

# French Navy

The **French Navy** (French: *Marine Nationale*, lit.<sup>ⓘ</sup> National Navy), informally "*La Royale*", is the maritime arm of the French Armed Forces. Dating back to 1624, the French Navy is one of the world's oldest naval forces. It has participated in conflicts around the globe and played a key part in establishing the French colonial empire

The French Navy consists of six main branches and various services: the Force d'Action Navale, the Forces Sous-marines (FOST, ESNA), the Maritime Force of Naval Aeronautics, the Fusiliers Marins (including Commandos Marine), the Marins Pompiers, and the Maritime Gendarmerie

As of June 2014, the French Navy employed a total of 36,776 personnel along with 2,800 civilians. Its reserve element consisted of 4,827 personnel of the Operational Reserve.<sup>[3]</sup> As a blue-water navy, it operates a wide range of fighting vessels, which include the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*, various aeronaval forces, attack submarines and ballistic missile submarines, frigates, patrol boats and support ships.

## Contents

### Origins

### Names and symbols

### History

- 17th century
- 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century
- 21st century

### Organisation

- Main naval bases

### Equipment

- Ships and submarines
- Aircraft

### Personnel

- Application requirement

### Customs and traditions

- Ranks
- Addressing officers
- Uniforms

### Future

### Notable French naval officers

- Corsairs
- Heroes of the First Republic
- Explorers
- Other important French naval officers
- Notable people who served in the French Navy

French Navy	
<i>Marine Nationale</i>	
<div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div></div></div> <div>MARINE NATIONALE</div> <div>Logo of the Marine Nationale since 1990.</div>	
Active	1624–present
Country	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> France
Type	Navy
Role	Naval warfare
Size	36,331 personnel (2016) <sup>[1]</sup> and 2800 civilians (2014) <div>180 ships<sup>[2]</sup></div> <div>210 aircraft<sup>[1]</sup><div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><div><span>FAN</span></div></li><li><div><span>FSM</span></div></li><li><div><span>AVIA</span></div></li><li><div><span>FORFUSCO</span></div></li><li><div><span>Marins Pompiers</span></div></li><li><div><span>Gendarmerie Maritime</span></div></li><li><div><span>Service de soutien de la Flotte</span></div></li></ul></div></div></div>
Garrison/HQ	<b>Main:</b> Brest, Île Longue, Toulon <b>Secondary:</b> Cherbourg, Lorient

See also

References

Further reading

External links

# Origins

The history of French naval power dates back to the Middle Ages, and had three loci of evolution:

- The Mediterranean Sea where the *Ordre de Saint-Jean de Jérusalem* had its own navy, the Levant Fleet, whose principal ports wereFréjus, Marseille, and Toulon. The *Ordre*, which was both a religious and military order, recruited knights from the families of French nobility. Members who had fulfilled their service at sea were granted the rank of Knights Hospitaller, elites who served as the officer corps. The*Ordre* was one of the ancestors of modern French naval schools including the French Naval Academy
- The Manche along Normandy which, since William the Conqueror, always tendered capablemarines and sailors from its numerous active seaports;
- The Atlantic Ocean, where the navy of theDuchy of Brittanyeventually constituted the nucleus of the royalFlotte du Ponant

# Names and symbols

The first true French Royal Navy (French: *la Marine Royale*) was established in 1624 by Cardinal Richelieu, chief minister to King Louis XIII. During the French Revolution, *la Marine Royale*was formally renamed*la Marine Nationale*. Under the First French Empire and the Second French Empire, the navy was designated as the Imperial French Navy (*la Marine Française Impériale*). Institutionally, however, the navy has never lost its short familiar nickname*la Royale*.

The symbol of the French Navy was since its origin a golden anchor, which, beginning in 1830, was interlaced by a sailing rope. This symbol was featured on all naval vessels, arms, and uniforms.<sup>[4]</sup> Although anchor symbols are still used on uniforms, a new naval logo was introduced in 1990. Authorized by Naval Chief of Staff Bernard Louzeau, the modern design incorporates the tricolour by flanking the bow section of a white warship with two ascending red and blue spray foams, and the inscription "*Marine nationale*".

# History

## 17th century

Cardinal Richelieu personally supervised the Navy until his death in 1643.<sup>[5]</sup> He was succeeded by his protégé, Jean Baptiste Colbert, who introduced the first code of regulations of the French Navy and established the original naval dockyards inBrest and Toulon.<sup>[5]</sup> Colbert and his son, the Marquis de Seignelay, between them administered the Navy for twenty-nine years.<sup>[5]</sup>

	<b>French overseas territories:</b> Fort de France, Degrad des Cannes, Port des Galets, Dzaoudzi, Nouméa, Papeete <b>Overseas:</b> Dakar, Djibouti, Abu Dhabi
<b>Nickname(s)</b>	<i>La Royale</i>
<b>Motto(s)</b>	<i>Honneur, patrie, valeur, discipline</i> ("Honour, homeland, valour, discipline")
<b>Colours</b>	Blue, white, red
<b>Ships</b>	Current fleet
<b>Engagements</b>	<i>See list</i>
<b>Website</b>	www.etremarin.fr
<b>Commanders</b>	
<b>Chef d'État-Major de La Marine, CEMM</b>	Amiral Christophe Prazuck
<b>Major Général de La Marine</b>	Amiral Denis Béraud
<b>Insignia</b>	
<b>Insignia</b>	Ranks in the French Navy
<b>Naval ensign</b>	
<b>Aircraft flown</b>	
<b>Attack</b>	Rafale M
<b>Electronic warfare</b>	Hawkeye
<b>Fighter</b>	Rafale M
<b>Helicopter</b>	NH90, Eurocopter Lynx, Panther, Dauphin
<b>Utility helicopter</b>	Alouette III

During this century, the Navy cut its teeth in the Anglo-French War (1627–1629), the Franco-Spanish War (1635–59), the Second Anglo-Dutch War, the Franco-Dutch War, and the Nine Years' War. Major battles in these years include the Battle of Beachy Head, the Battles of Barfleur and La Hougue, the Battle of Lagos, and the Battle of Texel.

<b>Patrol</b>	Atlantique 2, Falcon 50, Falcon 200
<b>Trainer</b>	Mudry CAP 10, MS-88 Rallye, Falcon 10, Xingu

## 18th century

The 1700s opened with the War of the Spanish Succession, over a decade long, followed by the War of the Austrian Succession in the 1740s. Principal engagements of these wars include the Battle of Vigo Bay and two separate Battles of Cape Finisterre in 1747. The most grueling conflict for the Navy, however, was the Seven Years' War, in which it was virtually destroyed.<sup>[5]</sup> Significant actions include the Battle of Cap-Français, the Battle of Quiberon Bay, and another Battle of Cape Finisterre

The Navy regrouped and rebuilt, and within 15 years it was eager to join the fray when France intervened in the American Revolutionary War.<sup>[5]</sup> Though outnumbered everywhere, the French fleets held the British at bay for years until victory.<sup>[5]</sup> After this conflict and the concomitant Anglo-French War (1778–1783), the Navy emerged at a new height in its history.<sup>[5]</sup> Major battles in these years include the Battle of the Chesapeake, the Battle of Cape Henry, the Battle of Grenada, the invasion of Dominica and three separate Battles of Ushant



The historic "Golden Anchor" symbol

Within less than a decade, however, the Navy was decimated by the French Revolution when large numbers of veteran officers were dismissed or executed for their noble lineage.<sup>[5]</sup> Nonetheless, the Navy fought vigorously through the French Revolutionary Wars as well as the Quasi-War. Significant actions include a fourth Battle of Ushant (known in English as the Glorious First of June), the Battle of Groix, the Atlantic campaign of May 1794, the French expedition to Ireland, the Battle of Tory Island, and the Battle of the Nile.

## 19th century

Other engagements of the Revolutionary Wars ensued in the early 1800s, including the Battle of the Malta Convoy and the Algeciras Campaign. The Quasi-War wound down with single-ship actions including USS Constellation vs La Vengeance and USS Enterprise vs Flambeau.

When Napoleon was crowned Emperor in 1804, he attempted to restore the Navy to a position that would enable his plan for an invasion of England.<sup>[5]</sup> His dreams were dashed by the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, where the British all but annihilated a combined Franco-Spanish fleet, a disaster that guaranteed British naval superiority throughout the Napoleonic Wars. Still, the Navy did not shrink from action: among the engagements of this time were the Battle of the Basque Roads, the Battle of Grand Port, the Mauritius campaign of 1809–11, and the Battle of Lissa.

After Napoleon's fall in 1815, the long era of Anglo-French rivalry on the seas began to close, and the Navy became more of an instrument for expanding the French colonial empire.<sup>[5]</sup> Under King Charles X, the two nations' fleets fought side by side in the Battle of Navarino, and throughout the rest of the century they generally behaved in a manner that paved the way for the Entente Cordiale.<sup>[5]</sup>

Charles X sent a large fleet to execute the invasion of Algiers in 1830. The next year, his successor, Louis Philippe I, made a show of force against Portugal at the Battle of the Tagus, and in 1838 conducted another display of gunboat diplomacy, this time in Mexico at the Battle of Veracruz. Beginning in 1845, a five-year Anglo-French blockade of the Río de la Plata was imposed on Argentina over trade rights.

The Emperor Napoleon III was determined to follow an even stronger foreign policy than his predecessors, and the Navy was involved in a multitude of actions around the world. He joined in the Crimean War in 1854; major actions for the Navy include the siege of Petropavlovsk and the Battle of Kinburn. The Navy was heavily involved in the Cochinchina Campaign in 1858, the Second Opium War in China, and the French intervention in Mexico. It took part in the French campaign against Korea, and fought Japan in the bombardment of Shimonoseki. In the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, the Navy imposed an effective blockade of Germany, but events on land proceeded at such a rapid pace that it was superfluous. Isolated engagements between French and German ships took place in other theaters, but the war was over in a matter of weeks.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

The Navy continued to protect colonial safety and expansion under the French Third Republic. The Sino-French War saw considerable naval action including the Battle of Fuzhou, the Battle of Shipu, and the Pescadores Campaign. In Vietnam, the Navy helped wage the Tonkin Campaign which included the Battle of Thuận An, and it later participated in the Franco-Siamese War of 1893.

The 19th century French Navy brought forth numerous new technologies. It led the development of naval artillery with its invention of the highly effective Paixhans gun. In 1850, Napoléon became the first steam-powered battleship in history, and Gloire became the first seagoing ironclad warship nine years later. In 1863, the Navy launched Plongeur, the first submarine in the world to be propelled by mechanical power. In 1876, Redoutable became the first steel-hulled warship ever. In 1887, Dupuy de Lôme became the world's first armoured cruiser.

## 20th century

The first seaplane, the French Fabre Hydravion, was flown in 1910, and the first seaplane carrier, Foudre, was christened in the following year.<sup>[8]</sup> Despite that innovation, the general development of the French Navy slowed down in the beginning of the 20th century as the naval arms race between Germany and Great Britain grew in intensity. It entered World War I with relatively few modern vessels, and during the war few warships were built because the main French effort was on land. While the British held control of the North Sea, the French held the Mediterranean, where they mostly kept watch on the Austro-Hungarian Navy.<sup>[5]</sup> The largest operations of the Navy were conducted during the Dardanelles Campaign.<sup>[5]</sup> In December 1916, French warships bombarded Athens, forcing the pro-German government of Greece to change its policies.<sup>[9]</sup> The French Navy also played an important role in countering Germany's U-boat campaign by regularly patrolling the seas and escorting convoys.<sup>[5]</sup>

Between the World Wars, the Navy modernized and expanded significantly, even in the face of limitations set by the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty.<sup>[5]</sup> New additions included the heavy and fast Fantastique class "super-destroyers", the massive Richelieu-class battleships, and the submarine Surcouf which was the largest and most powerful of its day.

From the start of World War II, the Navy was involved in a number of operations, participating in the Battle of the Atlantic, the Norwegian Campaign, the Dunkirk evacuation and, briefly, the Battle of the Mediterranean. However, after the fall of France in June 1940, the Navy was obligated to remain neutral under the terms of the armistice that created the truncated state of Vichy France. Worldwide, some 100 naval vessels and their crews heeded General Charles de Gaulle's call to joined forces with the British, but the bulk of the fleet, including all its capital ships, transferred loyalty to Vichy. Concerned that the German Navy might somehow gain control of the ships, the British mounted an attack on Mers-el-Kébir, the Algerian city where many of them were harbored. The incident poisoned Anglo-French relations, leading to Vichy reprisals and a full-scale naval battle at Casablanca in 1942 when the Allies invaded French North Africa. But the confrontations were set aside once the Germans occupied Vichy France. The capital ships were a primary goal of the occupation, but before they could be seized they were scuttled by their own crews. A few small ships and submarines managed to escape in time, and these joined de Gaulle's Free French Naval Forces, an arm of Free France that fought as an adjunct of the Royal Navy until the end of the war. In the Pacific theatre as well, Free French vessels operated until the Japanese capitulation; Richelieu was present at the Japanese Instrument of Surrender.



Battleship *Richelieu*

The Navy later provided fire support and troop transport in the Indochina War, the Algerian War, the Gulf War, and the Kosovo War.

## 21st century

Since 2000, the Navy has given logistical support to the War in Afghanistan (2001–2014) as well as the global War on Terror. In 2011, it assisted Opération Harmattan in Libya.

## Organisation

The chief of the naval staff is Vice-amiral d'escadre Arnaud de Tarlé,<sup>[10]</sup> and as of 2014 the Navy has an active strength of 36,776 military personnel and 2,909 civilian staff.<sup>[11]</sup> The Navy is organised into four main operational branches:

- The Force d'Action Navale (Naval Action Force) – The surface fleet.
- The Forces Sous-marines (Submarine forces) – Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines and fleet submarines.
- The Aviation Navale (Naval air force) – Ground and sea-based aircraft.
- The Fusiliers Marins (Naval riflemen) – Protection force and infantry including the Navy special forces (Commandos Marine).

In addition, the National Gendarmerie of France maintain a maritime force of patrol boats that falls under the operational command of the French Navy:

- The Gendarmerie maritime– The coast guard of France.

During most of the Cold War, the Navy

was organised in two squadrons based in Brest and Toulon, commanded by ALESCLANT (*Amiral commandant l'escadre de l'Atlantique*) and ALESCMED (*Amiral commandant l'escadre de la Méditerranée*) respectively. Since the post-Cold War restructuring process named Optimar '95, the two components have been divided into the Naval Action Force (commanded by ALFAN) and the Antisubmarine Group (commanded by ALGASM).<sup>[12]</sup>

## Main naval bases

As of 2014, the largest French naval base is the military port of Toulon. Other major bases in metropolitan France are the Brest Arsenal and Ile Longue on the Atlantic, and Cherbourg Naval Base on the English Channel. Overseas French bases include Fort de France and Degrad des Cannes in the Americas; Port des Galets and Dzaoudzi in the Indian Ocean; and Nouméa and Papeete in the Pacific. In addition, the navy shares or leases bases in foreign locales such as Abu Dhabi, Dakar and Djibouti.

## Equipment

### Ships and submarines



French navy facilities in metropolitan France (status 2015)

Although French naval doctrine calls for two aircraft carriers, as of 2015 the French only have one, *Charles de Gaulle*. Originally a planned order for French aircraft carrier PA2 was based on the design of the British *Queen Elizabeth*-class aircraft carrier recently constructed and launched for the British Royal Navy. However the French programme had been delayed several times for budgetary reasons and the result was priority being given to the more exportable FREMM project. In April 2013 it was confirmed that the second aircraft carrier project would be abandoned due to defence cuts announced in the 2013 French White Paper on Defence and National Security.



Horizon-class frigate

The French Navy operates three amphibious assault ships, one amphibious transport dock, two air defence frigates, seven anti-submarine frigates, five general purpose frigates and six fleet submarines (SSNs). This constitutes the French Navy's main oceangoing war-fighting forces. In addition the French Navy operates six light surveillance frigates and nine avisos (light corvettes). They undertake the navy's offshore patrol combat duties, the protection of French Naval bases and territorial waters, and can also provide low-end escort capabilities to any oceangoing task force. The four ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) of the navy's Strategic Oceanic Force provide the backbone of the French nuclear deterrent.



Dassault Rafale

## Aircraft

The French Naval Aviation is officially known as the *Aéronautique navale* and was created on the 19 June 1998 with the merging of Naval patrol aircraft and aircraft carrier squadrons. It has a strength of around 6,800 civilian and military personnel operating from four airbases in Metropolitan France. The *Aéronavale* is currently in the process of modernisation with a total order of 40 Rafale light fighters on order. Forty have so far been delivered and operate from the aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*.

## Personnel

### Application requirement

#### Seamen

Seamen must be at least 17 but no more than 24 years old, with a minimum level of schooling.

#### Petty Officers

Petty officers must be at least 17 but no more than 24 years old, with at least a high school diploma giving access to university studies. Petty Officer Candidate begin training with five months at the Petty Officer School at Brest.

#### Contract officers

Contract officers serve on an initial eight-year contract, renewable up to 20 years.

- Operational officers must be 21 to 26 years old, with at least a bachelor of science degree, or having passed a classe préparatoire aux grandes écoles in engineering or business.
- Staff officers have to be 21 to 29 years old, with an honors degree or master's degree in field corresponding to the military occupational specialty

<i>Personnel strength of the French Navy 2015</i>	
Category	Strength
Commissioned officers	4,500
Petty officers	23,600
Seamen	6,600
Volunteers	767
Civilian employees	2,800
Source: <sup>[13]</sup>	



## Career officers

- Less than 22 years old, having passed *à classe préparatoire* in science. After four years at the École Navale (naval academy) a cadet will graduate as Lieutenant junior grade with an engineering degree.
- Less than 25 years old, having an honors degree in science. After three years at the naval academy a cadet will graduate as Lieutenant Jg. with an engineering degree.
- Less than 27 years old, having a master's degree. After two years at the naval academy a cadet will graduate as Lieutenant Jg.

## Customs and traditions

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### Ranks

The rank insignia of the French Navy are worn on shoulder straps of shirts and white jackets, and on sleeves for navy jackets and mantels. Until 2005, only commissioned officers had an anchor on their insignia, but enlisted personnel are now receiving them as well. Commanding officers have titles of *capitaine*, but are called *commandant* (in the army, both *capitaine* and *commandant* are ranks, which tends to stir some confusion among the public). The two highest ranks, *vice-amiral d'escadre* and *amiral* (admiral), are functions, rather than ranks. They are assumed by officers ranking *vice-amiral* (vice admiral). The only *amiral de la flotte* (Admiral of the Fleet) was François Darlan after he was refused the dignity of *amiral de France* (Admiral of France). Equivalent to the dignity of Marshal of France, the rank of *amiral de France* remains theoretical in the Fifth Republic; it was last granted in 1869, during the Second Empire, but retained during the Third Republic until the death of its bearer in 1873. The title of *amiral de la flotte* was created so that Darlan would not have an inferior rank than his counterpart in the British Royal Navy, who had the rank of Admiral of the Fleet.

### Addressing officers

Unlike in the French army and air force, one does not prepend *mon* to the name of the rank when addressing an officer (that is, not *mon capitaine*, but simply *capitaine*).<sup>[14]</sup> Addressing a French Navy *lieutenant de vaisseau* (for instance) with a "*mon capitaine*" will attract the traditional answer "*Dans la Marine il y a Mon Dieu et mon cul, pas mon capitaine!*" ("In the Navy there are My God and my arse, no 'my captain!'").

### Uniforms



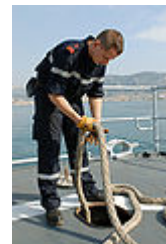
Winter Uniform (22)



Summer Uniform (26)



Overseas (25)



Light Duty Firefighter Suit

## Future

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France's financial problems have affected all branches of her military. The 2013 French White Paper on Defence and National Security cancelled the long-planned new aircraft carrier and a possible fourth *Mistral*-class amphibious assault ship, and conceded that British help would be needed to sustain an enduring presence.<sup>[15]</sup> The backbone of the fleet will be the *Aquitaine*-class FREMM anti-submarine frigates replacing the *Georges Leygues* class, but plans to buy a possible seventeen FREMMs were cut back to eleven and then to eight. The cancellation of the third and fourth Horizon destroyers mean that the last two FREMM hulls in 2021/2 will be

fitted out as FREDAs air-defence ships to replace the Cassard class.<sup>[16]</sup> DCNS has shown a FREMM-ER concept to meet this requirement, emphasising ballistic missile defence with the Thales Sea Fire 500 AESA radar.<sup>[17]</sup> Industrial considerations mean that the funds for FREMMs 9-11 will now be spent on five more exportable *frégates de taille intermédiaire* (FTI, "intermediate size frigates") from 2023 to replace the *La Fayette* class which in the meantime will be upgraded with new sonars.<sup>[18]</sup>

On 9 January 2014 it was announced that the two remaining Batracs in French service would be replaced in 2016/17 by three 1500-tonne (empty) Bâtiments Multimission (B2M) at a cost of ~€100m (US\$136m), later increased to four.<sup>[19]</sup> DCNS has funded the construction of the Gowind-class corvette *L'Adroit* and loaned her to the MN for fishery patrols to support an overseas marketing campaign for the design. The Durance class will be replaced under the FLOTLOG project by four derivatives of Italy's Vulcano Logistic Support Ship, to be delivered in 2022-29.<sup>[20]</sup> along with four BSAH offshore support vessels. Construction has started on the first of six Barracuda-class nuclear attack submarines; commissioning of *Suffren* is planned for 2018. The first MM40 Exocet Block 3 missile was test-fired in 2010 to be produced. Naval versions of the SCALP EG land-attack cruise missile are under development, along with a planned Aster Block 1NT with greater capabilities against ballistic missiles.

In October 2018, the French Ministry of Defence launched an 18-month study for €40 million for the eventual future replacement of the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle beyond 2030. A decision for the new carrier is scheduled to take place beyond 2025, and the future carrier is to remain in service until beyond 2086.<sup>[21][22]</sup>

## Notable French naval officers

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### Corsairs

- Vice-admiral (*lieutenant-général*) du Casse
- Vice-admiral (*lieutenant-général*) Duguay-Trouin
- Rear admiral (*chef d'escadre*) Jean Bart
- Rear admiral Pierre Bouvet
- Captain Cassard
- Captain Surcouf
- Captain Thurot

### Heroes of the First Republic

- Vice-admiral de Latouche-Tréville
- Vice-admiral de Villaret-Joyeuse
- Vice-admiral Bruix
- Rear Admiral du Chayla
- Captain du Petit Thouars
- Captain Casabianca

### Explorers

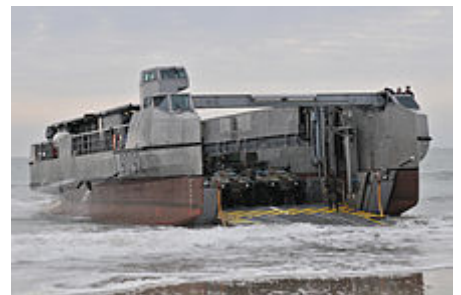


FREMM multipurpose frigateat Lorient

**Type Suffren**



Barracuda-class submarine



EDA-R landing craft on the beach



- Vice-Admiral [Bougainville](#)
- Rear-Admiral [d'Entrecasteaux](#)
- Rear-Admiral [Dumont d'Urville](#)
- Commodore [Lapérouse](#)
- Captain [Samuel de Champlain](#)
- Captain [d'Iberville](#)
- Captain [Nicolas Baudin](#)
- Captain [Louis de Freycinet](#)
- Commander [Doudart de Lagrée](#)
- Lieutenant [de St Aloüarn](#)
- Lieutenant [Francis Garnier](#)
- Lieutenant [Savorgnan de Brazza](#)

## Other important French naval officers

- [Admiral Florent de Varennes](#)—first admiral of France
- [Admiral Jean de Vienne](#)—admiral of the French fleet during the Hundred Years' War
- [Admiral d'Estaing](#)—admiral of the French fleet which helped the United States secure independence
- [Admiral de Grasse](#)—commander of the French fleet at [Chesapeake Bay](#) during the American Revolutionary War.
- [Admiral Courbet](#)
- [Vice-Admiral Tourville](#)—commander of the French fleet at the [Battle of Beachy Head](#)
- [Vice-Admiral Villeneuve](#)—commander of the French and Spanish fleets at the [Battle of Trafalgar](#)
- [Vice-Admiral Duquesne](#)—commander of the French fleet at the [Battle of Agosta](#)
- [Lieutenant commander Paul Teste](#), pioneer of the modern aeronaval operations.
- [Vice-Admiral Jean-Paul de Saumeur](#), often called Chevalier Paul, served in several Mediterranean campaigns.

## Notable people who served in the French Navy

- [Marcel Cerdan](#), world boxing champion during the 1940s
- [Jean Cocteau](#), poet, novelist, dramatist, designer, playwright, artist and filmmaker
- [Jacques-Yves Cousteau](#)
- [Philippe de Gaulle](#), the son of the general [Charles de Gaulle](#)
- [Alain Delon](#), actor, served as a fusilier marin in the First Indochina War
- [Bob Denard](#), a mercenary notorious for coup attempts and wars in Africa
- [Jean Gabin](#), another major French actor, he joined the free French naval force during the Second World War
- [Paul Gauguin](#), painter, sculptor, print-maker, ceramist, and writer
- [Bernard Giraudeau](#), actor, film director, scriptwriter, producer and writer
- [André Marty](#), a leading figure in the French Communist Party (PCF) from 1923 to 1955
- [Albert II, Prince of Monaco](#), reserve Lieutenant Commander
- [Pierre Loti](#), mostly known for his literary works
- [Michel Serres](#), philosopher and author
- [Eric Tabarly](#), a famous yachtsman
- [Victor Segalen](#), ethnographer, archeologist, writer, poet, explorer, art-theorist, linguist and literary critic
- [Eugène Sue](#), a famous 19th-century novelist
- [Paul Emile Victor](#), an ethnologist and polar explorer

## See also

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- [List of active French Navy ships](#)
- [Future of the French Navy](#)
- [French Army](#)
- [French Air Force](#)
- **Marine Nationale**

- [Airborne Units of the French Navy](#)
- [Escorteur](#)
- [Far East Squadron](#)
- [French 100 mm naval gun](#)
- [List of aircraft carriers of France](#)
- [List of Escorteurs of the French Navy](#)
- [List of French naval battles](#)
- [List of Naval Ministers of France](#)
- [List of submarines of France](#)
- [Standing French Navy Deployments](#)
- [Category:French Navy admirals](#)
- [Category:French Navy officers](#)
- [Category:Naval ships of France](#)

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## External links

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- (in French) Marine nationale—Official site
  - (in English) French Navy 2011—Guide Book
  - (in English) French Navy 2011—Information File
  - (in English) Net-Marine—A well documented database on French navy
  - (in French) Mer & Marine—Main website on French maritime affairs (only in French)
  - (in English) French Fleet Air Arm about French naval aviation.
  - (in English) French Navy in World War 1, including warship losses
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