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[France unveiled its future aircraft carrier. An ambitious project to replace Charles de Gaulle in 2038](#)



The PANG programme - the new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier France is developing. Concept image, photo source: Naval Group

At the Euronaval 2022 exhibition in Paris this month, the French presented the future aircraft carrier of the PANG (Porte-Avions Nouvelle Génération) programme.

The presentation was made by Naval Group, as part of Euronaval 2022. The French presented the design of the future ship that will replace the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle.

Preliminary studies on the development of the new aircraft carrier started in October 2018.

It is expected that around 2038 the future aircraft carrier will replace the Charles de Gaulle.

According to Navy recognition, the future aircraft carrier that will replace the current Charles de Gaulle will have a displacement of 75,000 tonnes and will be about 300 metres long.

Breaking Defense notes that the new state-of-the-art aircraft carrier will have a crew of 2,000 sailors and will be able to carry about 32 state-of-the-art fighter jets,



Photo: The PANG project presented to French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu by senior French defence and defence industry officials. Photo source: Breaking Defense

The PANG will carry around 32 new-generation fighter jets, up to three E-2D Advanced Hawkeye Early Warning and Combat Aircraft (AWACS). France has ordered three such aircraft in 2021, with deliveries to follow in 2028. The future aircraft carrier will also have the capability to launch drones.

H160M and NH90 helicopters, developed by Airbus, will also be able to operate from the PANG.

The ship will be developed by a joint venture between Naval Group and Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

France's Zone Militaire says the ship could have three electromagnetic catapults.

American EMALS electromagnetic catapults for France's next-generation aircraft carrier

In August, it became official that France's new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier will be fitted with "made in the USA" electromagnetic catapults. The new EMALS (Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System) electromagnetic catapult system is the new system.

On 19 August, the Pentagon announced that it had awarded a contract worth almost €9 million to US manufacturer General Atomics for the development of EMALS electromagnetic catapults plus auxiliary systems for the French aircraft carrier to be built under the PANG programme.

The Americans estimate the value of the contract at \$1.3 billion, or about €1.2 billion. The French point out that the price is only an estimate and that they expect it to be lower or even higher, depending on the euro exchange rate.

The new electromagnetic catapults chosen by the French are the same ones on the US's newest aircraft carrier - the USS Gerald R. Ford.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/franta-si-a-prezentat-viitorul-portavion-un-proiect-ambitios-care-va-duce-la-inlocuirea-lui-charles-de-gaulle-in-2038\\_618923.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/franta-si-a-prezentat-viitorul-portavion-un-proiect-ambitios-care-va-duce-la-inlocuirea-lui-charles-de-gaulle-in-2038_618923.html)

## Algerian-Russian military exercises fuel controversy over international alignments

Algerian and Russian naval forces are conducting four days of military manoeuvres in the Mediterranean Sea. Although planned in advance, the manoeuvres have political implications, in light of the sharpening polarisation of the globe over the Ukraine crisis and with escalating voices in Washington calling for Algeria to be punished amid its growing military cooperation with Russia.

The Algerian defence ministry announced that naval force units have begun joint military exercises with similar forces in Russia, the second such manoeuvre in recent months, confirming the two countries' determination to strengthen their military cooperation.



In the context of strengthening bilateral military cooperation relations between the Navy of the People's National Army and the Russian Naval Forces, a detachment of Russian warships anchored on Tuesday, 18 October 2022, in the port of Algiers to participate for four days in the exercise "Joint Naval Maneuvers 2022"

Algeria is still considered Russia's historical ally in the North African region, being one of the biggest customers of Russian weapons, and in recent years it has concluded huge contracts with Moscow for the supply of various types of weapons and military equipment, especially air and ground.

The Ukrainian crisis has cast a shadow over Algeria, placing it in a state of unprecedented polarisation between Russia on the one hand and the United States and Europe on the other, particularly in the field of energy and military cooperation. Although Algeria is still maintaining balances in an acceptable manner, the growing anger on both sides may cost it in the future.

The list of US congressional representatives calling on the government to include Algeria in the category of America's enemies because of its military cooperation with Moscow has grown to about 30 signatures.

The signatories argue that huge arms deals with Russia are a relief to the Russian treasury because of the revenue from these deals, which hinders Washington's and the EU's efforts to impose deterrent sanctions against Moscow over the Ukraine crisis and such arrangements help it find alternative financial resources.

Since the emergence of the new military leadership in Algeria under Lieutenant General Said Chanegriha, there has been a close rapprochement between the two countries, particularly in the military, and there has been talk of pro-Moscow wings in the military, which would have alarmed Western governments. According to leaks that emerged after the meeting between the US ambassador to Algeria and the Algerian army chief of staff, the US

diplomat spoke of "recommendations to stay away from Russian influence because the last word will go to the West in the Ukrainian crisis".

A few days ago, Sputnik agency issued a detailed report on Algeria's possession of the S-400 defence system, whose possession has been questioned at official level.

Algeria unveiled the S-300 system during military celebrations held in July on the occasion of Independence Day and there were conflicting reports about the S-400 system until confirmation came from Sputnik agency.

Algerian voices have recently escalated, calling for distance to be maintained in the Russian-Western conflict in Ukraine, given that the attitude of one side will provoke the anger of the other, and the issue could turn into a kind of revenge similar to what happened in Iraq at the turn of the millennium, especially since the country is not capable of confronting or managing the balance between the great powers. There are fears that rapprochement with the Russians would lead to future pressure from the West, although the flexibility Europe is currently showing towards Algeria comes from securing access to natural gas.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/exercitiile-militare-algeriano-ruse-alimenteaza-controversele-aliniamentelor-internationale\\_618966.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/exercitiile-militare-algeriano-ruse-alimenteaza-controversele-aliniamentelor-internationale_618966.html)

Remember 1988. The cruiser USS Yorktown and the destroyer USS Caron intentionally hit by Soviet frigates in the Black Sea (Video)



The US ships USS Yorktown and USS Caron, intentionally hit by the Soviets in the Black Sea in 1988. Photo: US Embassy in Romania

Russian aggression in the Black Sea against Allies, including US naval vessels, is a practice the Kremlin has resorted to for decades.

Lately, the Russian Federation has stepped up harassment operations against Allied ships in the Black Sea, with particularly serious incidents taking place against the Dutch or British.

The US embassy in Bucharest recalls a forgotten event in February 1988 in which the Soviets again violated international law and free maritime movement. At that time, the US

cruiser USS Yorktown and the US destroyer USS Caron were deliberately hit by two Soviet frigates in the Black Sea.

"In what became known as "The Black Sea bumping incident" in 1988, the cruiser USS Yorktown and the destroyer USS Caron were intentionally bumped by two Soviet frigates in the Black Sea. Located 10 miles off Crimea, the US ships were exercising harmless right of way, having previously declared their intention to cross the area. Initially, Soviet authorities sent a destroyer to "push" the US ships out to sea, but it encountered technical problems and was replaced by two smaller frigates.

Throughout the incident, Yorktown and Caron maintained direction and speed, preferring not to respond to challenges from the Soviet side. Following the collisions, the USS Yorktown reported minor superficial scratches and the USS Carson no damage.

Yet why did this happen? Under international law, this act of passage is permitted if a ship is moving from one point in international waters to another point in international waters on the shortest possible course. At the time, the Soviet Union had the right to authorise or refuse such crossings at distances of 12 nautical miles from the coast, while the US had a limit of 3 nautical miles, and Soviet ships frequently sailed within 5 miles of US shores," recalls the US Embassy in Romania.

A long chain of Russian aggression in the Black Sea against allies

According to British officials, the incident took place at the end of September, on 29 September to be precise. British Defence Minister Ben Wallace subsequently contacted his Russian counterpart, Sergei Shigu, asking for an explanation.

Last summer, a new incident took place against a British ship. The Russians fired warning shots at the British destroyer HMS Defender, accusing the warship of having entered the territorial waters of the Russian Federation, wrongfully obtained through the illegal occupation and annexation of the Crimean peninsula.

At the time, the Russian defence ministry said the British ship had advanced about 3 kilometres into territorial waters considered Russian. A Russian military ship fired warning shots and, according to the Moscow Defence Ministry, a Su-24M aircraft dropped four bombs in the destroyer's path.

The incident came just a day after the Dutch Defence Ministry announced that Russian warships and military aircraft had harassed and assaulted the Evertsen frigate, the most powerful warship in the Dutch Navy's fleet, in the Black Sea.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/remember-1988-crucisatorul-uss-yorktown-si-distrugatorul-uss-caron-lovite-intentionat-de-fregate-sovietice-in-marea-neagra-video\\_618954.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/remember-1988-crucisatorul-uss-yorktown-si-distrugatorul-uss-caron-lovite-intentionat-de-fregate-sovietice-in-marea-neagra-video_618954.html)

Russia has increased its Black Sea grouping to 10 ships

The Russian invaders have increased their naval group in the Black Sea to 10 units, including three 24-gauge missile carriers.

This was announced on Facebook by the Operational Command "South", Ukrinform reports.

"The ship formation of the enemy fleet in the Black Sea has increased to 10 units. At the same time, it includes three ground-to-ground missile carriers equipped with twenty-four calibers," the message reads.

In this regard, the command warns that threats of missile strikes, kamikaze drone attacks and rocket artillery attacks on areas within range of the appropriate enemy weapons remain relevant.

As Ukrinform reported, on 21 October, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a meeting of the General Staff of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, where he discussed the

organisation of Ukraine's effective air defence system and the coverage of strategically important objects.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/195841>

### Azov-Black Sea maritime operational area

Russian Black Sea Fleet forces continue to project force on the coastal and mainland part of Ukraine and control the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ultimate goal is to deprive Ukraine of access to the Black Sea and maintain control over captured territory. Offshore, the Russian naval group consists of 7 ships and boats located along the southwest coast of Crimea. These include 1 cruise missile carrier (a Project 21631 corvette) carrying a total of 8 "Kalibr" missiles. Russian aircraft continue to fly from Crimean airfields Belbek and Hvardiyske over the north-western Black Sea. In the last day, 16 Su-27, Su-30 and Su-24 aircraft from Belbek and Saki airfields were involved. "Grain Initiative". There are no obstacles to the continuation of the "grain corridor" agreement. As of 20 October, 8 million tonnes of grain and other food products have been exported as part of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told journalists after visiting Azerbaijan. "There are no obstacles to extending the delivery contract. I was convinced of this again during my conversation with Zelensky yesterday evening (19.10 - ed.) and at my meeting with Putin. But in the meantime, if there is any obstacle, we have no impediments to overcome it," Erdogan said. According to him, 8 million tons of grain and other food products have already been delivered to world markets by 363 ships. "62% of goods from Ukrainian ports went to Europe, 19.5% to Asia, 13% to Africa and 5.3% to Middle Eastern countries. 454,626 tons of wheat were shipped to the least developed countries; this number comprises only 5.7%," Erdogan said. On the evening of 21 October, President Zelensky called the situation around grain initiative time. "Russia is deliberately inciting the food crisis so that it becomes as acute as it was in the first half of this year," he said. According to the president, as of today, more than 150 ships are queuing up to meet their contractual obligations for the supply of Ukrainian-produced agricultural products. "This is an artificial queue. It only appeared because Russia deliberately delays the passage of ships. Every day that food ships are queuing leads to increased social and political tension in the countries that consume our agricultural products. Here are just a few of the countries to which food exports are delayed because of Russia: Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Iraq, China, Bangladesh, Indonesia. Our partners - the UN, Turkey and others are fully informed about this situation," the President stressed. During the exploitation of the grain initiative, due to the inhibition of the aggressor country, Ukraine under-exported about three million tons of food - this is the annual consumption quantity for 10 million people.

Source: CDS Daily Brief

### A tank averts two 'drone-led explosions' at a port in Yemen



On Friday afternoon, the Nissos Kea tank survived an apparent attempt by two drones to strike off the coast of Yemen, according to its operator. Okeanis Eco Tankers reported on Friday that one of its tanks, the 300,000 dwt VLCC Nissos Kea, faced a unique security threat when it called at the port of Ash Shihr. The port consists of two SPM offshore loading buoys, and AIS data shows that the Kea arrived Friday at about 12:00 GMT. While the ship was at the loading buoy, "there were two drone-led explosions in the vicinity," Okeanis reported. The captain responded by leaving the loading port and heading out to sea. Neither of the two explosions hit the tank, and the crew was unhurt. No damage was done to the vessel and no pollution was reported, the operator said. The relevant authorities have been informed of the incident. AIS data provided by Pole Star shows the vessel is now well offshore in the Gulf of Aden. "The company is satisfied that its health and safety protocols, which are well designed to deal with such circumstances, have been properly applied to ensure the safety of our vessel and crew in a timely manner," Okeanos said. Nissos Kea is a brand new scrubber-equipped VLCC, registered in the Marshall Islands. She was delivered in March and a sister ship is under construction. The party responsible for the explosion is not known, but the Iranian-backed Houthi rebel movement recently threatened to attack tanks arriving in Yemen, according to Dryad Global. Houthi military operations rely heavily on drone warfare, including the Iranian "bomb boat" and suicide drone technology.

Source: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/tanker-avoids-two-drone-driven-explosions-at-port-in-yemen>

[American "analysts" have announced an alleged threat to the Kakhovskaya hydroelectric dam "from the RF Armed Forces" \(Source Russia!\)](#)

Employees of the American Institute for the Study of War (ISW) have reached another "unexpected" conclusion. In their view, Russia is preparing to blow up the Kakhovskaya hydroelectric dam and then blame Kiev for it ... As if Kiev is so sinless that there can be no other grounds for accusations against it. The "analysts" argue their conclusions that the RF Armed Forces are planning to leave the right bank of the Herson region because they cannot resist the Ukrainian Armed Forces in this area. Therefore, they intend to create a catastrophe to justify their withdrawal. In their article, the ISW staffers recall the statements of the OGV commander of the NVO area, Army General Sergei Surovikin, about the difficult situation in the Herson region and the acting head of the Herson region, Volodymyr Saldo, about the

danger of flooding of the region due to the Ukrainian army's planning to undermine the dam at the Kakhovskaya hydropower plant. Thus, according to American "analysts", Russia is trying to provide an "information background" to then blame Kiev for what is happening. It is worth noting here that all this might seem more or less credible, if not for some nuances. First, there is an active transfer of additional RF Armed Forces forces to the right bank of the Dnieper at the moment. In addition, in Herson itself, work is underway to build fortifications, which are necessary to repel the future offensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It doesn't look like it's all about preparing a retreat. Second, earlier, former SBU Deputy Chairman Major General Viktor Yagun said that undermining the Kakhovka dam would not only flood Herson and other settlements, but also deprive Crimea of water supply. Such a scenario is unlikely to be included in the Russian command's plans. Moreover, it is the Armed Forces of Ukraine that have been bombarding the Kakhovskaya hydroelectric dam with various types of weapons for months. At the same time, the destruction of the above-mentioned dam fits perfectly into the strategy of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which, before the onset of cold weather and, most importantly, before the elections to the US Congress, must show at least one result. that justifies the multi-billion investment in the current regime in Kiev. A full-scale offensive by Ukrainian troops, according to many analysts, is expected in the direction of Herson in the near future. True, there have been at least three such attempts in recent weeks and all have ended in failure for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Thus, the ISW employees, accusing Russia of preparing to undermine the Kakhovskaya hydroelectric dam, are only trying to create an "information background" for the Ukrainian authorities. However, even before the publication of the American "analysts", no one doubted that Kiev is capable of anything and, in any case, would blame Russia, as it has always done.

Source: <https://topwar.ru/203702-amerikanskije-analitiki-rossija-gotovitsja-vzorvat-plotinu-kahovskoj-gjes-i-obvinit-v-jetom-kiev.html>

Naval Group has started construction of the first frigate destined for Greece. Romania is still waiting for the contract to be signed for the Gowind 2500 corvettes



On 21 October, at the Lorient shipyard, French shipbuilder Naval Group assembled the first block of the first FDI HN frigate destined for the Hellenic Naval Forces.

Naval Group has established numerous partnerships with Greek industrial players, and multiple contracts have been signed with Greek industry to support this naval programme.



On 24 March 2022, Greece chose to equip its naval forces with three frigates intended for defence and intervention, plus an optional one, including the provision of in-service support.

The vessels will significantly enhance the capabilities of Greece's surface fleet and will be delivered in a very short timeframe, starting in 2025 with the first two units and the third in 2026.

The frigates are capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, anti-aircraft and special forces projection missions. The main combat systems will be supplied by French manufacturer MBDA, specifically the company will provide the ships with ASTER 30 Block 1 air defence systems and Exocet MM40 Block 3C anti-ship missile systems.

The ships will also be equipped with the first "Thales Sea Fire" fully digital multifunctional radar. As the first frigates on the market to be protected against cyber threats from the outset, the HN IDF will be equipped with two data centres that host almost all the applications used by a ship.

Recently, at the plenary meeting of the Supreme Naval Council on 27 September, Greek officials decided to name the three HN FDI frigates FFG Kimon, FFG Nearchos and FFG Formion, after famous Greek admirals, in order of production.

Romania's programme - "Multipurpose Corvette"

Without going into details as dozens of pages have been written on this topic, the programme is stuck since 2019. At that time, the Naval Group and Constanta Shipyard joint venture won the tender for the construction of four Gowind 2500 corvettes, as well as the modernisation of the two frigates Regina Maria and Regele Ferdinand.

The contract has not been signed to date due to misunderstandings between the French side and Constanta Shipyard, a fact confirmed by MApN and Paris.

On the occasion of the Navy Day on 15 August, Minister Vasile Dîncu reiterated that he hoped that the procurement procedure for the corvettes would finally be completed.

After successive postponements throughout this year, Minister Vasile Dîncu has recently stated several times that following the request of the Association, MApN has extended the deadline for signing the contract until September, so that the next few weeks will be decisive for a decision in the program that has been stalled since 2019.

Source: [https://www.defenseromania.ro/naval-group-a-inceput-montarea-primei-fregate-destinate-greciei-romania-inca-asteapta\\_618970.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/naval-group-a-inceput-montarea-primei-fregate-destinate-greciei-romania-inca-asteapta_618970.html)

## How water has been used in Ukraine

Sveta has no doubt why the southern Ukrainian town of Mykolaiv, a shipbuilding hub that is home to half a million people, has run out of fresh water for the past six months. "They (the Russians) are committing genocide against us," she snarled as she waited this week with dozens of others to fill water containers from tanks carried to a downtown artery aboard an electric tram repair car.

The water shutoff is a bitter situation for Sveta and the other roughly 220,000 residents who remain in the oft-bombed city, that Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine extends beyond the battlefield to civilian infrastructure.

The Kremlin has dramatically stepped up attacks on energy facilities with pre-winter missile and drone strikes in the past two weeks, in what Putin called legitimate retaliation for an attack on Russia's bridge to Crimea. The attacks have cut electricity in large parts of Ukraine, killing dozens of people and leaving other places without access to clean water. But Mykolaiv's water problems lasted much longer. The Russians, Ukrainian officials say, shut off the city's freshwater intakes in the adjacent province of Herson after invading the region as part of what Putin calls a "special military operation." "We don't know if it was an intentional

explosion or an accidental munitions strike," the municipal head of water supply, Borys Dydenko, told Reuters. He said he believed the Russians had shut off the outlets to avenge Ukraine's closure of fresh water supplies to Crimea in 2014. The Kremlin and the Russian defence ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

#### 'THE WAY WE LIVE'

Every day, Mykolaiv residents carry plastic containers by hand or in carts to the city's water distribution points, which are located at the large confluence of the Dnipro and South Bukh rivers. "This is the way we live," complained 78-year-old Yaroslav, a pensioner working at the shipbuilding yard in Chernomorsk, as he stood in line behind Sveta. "We live one day and there is no joy and then there is the next day." Peter Gleick, a senior fellow at the Pacific Institute, a California-based think tank that documents the impact of conflicts on water resources around the world, said Russia has turned water into a weapon since launching its full-scale invasion in February. "Ukraine's water infrastructure, from dams to water treatment and sewage systems, has been widely targeted by Russia," Gleick wrote in an email. International law, he noted, makes hitting civilian infrastructure a war crime. Also read: OP-ED Russian Navy will continue to attack transport infrastructure In the first three months of the war alone, Gleick said, he and his colleagues documented more than 60 cases in which Ukraine's civilian water supplies were disrupted and dams for both water and hydropower were attacked. Russia has admitted to targeting power plants, while saying it is making every effort to spare the civilian population. The United Nations has confirmed more than 14,000 civilian deaths and says the real figures are probably considerably higher. According to the Pacific Institute database, Ukraine has also occasionally used water as a weapon, cutting off supplies to Crimea after Russia seized the peninsula in 2014. Although Kiev had no legal obligation to maintain the supply, "one could argue that it would have been the humanitarian thing to do," Gleick said. Ukrainian troops released water from a dam on the Nipro River to slow Russia's failed attack on Kiev in February, according to the database. Residents of eastern Donetsk, captured by Moscow-backed separatists in 2014, have also suffered water shortages. The Russian-installed government there did not immediately respond to a request for details of the situation. Dydenko said the water crisis in Mykolaiv was the worst. "Others have problems of a local nature and are able to solve them," Dydenko told Reuters. "We are the only ones with such a colossal disaster." After nearly a month without water, city officials were forced to start pumping salty, yellowish water from the South Buh River estuary to clear drains and let residents flush toilets and wash up. It emits a pungent industrial odor, foams toilets and makes soap hard to lather and rinse. Worst of all, it corrodes holes in city pipes.

"It's a catastrophe"

Eventually, Dydenko said, the entire system will have to be replaced at a huge cost Mykolaiv can't afford, with factories shut down and revenue from a shrinking population also down. "It's a catastrophe," he said, accusing the Russians of refusing ceasefire requests so that fresh water intakes could be inspected and any repairs made. Bottles of water are available in shops, but many residents, impoverished by the war, depend on donations of bottled water from abroad, even as pools of water leak into the streets from the damaged network. "This is the fifth leak in three days," said Vitalii Tymoshchuk, 45, a repair crew foreman, who stands next to a hole dug for his muddy men to repair the pipe in a suburb of Mykolaiv. Dydenko said he has no choice but to keep his crews repairing leaks as long as possible because the salt water is untreated. "Our task today is to keep all of this going and hold it through the winter," he said. "It's not going to be easy and there will be more problems."

Source : <https://gcaptain.com/how-water-has-been-weaponised-in-ukraine/>