ARMEE DE TERRE

STRATEGIC VISION
OF THE CHIEF OF THE FRENCH ARMY

"2030 OPERATIONAL SUPERIORITY"

APRIL 2020

“MY AMBITION stands as follows: France must have a battle-hardened Army, ready to face the toughest clashes up to a major confrontation and capable of winning.”

- Owing to the control over a comprehensive capability spectrum, combining the use of force and actions in the non-physical fields;
- Relying on mass and technology, making it possible to acquire superiority;
- Resolutely acting in co-operation with the other services, being interoperable with its allies and partners, being able to integrate European capabilities and to lead a coalition;
- Based on an acknowledged military singularity, placing its resilience and cohesion in the service of the Nation and thus participating in the integration of young people.

In order to do so:

Confirming the advantages of the “Au contact” model, relying on an innovative and realistic doctrinal concept and making the most of our highly modern capabilities.

Général d'armée Thierry Burkhard, Chief of the French Army

"MY INTENTION is to increase the level of operational training to forge soldiers able to fight up to the most demanding levels of conflicts."

- ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION
- THE ARMY FRANCE NEEDS
- 12 PROJECTS TO MEET THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

ASSESSMENT
OF THE SITUATION

Context: strategic uncertainty

The strategic context in which the Army operates in 2020 is above all marked by uncertainty, further deepened by many recent geopolitical upheavals.

This strategic uncertainty is also increased by the difficulty for the Europeans to conceive and organise the terms of their own collective defence.

Lastly, it is exacerbated in France, where the fragilities of a society lacking cohesion and searching for meaning can cast doubt about its will to build a common future and firmly defend its model with a spirit of resistance.

Extension of conflictuality areas

In that context where tensions are so numerous, one can observe that military force is markedly coming back as a way to settle conflicts, using well-known, direct and fully assumed methods. The new emergence of a major conflict is now a credible assumption. This force is also used within new, unpredictable and more insidious courses of action which privilege intimidation and manipulation in a new, indiscernible and non-proclaimed form of war, in order to obtain clear strategic benefits through the *fait accompli* policy.

Faced with these extending areas of conflictuality, the ability to integrate effects into the electromagnetic environment, spatial domain, cyberspace and the information environment will thus be, more than ever, a determining factor to obtain the operational edge.

The political-military ambition: France will maintain its status as a power

The political ambition of our country regarding defence and security, based on the 2013 White Paper and reinforced in the 2017 Strategic Review is very clear: France will not abandon its power.

This political ambition has been clearly materialised with the adoption of a Military Programming Act that is enabling new growth for the years 2019-2025, and the will to have our Army as a reference in Europe, fostering the emergence of a shared strategic and operational culture.

The strategic vision issued by the Chief of Defence (CHOD) in 2018 also pertains to this strong political will; this vision is aimed at ensuring the readiness, at the highest operational level, of forces built on comprehensive models, hardened for modern conflicts and committed in the preparation of futures stakes.

THE ARMY FRANCE NEEDS

In order to be up to the ambition of the country and provide the CHOD with the required airland capabilities to conduct military operations, making the most of its permanent commitments and of its operational experience, the French Army must:

- **Better contribute to the five major strategic functions of national defence:**

  By being capable of producing effects over the entire range of crisis scenarios, with an "Army response" adapted to the stakes posed by the extending areas of conflictuality.

- **Base its operational engagements on a new concept of Land Forces employment:**

  Describing the role of the land forces in multi-domain manoeuver, based on new and diverse courses of action, implementing flexible and adaptable employment structures and formats.

- **Better exploit the specificities of the formations in operational engagements:**

  Preserving the advantages of this differentiation regarding both equipment and training.

- **Have a large and engaged operational reserve:**

  On which the Army can increasingly rely for its contributions to protecting the national territory.

- **Establish itself as an international reference, focusing on Europe:**

  In order to make the combined efforts with our allies operational and effective, while developing the skills of military operational partnership.

TO FULFIL THIS AMBITION, WE HAVE TO AIM AT FOUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. Soldiers up to future “clashes”, getting gratitude from the Nation

- **Better recruited and better trained, with higher and selective standards**

  Meet the needs of the Army regarding human resources, both in terms of quantity and quality.

- **Who cultivate the military virtues based on clear ethics and a behaviour beyond reproach**

  Sense of duty, spirit of discipline, adherence to the highest interests and leading by example.

- **For whom the Nation recognises the necessity to compensate for the hardships of the profession of arms**

  Through a concrete and efficient quality of life policy and a permanent care for the wounded and their families.

- **Who contribute to the education of young people in order to recruit those with the greatest potential**

  Using the reserve force, be involved in the universal national service (SNU) initiative in order to make the most of every opportunity, without weakening the Army’s operational capability.

2. Capabilities enabling our soldiers to outclass their adversaries

- **Which confirm the direction of the 19-25 Military Programming Act and meet the ambitions of the next cycle**

  Continue the modernisation, ensure the level of activity during operational training.

- **Enhancing the development of ambitious and innovative capability projects (aimed at the future land combat concept (CTF))**

  CTF: capability reflection matrix related to the renovated land forces doctrine.

- **Ensuring a land operational maintenance resulting in readiness and availability**

  Imperative: a reliable and clear economic model, strongly asserting the performance of the Army.

- **Relying on strategic industrial partnerships at European level**

  Full involvement in the build-up of these partnerships, supported by innovation: Motorised Capability (CaMo) with Belgium, Main Ground Combat System (MGCS) with Germany.

3. Training focused on a major engagement

Which must remain the priority of the units owing to a less constraining programming

Make programming lighter thanks to a clear definition of priorities, while making the overly rigid cycles more flexible.

Permanently aiming at being able to deploy immediately in their main specialty domain

Prepare the Army for war, raise the standards to be reached while making sure that the scenarios are realistic.

Ensuring a controlled multi-domain manoeuvre at all tactical levels

Elaborate training scenarios adapted to the new threats, including actions in both the physical and non-physical environments as well as in the joint and allied dimensions (Exercise Warfighter 21 at division level in the US, Combined Joint Expeditionary Force with the UK).

Leading the reserve force towards maturity for a stronger operational employment

In order to have a significant reserve force capable of fulfilling, if need be, the "national territory" contract and capable to be employed in a wider range of missions, including combat missions.

4. A simplified running, ensuring efficiency and resilience

- **Which includes only the necessary directives and excludes useless and redundant information flows**

  Be pragmatic and concrete.

- **Relying on smooth processes and a better applied subsidiarity at all levels**

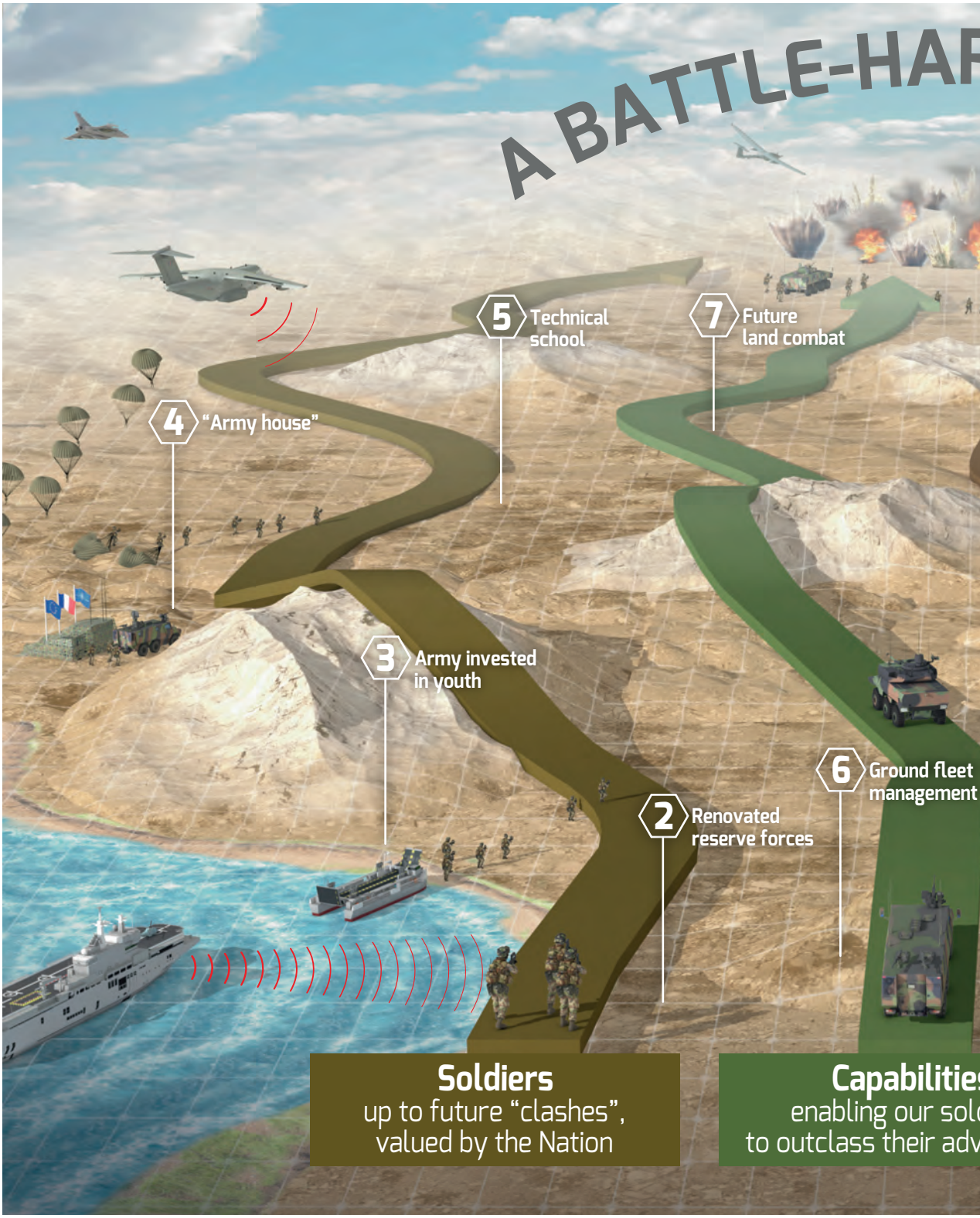
  In order to improve the overall performance of the “Army system” in its organic and operational running.

- **Fostering a support organisation meeting the unit’s need for reactivity**

  Especially through a better integration of the various decentralised support mechanisms into the forces.

- **Integrating the major environmental stakes**

  Taking them into account both in the equipment and the execution.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12 PROJECTS
TO MEET THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To reach our objectives, twelve projects will drive our action.

OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF THE ACTION:

Project n° 1

A new concept of employment of the land forces for the 15 coming years

- Adapting the “Army strategic offer” to the new imperatives;
- Placing the employment of the Land Forces in a high level of joint and allied integration, looking for a better combination of effects, in particular through special operations;
- For a multi-domain in a disputed environment;
- Describing the Army’s contribution to the overall prevention and intimidation strategy;
- Enhancing the employment of the forward-deployed land forces.

SOLDIERS UP TO THE FUTURE CLASHES:

Project n° 2

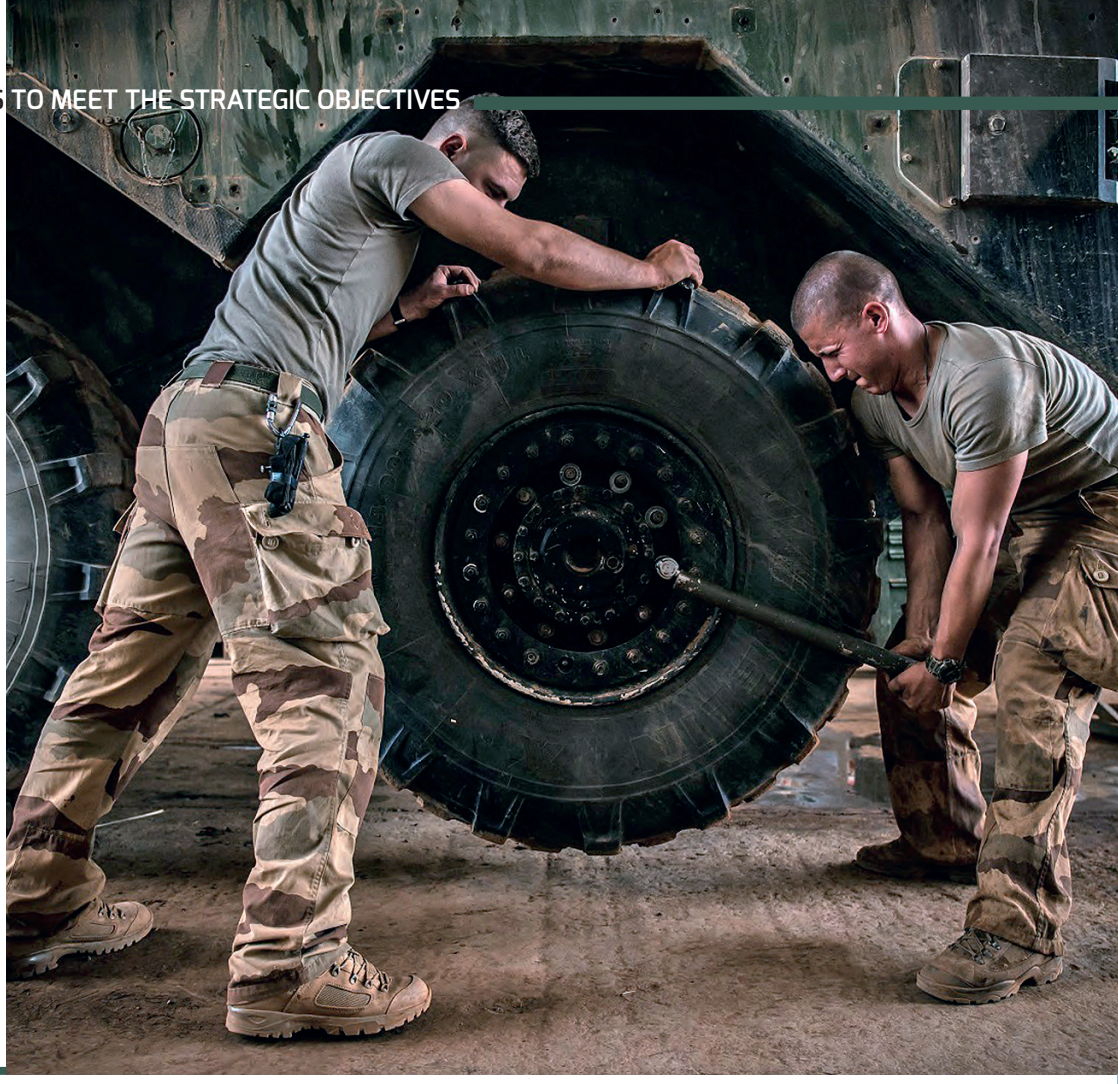
An operational ambition for the reserve forces which need to be deeply renovated

- A larger, more autonomous manoeuvre strength, better distributed over the territory;
- Recruiting opportunities more suited to the various ways of life (urban/rural, students/active life, geographic mobility);
- A high ambition: being capable of fulfilling, if necessary, the "national territory" operational contract and of being engaged, in the long term, beyond the protection function.

Project n° 3

An Army invested in youth

- Contributing to educating young French citizens to the challenges of defence;
- Accompanying the build-up of the two compulsory phases of the universal national service (SNU) initiative without hindering our operational capabilities;
- Making the most of the opportunities provided by the will of the participants to choose the armed forces for the subsequent voluntary phase of the universal national service.



Project n° 4

Creation of an “Army house”

- A consolidated legal framework for the charities dedicated to the wounded and their families;
- A charity-like structure, created in an open platform, which offers services adapted to soldiers and their families, facilitating internal solidarity.

Project n° 5

Explore the creation of a new technical school

- In order to develop training paths to new technical training paths to recruit and meet the retention needs in critical specialities;
- In order to face the technical challenges induced by the SCORPION transformation.

CAPABILITIES ENABLING OUR SOLDIERS TO OUTCLASS THEIR ADVERSARIES:

Project n° 6

Review of the ground fleet management

- Relying on a better differentiated employment of the units and on the ongoing equipment transformation;
- Redistributing the fleets, placing again the main items of equipment at the core of the daily life of units;
- Relying on the ongoing transformation of ground operational maintenance;
- Re-establish assets at the regimental level so it can autonomously carry out its operational training.

Project n° 7

Root "future land combat" as a founding capability project for the 15 coming years

- Major project encompassing all the future airland capabilities (main battle tank and artillery of the future, real-time information sharing architecture etc.);
- With needs validated as of 2020;
- Immediately integrating into an industrial co-operation with our European partners.

A TRAINING FOCUSED ON A MAJOR ENGAGEMENT:

Project n° 8

Deepen the effect-based approach

- Adapting the operational headquarters structures in order to enable them to further integrate effects both in the physical and non-physical environments;
- Adapting training to combine the kinetic and non-kinetic effects for operational training opportunities;
- In order to meet the needs for force protection and counter aggression of the adversary in all the domains of conflict.

Project n° 9

Adapt the training capabilities to high intensity

- Study the establishment of a 15-year plan, aimed at increasing the training capabilities: manoeuvre areas including polygons in constrained electromagnetic and cyber environment, areas in open terrain, air spaces and distributed simulation tools;
- Taking into account the performance of new equipment;
- Delivering scenarios tailored to units' specificities;
- Creating a platform dedicated to the training of a divisional CP, able to integrate joint components as well as our allies.

Project n° 10

Conduct of a live division-level exercise, to prepare the multi-domain manoeuvre in the framework of a major conflict

- Implementing the widest range of capacities in compliance with the new concepts of employment;
- Characterised by the large deployment of major equipment and of the command structure;
- Thus developing joint and allied interoperability as well as the integration of partner units;
- Built around a "hard" scenario leading to manoeuvre in a highly degraded environment.

A SIMPLIFIED FUNCTIONING, ENSURING EFFICIENCY AND RESILIENCE:

Project n° 11

A simplification plan for the entire Army

- Based on a wide consultation of military and civilian personnel;
- Aimed at reaching clarity and pragmatism in local functioning;
- Aimed at developing applicable proposals at all echelons.

Project n° 12

Support the project of the CHOD regarding the evolution of the common soldier support systems policy

- Enhancing the joint steering of support (defining the desired effects);
- Proposing concrete adjustments for a more integrated organisation of local support (regiment/hosting unit);
- Reconciling the “environment-based” and “job-based” logics, which should no longer be opposed but seen as complementing each other).

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