GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

D'Estienne d'Orves class
Length: 80,52 m
Beam: 10,32 m
Draft: 5,5 m
Displacement: 1200t
Speed: 22 kts
Propulsive power: 2 SEMT Pielstick diesel 12PC2V400 engines 12,000 shp (8.9 MW)

OVERVIEW

Designed for offshore high-intensity missions, it now plays the role of "High Seas Patroller" (PHM), through the following missions: monitoring of maritime approaches (Permanent Posture of Maritime Safeguarding), Public service (rescue, sea police), escorting vessels in crisis zones (piracy, maritime terrorism).

Operational deployments: mainly deployed off the French coasts, she can ensure farther deployments, during 3 to 4 months (Indian Ocean regularly, Gulf of Guinea in 2014. Commandant Birot is twinned with the city of Pessac.

The coat of arms of the ship reveals her silhouette. The galleon, in the foreground, was the emblem of the corvette "Mimosa", commanded by the captain Roger Birot during the World War 2. The cross of Lorraine also evokes the “Forces navales françaises libres”, of which Roger Birot was one of the first commanders.

"Commander Birot" illustrated herself in September 2013 by intercepting the Tanzanian cargo ship "Luna-S", suspected of drug trafficking, off the coast of Algeria. This operation, which resulted in a record seizure of nearly 22 tons of cannabis, was marked by the battle waged by the crew of "Commander Birot" for almost four days against a fire and a waterway caused by The traffickers to sink the ship and destroy the evidence of trafficking.