

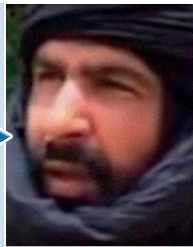
Western presence in the Sahel

France is rallying fellow European nations to join Special Operations Task Force Takuba, to be deployed in the Sahel region of Africa in 2020 to combat Al Qaeda and Islamic State-backed terrorists

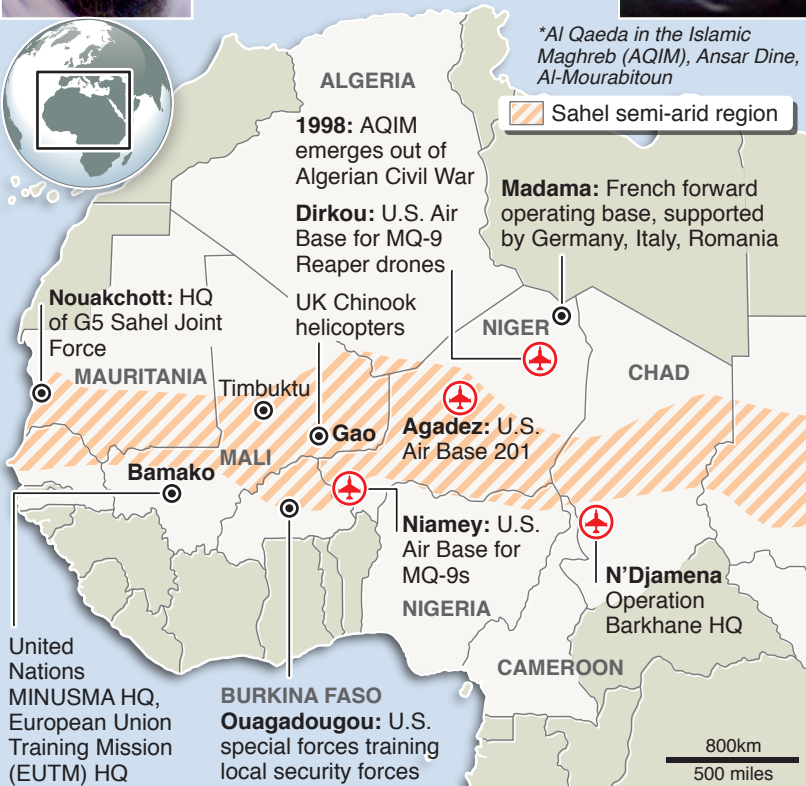


▶ **2015:** Jihadi leader **Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui** pledges allegiance to Islamic State group, creating **ISGS** (*Islamic State in the Greater Sahara*)

▶ **2017:** Al Qaeda-linked Islamist groups* merge to form **JNIM** (*Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin*), led by Tuareg jihadist **Iyad Ag Ghali**



*Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine, Al-Mourabitoun



MINUSMA
13,289
troops



G5 Sahel
5,000



France
(Barkhane)
4,500



U.S.
800
troops



EUTM
620
troops