

INDIA-FRANCE HIGH COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE COOPERATION

The High Committee on Defence Cooperation was established in 1998 as a result of an initiative by President Chirac during his visit to India in January 1998 to revive and revitalise the defence and strategic relationship with India.

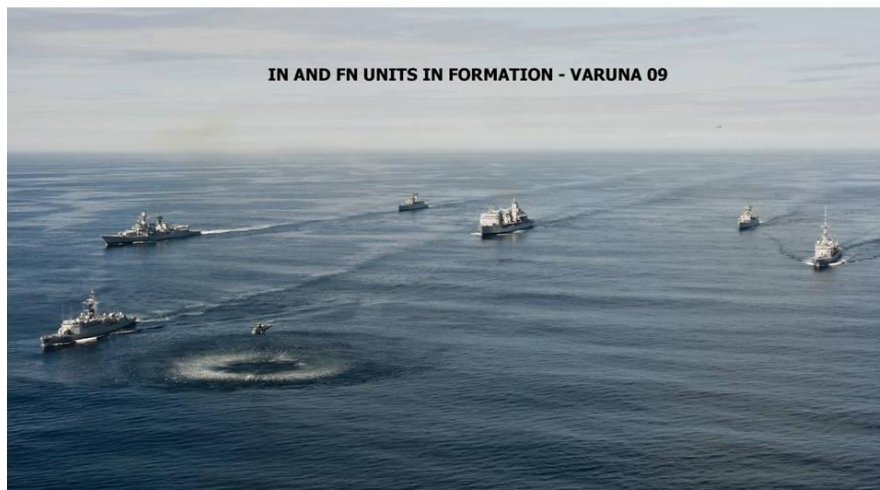


MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY LEADING THE INDIAN ARMED
FORCES CONTINGENT AT THE PARADE ON THE
CHAMPS ELYSEES IN PARIS ON 14 JULY 2009

The Committee meets every year reflecting the great importance of defence cooperation between the two countries. The High Defence Committee is co-chaired by Defence Secretary on the Indian side and a representative of the French Minister for Defence from the French side. The committee undertakes an assessment of the activities taking place in various bilateral defence programmes, establishes a cooperation plan for the following year and reviews the actions of specialised sub-groups. The meeting takes place every year alternately in France and in India. The 13th meeting of High Committee on Defence is scheduled to be held in Paris on 18 and 19 Nov 2010.

There are five sub-groups which meet along with the High Committee; namely Army, Navy and Air Force Staff talks sub-group, Sub-Committee on Military Cooperation and Sub-Committee on Defence Industry and Research and Technology.

Joint Naval and Air exercises between the French and Indian Navies and Air forces have been a very visible part of the defence relations. The VARUNA series of bilateral Naval exercises began in 2000 and nine exercises have been held so far with the last seeing the Indian Navy operating in the Atlantic near Brittany.



The GARUDA series of Air Force exercises started in 2003 and the fourth exercise was held in France this year.



France is also the venue for a number of prestigious defence exhibitions; Indian defence PSUs, DRDO and other companies have actively participated in Paris Air Show, Eurosatory and



BRAHMOS STALL AT EURONAVAL EXHIBITION

EuroNaval. BrahMos Aerospace had set up a stall in the EuroNaval-2010 showcasing the latest BrahMos missile.