



Army operational commitments 2019

Letter TO THE CONTACT N° 42

Le Général d'armée Jean-Pierre Bosser

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Valeurs de l'Armée de Terre

In these first months of the year 2019, the letter Au Contact rightly returns to the operational commitments of the French Army, everywhere in the world and on national territory. All these commitments are intense and difficult. None of them is without risk. Thus, beyond the figures, maps and comments that allow us to better understand them, this letter invites us to ask ourselves what these operational commitments require.

First they assume the existence of soldiers to lead them. This may seem obvious. However, while so many armies are struggling to recruit in Europe, it is worth pointing out, in order to rejoice, that so many young people, French or foreign, are choosing to serve in the armed forces, to defend their country and the higher interests of the nation. Each one has his own motivations. But all of them, going beyond their selfish interests, take their share in the protection of France and the French. In return, it is right that they should be assured of compensation for the constraints and demands of their choice of life.

These operational commitments then presuppose the maintenance and consolidation of the capacities that make it possible to carry them out. Here again, there is nothing obvious. Successfully conducting combat actions against determined adversaries who are constantly adapting is not improvised, and it is not by chance that decides the fate of battles. Today, as in the past, preparation for combat is a major factor in the success of the action. To dominate our opponents, we still need well-equipped, well-trained and well-controlled troops.

Finally, the transition from training to action will always require extra soul. And the use of increasingly sophisticated and effective weapons has not removed the necessary cohesion of the muscles, minds and hearts of those who serve them. In order to continue to cultivate the link between the high technology of our equipment, our hardening, i.e. our ability to fight in the most demanding conditions and sometimes in "degraded mode", and the legacy of our military traditions, I wanted to highlight the warrior spirit in 2019. It is the foundation of our successes today and the haven of our future victories.

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