

250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

& 400 YEARS OF THE FRENCH NAVY

FRENCH AND AMERICANS CADETS' TRANSATLANTIC CROSSING TO CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

As a symbol of our long-lasting friendship, a crew of cadets from the French Naval Academy and the United States Naval Academy (USNA) will cross the Atlantic Ocean at the end of May 2026 on the "Intrépide". This sailboat is purposefully named after the 74-gun ship of the line, which distinguished itself in several naval battles of the American Revolutionary War.

The current "Intrépide", acquired by the French Naval Academy in 2023, is an exceptional sailboat with a sporty and demanding character that makes her capable of accomplishing this feat. Following the 8,200 nautical miles from Brest to Annapolis, the birthplace of the American Navy, the crew will then continue to New York where they will take part in the 250th anniversary of the 4th July celebrations.

This maritime challenge is much more than a sporting adventure: it symbolically contributes to the commemoration of a 250-year-old friendship and legacy while enhancing the international reputation of our respective navies.

We invite you to join us in this French-American adventure as a partner.



THE PROJECT

CELEBRATING A

250-YEAR

OLD FRIENDSHIP

SEPTEMBER 5, 1781: BATTLE OF THE CHESAPEAKE,

the first French-American naval cooperation. Although mostly known to maritime historians, this crucial naval battle was strategically decisive in the outcome of the American Revolution – and is, to this day, remembered by the French Naval Academy and units of the French Navy.

The relationship between France and the United States is deeply rooted in shared history, common values, and a strong alliance that spans military, economic, and diplomatic cooperation. France, as the U.S.'s oldest treaty ally, provided crucial support during the American Revolution. Through their enduring friendship and shared objectives, France and the United States continue, to this day, to strengthen their alliance for a peaceful, prosperous, and secure world.

Thus, in addition to strengthening ties within the French-American crew of the “*Intrépide*”, another goal of this demanding crossing is to continue exchanges ashore, reinforcing the bonds of friendship between our two nations. These exchanges will not only take place in Annapolis, site of the USNA, but also during the 4th July celebrations in New York for the 250th anniversary of Independence. They will conclude in Newport, site of the Naval War College.



THE TEAM

Cadets from the USNA and French Naval Academy and 4 skippers from the French Naval Academy (Ecole navale).

As the undergraduate college of the country's naval service, the US Naval Academy prepares young men and women to become professional officers of competence, character, and compassion in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Cadets from the USNA undergo a rigorous academic and military education, preparing them to navigate the complexities of modern naval operations. Just like their American counterparts, French naval officers are trained to handle the most sophisticated and challenging systems, contributing to both the French Navy and to global maritime security.



BUILDING BONDS IN A REGATTA TODAY TO PREPARE FOR STRONGER NAVAL COOPERATION TOMORROW

The participation of both French and American officer midships in this transatlantic regatta will be a unique opportunity for them to forge stronger bonds as future defenders of their respective nations and future cooperation at sea. This shared experience, navigating the challenges of a transatlantic voyage together, will create lasting connections and deepen mutual understanding between them. Through this joint project, the future officers will not only strengthen their professional ties but also foster the sense of camaraderie and international solidarity that will be essential in the challenges they will face in their naval careers.



A UNIQUE MARITIME JOURNEY, A SPORTING FEAT

To complete this 8200 nautical mile crossing, the crew will have to prepare themselves physically, train to maneuver the exceptional and demanding sailboat "Intrépide", and complete offshore training, World Sailing course, first-aid training, etc.



SCHEDULING

2025 – Early 2026 : PREPARATION

- Spring 2025 : refit of the Intrépide : overhaul of hull, rigging and fittings. Purchase of a new mainsail.
- Autumn 2025 : 20 days of ocean sailing. Training courses for crew members: first aid, and rescue.
- Winter 2025 : sailboat configuration for the transatlantic journey and short navigation voyages.
- Spring 2026 : Welcome French students and short navigation voyages.

MAY TO AUGUST 2026 : THE TRANSATLANTIC

20 May : Welcome the students of USNA
25 May : Depart the French Naval Academy
2 – 4 June : Stop in the Canaries
26 June : Arrive in Annapolis
1 July : Depart Annapolis towards New York for the celebration of Independence Day.
6 July : Depart New York towards Newport
9 July : Depart Newport for transatlantic return.
21-23 July : Stop in the Azores
30 July : Arrive at the French Naval Academy in Brest

BUDGET

The budget is estimated at €360,000 (380,000 US dollars) including :

- Preparation of the sailboat : upgrading, and acquisition of a new mainsail
- Equipment required for a long-distance crossing
- Specific training for the crew
- Food ; local expenses



*The Intrépide
74 gun ship of the
line, built in Brest
from 1745-47*



THE SAILBOAT, THE INTRÉPIDE

The Intrépide is a high-tech 70-foot (21.30-meter) sailboat with a sporty, seaworthy character. Designed specifically in 2010 for offshore crewed racing, it was developed by talented New Zealand America's Cup skipper Chris Dickson to win the Transpacific race. Built entirely in carbon for a light displacement of 14 tons (including 7 tons for the keel bulb) with a 32 meter mast carrying a 650 m² downwind sail area, its sail plan configuration and deck layout combine simplicity, ease of use and reliability.

SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

By supporting this project you

- *Strengthen cooperation between the US Naval Academy and the French Naval Academy by giving students the opportunity to experience a great maritime adventure.*
- *Participate in the celebration of Franco-American friendship.*
- *Contribute to the reputation of the French and American navies.*

This partnership offers:

- *Visibility during the crossing and at various stopovers and events.*
- *Participation in exclusive moments during the celebrations of these anniversaries*
- *The chance to benefit from the feedback of our cadets.*

Contact us for more informations
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