

France deploys aircraft carrier to support Syria raids

France is deploying the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier to boost its operations against so-called Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq. The presence of the nuclear-powered vessel, the flagship of the French Navy, will add to the twelve Rafale jets based in the United Arab Emirates and Jordan

Aircraft: Up to 40, including **Rafale-M** and **Super Etendard** strike fighters, **E-2C Hawkeye** early warning aircraft and **AS565 Panther** helicopters

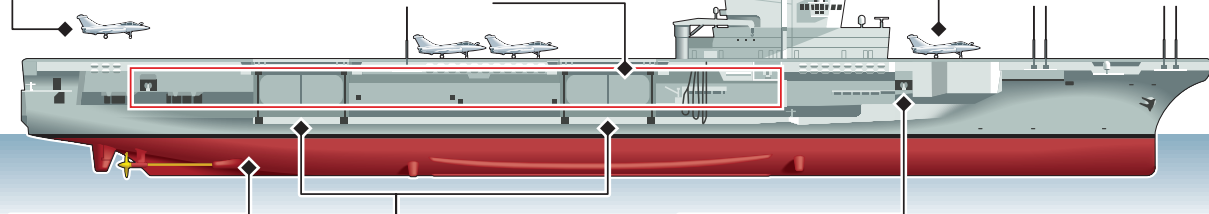
Landing: Aircraft recovered by arrestor cables. Flight deck can handle massed landing of 20 aircraft in 12 minutes

Island: Contains detection, communications and radar equipment

Hangar deck
Accommodates up to 25 aircraft

Takeoff: Carrier equipped with two steam catapults, each capable of launching one aircraft per minute

Runway length
195m



Propulsion: Two nuclear reactors provide steam for twin turbines with total shaft power of 61MW

Aircraft lifts
Move planes between hangar and flight deck

Armament: Four **Aster 15** surface-to-air missile launchers, two **Mistral** short-range missile launchers, eight 20mm cannons, four decoy launchers

Launched	May 1994, commissioned in 2001
Displacement	42,000 tonnes (fully loaded)
Maximum speed	27 knots (50km/h)
Range	Unlimited, normal mission 45 days
Crew	Ship's company 1,250, air group personnel 700

