

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES: OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES OF THE 27th MOUNTAIN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Lieutenant General TOUJOUSE presented a detailed analysis of the current strategic challenges facing the 27th Mountain Infantry Brigade (BIM) and, more broadly, the French Army.

- **LTG Bertrand TOUJOUSE, CFOT**

Lieutenant General TOUJOUSE first expressed his gratitude to the **command of the 27th BIM** for organizing this event, which he described as a **must-attend gathering** from its very first edition.

He emphasized that the current context is marked by **growing strategic uncertainty**, making it **more necessary than ever for nations to increase investment in defence and force preparedness**. According to him, the **role of the armed forces is precisely to respond to periods of instability and ensure stability in the face of challenges to the international order**.



Within this framework, he highlighted the **central role of the 27th BIM within the French Army**. With **7,500 personnel**, the brigade **exceeds NATO standard unit sizes** and plays a **key role in adapting to new challenges in mountain warfare**. In his view, its **expertise is essential in addressing three major challenges**:

- **Extreme cold warfare**, requiring **both physical and technological resilience**;
- **Rear-area guerrilla warfare**, necessitating **harassment tactics and increased mobility**;
- **Urban combat**, which has become a **central element in modern conflicts**.

Lieutenant General TOUJOUSE then discussed the **evolution of recent conflicts**, particularly in **Ukraine**, which illustrates the **need for forces to adapt to new forms of warfare**. He highlighted the **importance of urban combat**, citing the determined resistance of Ukrainian forces in extreme conditions. He also pointed out that rear-area harassment operations have become an indispensable mode of action, requiring a highly agile and asymmetric approach.

In this context, he stressed the need to evolve the training of mountain units to incorporate these new tactical realities. It is no longer just about mastering extreme environments but also about optimising the use of new technologies and enhancing interoperability with international partners.

General TOUJOUSE also emphasized the importance of international cooperation in these adaptation efforts. In his view, forces cannot operate in isolation but must integrate into a collective framework to effectively respond to contemporary threats.

In conclusion, he highlighted three essential pillars for the future of mountain troops:

1. **Proper adaptation to extreme cold warfare**;
2. **Integration of guerrilla warfare tactics**;
3. **The ability to operate in urban environments**.



He concluded that this **summit represents a crucial step in strategic reflection and the exchange of expertise between nations**, underlining that these interactions **enhance the ability of forces to tackle the challenges of tomorrow**.

