

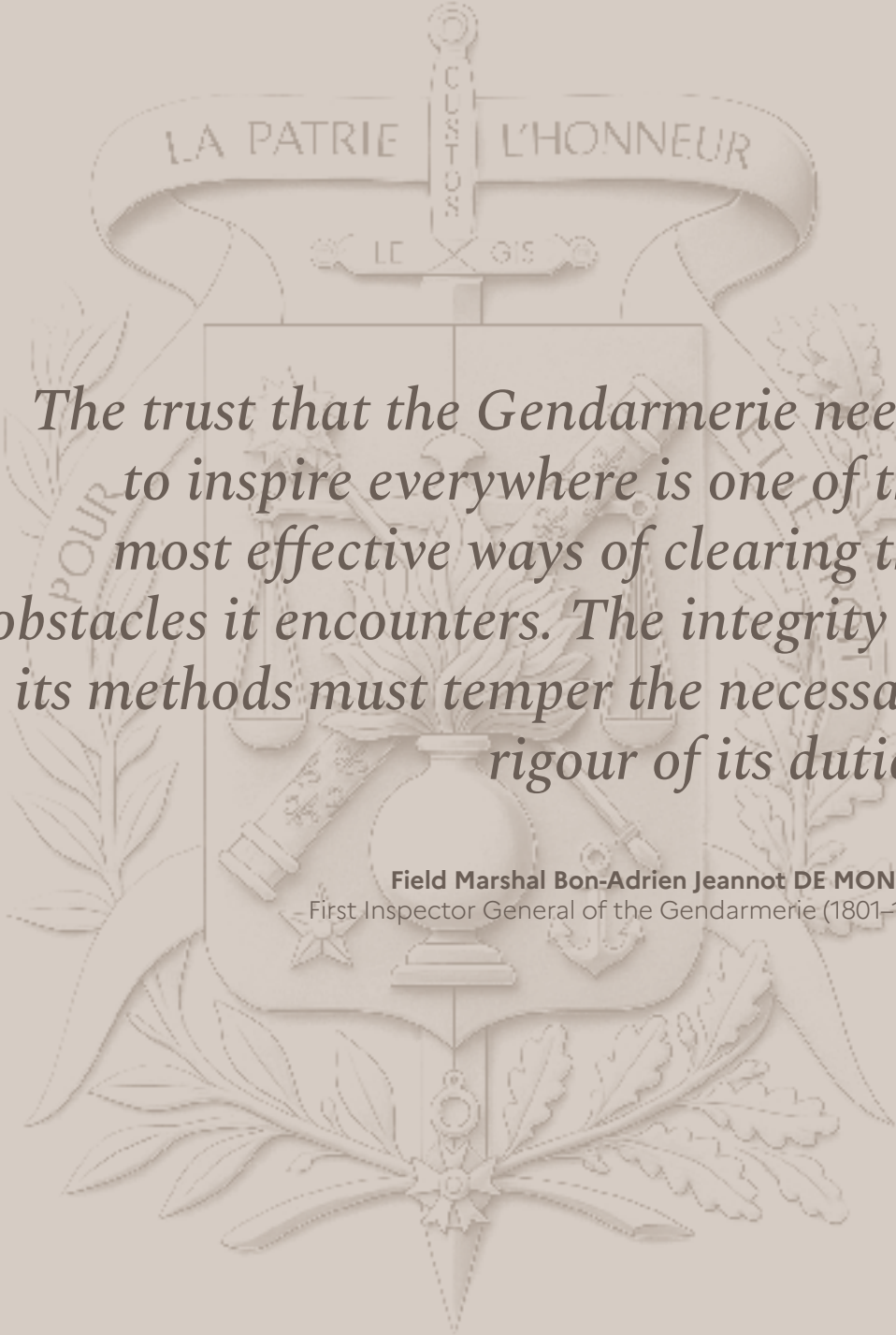


MINISTÈRE
DE L'INTÉRIEUR

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

N A T I O N A L  G E N D A R M E R I E

Defending The Nation Protecting The Public



The trust that the Gendarmerie needs to inspire everywhere is one of the most effective ways of clearing the obstacles it encounters. The integrity of its methods must temper the necessary rigour of its duties.

Field Marshal Bon-Adrien Jeannot DE MONCEY,
First Inspector General of the Gendarmerie (1801–1815)



“We are at a tipping point.” With these words President of the Republic, in the National Strategic Review, has called on us to take action to guarantee the security of our fellow citizens. We know that threats come from both within and beyond our borders. If we remain inactive, the very cohesion of the nation will be weakened.

I firmly believe that our model, as it has been shaped throughout history, is uniquely suited to the demands of our time. The National Gendarmerie is the armed force responsible for protecting our territories. Our network draws its strength from our military status. This unique territorial coverage enables a constant presence alongside the population, everywhere and in all circumstances.

The Gendarmerie has endured for centuries because it has remained true to its values and adapted to the upheavals of the times. Once on horseback patrolling the countryside, and now present even in cyberspace, the gendarmes have adapted their methods of intervention. However, their purpose remains unchanged: to defend the nation and protect the public.

Aware of our fellow citizens’ expectations and our duties, we are ready for action. We have a strong will: to build a Gendarmerie which is resolutely focused on the future, ready to face the challenges of today and tomorrow with fortitude and determination.

General Hubert BONNEAU

Director General of the National Gendarmerie

1

A **Model** : The Military-Status Force Covering The Territories



Photography: MDC Brice LAPOINTE



The National Gendarmerie protects the public in both the real world and cyber space. Under the authority of the Minister of the Interior and as part of the military community, it is responsible for enforcing the laws of the Republic and ensuring the security of the institutions, the people and their property throughout the country. Working alongside the French people, gendarmes guarantee their safety on a daily basis.

The Gendarmerie is engaged in all four dimensions (land, air, sea and cyber), in times of peace as well as in times of crisis or war, with:

- › a responsibility towards the Nation as a **force safeguarding sovereignty**, participating in the defence of France and its interests, preserving unity and territorial integrity, both in mainland France and overseas, ensuring the regular and continuous operations of the State and the institutions of the Republic;
- › a responsibility towards society as a **community force**: ensuring public safety, upholding trust in the institutions and among citizens, contributing to preserving social ties and national cohesion;



Photography: GR

- › a responsibility towards the public as a **protection force**: embodying republican principles, identifying and apprehending perpetrators of criminal offences, reassuring the public on a daily basis, providing assistance, and giving priority attention to victims and the most vulnerable.



To achieve these objectives, the Gendarmerie relies on its original organisation, shaped by history and geography, linked to the territorial and administrative structure of France. Designed to foster proximity and resilience, it faces all threats, from everyday incidents to the most serious crises, and delivers a comprehensive, graduated and proportionate response depending on the circumstances.

1. A MODEL BASED ON TWO INEXTRICABLY LINKED PILLARS: MILITARY STATUS AND TERRITORIAL COVERAGE

Consubstantial with each other, they define the structure of the Gendarmerie and determine both its organisation and its approach to missions. The obligation for gendarmes to live in service accommodation and the principle of on-call duty, on which the standby

system depends, contribute directly to their responsiveness and immediate intervention capability in the field. Thus, the combination of military status and territorial coverage gives the institution its full capacity to ramp up and aggregate forces from its 3,700 stations. This system is based on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity: when faced with a major event, the concerned unit is quickly reinforced by nearby units and reservists, but also by all of the Gendarmerie's intervention and investigation resources, including national ones.

This integrated system enables the Gendarmerie to fulfil its operational mandate: the Gendarmerie is responsible for law and order outside urban areas and thus pre-



Photography: MDC Brice LAPOINTE

In addition to being responsible for law enforcement, the Gendarmerie also contributes to social cohesion. Through their daily commitment, they act as a true unifying force for the nation, strengthening ties between citizens. This human and social dimension is at the heart of their mission.

vents offences. The Gendarmerie provides information and helps regulate the movements of people, goods and data. It protects the public and businesses, tangible and intangible property, and the environment. Under the control of the administrative and judicial authorities, it enforces public order and combats all forms of crime. It

also has the capacity to respond and provide assistance in the event of serious crises related to public order or disasters.

Military Status

More than just a status, it is a culture which is based on the sense of duty of gendarmes. It

guarantees the cohesion and robustness of the force, establishes the primacy of the mission over personal interests, and excludes any 'right of withdrawal'. A spirit of sacrifice that can go as far as the ultimate sacrifice, discipline, availability, loyalty and neutrality shape operational effectiveness, even in highly deteriorated environments,



Photography: José ROCHA

when military personnel are far from their bases and families and when institutions do not function anymore. Within a hierarchical and controlled framework, the Gendarmerie promotes a spirit of initiative at every level of command. Individual and collective responsibility is a hallmark of the institution. Organised in units, gendarmes show unity and the solidarity of military personnel in the face of adversity when fulfilling the common mission.

Territorial Coverage

Covering 95% of the country, both on land and at sea and in ports and airports, the Gendarmerie relies on a flexible and robust territorial network structured around versatile units. These basic structures with projection capabilities ensure the presence of the State at the heart of the territories, even in remote areas. Being on the beat, linking with the community and relying on digital tools, these units adapt to their environment to ensure effective, sustainable and local action, tailored to address threats and risks. This dense network embodies the specificity of the model: gendarmes must live where they serve and serve where they live, thereby ensuring equal public service provision for all citizens.



2. A MILITARY-STATUS FORCE SERVING THE STATE AND THE PUBLIC

Operating Locally

The Gendarmerie belongs naturally within society. Through daily contact and through mutual respect, gendarmes understand both the public's and the representatives' expectations they serve. Their local presence and availability enable them to adapt to specific local circumstances. The relationships built with mayors, who themselves carry out public safety duties, are an essential element of community policing, enabling action to be tailored to specific needs.

Continuity Of Actions

The Gendarmerie guarantees security at all times. Its military status and operational organisation ensure the enforcement of the constitutional principle of the availability of armed forces, allowing the institution to act when other public services are unable to do so. In accordance with this principle, gendarmes are organised to respond without delay, implementing a structured deployment framework, rendering them capable of manoeuvring and addressing major crises on a daily basis, both in mainland France and overseas. They can be deployed abroad to support France's international commitments.



The Gendarmerie community is not limited to its 103,024 active personnel. It also includes nearly 41,000 reservists, either operational ones or citizens, families residing in barracks, retired members of the force, and 10,000 Gendarmerie cadets.

Resilient thanks to the training and experience of its personnel and its military organisation, the Gendarmerie is structured to endure and ensure the uninterrupted pursuit of its missions.

Adaptation

Faced with geostrategic, technological, social and environmental changes, the Gendarmerie is adjusting its approach while remaining faithful to its unchanging objectives. Whether ensuring everyday safety, responding to high-intensity crises

or working alongside the armed forces in war zones, the Gendarmerie applies the same principles of discernment, gradation and proportionality.

In this era of artificial intelligence and big data (social networks, connected devices, smart vehicles, etc.), awareness, anticipation and innovation are essential. They enable us to combat the most complex and dangerous forms of crime. They give the Gendarmerie the resourcefulness to develop appropriate strategies.

The Gendarmerie is a force focused on interministerial cooperation, defending the country under the authority of the Ministry of the Armed Forces while fighting crime under the authority of the Minister of the Interior and the authority of magistrates.

Photography: MDC Brice LAPOINTE



2

A **Sole Ambition** : To Be Ready
To Meet The Challenges Of
Today And Tomorrow



Photography: BRC TAUPIN

The contemporary geostrategic landscape marks a real turning point: intensified international confrontations, including within the information sphere; hybrid threats and interference aimed at destabilising the nation, and erosion of national cohesion, targeted by actors seeking to stir up internal tensions. Together with accelerating cyber and digital transformation, this offers criminal organisations new capabilities to cause harm, contributing to their rise in power and posing a growing threat to our sovereignty. In this context, guaranteeing the credibility of the state and conserving the trust of the public are major challenges.

To address this, the Gendarmerie intends to strengthen its commitment in three areas: improved preparation of gendarmes for the demands of their missions, enhanced territorial coverage, and appropriate means.



Photographies : Frédéric THIES

1. PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE MISSION

The military status is the pillar of the Gendarmerie. Its effectiveness depends on the selection, training and support of gendarmes and their leaders. Attracting and retaining young people requires a clear message about the challenges of the gendarme's job and about the personal long-term investment needed to acquire the skills essential to carry it out.

Initial Training

It underpins the legitimacy of the Gendarmerie's actions and has to remain rigorous: including

physical fitness, technical and tactical skills, knowledge of legal, ethical and professional standards, as well as adaptation to modern threats, particularly digital ones, it is delivered in accordance with the demanding mission framework, where discipline, initiative and self-control are essential. Reinforced throughout their careers, this training, combined with strict ethical oversight, is an indispensable guarantee of legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

Leadership As The Backbone Of The Organisation

It has to be strengthened through the selection process and training of officers in planning and



Photography: MDC Brice LAPOINTE

manoeuvring in an inter-service, joint, or even international context, as well as through the provision of design tools to field officers in order to help them fully carry out their supervisory role. They have to exercise what Field Marshal Lyautey called a 'social role': the leader is not only the one who commands, but also the one who assists the wounded, accompanies their

subordinates and shows concern for their families. They are responsible for a human community whose cohesion is essential to operational effectiveness.

Increasing The Operational Reserve To 50,000 Reservists

With 38,500 reservists, the operational reserve actively contributes

to the country's security and resilience and strengthens ties with the nation. Whether they come from the civilian sector or the armed forces, reservists can be mobilised quickly, either close to their homes or anywhere in the country, participating in public safety missions and crisis management, fighting illegal immigration, protecting critical infrastructures and assisting the public during natural disasters.



Photography: BRC TAUPIN

2. CONTINUOUSLY CONSOLIDATING TERRITORIAL COVERAGE

Covering territories means constantly adapting to demographic, societal, technological and criminal developments. The Gendarmerie applies two complementary approaches: targeting offenders and strengthening the control of flows.

A multidimensional approach to tackling organised crime involves identifying criminal phenomena and targeting organisations and their members who are developing increasingly sophisticated strategies. **The National Criminal Investigation Unit (UNPJ) of the Gendarmerie** embodies this ambition by bringing together investigative expertise, central offices, criminal intelligence and forensics. As a support structure, it projects its investigative capa-

bilities directly to the benefit of front-line units in the field.

The Gendarmerie **is also stepping up its monitoring of flows** whether on land, at sea, in the air or in cyberspace. Gendarmes are present in ports, railway stations, airports, waterways, supply chain hubs and transit areas. This enhanced coverage, both physical and digital, relies on cutting-edge technologies to counter criminal networks.





Photography: MDC Brice LAPOINTE

Protecting French territory and interests against external threats: in an increasingly interconnected environment, transnational crime is gaining ground, exploiting vulnerabilities at borders. France's security is also at stake abroad, and

the European and international dimensions must be taken fully into account. This is why the Gendarmerie focuses on two priorities: tackling crime routes by mobilising security cooperation and interoperability tools at the international

level, and establishing operational partnerships with forces which face common challenges. Its links with the armed forces are an advantage within a security-defence continuum made necessary today by the growing complexity of threats.

Photography: MDC Brice LAPOINTE



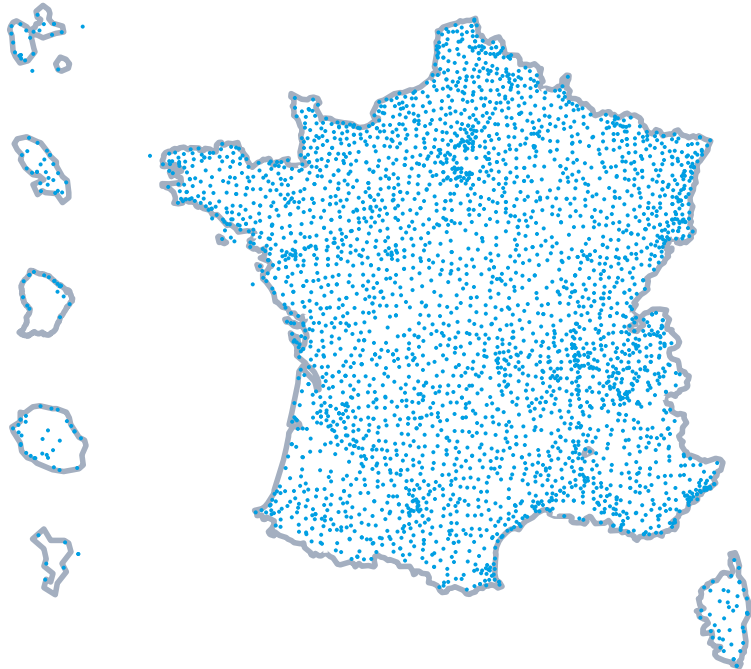
3. APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR A MODERN AND RESILIENT MILITARY-STATUS FORCE

Ensuring The Sustainability Of The Territorial Area Of Responsibility

This nationwide network of 3,700 units across mainland France and its overseas territories enables rapid and graduated intervention. Its sustainability depends on revitalised and sustained investment in real estate, guaranteeing decent and safe living and working conditions for gendarmes and their families, as well as a standard of service that meets citizens' expectations and the requirements of a high-quality public service.

Operational Capabilities To Fulfil Both Day-To-Day Missions And Operational Defence Missions Within The Territory

Faced with hybrid threats and destabilising actions, the Gendarmerie must be equipped with standing capabilities to guarantee the Government's freedom of



GIGN in New Caledonia, 2024. Photography: GND Théophile CHATAIN

action, including the defence of the nation in mainland France and overseas. These capabilities — individual and collective standard equipment, vehicles and projection capabilities, and specialised state-of-the-art equipment — combined with fully integrated support, ensure the responsiveness necessary to achieve these objectives.

Maintaining Technological Superiority Through Ambitious And Responsible Digital Transformation

The Gendarmerie never ceases to strengthen its operational effectiveness, ensuring that its equipment remains highly performant. It relies on its capacity for innovation to remain at the cutting edge of technology. The choice of modern applications, deployed through secure digital networks, enables it to respond quickly to the needs in the field. These tools also ensure continuity and robustness in the functioning of services. The reliance on open-source software ensures independence, transparency, interoperability of tools and increased responsibility in data management. This strategy is supported by in-house competences,

for autonomy and security. The solutions are designed by and for gendarmes, tailored to the needs of the trade.

Improving cybersecurity capabilities will enable every level of the force to meet the expectations of local authorities, businesses and citizens who are victims of cyber attacks. Because cybercrime is a crime of the 21st century, the Gendarmerie is gearing up to

tackle threats which can have particularly serious systemic effects by disrupting the functioning of public and private services.

The institution is fully committed to the interministerial strategy which is being strengthened as the risks increase in intensity. This stance is likely to bolster citizens' confidence in the institution's ability to adapt to contemporary challenges.



Photography: BRI DOUBLET



Photography: Mathurin NAPOLY





‘I swear to obey my superiors in all matters relating to the service to which I am assigned and, in the carrying out of my duties, to use the force entrusted in me only for the preservation of order and the enforcement of the law.’

OATH OF GENDARMES

since the Royal Order of 20 October 1820

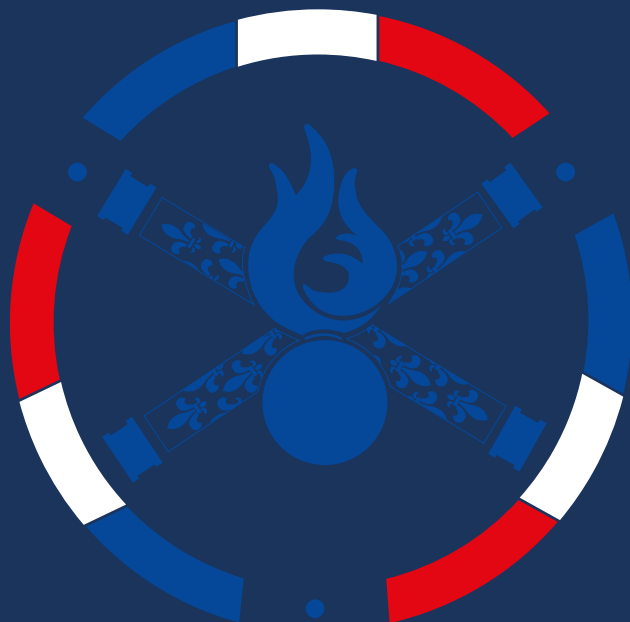


Photography: ADJ Alexandre BOULAIS



Tel est le cap que nous nous fixons,
afin que la Gendarmerie nationale
réponde avec efficacité aux enjeux de la Nation.
Une Gendarmerie portée par la détermination
des 138 000 gendarmes d'active et de
réserve que j'ai l'honneur de commander.

Général d'armée Hubert BONNEAU
Directeur général de la gendarmerie nationale



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