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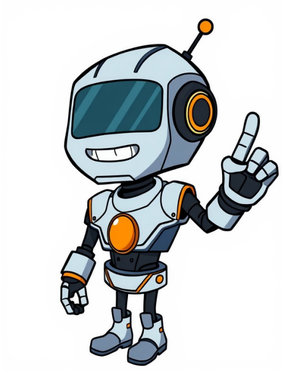

Caroline Aigle, from pilot to mother courage Caroline Aigle would have been 33 years old on September 12, 2007. The French Navy’s first female fighter pilot and future astronaut died on August 21 of fatal cancer. Her country still mourns her and she continues to be moved by her courageous sacrifice: she was five months pregnant when she learned that she was terminally ill and chose to postpone her treatment so that her child could born. In mid-July 2007, Caroline received the devastating news. Far from collapsing, the woman faced adversity and she ignored the doctors who advised her to have an abortion to try to extend her life. Together with her husband, fellow pilot Christophe Deketelaere, she decided to give the new member of her family a chance. Her second child was born at the beginning of August with only five and a half months of gestation, she called him Gabriel. He was born very small but he continues to fight for his life and has many possibilities to get ahead. “He could not stop the life of a being that he had carried with him for five months. He told me: ‘He has the right to have possibilities like me,’” Christophe declared. For her husband, this pregnancy was “her last fight and she won it.” Before she died, she was able to see her son several times and carry him in her arms. “She was heroic to the end,” she assured. Caroline Aigle (meaning “eagle”) was born in Montauban, France, in 1974. At the age of 14, she entered the Saint-Cyr military school. In May 1999 she became a fighter pilot and was in charge of a Mirage 2000-5 of the Cote d’Or Fighter Squadron in Dijon. In 2005 she became squadron commander and since 2006 she has been performing flight safety duties at the Metz command center. His funeral was presided over by the priest Pierre Demoures, a former fighter pilot. In his homily, Father Demoures remembered Caroline as a person who led people to Christ with her “qualities, kindness, availability, passion” and for her “choices” in considering “her son as a life that exceeded simple human vision of life” and for which “he delayed a treatment that was urgent”. The priest recalled that when Caroline and Christophe sought him out to prepare for their marriage, they asked him for a text that did not speak of love for one another “but that deals with the love that opens us and leads us to love others.” “The great lesson Caroline taught us is the urge to love. Not an urge to fear, but the vital urge to know that only love brings life. Man is made for life. This urge can make love more strong and give life to a treasure in the midst of the most tragic events,” said the priest. Javier’s Catholic website If you liked the article Caroline Aigle, from pilot to mother courageplease share it on social networks by pressing the following buttons Javier’s Catholic Web Index catholic reflections Sign in the guest book Subscribe for free to Javier’s Catholic Web mailing list to receive weekly updates by email. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. - ©2007 20 minutesPublié le 06/09/2007 à 00h00C'est un témoignage bouleversant qu'a livré hier au micro de RTL le mari de Caroline Aigle, première Française pilote de chasse, emportée le 21 août par un cancer foudroyant. La jeune femme de 32 ans a tenu à accoucher prématurément, malgré sa maladie, voulant donner « le maximum de chances » au bébé qu'elle portait. L'enfant, son deuxième, est né par césarienne après cinq mois et demi de grossesse, au début août, dix-huit jours avant le décès de la jeune femme. Christophe Deketelaere, lui aussi pilote de chasse, a raconté qu'à la mi-juillet, le pronostic des médecins était « impitoyable ». Sa femme avait alors exprimé la volonté, malgré les conseils médicaux, de poursuivre sa grossesse entamée avant de découvrir sa maladie. « Elle ne pouvait pas arrêter la vie d'un être qu'elle avait porté pendant cinq mois... Elle disait : il a droit à ses chances comme moi. » Cette grossesse a été « quasiment son dernier combat, qu'elle a gagné », a-t-il ajouté. L'époux de Caroline Aigle a confié qu'avant de mourir, « elle avait pu voir son bébé plusieurs fois, le porter sur elle ». Son épouse a été « héroïque jusqu'au bout », a-t-il conclu. French Air Force officer (1974–2007) Caroline AigleAigle in 1999Born(1974-09-12)12 September 1974Montauban, FranceDied21 August 2007(2007-08-21) (aged 32)Allegiance FranceBranch French Air ForceYears of service2000-2007Rank CommandantUnit2/2 Squadron Commandant Caroline Aigle (French pronunciation: [kaʁɔlin ɛɡl] ; 12 September 1974 – 21 August 2007) was a French aviator who achieved a historical first when at the age of 25, she became the first woman fighter pilot in the French Air Force. Her promising military career was cut short by death from cancer seven years later. She was posthumously awarded the Médaille de l'Aéronautique (Aeronautics Medal). Born in Montauban, Aigle spent her early years in Africa, where her father served as a military physician. After reaching her fourteenth birthday, she matriculated at the Lycée militaire de Saint-Cyr (Saint-Cyr Military High School), for the remaining three-year period from the second term until graduation.[1] She subsequently proceeded to Prytanée Militaire, an advanced military high school and then to the military academy wing of the prestigious École Polytechnique, France's foremost school of engineering. During her first year (1994–1995), she fulfilled the requirements of her military duty while stationed with the 13th Battalion[2] of the elite mountain infantry, The Chasseurs Alpins. She served her final year before graduation from the Polytechnique (1996–1997) in the École de l'Air, the French Air Force's officer candidate school. After graduating from the Polytechnique, Aigle chose to join the French Air Force. On 28 May 1999, she became the first woman to receive the Air Force's coveted fighter pilot wings. She was assigned to the Mirage 2000-5 in the escadron 2/2 "Côte-d'Or" in 2000, and promoted to the rank of Commandant (roughly equivalent to Major) in 2005. Among the top candidates, she was also on the verge of being selected as an astronaut for the European Space Agency. By the time of her sudden death three weeks before her 33rd birthday (the cancer, a melanoma, had been diagnosed only a month earlier), she had accumulated a total of 1600 hours of flight time. Aigle was a keen athlete and represented the Air Force in inter-service sports competitions. She was the 1997 French military champion in triathlon, followed by the 1997 triathlon world championship in military team competition.[3] Still competing in 1999, she and her team won the triathlon world military vice-championship. She was also a skydiver and free-fall parachutist. Aigle was pregnant when she was first diagnosed with rapidly progressing cancer and refused to undergo an abortion despite the increased difficulty in cancer treatment options.[1] Her son Gabriel was delivered by caesarean section, five-and-a half months into term, fifteen days before her death on 21 August 2007. She and her husband already had one other child.[4] On 2 October 2007, President Sarkozy posthumously awarded her the Médaille de l'Aéronautique (Aeronautics Medal). Aigle was married to Christophe "Douky" Deketelaere (born 27 September 1964), a former Air Force fighter pilot and deputy leader of the Breitling Jet Team. They had two sons, Marc and Gabriel. Marie Marvingt - the first woman to fly in combat for France. ^ a b "From fighter pilot to courageous mother: the story of Caroline Aigle". Catholic News Agency. 26 September 2007. ^ "Ministère de la Défense". 2007-11-12. Archived from the original on 2007-11-12. Retrieved 2023-05-12. ^ "Adieu à une princesse de l'armée de l'air" (in French). La Dépêche du Midi. 6 September 2007. ^ "Courage. Elle sauve son bébé avant de mourir" (in French). La Dépêche du Midi. 6 September 2007. A brief magazine interview {in French} with Caroline Aigle Caroline Aigle biographical details {in French} Caroline Aigle identity card {in French} with date and place of birth Announcement {in French} of the birth of Caroline Aigle's and "Douky" Deketelaere's son Marc on 12 July 2005 Text of the eulogy delivered at Caroline Aigle's funeral mass (in French) Wikimedia Commons has media related to Caroline Aigle. Biographical sketch of Caroline Aigle {in French} with two photographs The death of Caroline Aigle mentioned in an English-language notice of 25 August 2007 Portals: aviation France Retrieved from " Air and space warfare branch of France's armed forces Air and Space ForceArmée de l'air et de l'espaceFounded2 July 1934(91 years, 43 days ago)Country FranceTypeAir and space forceRoleAerial and space warfareSize38,882 active duty personnel (2023) 5,239 civilians (2023)520 aircraft41 satellitesPart ofFrench Armed ForcesGarrison/HQHexagone Balard, ParisColoursBlue, white, red Anniversaries2 JulyEngagements World War I World War II Indochina War Algerian War Chadian–Libyan conflict Gulf War Operation Provide Comfort Operation Southern Watch January 1993 airstrikes on Iraq Operation Deny Flight Operation Deliberate Force Kosovo War War in Afghanistan Opération Harmattan Military intervention against ISIL Operation Serval Operation Barkhane Websitedefense.gouv.fr/airCommandersChief of the Armed ForcesPresident Emmanuel MacronChief of Staff of the French Air and Space ForceGénéral d'armée aérienne Jérôme Bellanger [fr]InsigniaRoundelFin flashAircraft flownElectronicwarfareE-3 SentryFighterRafale, Mirage 2000HelicopterAS532 Cougar, Fennec, EC725 CaracalTrainerAlpha Jet, PC-21, SOCATA TBM, Extra EA-300, EMB 121 XinguTransportLockheed C-130, Airbus A310, Airbus A330, Airbus A400M, Dassault Falcon 7X, Dassault Falcon 900, Dassault Falcon 2000, Boeing C-135FR, Socata TBM-700TankerAirbus A330 MRTT, Airbus A400MMilitary unit The French Air and Space Force (French: Armée de l'air et de l'espace, pronounced [aʁme d(ə) lɛʁ e d(ə) lɛspas], lit. 'Army of Air and Space') is the air and space force of the French Armed Forces.[1] Formed in 1909 as the Service Aéronautique ("Aeronautical Service"), a service arm of the French Army, it became an independent military branch in 1934 as the French Air Force (Armée de l'air). On 10 September 2020, it assumed its current name, the French Air and Space Force, to reflect an "evolution of its mission" into the area of outer space.[2] The number of aircraft in service with the French Air and Space Force varies depending on the source; the Ministry of Armed Forces gives a figure of 658 aircraft in 2014.[3][4] According to 2025 data, this figure includes 207 combat aircraft: 99 Dassault Mirage 2000 and 108 Dassault Rafale.[5] As of 2021,[update] the French Air and Space Force employs a total of 40,500 regular personnel, with a reserve element of 5,187 in 2014.[6] The Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force (CEMAAE) is a direct subordinate of the Chief of the Defence Staff (CEMA), a high-ranking military officer who in turn answers to the civilian Minister of the Armed Forces.[7] French Armed Forces Components Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace Armée de Terre Marine nationale Gendarmerie Garde nationale Ranks Ranks in the French Army Ranks in the French Navy Ranks in the French Air and Space Force History Military history of France La Grande Armée vte Main articles: History of the Armée de l'Air (1909–1942) and History of the Armée de l'Air (colonial presence 1939–1962) The founding of the Service Aéronautique began in 1909, when the French War Minister approved the purchase of a Wright Biplane. The following year, another Wright biplane, a Bleriot, and two Farmans were added to the lone acquisition. On 22 October 1910, General Pierre Roques was appointed Inspector General of what was becoming referred to as the Cinquieme Arme, or Fifth Service.[8] In March 1912, the French parliament enacted legislation to establish the air arm. It was projected to consist of three distinct branches based on aircraft missions—reconnaissance, bombing, or countering other aircraft.[8] France was one of the first states to start building aircraft. At the beginning of World War I, France had a total of 148 planes (eight from French Naval Aviation (Aéronautique Navale)) and 15 airships.[9] In August 1914, as France entered World War I, French airpower consisted of 24 squadrons (escadrilles) supporting ground forces, including three squadrons assigned to cavalry units. By 8 October, expansion to 65 squadrons was being planned. By December, the plans called for 70 new squadrons.[8] Meanwhile, even as procurement efforts scaled up, inventive airmen were trying to use various light weapons against opposing airplanes. Roland Garros invented a crude method of firing a machine gun through the propeller arc by cladding his propeller with metal wedges deflecting any errant bullets. After destroying three German airplanes, Garros came down behind enemy lines on 18 April 1915. His secret weapon was thus exposed, and Anthony Fokker came up with the synchronization gear that by July 1, 1915, turned airplanes into flying gun platforms.[10] "Company of aviators", September 1914, by Jules Gervais-Courtellemont French aircraft during World War I, flying over German held territory (1915) Nieuport-Delage NiD.29 C.1 fighter used in the early post-WWI period. On 21 February 1916, the Verdun Offensive began. New weapons demanded new tactics. Commandant Charles de Tricornet de Rose was the original French pilot, having learned to fly in March 1911. This experienced flier was given a free hand to select pilots and airplanes for a new unit tasked with keeping German observation craft from over the French lines. The ad hoc unit commandeered all available Morane-Saulniers and Nieuport 11s, as well as the 15 best pilots regardless of posting. This ad hoc unit patrolling the skies over Verdun was the first French Groupement de Chasse. The Groupement was successful despite Tricornet's death in a mishap. Under the leadership of new commander Captain Auguste de Reverand, such flying aces as Georges Guynemer, Charles Nungesser, and Albert Deullin began their careers.[11] Encouraged by the success of their original Groupement, the French massed several squadrons for the Battle of the Somme. The burgeoning French aircraft inventory afforded the formation of Groupement de Combat de la Somme under Captain Felix Brocard. The Groupement was formed on 1 July 1916 with a posting of four Nieuport squadrons: Squadron N.3, N.26, N.73, and N.103. Three other squadrons--Squadron N.37, N.62, and N.65 were temporarily attached at various times.[11] On 19 October 1916, three fixed Groupes de Combat were established, each to consist of four squadron. Numbered 11, 12, and 13, they were only the first three Groupements.[11] During March 1917, Groupe de Combat 14 and Groupe de Combat 15 were formed. Again, each new Groupe was assigned four Nieuport fighter squadrons; again, each was sent to support a different French field army.[11] On 10 January 1918, Groupe de Combat 16 was formed from four SPAD squadrons. In February, five more Groupe de Combats were founded from SPAD squadrons: Groupes de Combats number 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. The various Nieuport models were now being phased out as the new SPADs filled the inventories of the French.[12] With the Groupes success, the French were encouraged to amass airpower into still larger tactical units. On 4 February 1918, Escadre de Combat No. 1 was created out of Groupe de Combat 15, Groupe de Combat 18, and Groupe de Combat 19. It was followed by Escadre de Combat No. 2, formed on the 27th from Groupe de Combat 11, Groupe de Combat 13, and Groupe de Combat 17. Each groupe would be stocked with 72 fighters.[13] The escadres were not the end of the French accumulation of air power. On 14 May 1918, they were grouped into the Division Aerienne. As bombing aircraft were also being concentrated into larger units, the new division would also contain Escadre de Bombardement No. 12 and Escadre de Bombardement No. 13. The bombing units were both equipped with 45 Breguet 14 bombers. The last addition to the new division was five protection squadrons, operating 75 Caudron R.11 gunships to fly escort for the Breguets.[13] On 25 June 1918, Groupe de Combat 22 was founded. Groupe de Combat 23 followed soon thereafter. A couple of night bombardment groupes were also founded.[14] Then, on 15 July 1918, the Division was committed to the Second Battle of the Marne.[15] From then on, whether in whole or in part, the Division Aerienne fought until war's end. By the time of the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, the French could commit 27 fighter squadrons to the effort, along with reconnaissance and bombing squadrons. The 1,137 airplanes dedicated to the battle were the most numerous used in a World War I battle.[16] When the 11 November 1918 armistice came, French air power had expanded to 336 squadrons, 74 of which were SPAD fighter squadrons. France had 3,608 planes in service.[9] Confirmed claims of 2,049 destroyed enemy airplanes included 307 that had been brought down within French lines. French airmen had also destroyed 357 observation balloons.[16] However, 5,500 pilots and observers were killed out of the 17,300 engaged in the conflict, amounting to 31%.[17] A 1919 newspaper article reported that the French Air Force had suffered losses of 61%.[18] Dewoitine D.510 monoplane fighters from the mid-1930s Military aeronautics was established as a "special arm" by the law of 8 December 1922.[19] It remained under the auspices of the French Army. It was not until 2 July 1934, that the "special arm" became an independent service and was totally independent.[20] The initial air arm was the cradle of French military parachuting, responsible for the first formation of the Air Infantry Groups (Groupements de l'Infanterie de l'Air) in the 1930s, out of which the Air Parachute Commandos (commandos parachutistes de l'air) descended. The French Air Force maintained a continuous presence across the French colonial empire, particularly from the 1920s to 1943.[21][22] The French Air Force played an important role in WWII, most notably during the Battle of France in 1940. The Vichy French Air Force had later a significant presence in the French Levant. The engagement of the Free French Air Forces from 1940 to 1943, and then the engagement of the aviators of the French Liberation Army, were also important episodes in the history of the French Air Force. The sacrifices of Commandant René Mouchotte and Lieutenant Marcel Beau illustrated their devotion. A North American T-28 Trojan, used against guerrillas during the Algerian War After 1945, France rebuilt its aircraft industry. The French Air Force participated in several colonial wars during the Empire such as French Indochina after the Second World War. Since 1945, the French Air Force was notably engaged in Indochina (1945–1954).[23][24][25] The French Air Force was active in Algeria from 1952 until 1962 and Suez (1956), later Mauritania and Chad,[26][27][28] the Persian Gulf (1990–1991),[29] ex-Yugoslavia[30][31] and more recently in Afghanistan, Mali and Iraq.[32][33][34][35][36][37] From 1964 until 1971 the French Air Force had the unique responsibility for the French nuclear arm via Dassault Mirage IV or ballistic missiles of Air Base 200 Apt-Saint-Christol on the Plateau d'Albion. Mirage IIIC of EC 2/10 "Seine" pictured in 1980 armed with a Matra R.530 Accordingly, from 1962, the French political leadership shifted its military emphasis to nuclear deterrence, implementing a complete reorganisation of the Air Force, with the creation of four air regions and seven major specialised commands, among which were the Strategic Air Forces Command, COTAM, the Air Command of Aerial Defense Forces (Commandement Air des Forces de Défense Aérienne, CAFDA), and the Force aérienne tactique (FATac).[38] In 1964, the Second Tactical Air Command was created in Nancy to take command of air units stationed in France but not assigned to NATO. The Military Air Transport Command had previously been formed in February 1962 from the Groupement d'Unités Aériennes Spécialisées. Also created in 1964 was the Escadron des Fusiliers Commandos de l'Air (EFCA), seemingly grouping all FCA units. The Dassault Mirage IV, the principal French strategic bomber, was designed to strike Soviet positions as part of the French nuclear triad. In 1985, the Air Force had four major flying commands, the Strategic Air Forces Command, the Tactical Air Forces Command, the Military Air Transport Command, and CAFDA (air defence).[39] A 1986 view of a Mirage F1 from the Escadron de Chasse 2/30 Normandie-Niemen and another from the Escadron de Chasse 3/30 Lorraine, both armed with Matra R.530 missiles. Squadron insignias are visible on the two aircraft. CFAS had two squadrons of S2 and S-3 IRBMs at the Plateau d'Albion, six squadrons of Mirage IVAs (at Mont de Marsan, Cazaux, Orange, Istres, St Dizier, and EB 3/94 at Luxeuil - Saint-Sauveur Air Base), and three squadrons of C-135F, as well as a training/reconnaissance unit, CIFAS 328, at Bordeaux. The tactical air command included wings EC 3, EC 4, EC 7, EC 11, EC 13, and ER 33, with a total of 19 squadrons of Mirage III, Jaguars, two squadrons flying the Mirage 5F (EC 2/13 and EC 3/13, both at Colmar), and a squadron flying the Mirage F.1CR. CoTAM counted 28 squadrons, of which ten were fixed-wing transport squadrons, and the remainder helicopter and liaison squadrons, at least five of which were overseas. CAFDA numbered 14 squadrons mostly flying the Mirage F.1C. Two other commands had flying units, the Air Force Training Command, and the Air Force Transmissions Command, with four squadrons and three trials units. Dassault Aviation led the way mainly with delta-wing designs, which formed the basis for the Dassault Mirage III series of fighter jets. The Mirage demonstrated its abilities in the Six-Day War, Yom Kippur War, Falklands War, and Gulf War, becoming one of the most popular jet fighters of its day and being widely sold. In 1994, the Fusiliers Commandos de l'Air command was reestablished under a different form. Mirage 2000 in flight Logo between 1989 and 2010 The French Air Force entered a phase of inventory replacement and expansion. The Air Force ordered the Airbus A400M military transport aircraft, then in development. By November 2016, 11 had already been delivered to ET00.061 at Orleans-Bricy, and integration of the new Dassault Rafale multi-role jet fighter was underway; the first 20-aircraft squadron became operational in 2006 at Saint-Dizier. In 2009, France rejoined the NATO Military Command Structure, having been absent since 1966.[40] France was a leading nation, alongside the United States, United Kingdom and Italy in implementing the UN sponsored no-fly zone in Libya (NATO Operation Unified Protector), deploying 20 fighter aircraft to Benghazi in defense of rebel-held positions and the civilian population.[41] The last remaining squadron of Dassault Mirage F1s retired the aircraft in July 2014 and replaced them with Dassault Rafales.[42] Logo between 2010 and 2020 On 13 July 2019, President Emmanuel Macron announced the creation of a space command, which would come into being within the French Air Force by September 2019, and the transformation of the French Air Force into the French Air and Space Force.[43] According to Defense Minister Florence Parly, France reserves the right to arm French satellites with lasers for defensive purposes.[44] The official renaming occurred on 24 July 2020, with the new Air and Space Force logo unveiled on 11 September 2020.[2] On 26 July 2023, FASF conducted its first ever joint fighter exercise with Japan, continuing its defense ties between the two countries.[45] Général d'armée aérienne André Lanata, former chief of staff of the French Air Force The Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force (CEMAAE) determines French Air and Space Force doctrines application and advises the Chief of the Defence Staff (CEMA) on the deployment, manner, and use of the Air and Space Force. They are responsible for the preparation and logistic support of the French Air and Space Force. The CEMAA is assisted by a Deputy Chief, the Major Général de l'Armée de l'Air, who is the Chief of Staff of the Air and Space Forces Staff. Finally, the CEMAA is assisted by the Inspectorate of the French Air and Space Force (IAA) and by the French Air and Space Force Health Service Inspection (ISSAA). The Air and Space Force is organized in accordance with Chapter 4, Title II, Book II of the Third Part of the French Defense Code (French: code de la Défense), which replaced decree n° 91-672 dated 14 July 1991. Under the authority of the Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force (CEMAAE) in Paris, the Air and Space Force includes: Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force, heading the État-major de l'Armee de l'air et de l'espace (EMAAE) Forces Air Bases Directorate of Human Resources of the French Air and Space Force Services[46] The Air and Space Force headquarters, employing 150 personnel, are located alongside the Chief of the Defence Staff's offices (EMA) and the Army and Navy headquarters at the Balard armed forces complex in Paris. The new site replaced the former Paris Air Base (BA 117) which served as air staff headquarters until 25 June 2015. The Air and Space Army Staff (État-major de l'Armée de l'air et de l'espace) is the highest service-specific authority of the French air force. It is formally under the command of the Chief of Staff of the Air and Space Force (CEMAAE), but the organisation is under the direct authority of his deputy, the Major General of the Air and Space Force (major général de l'Armée de l'air et de l'espace (MGAAE), in the French military tradition a 'Major General' is not a military rank, but the designation of Chief of Staff of a high command.) Organisation:[47] Chief of Staff of the Air and Space Force (CEMAAE), the chief of the French Air and Space Force, officer in the rank of General of Air Army (a full General equivalent) Director of the Aeronautical Industrial Service (Directeur du Service industriel de l’aéronautique (SIAé)) in charge of the overhaul of all aerial vehicles of the French Armed Forces (the Air and Space Force, the naval aviation, the army aviation and the gendarmerie), officer in the rank of a General Engineer for Armament First Class (a Major-General equivalent) Commandant of the Air and Space Gendarmerie (Commandant de la gendarmerie de l'air et de l'espace (GAE)), the chief of the French Air and Space Force military police force, officer in the rank of a General of Brigade (a Brigadier General equivalent) Major General of the Air and Space Force (MGAAE), officer in the rank of General of Air Corps (a Lieutenant-General equivalent) directly subordinate: forces (formerly part of the Air Forces Command. With its transformation into the Territorial Command of the Air and Space Force they were detached and put under direct subordination of the Chief of Staff): Commandant of the Air Force Brigade of Fighter Aviation (BAAC) (Nancy – Ochey Air Base) (French: Brigade Aérienne de l'Aviation de Chasse (BAAC)), is responsible for all air defense, air-to-ground and reconnaissance aircraft (including Dassault Rafale, Mirage 2000-5F, Mirage 2000B/C/D, Transall C-160 Gabriel). Commanded by an officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade (a Brigadier General equivalent). With the creation of the BACEA on the basis of the former BACE brigade, its surface-to-air missile units were transferred to the fighter brigade.[48] Fighter units: 2nd Fighter Wing (2e escadre de chasse)(BA 116 Luxeuil-Saint Sauveur Air Base) Fighter Squadron 1/2 Cigognes (Escadron de chasse 1/2 Cigognes, flying Mirage 2000-5F) 3rd Fighter Wing (3e escadre de chasse)(BA 133 Nancy-Ochey Air Base) Fighter Squadron 1/3 Navarre (Escadron de chasse 1/3 Navarre, fighter-bomber squadron flying Mirage 2000D) Fighter Squadron 2/3 Champagne (Escadron de chasse 2/3 Champagne, the French Air and Space Force's Mirage 2000 OCU, flying Mirage 2000D and B) Fighter Squadron 3/3 Ardennes (Escadron de chasse 3/3 Ardennes, fighter-bomber squadron flying Mirage 2000D) 30th Fighter Wing (30e escadre de chasse)(BA 118 Mont-de-Marsan Air Base) Fighter and Experimentation Squadron 1/30 Côte d'Argent (Escadron de chasse et d'expérimentation 1/30 Côte d'Argent, the French Air and Space Force's fighter OEU squadron flying Rafale and Mirage 2000) Fighter Squadron 2/30 Normandie-Niémen (Régiment de chasse 2/30 Normandie-Niémen, flying Rafale, called Fighter Regiment out of tradition) Fighter Squadron 3/30 Lorraine (Escadron de Chasse 3/30 Lorraine, flying Rafale) 5th Fighter Wing (5e escadre de chasse)(BA 115 Orange-Caritat Air Base) Fighter Squadron 1/5 Vendée (Escadron de chasse 1/5 Vendée, flying Rafale) 8th Fighter Wing (8e escadre de chasse)(BA 120 Cazaux Air Base) Training Squadron 3/8 Côte d'Or (Escadron d'entraînement 3/8 Côte d'Or, the French Air and Space Force's aggressor squadron flying Alpha Jet) Separate squadrons: Rafale Conversion Squadron 3/4 Aquitaine (Escadron de Transformation Rafale 3/4 Aquitaine (the combined air force / navy Rafale OCU based at the Base aérienne 113 Saint-Dizier, attached to the Strategic Air Forces Command's 4th Fighter Wing and carrying on the traditions of combat and training strategic bomber units, but part of the BAAC) Fighter Squadron 3/11 Corse (Escadron de chasse 3/11 Corse (Mirage 2000-5F squadron, based at BA 188 Djibouti Air Base, carrying on the long standing French-Djibouti military co-operation) Fighter Squadron 1/7 Provence (Escadron de chasse 1/7 Provence (Rafale squadron permanently deployed to Base aérienne 104 Al Dhafra, the French facility at the UAE's Al Dhafra Air Base) Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance units: 33rd Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Attack Wing (33e escadre de surveillance, de reconnaissance et d'attaque) (BA 709 Cognac-Châteaubernard Air Base) UAV Squadron 1/33 Belfort (Escadron de drones 1/33 Belfort, operational General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper squadron) UAV Squadron 2/33 Savoie (Escadron de drones 2/33 Savoie, operational General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper squadron) OCU UAV Squadron 3/33 Moselle (Escadron de Transformation Opérationnelle Drones 3/33 Moselle, the OCU General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper squadron) Reconnaissance Squadron 4/33 Périgord (Escadron de reconnaissance 4/33 Périgord, intelligence gathering squadron flying Beech 350ER/ALSR 'VADOR' aircraft) surface-to-air missile units (each ADSA squadron is composed of two batteries of SAMP/T and one battery of Crotale NG SAMs): Air Defence Surface-to-Air Wing – 1st Air Defence Artillery Regiment (Escadre sol-air de défense aérienne – 1er régiment d'artillerie de l'air), based at Avord Air Base (BA 702) Air Defence Surface-to-Air Squadron 02.950 "Sancerre" (Escadron de défense sol-air 02.950 "Sancerre") Technical Support Surface-to-Air Squadron (Escadron de soutien technique sol-air 2E.950) Air Defence Surface-to-Air Training Center (Centre de formation de la défense sol-air 14.950) Air Defence Surface-to-Air Squadron 01.950 "Crau" (Escadron de défense sol-air 01.950 "Crau") (Base aérienne 125 Istres-Le Tubé) Air Defence Surface-to-Air Squadron 05.950 "Barrois" (Escadron de défense sol-air 05.950 "Barrois") (Base aérienne 113 Saint-Dizier-Robinson) Air Defence Surface-to-Air Squadron 12.950 "Tursan" (Escadron de défense sol-air 12.950 "Tursan") (Base aérienne 118 Mont-de-Marsan) Commandant of the Air Force Brigade of Assault and Projection (BAAP) (Orléans – Bricy Air Base) (French: Brigade Aérienne d'Appui et de Projection (BAAP)), is responsible for all tactical transport and liaison aircraft (aircraft and helicopters: Transall, C-160, Hercules C-130, A310/319, Dassault Falcon 50/900, Aérospatiale SA 330 Puma, Eurocopter Fennec, Eurocopter AS332 Super Puma, SOCATA TBM). Commanded by an officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade. Commandant of the Air Force Brigade of Special Forces (BFSA) (Orange - Caritat Air Base). Air Force Special Forces Brigade (Brigade des forces spéciales air (BFSA)) was created in 2020 on the basis of the former Air Force Security Forces Brigade. In the 2020 – 2021 period the French Air and Space Force overhauled the force structure of its security and firefighting and rescue units, which were previously grouped together in the Air Force Security and Intervention Forces Brigade (French: Brigade Aérienne des Forces de Sécurité et d'Intervention (BAFSI)).[49] The brigade combines the aerial special operations assets of the air force (the fixed-wing Escadron de transport 3/61 'Poitou' and the rotary wing Escadron d'hélicoptères 1/67 'Pyrénées'), the land warfare special units Air Parachute Commando No. 10 (covert and direct action), No. 20 (installation defence) and No. 30 (combat search and rescue), the security companies of the various air bases (les escadrons de protection), The Operational Training Center for [Land Warfare] Air Force Combatants (Centre de préparation opérationnel des combattants de l'Armée de l'air (CPOCAA)) at the Rocheport Air Base [3] as well as the air force's Survival and Rescue Training Center (Centre de formation à la survie et au sauvetage (CFSS)) at Cazaux Air Base.[50] Commanded by an officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade. academic establishments: Commandant of the Centre d'expertise aérienne militaire (CEAM) (Mont-de-Marsan Air Base), officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade Commandant of the Centre for Strategic Aerospatial Studies (CESA) (Paris), officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade Physician Assistant on Health Matters to the MGAAE (médecin adjoint santé auprès du MGAAE) Air and Space Force Staff (État-major de l'armée de l'air et de l'espace)[51] Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programmes (sous-chef d'état-major Plans-Programme (SCPP)) in charge of preparation of armaments and equipment programmes, officer in the rank of a General of Air Division (a Major-General equivalent) Deputy Chief of Staff for Activities (sous-chef d'état-major activité (SCAc)) in charge of operational readiness, application and support of the forces, training directives and personnel instruction, officer in the rank of a General of Air Division Deputy Chief of Staff for Performance and Synthesis (sous-chef d'état-major performance-synthèse (SCPS)) for the supervision of Air Force cross-functional projects, information management, performance management and control of Air Force activities, officer in the rank of a General of Air Division General Officer in Charge of External Relations (officier général délégué aux relations extérieures (OGDRE)) in charge of bilateral cooperation with foreign air forces and support for exports, officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade (a Brigadier General equivalent) General Officer for Nuclear Matters and Security (officier général nucléaire et sécurité (OGNS)) in charge of Air Force policy on the control and prevention of nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical (NRBC) risks, officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade General Officer for Cybersecurity (officier général au numérique (OGNUM)), officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade General Officer for Maintenance in Opetrational Condition (officier général au maintien en condition opérationnelle aéronautique (OGMCO)), officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade General Officer for Very High Altitudes (officier général au très haute altitude (OGTRA)) in charge of exploitation of the space domain, officer in the rank of a General of Air Brigade Inspector of the Air and Space Force (IAAE), officer in the rank of General of Air Corps Director for Human Resources of the Air and Space Force (DRHAAE), officer in the rank of General of Air Corps Territorial Commander of the Air and Space Force (CTAAE, formerly the Air Forces Command[52]), officer in the rank of General of Air Corps Commander of Air Defence and Air Operations (CDAOA), officer in the rank of General of Air Corps Commander of Strategic Air Forces (CFAS), officer in the rank of General of Air Corps Commander of Space Command (CDE), officer in the rank of General of Air Division The French Air and Space Force has had three commands: two grand operational commands (CDAOA and CFAS) and one organic command (CFA). Commandement de la Défense Aérienne et des Opérations Aériennes (English: Air Defense and Air Operations Command (CDAOA)), is responsible for surveillance of French airspace, as well as all aerial operations in progress. It does not possess aircraft. Instead it exercises operational control over units of the Air Forces Command (CFA).[53] Air Defence and Air Operations Staff (French: État-major de la défense aérienne et des opérations aériennes) composed of the: Air Force Operational Staff (French: État-major opérationnel Air (EMO-Air)) and the Permanent readiness command center (French: Centre de permanence Air), both situated at the Balard complex (the French Air and Space Force main HQ) direct reporting units: Air Force Operations Brigade (French: Brigade aérienne des opérations (BAO)) (all units at BA 942 Lyon-Mont Verdun air base) National Air Operations Center (French: Centre national des opérations aériennes (CNOA)) Core Joint Force Air Component HQ (Core JFAC HQ) Analysis and Simulation Center for Air Operations Preparation (French: Centre d’analyse et de simulation pour la préparation aux opérations aériennes (CASPOA)) Air Force Operational Awareness and Planning Brigade (French: Brigade aérienne connaissance-anticipation (BACA)) Air Force Intelligence Center (French: Centre de renseignement air (CRA)) at BA 942 Lyon-Mont Verdun air base National Target Designation Center (French: Centre national de ciblage (CNC)) at BA 110 Creil-Senlis air base Land-based Electronic Warfare Squadron (French: Escadron électronique sol (EES)) at BA 123 Orléans-Bricy air base Intelligence Training Squadron 20.530 (French: Escadron de formation au renseignement (EFR) 20.530) (Metz), training air and space force and naval officers, integrated in the Joint Intelligence Training Center (CFIAR) in Strasbourg[54] Air Force Brigade for Permanent Aerial Security Readiness (Brigade aérienne de la posture permanente de la sûreté aérienne (BAPPS)), based at BA 942 Lyon-Mont Verdun air base, created at the end of 2020 and in charge of air policing[55] Air Force Brigade for Airspace Control (Brigade aérienne du contrôle de l'espace aérien (BACEA)), based at BA 942 Lyon-Mont Verdun air base,[56] created in 2023 in line with Plan Altaïr for teh reorganisation of the French Air and Space Force.[57] Created by the merger of the former Airspace Control Brigade (Brigade Aérienne de Contrôle de l'Espace (BACE)) and the Information and Communication Systems component (Systèmes d'information et de communication) of the Air Force Brigade for Aerial Maneuver Support (Brigade aérienne d'appui à la manœuvre aérienne). The BACE was responsible for (Airborne early warning and control aircraft, and ground radar, ground-based air defense systems and missile defence, communication networks) airspace surveillance, constituting the Système de Commandement et de Conduite des Opérations Aérospatiales). Since 2007 the command, control and information systems network of the air and space force have been is integrated into the Joint Directorate of Infrastructure Networks and Information Systems (DIRISI)). With the creation of the BACEA the surface-to-air missile squadrons were transferred to the Air Force Fighter Aviation Brigade. The annual post-statement of the Air Defence and Air Operations Command (COMMANDEMENT DE LA DÉFENSE AÉRIENNE ET DES OPÉRATIONS AÉRIENNES - Rétrospective 2023)[58] describes the new brigade as a formation of 57 subordinated units and its HQ in Bordeaux, fulfilling the following key tasks: tactical control of air assets (contrôle tactique), aerial transit control of air assets (contrôle en route), air traffic control (contrôle de circulation aérienne), support of the information and communication systems of the air force (soutien des Sic Aéronautiques), training and expertise in air traffic management (formation et expertise ATM), forward deployment of information and communication systems and command and control assets (projection SIC et du C2 tactique). detection and control centers: Detection and Control Center 07.927 (French: Centre de détection et de contrôle (CDC)) Tours – Cinq-Mars-la-Pile (Codename: Raki, AOR: Northwestern France) Detection and Control Center 04.930 (French: Centre de détection et de contrôle (CDC)) Mont-de-Marsan (Codename: Marina, AOR: Southwestern France) Detection and Control Center 05.942 (French: Centre de détection et de contrôle (CDC)) Lyon – Mont Verdun (Codename: Rambert, AOR: Southeastern France) airborne airspace sur

complement the 12 MRTT ordered by 2025)[84] Lockheed KC-130J United States Aerial refueling / Transport 2019 2[85] Transport Airbus A400M Atlas Europe Tactical airlifter with strategic capabilities / Aerial refueling 2013 24 26 additional units on order[86] Lockheed C-130J Super Hercules United States Tactical airlifter 2018 2[87] Lockheed C-130 Hercules United States Tactical airlifter 1987 14 To be replaced by the Future Medium-size Tactical Cargo (FMTC) aircraft[88] CASA CN235 Spain Tactical airlifter 1993 27 To be replaced by the FMTC aircraft[89][90] Airbus A330-200 Europe VIP transport 20102020 4 The first unit, in service since November 2010, is the main transport aircraft of the French President and part of the presidential fleet (7 aircraft in total) 3 additional units were ordered in August 2020 and delivered between November 2020 and November 2022. They will be converted into MRTT aircraft by 2025 in order to complement the 12 A330 MRTT purchased[84] Dassault Falcon 7X France VIP transport 2009 2 Part of presidential fleet In service since 2009 and 2010 respectively[91] Dassault Falcon 2000EX/LX France VIP transport 2011 2 Part of the presidential fleet Dassault Falcon 900 France VIP transport 1991 2 Part of the presidential fleet[92] Socata TBM 700 France Liaison aircraft 1990 15 [93] DHC-6 Twin Otter Canada Liaison aircraft 1978 5 Helicopter Airbus Helicopters H225M Caracal Europe Transport / CSAR helicopter 2006 10 32 H225M Caracal and H225 units scheduled to be in service by 2030 and all 36 planned by 2035 10 Caracal in service as of 2021, with additional units on order[94] All Caracal helicopters in service with the French Army (8 units) will also be transferred to the Air and Space Force after delivery of 18 NH90 Forces Spéciales to the army's 4th Special Forces Helicopter Regiment. Airbus Helicopters H225 Europe Transport / SAR helicopter 2016 2 Additional units on order Airbus Helicopters H215 Super Puma France VIP transport helicopter 1984 3 Dedicated to presidential and governmental transport Being replaced by the Airbus H225 Aérospatiale SA330 Puma France Medium utility helicopter 1974 18 Being replaced by the H225M Caracal Eurocopter AS555 Fennec Europe Light utility helicopter 1990 40 To be replaced by the Airbus Helicopters H160M Guépard Airbus Helicopters H160M Guépard Europe Medium multirole helicopter TBD 0 40 units out of the 180 planned for the French Armed Forces are destined for the Air and Space Force. Trainer aircraft Dassault Mirage 2000B-S5 France Conversion trainer 1993 7 Pilatus PC-21 Switzerland Advanced trainer 2018 26 Embraer EMB 121 Xingu Brazil Multi-engine trainer 1982 22 Beechcraft Super King Air 350 Extended Range United States Multi-engine trainer / Navigation trainer 2020 1 Training outsourced to CAE Aviation Grob 120A-F Germany Basic trainer 2007 18 Fleet outsourced to Airbus Flight Academy[95] Cirrus SR20 United States Ab initio trainer 2013 16 Fleet outsourced to Airbus Flight Academy Cirrus SR22 United States Ab initio trainer 2013 9 Fleet outsourced to Airbus Flight Academy[96] Diamond HK36 Super Dimona Austria Motor glider 2010 5 Airbus Helicopters H225M Caracal Europe Rotorcraft trainer 2006 1 [97] Dassault/Dornier Alpha Jet FranceGermany Advanced jet trainerAerobatic display 1978 16 The last six student fighter pilots trained on the Alpha Jet have received their badges in March 2023. The 53 aircraft dedicated to advanced jet training were thus retired and as of April 2024, discussions are taking place with the United Kingdom and Spain for a joint program to replace the jet trainer. The new aircraft is expected by 2032. 18 units remain in service with the Patrouille de France.[98] 2 lost in 2025[99] Extra EA-300 Germany Aerobatic display 2005 3 UAVs General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper United States ISTAR / UCAV 2013 12 4 systems (12 drones) in service as of 2023 To be replaced by at least 6 Eurodrone systems by 2035 (first system to be delivered by 2030)[100][101] Mock-up of a CSO satellite Mock-up of a Pléiades satellite Mock-up of a CERES satellite Mock-up of the two Syracuse IV satellites Name Origin Type Introduced In service Notes Airbus Defence and Space / Thales Alenia Space CSO France Earth observation constellation 2018 3 satellites Successor of the Helios 2 constellation CSO-1 launched in December 2018, CSO-2 in December 2020 and CSO-3 in March 2025 To be succeeded by a new generation optical intelligence constellation (IRIS) from 2028 onwards[102] Airbus Defence and Space Pléiades Neo France Earth observation constellation 2021 2 satellites Successor of the Pléiades constellation Pléiades Neo 3 and 4 launched in April and August 2021 respectively 4 satellites originally planned but the Pléiades Neo 5 and 6 were lost in December 2022 as a result of the failure of Vega C flight VV22 Airbus Defence and Space Pléiades France Earth observation constellation 2011 2 satellites Pléiades 1A launched in December 2011 and Pléiades 1B in December 2012 Still operational as of 2023 Airbus Defence and Space Helios 2 France Earth observation constellation 2004 2 satellites Successor of the Helios 1 constellation (launched in 1995 and decommissioned in 2012) Helios 2A launched in December 2004 and Helios 2B in December 2009 Still operational as of 2023 Airbus Defence and Space / Thales Alenia Space CERES France Electromagnetic intelligence constellation 2021 3 satellites All 3 CERES satellites launched in November 2021 To be succeeded by a new generation electromagnetic intelligence constellation (CELESTE) from 2029 onwards Thales Alenia Space / Airbus Defence and Space Syracuse IV France Telecommunication satellite constellation 2021 2 satellites Successor of the Syracuse III constellation Syracuse 4A launched in October 2021 and Syracuse 4B launched in July 2023. 3 satellites originally planned but in April 2023, it was announced the first two satellites would be more than sufficient and that the last, Syracuse 4C (previously scheduled to be launched by 2025), would be cancelled in favor of financing the European Union's IRIS² satellite internet constellation. It was also announced a program to develop the next generation of communications satellite constellation (Syracuse V) would be launched in the 2024–2030 French Military Planning Law to succeed the Syracuse 4A and Syracuse 4B satellites in the 2030s.[103] Thales Alenia Space Syracuse III France Telecommunication satellite constellation 2005 2 satellites Syracuse 3A launched in October 2005 and Syracuse 3B in August 2006. Still operational as of 2023 Thales Alenia Space Sicral 2 FranceItaly Telecommunication satellite 2015 1 satellite Launched in April 2015 Thales Alenia Space Athena-Fidus FranceItaly Telecommunication satellite 2014 1 satellite Launched in February 2014 Galileo Europe Global navigation satellite system 2011 24 satellites Being launched since October 2011 A SAMP/T launch module deployed Crotale NG Name Origin Type Introduced In service Notes Eurosam SAMP/T Mamba FranceItaly High to medium air defense system 2011 8 batteries First French MAMBA squadron achieved operational status in October 2011 To be succeeded by the SAMP/T NG (New Generation) 12 SAMP/T NG batteries planned in total (8 to be in service by 2030 and 12 by 2035)[104] Thales Crotale NG France Short range air defense system 1990 8–10 units To be replaced by the VL MICA NG medium-range surface-to-air missile system 12 VL MICA NG batteries planned in total (9 to enter service by 2030 et 12 by 2035)[105] Thales/CS Group PARADE France Modular counter-drone platform 2023 Unknown Development led by Thales and CS Group 6 systems to be delivered to the French Armed Forces in 2023 (the number of systems going to the Air and Space Force is unknown) 15 systems planned in total, with full delivery to be completed by 2030[106] MC2 Technologies NEROD F5 France Man-portable anti-drone jamming system 2020 Unknown The NEROD F5 is a microwave jammer capable of disrupting and neutralizing all communication protocols used by drones. It neutralizes: the usual or improvised mini and micro drones by acting simultaneously on 4 remote control frequencies among 5 available the satellite navigation system of the targeted drone.[107] The Air and Space Force operates a wide range of air and space surveillance systems. Among them, the: 23 CM ALADIN NGD tactical and air-transportable low- and very-low-altitude coverage radars ARES CENTAURE primary and secondary panoramic radars GRAVES space surveillance system Ground Master 406 and 403 AESA long-range air defense 3D radars Ground Master 200 AESA medium-range air defense 3D radars PAR NG new-generation precision approach radars SAT 3D SATAM TRAC 2400 long-range two-dimensional electronically scanned radars TRS 22XX and TRS 2215 three-dimensional long-range electronically scanned radars Fusiliers Commandos de l'Air at the opening of a war memorial Side cap of the French Air and Space Force personnel Since the end of the Algerian War, the French Air and Space Force has comprised about 17 to 19% of the French Armed Forces.[108] In 1990, at the end of the Cold War, numbers reached 56,400 military personnel under contract, out of which 36,300 were part of conscription and 5,400 civilians.[109] In 2008, forecasts for personnel of the French Air Force were expected to number 50,000 out of which 44,000 aviators on the horizon in 2014. In 2010, the number personnel of the French Air Force was reduced to 51,100 men and women (20%) out of which: 13% officers; 55% sous-officier; 29% air military technicians (MTA); 3% volunteers of national service and aspirant volunteers; 6,500 civilians (14%). They form several functions: Non-flying personnel Non-navigating personnel of the French Air and Space Force include and are not limited to : Systems Aerial Mechanics (French: mécanicien système aéronautique), Aerial Controllers (French: contrôleur aérien), Meteorologists (French: météorologue), Administrative Personnel, Air Parachute Commandos (French: Commandos parachutistes de l'air), in Informatics, in Infrastructures, in Intelligence, Commissioner of the Armies (French: Commissaire) (Administrator Task). Flying personnel Pilots, Mechanical Navigating Officer (French: Mécanicien Navigant), Navigating Arms Systems Officer (French: Navigateur Officier Système d'Armes) (NOSA), Combat Air Medic (French: Convoyeur de l'Air) (CVA). Students of the École de l'air (Air School) during the military parade of July 14th in 2007 on the Champs-Élysées Officers, within their recruitment and future specialty, are trained at: École de l'air (French: École de l'air) (Air School) de Provence[110] École Militaire de l'Air (French: École militaire de l'air) (Military Air School) École des commissaires des armées (French: École des commissaires des armées) (Commissioners Armies School) École de pilotage de l'Armée de l'air (French: École de pilotage de l'Armée de l'air) (Piloting School of the French Air and Space Force) École de l'aviation de transport (French: École de l'aviation de transport) (Aviation Transport School) École de l'aviation de chasse (French: École de l'aviation de chasse) (Aviation Hunter Fighter Pilot School) École de transition opérationnelle (French: École de transition opérationnelle) (Operational Transition School) Officers of the French Air and Space Force are spread in three corps: Air Officer (French: Officiers de l'air) Officer Mechanics (French: Officiers Mécaniciens) Aerial Base Officer (French: officiers des bases de l'air), amongst which, officers of the Air Parachute Commandos (French: Commandos parachutistes de l'air) are featured. Non-commissioned officers (Sous-Officiers) are trained at: École de formation des sous-officiers de l'Armée de l'air (French: École de formation des sous-officiers de l'Armée de l'air) (EFSOAA) de Rochefort École interarmées (French: École interarmées) (Inter-arm School) for administrative specialists Escadron de formation des commandos de l'air (French: Escadron de formation des commandos de l'air) (EFCA) at Orange-Caritat Air Base (BA 115) for the personnel concerned Military Air Technicians (French: militaires techniciens de l'air) having been trained until 1 July 2015 at the Center of Elementary Military Formation (French: " Centre de formation militaire élémentaire ") of the Technical Instruction School of the French Air and Space Force (French: École d'enseignement technique de l'Armée de l'air) of Saintes. Since 1 July 2015, training has taken place at Orange-Caritat Air Base, within the " Operational Combatant Preparation Center of the Air Force " (French: Centre de préparation opérationnelle du combattant de l'Armée de l'air). Air traffic controllers are trained at the Center of Instruction Control and Air Defense (French: Centre d'Instruction du Contrôle et de la Défense Aérienne).[111] Main article: Ranks in the French Air and Space Force The rank insignia of commissioned officers. NATO code OF-10 OF-9 OF-8 OF-7 OF-6 OF-5 OF-4 OF-3 OF-2 OF-1 French Air and Space Force[112]vte Général d´armée aérienne Général de corps aérien Général de division aérienne Général de brigade aérienne Colonel Lieutenant-colonel Commandant Capitaine Lieutenant Sous-lieutenant Rank group Aspirant student Officer cadet Aspirant élève de l'École de l'air Aspirant élève de l'École militaire de l'air Élève officier de l'École de l'air Elève officier du personnel navigant The rank insignia of non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel. NATO code OR-9 OR-8 OR-7 OR-6 OR-5 OR-4 OR-3 OR-2 OR-1 French Air and Space Force[112]vte Major Adjudant-chef Adjudant Sergent-chef Sergent Caporal-chef Caporal Aviateur 1e classe Aviateur 2e classe France portal List of Escadres of the French Air Force List of French Air and Space Force aircraft squadrons French Naval Aviation List of military aircraft of France ^ Designations of Escadrilles composed of the identifying number of material devices (for instance SPA for escadrille equipped with SPAD, N for Nieuport, SAL for Salmson, etc.) and an order number. Citations ^ "Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace". defense.gouv.fr. 10 March 2022. Retrieved 2 June 2024. ^ a b "France: Goodbye Air Force, hello Air and Space Force". 12 September 2020. ^ "Annuaire statistique de la défense 2013–2014" (in French). 10 July 2014. ^ "Annuaire statistiques de la défense 2012–2013". Archived 1 October 2013 at the Wayback Machine (in French). 4 June 2013. ^ "Military Database". www.scramble.nl. 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