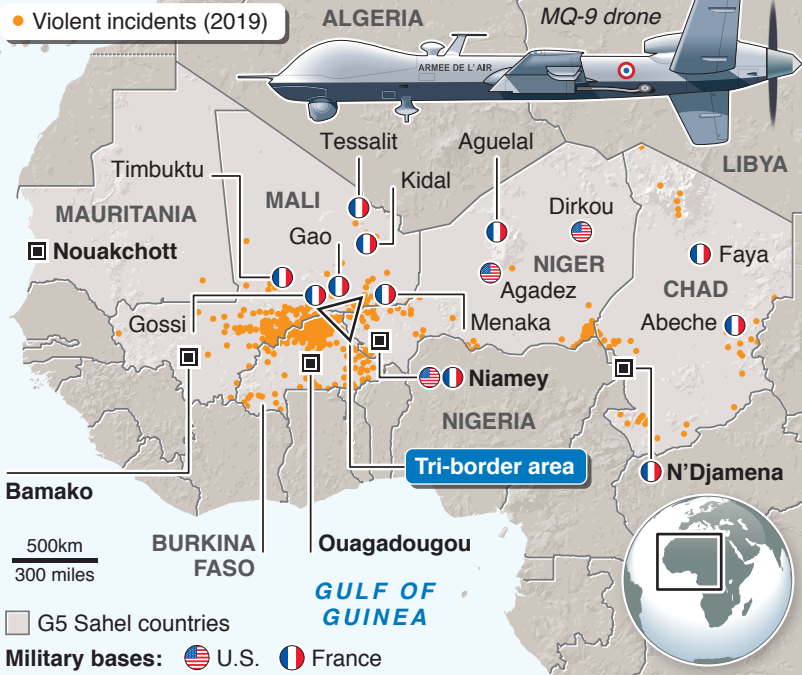


# Anti-jihadist fight in Africa's Sahel region

France is stepping up its military effort in the Sahel, pledging extra troops and calling on the United States to maintain its support, amid a surge in violence linked to Islamist militant groups



■ **Joint command:** French and Sahelian counter-terrorism forces to be placed under one umbrella, named ***Coalition for the Sahel***

■ **Military effort:** To focus on Burkina Faso-Mali-Niger tri-border area, with so-called Islamic State as priority target

■ **Reinforcements:** Additional 220 French troops to supplement 4,500 already in region. European, African and international forces invited to join coalition

■ **G5 Sahel Joint Force:** Role revised to allow estimated 5,000-strong contingent to operate outside of border zones

■ **United Nations: MINUSMA** mission in Mali – numbering over 13,000 troops – closely coordinates with French-led operation

■ **United States:** Provides logistical, intelligence and drone support to French forces, but Washington has signalled that it could pull out. U.S. has about 800 troops in Niger