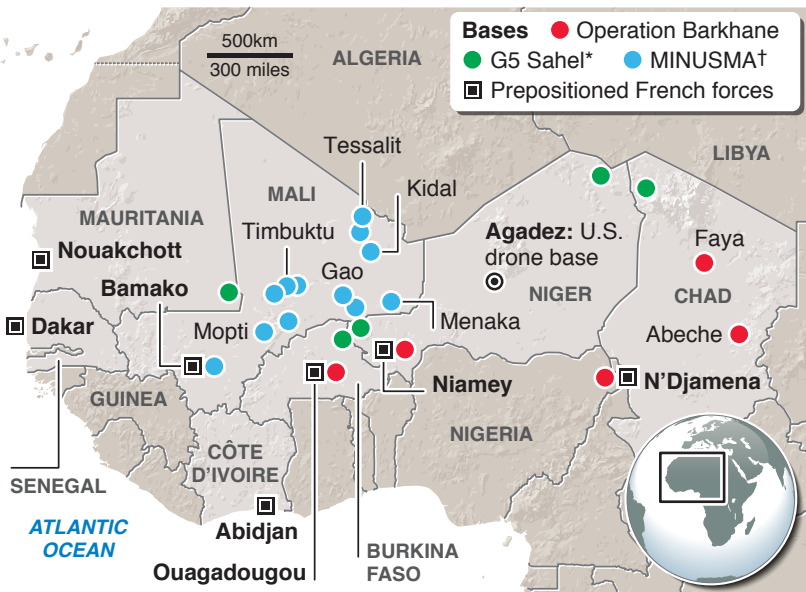


France calls time on Sahel operation

President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France is ending Operation Barkhane, its anti-jihadist mission in Africa's Sahel region



■ **Jan 2013:** France sends troops to Mali to stem jihadist insurgency

■ **2014:** Launch of **Operation Barkhane** – anti-terror mission involves 5,500 French troops at height of its deployment

■ **2020:** Coup in Mali. Military junta accuses France of interference and turns to Russian mercenary **Wagner Group** for security

■ **Feb 17, 2022:** France announces military withdrawal from Mali

■ **Aug 15:** Last French troops leave Malian base in Gao

■ **Nov 9:** President Macron officially announces end of Operation Barkhane. Some 3,000 French troops to remain in Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso



*Troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger. Mali withdrew in June 2022

†United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali

Sources: AFP, BBC, France 24, MINUSMA

Picture: Getty Images

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