

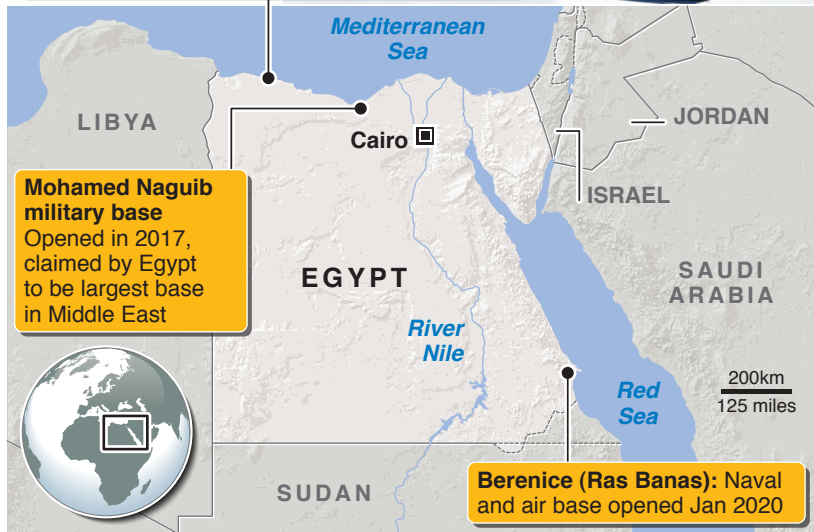
# Egypt opens strategic Mediterranean base

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has opened a large naval base on the Mediterranean Sea near the Libyan border, in the latest example of Egypt's military build-up

*Right: Egypt's president inaugurates July 3 base – name marks day in 2013 when al-Sisi, as defence minister, led military overthrow of Islamist president **Mohamed Morsi**, amid nationwide protests against his divisive rule*



**July 3 base:** Includes airstrip and 1,000m naval quay, with berths for commercial shipping



**Mohamed Naguib military base**

Opened in 2017, claimed by Egypt to be largest base in Middle East

**Berenice (Ras Banas):** Naval and air base opened Jan 2020