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PRESS RELEASE

PRESS AND COMMUNICATION SECTION

French Navy Destroyer FNS Montcalm makes a port call in Goa 13-17 April 2013

The French Destroyer FNS Montcalm is making a port call in Goa from 13 to 17 April 2013. Among the highlights of her mission are training activities planned with the Indian Navy after the port visit.

Third among seven F-70 type Destroyer, FNS Montcalm was commissioned in 1982. Mainly designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), she is capable of performing on all tasks dedicated to escort ships, from crisis prevention to aircraft carrier or amphibious battle group protection. Her detection and action capabilities are enhanced by her shipborne Lynx helicopter, fitted with its redoubtable ASW sonar.

Based in Toulon, FNS Montcalm is part of the French Naval Action Force. Capable of being deployed anywhere in the world, she operates mainly in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Indian Ocean. **Since 2001, she has notably taken part in operation Herakles, the French contribution to coalition operations in Afghanistan.** In later years, the Destroyer Montcalm has ensured **protection and surveillance of sea traffic in the Indian Ocean.**

More recently, in 2011, Montcalm was involved twice in operation Harmattan, as part of the maritime component of French operations for the protection of civilians in Libya.

Considering the demands of operations in the current international context and the permanent presence of the French Navy in the Indian Ocean, FNS Montcalm has been deployed since March 2013 under Task Force 150, which will be headed by a French Flag Officer in the next four months. **Integrated within Operation Enduring Freedom, which aims at fighting terrorism, FS Montcalm directly contributes to coalition forces in the region.**

Calling at Goa after visits at Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, the French Destroyer Montcalm will contribute to strengthening the ever-higher degree of co-operation between French and Indian navies since the two countries signed their strategic partnership in 1998.

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