
PORT OF CALL OF THE FRENCH NAVY POLAR PATROL VESSEL L'ASTROLABE IN CAPE TOWN

19TH TO 24TH OF JUNE 2018



Press Elements

Location of the frigate: Quai Jetty 2 at the V&A Waterfront



Press elements

The French Polar Patrol Vessel “L’Astrolabe” is an ice-breaker made to lead missions in Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic zone.

Based in La Réunion Island, the vessel was built within an unusual partnership between the TAAF (the French southern and Antarctic territories), the IPEV (French Polar Institute Paul Emile Victor), the French ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, and the French Navy.

This partnership relies on the creation of a public interest group (GIP) involving the TAAF (vessel owner) and the French Navy (vessel operator) under agreements with the IPEV (in charge of Antarctic logistic operations) for logistics and support to scientific bases in the Antarctic Ocean during the austral summer (120 days per year) and for French Navy sovereignty missions (245 days a year).

The logistic and patrol vessel is designed to sail continuously in ice up to 70 cm thickness and will be capable of accommodating up to 60 persons on board and carrying freight up to 1,200 tons.

L’Astrolabe has a helipad to operate a civilian helicopter from IPEV for logistic missions or temporary for stops of military helicopters as *Panther* or *Dauphin*.

This warship is crewed with two crews of some twenty sailors on two-three-month rotation for a total of nine months shipping a year.

This first routine port call of L’Astrolabe in Cape Town is a great occasion to underline the strong links in the maritime security domain between South Africa and France, a regional stakeholder in the

Indian Ocean thanks to its departments in Mayotte and La Reunion Islands. It will be the occasion to initiate bonds between the South-African and French polar scientists community as well.

The port call of the Patrol Vessel is an example of strong cooperation between France and South Africa in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, and our naval forces are trained to work together to protect marine areas damaged by traffickers, polluters and illegal operators of marine resources.

- **Agreement of cooperation between the French Southern and Antarctic territories (TAAF) and the South African territories of Prince Edward Islands**

An intergovernmental agreement between France and South Africa was signed during President Zuma's State visit in Paris in July 2016, regarding the cooperation for the surveillance of the South African (Marion and Prince Edward's Islands) and French (Crozet and Kerguelen archipelago) territories in the Southern Indian Ocean. This agreement allows monitoring and intervening in each other country's sovereign waters around these distant islands particularly to face the problem of illegal fishing. The agreement is still to be implemented. France also wishes to cooperate in the surveillance of the Mozambique Channel, where all kinds of trafficking - and particularly drug trafficking- are taking place, fueling organized crime and terrorist groups, and where piracy needs to be prevented. This requi

Biography of François Trystram
Commanding officer of the French Navy Icebreaker L'Astrolabe

COMMANDER **François Trystram**

43 years old, married to Sophie and father of 4 children

Commander since the 1st of August 2016

Knight of the National Order of Merit

2000 promotion of the French Naval Academy



Commander François Trystram graduated from the Naval Academy in 2000 and was a cadet during the 1999-2000 training campaign of the helicopter carrier “Jeanne d’Arc”. He then became deck officer specialized in gunneries and missiles.

He began his operational career onboard the patrol boat “La Fouguese” based in the French Caribbean islands.

He was then appointed on several surface warships serving as gunnery officer. He took part in numerous operations on all five oceans: fishery patrols in French Guyana, operations against drug trafficking in the Mediterranean, the evacuation of nationals (from Beirut during the conflict between Israel and Lebanon in 2006).

In 2003, he acquired the military diver certificate.

He moved to Reunion Island onboard the amphibious ship “La Grandière” as executive officer. He performed supply missions on the “Eparses” islands to the benefit of the permanent detachment stationed on these territories.

In 2009, he joined the French Navy headquarters in Paris as a member of the bilateral cooperation unit. During this period of time he was in charge of the naval cooperation with African and Latin American navies. He worked most particularly on the export of submarines to Brazil and a multi- mission frigate to Morocco.

In August 2011, he took command of the hydrographic vessel “Laperouse” based in Brest. He drove hydrographic surveys in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel to the benefit of the French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department.

In summer 2012, he was appointed onboard the anti-submarine destroyer “Latouche-Tréville”, and was deployed off western Africa coasts (mission “Corymbe 120”) and took part in the release of the French crew of tanker “Adour”, captured by pirates in the Gulf of Guinea.

He attended the War College in Paris in 2014/2015 and was then assigned to the Defense Headquarters in Paris as Russia-CEI analyst focusing on the political and military dimension of international relations. He worked on many issues such as the militarization of the Arctic or the Ukrainian and Syrian crisis.

On the 19th of June 2017, he took command of the new built French icebreaker called “L’Astrolabe”.