



The French Air Force has played a central role in securing the 3rd dimension over French homeland for seven decades.

Over the years, it has built capabilities and gathered experience in managing two major responsibilities: Air Defense and Air Security.



The continuum of these missions aims at:

- Ensuring protection of citizens and the homeland;
- Enforcing Air Sovereignty with regard to flight rules;
- Preserving the autonomous access to space and national space assets.

As of now, the French Air Force employs a comprehensive set of sensors to detect and ID airborne vehicles and space objects.

This includes 2D and 3D radars, surface to air frigate radars, AWACS and lower orbit satellites tracking radars. (Technology turns to electro optical to survey and track space objects around the geostationary belt)

In addition, it can engage a wide range of interceptors

- be it Aircrafts: manned (such as fighter jets, helos, light aircrafts) or unmanned (like MALE UAVs);
- or Land based: ground based Air Defense (GBADs)

There are evolutions forecast from the institutional perspective to manage new space opportunities and threats, based upon the consideration space is not only congested, contested and competitive, but is progressively becoming an operational field of confrontation.

The French Air Force foresees challenges due to the variety of activities that could develop in the Higher Airspace compared to a fairly uniform Air Traffic.

Space Traffic Management (including the military part of it) and interfacing between currently active layers and Higher Airspace will be critically important to enable a satisfactory situation awareness, keeping in mind that this cannot be tackled by a single country but will need interactions at a broader geographical scope.

With this in mind and building on its operational experience, the French Air Force is ready to tackle these issues in order to manage Higher Airspace operations in its responsibilities.

Thus offering present capabilities and taking into account future needs.

CROSS BORDER AGREEMENTS

NATINAMDS : ↔

- North : CAOC UEDEM
- South : CAOC TORREJON

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS: ↔

- UK
- BENELUX
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Italy
- Spain

Need of pan-European approach to securing Airspace:

Protection of citizens and homeland from airborne threats is by essence a mission that must not be handcuffed with borders.

Indeed, a threat originating from a neighboring country becomes, in a matter of minutes, a threat to national interest.

Thus, recognizing member states sovereignty, bilateral agreements have been achieved to enable limited pursuit from and to neighboring countries.

This principle could easily be widened to Higher Airspace operations Security.