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## MILITARY

### Further Reading

- [Gabon Navy](#)
- [Gabon Navy - Career](#)
- [Gabon Navy - Rank Insignia](#)
- [Gabon Navy - History](#)

## Gabon Navy - Marine Nationale du Gabon



There is a small naval flotilla, about 500 strong in 2011, which operates seven patrol and coastal combatants. The naval equipment covers the selection, acquisition, operation, maintenance, modernization, the management reform update equipment and naval materials, and infrastructure, and buildings. This action is implemented by the directorates of Operations, the Administrative Services and Financial, logistics and equipment, Informatics, programming and infrastructure, of the French Navy, and by the Directorate-General of the technical services of the force and direction of operations and fire companies and relief of the CSP.

There is a need to strengthen surveillance and response for optimal protection capacity of land and maritime borders on the local level. In regional terms, it will develop the training facilities, training exercises and training to advance the performance of the troops.

Organization		
01 Staff		Libreville
District Maritime Estuary	Amarest	Libreville
District Maritime Estuary	Amarog	Port Gentil
District Of Nyanga	Amarny	Mayumba Marine

The Gabonese National Navy, just like the other armed forces of the Gabonese Republic, is resolutely turned towards opening up to the outside world, to defence and security organizations. Gabon became aware of the richness of the exchanges in a chessboard became global. It must integrate to better cope with uncertainties, the precariousness of present moments and ultimately to new security threats.

Gabon is a country with a long maritime tradition. First, its history is linked to the Portuguese sailors who are the first Westerners to discover his side. Barthélémy DIAZ, Vasco da Gama, Lopez GONZALVEZ, Fernan VAZ, Diego CAM, they have not only discovered the Gabon

estuary in 1472, estuary-shaped a caban of Marin, in Portuguese rugby from which derives the name of Gabon, but also wound up rivers and lagoons within the country, which many have still their names in remnant.



Dutch Mariners followed them, interested mainly in shops of honey, wax, palm oil, and slaves, causing even a native revolt, in 1608. The French sailors were among the last to arrive in Gabon. With a few leading figures like Lieutenant(n) BOUET WILLAUMEZ and Lieutenant(n) Pierre BRAZZA SAVORGAN. He was a naturalized French Roman in 1874; alumnus of the naval school, he made three trips to Gabon between 1875 and 1885, ordered by the Minister of Montaigne, France. Gabon remained for several decades, a territory in the French Equatorial Africa, until the proclamation of its independence took place on August 17, 1960.

Four months after independence, the Navy [La Marine Nationale] was created as an entity of the ground Forces by the law N ° 04/PR on November 16, 1960 [other source cite 16 December 1960. On February 1, 1983 the Navy achieved autonomy with the creation of the General staff of the Navy at Bessieux. The year 1984 saw the creation of the company

of Marines, and the year 1996 witnessed the creation of maritime districts of the Ogooué and the estuary of the Nyanga.

In time of peace the public service mission is assistance to search and surveillance. The diplomatic mission requires representation in foreign countries according to a mission order. The police mission consists of the fight against clandestine immigration, and against drug trafficking and pollution. In time of War, the mission is the defense of the integrity of the national territory from the sea.



Piriou announced on 29 October 2014 success for DCNS and its partner in the field of armed vessels, at the biennial Euronaval organized by Gican in Paris with the French and world shipbuilding industry. This dual contract was the first export success in military for the Piriou group. The more internationalized French shipyards DCNS after, Piriou after his success in fishing vessels (oceanic tuna seiners), tugs, supply and service vessels for offshore, passenger ships and had recently , large yachts, has gradually increased in intensity in the field of military ships. In this area he drilled in maintenance and has already secured a 10-year contract for training fleet of the Navy, a 5-year contract for the naval base of Brest (mainly units servitude), a 10-year contract for the training ship Almak. In the field of new construction, Piriou performed on behalf of Kership, three multi-mission buildings B2M) 65 meters for the French Navy.

The contract was signed by Ernest Mphouho Epigat, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Gabon, and Pascal Piriou, CEO of Piriou, in the presence of Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, was threefold.

1. First, the delivery by Piriou (through its division Piriou Naval Services) by mid 2015, of the former patrol boat P400 of the French Navy, completely redesigned. La Tapageuse [rowdy"] of 54 meters was acquired on equity and risk by Piriou in 2013. It had been completely redesigned, with modernization of the two propulsion systems, generators, replacement of engine side systems, crew accommodation, electronic equipment, weapon system (two guns of 20 mm and 40 mm), response boats (RHIB).
2. The second component of the contract is for the supply, on behalf of Kership (55/45 subsidiary of Piriou and DCNS), of an OPV50 vessel of 58.2 meters to be built by Piriou in Concarneau. It is a patrol of modern design, adaptable depending on the mission, with a displacement of 360 tons, a boat ramp of 7 meters launching system for RHIB, and with a range of 5000 miles at 12 knots. Offshore patrol vessel OPV50 is a versatile 58-metre ship developed by KERSHIP to undertake various missions related to State Action at Sea. Accommodation capacity 36 is persons, of which 28 persons are crew, and 8 are special personnel. Weaponry is 1 x 20 mm gun on the fore-deck, 2 x 12.7 mm machine guns
3. Last part of the contract covers crew training, provided by DCI / Navfco. Initial crew training will be provided in France for both ships, one session per ship, before they sail for Gabon (in total, training for approximately 50 persons). Provided by the DCI/NAVFCO, the training programme includes navigation, safety, operations, and equipment deployment.

## Compagnie de Fusiliers Marins (COFUSMA)



The Compagnie de Fusiliers Marins (COFUSMA - Marine Rifle Company, or Naval Infantry Corps) has existed since 1984. A rifleman sailor is a sailor belonging to a military specialty used in battle on land or in coastal areas. Marines are also intended for boarding operations and ship defense. This entity is very poorly attested, but much of Gabon's meagre inventory of vessels would seem to support the operations of such commandos.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus met with 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment Marines assigned to Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SP MAGTF) Africa while in Gabon 16 June 2014. The US Marines were in Gabon conducting theater security training with Gabonese anti-poaching units.

The Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport vessel USNS Spearhead was on a scheduled deployment in April 2016 to the US 6th Fleet area of operations to support the international collaborative capacity- building program Africa Partnership Station. USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1) hosted a ship tour and training for Gabon Marines and officials April 12, 2016. While in Libreville the embarked U.S. Marine Corps detachment conducted tactical training alongside the

United Kingdom Royal Marines and Spanish Marines with Gabonese maritime forces on board the Spearhead consisting of weapons handling, Close Quarter Battle (CQB), and patrolling tactics. The Spearhead crew and embarked military detachment hosted over 150 host nation Embassy personnel and 20 Gabonese military personnel for ship tours, provided media training to nine military officials and participated in a community relations project working alongside a detachment of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133. The community relations project was conducted at a local orphanage and consisted of infrastructure improvement and beautification projects.

## Gabon Navy Equipment

This list includes all surface combatants, submarines, mine warfare vessels and patrol craft over 100 tons displacement, and all amphibious ships and auxiliaries over 500 tons displacement. Non-self-propelled craft and vessels without seagoing capability are not included.

					90	95	00	05	10	15	16	20	25	30
<b>Personnel</b>		<b>,000</b>			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Active				--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Naval Infantry				--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Ships</b>		<b>Source</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Inventory</b>									
	<b>Offshore Patrol</b>				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TBD	<a href="#">Gowind OPV 50</a>	FR	550	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Général Ba-Oumar	P400	FR	480	1989	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	-	-	-
	<b>Inshore Patrol</b>				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocobeach	vedettes côtières	FR	43	2010	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	4	4
General Boulingui	ex-Prés. Bongo	FR	100	1978	1	1	1	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
Leon Mba / Ngolo	Swiftship 105	IT/USA	105	1968	3	3	3	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
	<b>Amphibious</b>				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pres. Omar Bongo	Champlain BATRAL / LSM	FR	1,386	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Manga	CTM / LCM	FR	150	1976	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	--



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