

MISTRAL (L9013)

Force projection and command ships (LHD/BPC)



Remarks

The *Mistral* and *Tonnerre* are innovatively designed. Their exceptional versatility means they can undertake many different types of mission, including amphibious operations, crisis management missions, air support operations, operational command, operational transport, medical support and freight transportation.

With this technical capability, *Mistral* and *Tonnerre* will play a vital role in conducting operations and large-scale evacuations of foreign nationals or providing assistance to indigenous populations.

Amphibious installations

The BPC ships can each carry up to four Mechanised Landing Craft (LCM) capable of deploying armoured and other infantry vehicles with the troops already on board.

The troops board the vehicles on two vehicle decks covering an area of 2650 m² and served by an internal ramp. Vehicle access is provided by two door ramps, one on the side and the other on the apron.

The apron is nearly 60 m long and is closed by a pivoting rear door. In addition to the four LCVPs, the apron also enables the use of Air Cushion Landing craft (LCAC) for improved interoperability with allied navies.

Aircraft installations

A flight deck with an area of 5200 m², incorporating six helicopter landing pads, one of which is suitable for the Super Stallion, allows the deployment of all types of helicopters from the BPC ships.

These are stored in a 1800 m² hangar. Access to the flight deck is provided by two MacGregor platform lifts, one 225 m² and one 120 m² and with a unit capacity of 13 t. Finally, the air installations include a Decca Bridgemaster DRBN-38A approach radar, a Glide Slope Indicator (GSI) and a Horizon Reference System (HRS).

The ships have a capacity of up to 16 helicopters. A normal complement would consist of eight NH90s and eight TIGREs.

Preparation and conduct of operations

Each BPC ship is capable of accepting an operational level command post on board. This type of command post is a smaller form of a theatre command post, capable of directing combined, national or inter-allied operations from out at sea. A room with an approximate area of 850 m² accommodates an operational level command post comprising 150 workstations.

Medical services

The BPC ships also carry a complete modern hospital that can be expanded by the deployment of Army Medical Service Technical Equipment Modules in the helicopter hangar. With a total deck area of 750 m², the hospital consists of around twenty rooms including two operating theatres, a radiology room and 69 beds, 19 of which are high dependency beds.

The capacity of the hospital can be increased by an additional 50 beds. The helicopter hangar can also be converted into a field hospital to expand the medical capability of the vessel.

Technical characteristics :

General data :

- Length : 199 m
- Beam : 32 m
- Displacement : 21,600 tonnes fully loaded
- Draught : 6,20 m
- Speed : 18,8 knots
- Range : 11,000 nautical miles at 15 knots
- Flight deck area : 5,200 m²
- Number of helicopter landing pads : 6
- Propulsion : electric by means of PODs
- Crew : 160

Deployment capacity (depending on mission type)

- Helicopters : 12 NH90 or 16 TIGREs
- Vehicles : 60 armoured vehicles or a squadron of 13 Leclerc class tanks
- Troops : 450 to 700
- Evacuation : 700
- Hospital : 69 beds (expandable), 2 operating theatres, one radiology room.
- Command post : Staff of 200 in 850 m².

Sources : ©Marine nationale