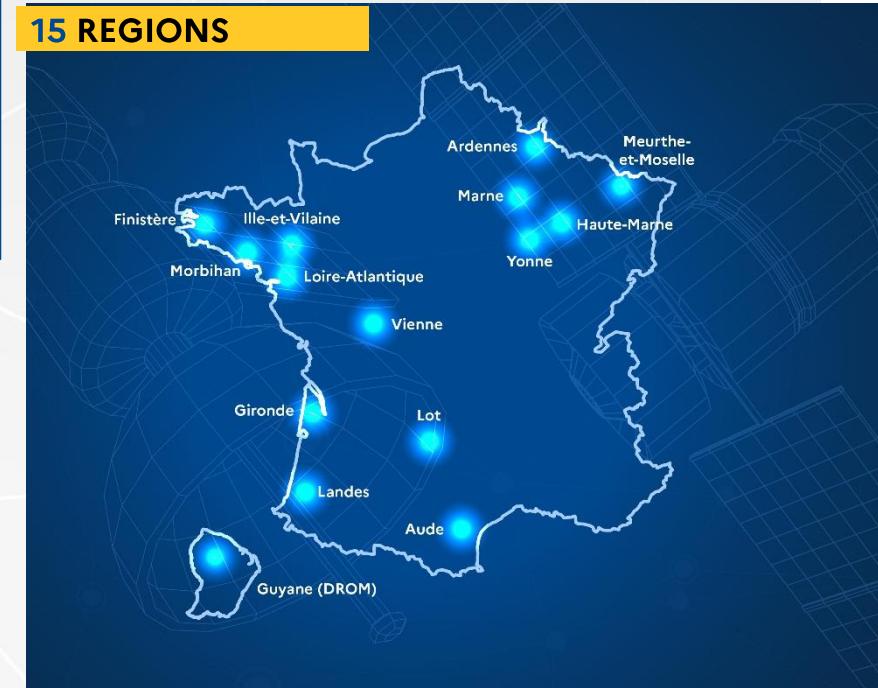
**MOD**  
**90** separate Commands,  
Joint Support units  
and Organisations



**12 500**  
Commitment  
to European  
allies and  
NATO



**15 REGIONS**



## 12 MINISTRIES INVOLVED

