PRESS PACK

Operation Barkhane

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1. THE CONTEXT

Operation Serval ended on 31 July 2014. Launched on 11 January 2013 at the request of the Malian government, this military intervention allowed to stop the jihadist offensive that threatened Bamako, to put an end to the industrial organization of terrorism that had increased in North Mali desert and to transfer the mission of stabilization to the Malian partners as well as to UN forces (MINUSMA).

The cross-border dimension of the terrorist threat, especially related to the desert nature of the Sahel, requests to act in a region as wide as Europe through a regional approach in order to treat the terrorist organization ramifications and counter cross-border movements in the Sahel-Saharan strip.

This approach will:
- Support partner nations’ armed forces in the SSS;
- Strengthen coordination between international military forces;
- Prevent the re-establishment of safe havens for terrorists in the region

With these aims in view, Operation Barkhane was launched on 1 August 2014.
2. A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE: PARTNERSHIP

France's strategy in the Sahel consists in assisting partner nations in building up their capacity to ensure their own security. This is part of an overall approach encompassing political, security and development aspects. Operation Barkhane, led by French Armed Forces, is the military component.

Launched on 1 August 2014, Operation Barkhane is based on a partnership with the major countries in the region. Its primary objective is to support the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) partner countries in taking over the fight against armed terrorist groups across the Sahel-Saharan strip (SSS).

This partnership strategy structures relations between Barkhane and the other forces engaged in the process of bringing stability to Mali and the Liptako-Gourma region: MINUSMA, EUTM Mali and SSS countries’ armed forces.

2.1. ...WITH THE G5 SAHEL AND PARTNER FORCES

G5 Sahel brings together five countries in the Sahel-Saharan strip: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Initiated in February 2014 by the heads of State of the region, G5 Sahel is an institutional framework organizing regional cooperation in development and security matters between its member countries.

Within this framework, G5 Sahel Chiefs of Defence Staff regularly meet to share their assessments on the security situation in SSS, strengthen cooperation in countering cross-border terrorist threats, and reduce the risks armed terrorist groups represent for regional stability.

Considered as a "strategic partner, who has consistently supported Sahel nations in countering terrorism", France, through the intermediary of Chief of Defence Staff General François Lecointre, has been invited regularly to take part in these meetings.

The chiefs of staff biannual meetings, in the context of the G5 Sahel defence and security committee, allow to approve joint coordination documents that cover the operations conducted, such as joint cross-border military operations.

On 2 July 2017 in Bamako, during a G5 Sahel summit carried out with Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, chiefs of State of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad officially announced the setup of a G5 Sahel joint force.

This force, composed of around 5,000 men, aims at coordinating, on the borders, the fight against terrorists led by the armed forces of the G5 countries.

>>> Find out more: www.g5sahel.org
2.2. ... WITH MINUSMA

Set up by UN Security Council Resolution 2100 on 25 April 2013, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) is a leading force in the resolution of the conflict in Northern Mali.

MINUSMA’s military component, whose headquarters are located in Bamako, consists of approximately 20 units deployed in Mali.

Around 20 French soldiers work at MINUSMA headquarters and within the sectorial headquarters in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu.

Resolution 2480 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 28 June 2019 renewed MINUSMA’s mandate for the fifth time, extending it to 30 June 2020. MINUSMA staff is made of around 15,000 soldiers and police officers.

The priorities set out in the resolution consist in:

- Supporting Malian government in implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali signed on 20 June 2015 with several armed groups in Northern Mali;
- Restoring and gradually extending State authority, particularly in Northern and Central Mali;
- Protecting civilians threatened with physical violence and ensure stability in the major agglomerations and areas where civilians are at risk.

The Resolution recalls that French forces are authorized to intervene in support to MINUSMA units under imminent and serious threat in Mali and more generally in the Sahel region.

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Mr François Delattre, declared on 28 June 2019: “Resolution 2480 (2019) also draws conclusions from the deteriorating situation in the centre of Mali. It calls upon the Malian authorities to immediately develop a comprehensive strategy to bring an end to the violence and ensure the return of the State. It encourages MINUSMA to strengthen its work in the region, which is now elevated to the level of a second strategic priority. Without questioning the primacy of support for the implementation of the peace agreement in the north, the resolution requests the Mission to ensure that sufficient resources are devoted to its mandate in the centre, building upon the efforts that have already been made in recent months, notably through the development of an emergency plan for the Mopti region and the creation of a dedicated sector. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment in six months’ time of the Mission’s capacity to implement all of the tasks that are assigned to it by the resolution in its current configuration and to potentially make recommendations in that respect.”
2.3. ... WITH EUTM MALI

The European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) was launched on 18 February 2013, following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2085. It is part of the European Union’s overall approach to strengthen security in Mali and Sahel. It is staffed with around 600 soldiers from around 20 EU Member States. A dozen French soldiers contribute to the mission.

EUTM’s role is to provide support for training and reorganizing Malian Armed Forces in order to improve their military capabilities and thereby restore and ensure Mali’s territorial integrity, under the control of the civilian authorities.

Since the beginning of its mission, EUTM Mali has trained and equipped eight Malian battalions. Five of these battalions have already undergone a re-training programme. In June 2019, almost 14,000 soldiers - nearly two-thirds of the Malian Armed Forces – had been trained by EUTM Mali.

The mission zone of engagement extends to the Niger Belt and also includes Gao and Timbuktu. The training of these units can be done on a decentralized basis, through the Combined mobile advisory and training team (CMATT).

On 14 May 2018, the EU Council decided a 2-year extension for the EUTM mandate and modified it in order to extend its support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force by giving it advices and a training support.

>>> Find out more: www.eutmmali.eu
3. THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTED

France’s Sahelian strategy aims at allowing the partner nations to build up the capacity of ensuring their own security. It relies on a global approach (political, security and development), of which the military dimension is carried by operation Barkhane, conducted by the French armed forces. In the current context, Barkhane effort consists in a direct fight against the terrorist threat, in providing support to partner forces, in assisting international forces and in the actions in favor of the population so as to allow a gradual return to normality in the zones where State authority was being questioned.

In Sahel, Barkhane develops a zonal strategy of crisis resolution. It relies on her partners’ capacity in the Sahel-Saharan Strip to concentrate its effort in the Liptako-Gourma region, while staying able to intervene in the whole Sahel-Saharan Strip when required.

Poverty, lack of education, inequalities and the worsening of the security environment are factors that encourage the apparition and the anchoring of terrorism. Barkhane tries to thwart this vicious circle every day, with its partners.

On January 13th, during the Pau Summit, the President of the Republic responded to the need to enhance the Barkhane mission effort in this region of Liptako Gourma, in the framework of the regional approach.

On this occasion, the Heads of State together reaffirmed their determination to fight against the terrorist groups operating in the Sahel.

They agreed to begin discussions to set up a new political, strategic and operational framework in the fight against the terrorist groups, which will take the shape and name of the “Coalition for the Sahel”, which will be organized around four main axes : the fight against terrorism, the strengthening of military capabilities of the States in the region, support to the return of the State and administrations in the territory, and lastly, development aid.

The Barkhane mission will play its full part, especially concerning the first axis, the fight against armed terrorist groups.

This coalition will be the catalyst for enhanced coordination designed to accelerate the decision-making process, notably to provide faster support to our partners, and to favour intelligence-sharing.

220 military personnel will be deployed as reinforcements.

This will reinforce the fight against armed terrorist groups that afflict the region, in particular the ISGS (Islamic State in the Greater Sahara), within the framework of a real combat partnership between local forces.

It will also be designed to enable the Barkhane mission to respond even more efficiently to requests for assistance from the GS Sahel forces.

In time, the framework and the missions of this reinforcement may evolve, enabling the Barkhane mission, which is being constantly adapted to task, to integrate and promote the deployment of our partners, notably within the framework of the Coalition, side by side with Task Force Takuba.
3.1. MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON ARMED TERRORIST GROUPS

To further the stabilization of these areas, Barkhane keeps pursuing armed terrorist groups, preventing them from re-establishing safe havens, stemming their logistics flows, and helping partner forces to tackle security challenges.

Operations aim to restrict terrorists' freedom of movement and deprive them of their combat capabilities, for example by dismantling their stores of weapons, ammunition, explosives and communication equipment. Barkhane conducts operations in transit zones to stem armed terrorist groups' logistics flows and prevent them from receiving supplies.
3.2. SUPPORTING PARTNER NATIONS’ ARMED FORCES...

Barkhane has built up a real Operational Military Partnership (OMP) in the region, with the ultimate goal of enabling partner nations’ armed forces to conduct fully autonomous counter-terrorism actions. The aim is to support G5 Sahel nations’ political and military will to achieve collective and coordinated security in SSS. Training and operations carried out alongside local armed forces are part of the initiative to build G5 Sahel’s future armed forces.

The Operational Military Partnership with G5 armed forces primarily focuses on operational training programmes. It arises mostly in the systematic integration of partner forces in the operations conducted by all of the Barkhane force units. It takes shapes either in bipartite or multipartite operations, or in joint cross-border military operations.
This partnership has been foreseen in the long-term to allow African armed forces to ramp up to full operational capacity. Their ability to do so and the level of coordination achieved with Barkhane have already begun to show significant results in the fight against armed terrorist groups. Recent operations jointly carried out by Barkhane and African partners are very encouraging, so much so that with the consolidation of G5 Sahel and the progress made by partner forces, operations are gradually becoming more a matter of complementarity of actions and means: operations conducted by local and international armed forces are backed by Barkhane’s power, mobility, reactivity and range.

**Training partner nations' armed forces**

Training sessions provided either by Barkhane or by the French Armed Forces pre-positioned in Gabon and Senegal help trainees progress in shooting, counter-IED measures and rescue in combat situations. These sessions also aim at helping officers and non-commissioned officers improve their order elaboration processes, as well as mission preparation and effective conduct.

A particular effort has been made since early 2019. Over 600 actions of training or combat support have been conducted (Chad: 112, Mali: 339, Niger: 126, Burkina Faso: 7, Mauritania: 6) in Barkhane operation area: operational or technical instruction detachments, mission/operation preparation, patrols and joint operations shooting practice, awareness of international humanitarian law...

Upstream the operations, sessions of final operational readiness are conducted in the Centre of preparation to operational engagement, in order to reinforce the military company know-hows. They aim at ensuring the national battalions’ ability to get involved with Barkhane and benefit the same supports. The Security and defence cooperation directorate supports these centers by designing a referent liaison officer per CPEO and by attributing budgets dedicated to instruction.

In 2019, four sessions of preparation to operational engagement, called DIDASKO, were carried out in Oualam, Niger, in La Loumia, Chad for the benefit of a battalion from the G5 Sahel Joint Force, in Dori, Burkina Faso and lately in Markala, Mali.

Following these sessions, the Operational Military Partnership takes shape in bilateral and multilateral operations as well as joint cross-border military operations, in integrated devices as for operations conducted in Liptako or more recently in the Gourma. This support to combat validates the upstream training work as well as our partners’ autonomous capacities.

Since early 2019, over 4,000 soldiers have followed a training session, and over 1,500 have followed an action of preparation and combat support.
The handover of military equipment follows the same logic since it contributes to reinforce the Joint Force operational capacities. An important quantity of equipment was issued to armed forces units from the 5 Sahelian countries, especially those who arm the Joint Force. There are vehicles and equipment such as transmission stations ensuring the interoperability of contingents from each country part of the Joint Force.

One company from each G5 Sahel country called to arm the Joint Force central part in the « Three Borders » region (Burkina Faso, Mali et Niger) has been equipped with 13 pickups with their armament, 4 heavy vehicles and transmission equipment.

Since 2014, Barkhane allowed over 13,000 soldiers from G5 Sahel countries to follow a training action in specific areas (shooting instruction, fire coordination, support coordination, combat rescue, counter IED, ...).

More broadly, France advises, equips, trains and supports the G5 countries’ armed forces including the G5 Sahel Joint Force.
3.3. ACT FOR POPULATIONS

Barkhane takes action for the benefit of local populations.

During every operation, especially when carried out with partner forces, free medical care is provided to the local people.

They represent real occasions of dialogue and facilitate the acceptance of the force by the population. They contribute directly to the efficiency of the military operations that aim at contributing to the restoration of security.

Barkhane conducts and supports a variety of projects that have a direct impact on local communities by enabling access to water, energy, healthcare and education.

In 2019, more than 75 civil-military projects were carried out for the benefit of the population, among which 35 projects dedicated to the population in Liptako, mainly around the towns of In Delimane, Ansongo and Menaka. Among these 35 projects:

- 6 projects of water supply;
- 13 projects of agro-pastoralism;
- 16 projects dedicated to education & information access

These CIMIC actions are part of a global dynamic that aims at strengthening durably the gains of territory securing. They are complementary with solutions carried out by French and regional actors of development Barkhane often has conversations with and acts in close cooperation. The mission of stabilization of the crisis and support center of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry deployed an expert in Menaka for Barkhane in March 2019. Barkhane will support this stabilization mission for two major projects: rehabilitating an electric central and settlement of its maintenance on the one hand, strengthening the police station on the other hand, with the purchase of vehicles, motorcycles, the improvement of the infrastructures, etc...

Besides, Barkhane keeps performing an average of 100 consultations and over 400 cares every day for the benefit of the Malian, Chadian and Nigerian populations.
4. THE MODUS OPERANDI

4.1. RE-ARTICULATION AND PERMANENT ADAPTATION

In order to preserve the efficiency of the fight against terrorist threat that remains important locally, Barkhane action along with the partner forces is part of a logic of permanent adaptation.

Whilst being present in Northern Mali, Barkhane relies today on the partners’ progresses to mark an effort in the Liptako-Gourma region as well as in the extended Niger Bend.

In this permanent will of adaptation, Barkhane develops the forces mobility, flexibility and reactivity in order to carry out in-depth actions, far from the usual zones of action so to surprise the enemy everywhere in the SSS.
4.2. **FOCUS ON THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA ZONE**

Barkhane focuses its effort on the Liptako-Gourma zone by leading operations along with the Malian armed forces (FAMa).

These operations can include:

- Punctual actions following a logic of networks dismantling;
- Operations of reconnaissance, conducted jointly with the FAMa, and aiming at extending progressively the Malian forces’ zone of action;
- Actions of reconnaissance and search in places of interest.

The units that are deployed there ensure in parallel civil-military actions for the benefit of the population.

By maintaining a joint long-term presence, these operations aim at keeping the initiative in front of the armed terrorist groups in the region.

On 13 January 2020, at the Pau summit, the French president confirmed the increase of the effort in the Liptako Gourma region with 220 additional soldiers.

This effort could further evolve to allow Barkhane to welcome its partners within the TF Takuba.

4.3. **UPDATE IN THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA ZONE**

The effort in the Liptako begun in Mali in November 2017. If there is still a lot to be done, the action of Barkhane and its partners allowed the return and progression of the bodies dedicated to security, a rising tendency in 2019, especially in the Menaka region.

The Malian armed forces (FAMa), that were not present in this region early in 2017, have three locations in the Liptako now on, settled with Barkhane support: In Deliman, Menaka and Anderamboukane.

These locations facilitated the FAMa participation in several operations along Barkhane in the region, and work in Menaka with local security forces, especially by the Command, Coordination and Security Post, created early in 2019, that is a coordination and steering body that enables the coordination of securing actions for the town following 3 lines: intelligence, training and operation.

The effort is not limited to security only, since Barkhane contributes to restore and consolidate the security conditions and make room for for the action of the development and governance actors.

The decrease of the terrorist threat allowed the return of administration in the Liptako region, with for example, the arrival of a governor. It also allowed to improve living conditions for people, encouraging access to basic services through civil-military actions (CIMIC): rebuilding schools, repairing wells, irrigation projects, market gardening. In the Liptako, beside the medical aid to the population, the effort focuses mainly on market gardening, access to water and to energy, and mostly to supply of electricity for Menaka. Seven significant projects have been conducted since early in 2019 in the Liptako, in addition to 19 important actions in 2018.
The security gains also create the conditions for economic recovery. The main objective is to encourage the freedom of circulation by securing the main logistic lines.

The results delivered in the Liptako region enabled to extend the effort to Gourma early in 2019. Barkhane creates the same dynamic in this region, whilst remaining in the Liptako region in order to keep a security level that is compatible with development, and to give to partner forces enough time to build up and take over from Barkhane. However, the initial situation is different, because the FAMa are already there, especially along the RN16.

In the Gourma, Barkhane has Gossi temporary advanced operational base, that will reach its full capacity at the end of summer 2019, and that has already been used as a starting point for several important operations. It is also a starting point for civil-military actions, that have already performed 6 projects since early 2019, in the areas of water access, support to agriculture, access to education and infrastructures.

On the ground of operations, Barkhane pursues its effort against armed terrorist groups who operate in the region, especially ISGS (Islamic State in the Greater Sahara), Ansarul Islam and Group to support Islam and Muslims (GSIM). In this area, Barkhane operates along with partner forces and gathers the fruits of the operational military partnership, that have accelerated since 2019. Around 2000 Malian soldiers were trained in 2019. In Dori, a company of Burkinabe soldiers was trained in April 2019 in the Center of Preparation to Operational Engagement, during a course called DIDASKO, before operating with Barkhane in the Gourma.

Barkhane and the partner forces have critically hurt the armed terrorist groups. The extension of Barkhane zone of action contributed to the operations efficiency.
5. THE MILITARY PRESENCE

5.1. FRANCE’S LARGEST DEPLOYMENT FOR AN OVERSEAS OPERATION

Around 4,700 military deployed as part of operation Barkhane

Since 26 July 2019, they are assigned under the command of Major General Pascal Facon, who operates since a unique theatre joint command post, based in N’Djamena, Chad.

Barkhane is organized around three permanent bases: Gao in Mali, Niamey in Niger and N’Djamena in Chad.

In order to act in the most remote areas, along with the partner armed forces, detachments are also deployed on desert-relay platforms or on temporary advanced bases.
5.2. LAND FORCES: A EUROPEAN OPENING

In Mali, French land forces – made up of two Desert Tactical Groups and around a thousand soldiers divided between the different detachments (Kidal, Tessalit) – are supported by the desert operational base in Gao.

Besides, a detachment of 50 Estonian soldiers from the Scout Battalion Estonia takes part in the defense of this platform since 21 August 2018.

In Chad, in addition to the base located in N’Djamena, the French military arrangements relies on two locations where detachments are stationed: the Captain Michel Croci camp in Abéché, in the Eastern part of the country, and the Faya-Largeau camp, in the North. In Niger, in addition to the base located in Niamey, the arrangements rely on a camp in Aguelal.

5.3. AIR–LAND FORCES

Air-land units play a major role in operations allowing Barkhane the necessary flexibility and range to prevail over the enemy. The force is equipped with 16 combat and force utility helicopters.

Three British CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift transport helicopters have been deployed in Gao since mid-July. They have been fully operational since 16 August and reinforce Barkhane operational and logistic capacity.

The Danish government announced on February 28, through a press release, his intention to contribute to the international effort against terrorism in the Sahel. The Danish authorities intend to integrate to operation Barkhane two Merlin transport helicopters and 70 soldiers by the end of 2019. Florence Parly, the Minister for the Armed Forces, welcomed this announce and thanked Denmark for his engagement.
5.4. AIR FORCES

Barkhane’s air capacities are stationed on two main operational air bases: Niamey, Niger and N’Djamena, Chad. A variety of logistical and fighting air capacities operate from these two air platforms; ideally located, they play a major role in the operation. Long distances in the Sahel are no real obstacle thanks to transport aircraft and refuelling tankers, which allow to reach anywhere in SSS.

Fighter aircrafts and drones allow to continuously maintain operational pressure on hostile armed groups and to perform strikes on them, if necessary. Today, on these two « plots », the force has 7 Mirage 2000 C or D are deployed, along with 6 to 10 strategic and tactical transport aircraft and 3 drones.  

>> DRONES

Fighter aircraft and drones conduct coordinated action in support of operations on the ground or in complete autonomy, if necessary. The drone detachment deployed in SSS is now equipped with 3 Reaper drones. Their discretion and endurance make them key assets for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, and more broadly for operational performance and results assessment.

SPOTLIGHT ON DRONES: A KEY ROLE IN RECONNAISSANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

In SSS, Barkhane has five drones equipped with optronic sensors, designation and real-time data transmission systems, making them ideal for precise reconnaissance missions, by day or by night. French drones carry out different kinds of missions for Barkhane and partner forces:

– reconnaissance: seeking, visualising and confirming information and sites of interest;
– surveillance: observing large areas of the territory in which the force is not deployed to detect any armed terrorist group activity;
– support: transmitting images in real time to units in operations to prevent surprise attacks by the terrorists.

Since Operation Barkhane began on 1st August 2014, the drone detachment based in Niamey has totalled over 15,000 flight hours.

Together with artillery and air-land units, the entire air component forms a robust and aligned chain of support, precisely coordinated for effective results and able to intervene autonomously anywhere in SSS on planned objectives or upon request by Barkhane’s partner forces. Joint Force Air Component Command for Central and West Africa coordinates and plans the deployment of all these air capacities.

Barkhane’s commitment is not fixed.

The Force Command can deploy units anywhere on the theatre of operations in light of intelligence received, thereby maintaining operational pressure on armed terrorist groups.
6. A LOGISTICS CHALLENGE

A PRECISION INSTRUMENT

At all times, Barkhane must have the capacity to conduct simultaneous operations across the theatre – this constitutes a real logistical challenge. In a region as wide as Europe, in a harsh climate that is rough on both men and equipment, Barkhane logistics relies on meticulous planning to ensure that units receive the support they need and that operations are never slowed down.

Over land supplies are transported to bases by convoys, which may reach up to 50 vehicles. Remaining as flexible as ever, Barkhane is now deploying in the field for longer periods to reach areas further away from city centres controlled by partner forces. To meet this tactical adjustment, Barkhane has decided to increase air drops to deliver supplies to their most remote camps.

Barkhane logistics support is organised as follows:

- Three permanent support bases (N’Djamena, Gao, and Niamey) including two logistics and air support platforms in Niamey and N’Djamena;
- Six temporary forward bases (Kidal, Tessalit, Aguelal, Madama, Faya, and Abéché);
- Three maritime support bases in Dakar, Abidjan and Douala;

Gossi temporary advanced base was inaugurated in June 2019 and will reach its full operational capacity by the end of the summer. In the context of the concentration of efforts in the Liptako Gourma, the Madama base in Niger was put on standby. The fact that it is not a closure enables to keep a capacity of power increase and of intervention if necessary.

At last, France European partners, including Spain, bring an important support in the field. The MARFIL Spanish mission, with a C130 deployed in Senegal since operation SERVAL was launched in January 2013, and MAMBA with a C295 deployed in Gabon since March 2014, transferred in 2019 15% of the in-theatre transports.
7. BARKHANE IN FIGURES

Operation Barkhane in figures in 2019:

- **Operation BARKHANE: 2019 outcome**
  - **Civil-Military Actions**
    - Medical actions conducted for the benefit of the population
      - 100 consultations / day
      - 400 cases / day
    - 76 civil-military actions carried out, 35 projects in the Liptako region including:
      - 6 of water conveyance
      - 10 of market gardening
      - 15 in education, energy, access to information
  - **Military Partnership with GS Sahel Nations’ Armed Forces**
    - 13,000 soldiers from GS Sahel have followed training sessions since 2014

- **Assets Deployed**
  - 4,700 soldiers
  - 3 drones
  - 7 fighter aircrafts
  - 21 helicopters
  - 6 to 10 strategic and tactical transport aircrafts
  - 260 heavy armoured vehicles
  - 360 logistics vehicles
  - 210 light armoured vehicles
8. THE IMPLICATION OF THE PRE-POSITIONED FORCES

The military operational readiness of the military forces from the G5 Sahel countries is one of the pillars of Barkhane. However, this effort is global, and the French pre-positioned forces in Western and Central Africa participate in it in addition to Barkhane actions.

The French Elements in Senegal also participated in the effort by preparing to operational engagement the units from the G5 Sahel Joint Force and battalions from countries engaged in operations within the MINUSMA.

In total in 2019, 89 operations of regional cooperation allowed over 1,800 to be trained in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

The French Elements in Gabon also participated in this effort through detachments of technical and operational instruction. 1128 Chadian soldiers were trained through 48 operations of cooperation in 2019.
9. IN MEMORIAM

- Thirty-one soldiers passed away during their deployment on Operation Barkhane since it was launched:

Warrant Officer Class Two Thomas Dupuy, Air Force Parachute Commando n.10, on 29 October 2014
Warrant Officer Class Two Samir Bajja, Petrol, Oil and Lubricants Services (SEA), on 29 November 2014
Corporal Baptiste Truffaux, 21st Marine Infantry Regiment, on 27 August 2015
Staff Sergeant Alexis Guarato, Air Force Parachute Commando n.10, on 26 November 2015
Staff Sergeant Damien Noblet, 511th Transport Regiment, on 12 April 2016
Senior Corporal Michael Chauwin, 511th Transport Regiment, on 12 April 2016
Corporal Mickaël Poo-Sing, 511th Transport Regiment, on 12 April 2016
Warrant Officer Class Two Fabien Jacq, 515th Transport Regiment, on 4 November 2016
Sergeant Julien Barbé, 6th Engineer Regiment, on 5 April 2017
Corporal Albéric Riveta, 1st Parachute Chasseur Regiment, on 18 June 2017
Warrant Officer Class Two Émilien Mougin, 1st Spahi Regiment, on 21 February 2018
Staff Sergeant Timothé Dernoncourt, 1st Spahi Regiment, on 21 February 2018
Corporal Abdelatif Rafik, 14st Infantry and Parachute Logistic support Regiment, 17 October 2018
Brigadier-chef Karim El Arabi, 2d Paratroops Hussars, 9 December 2018
Chief Petty Officer Cédric de Pierrepont - Commando Hubert 10 May 2019
Chief Petty Officer Alain Bertoncello - Commando Hubert 10 May 2019
Brigadier-chef Ronan Pointeau, 1st Spahi Regiment, on 2 November 2019
Captain Pierre Bockel, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Command Sergeant-Major Julien Carette, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Major Romain Chomel de Jarnieu, 4th chasseur Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Staff Sergeant Valentin Duval, 4th chasseur Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Major Clément Frison-Roche, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Major Benjamin Gireud, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Warrant Officer Class Two André Jouk, 2nd foreign infrastructure Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Warrant Officer Class Two Jérémy Leusie, 93rd mountain artillery Regiment, on 25 November 2019
Major Nicolas Mégard, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019

Captain Alex Morisse, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019

Warrant Officer Class Two Alexandre Protin, 4th chasseur Regiment, on 25 November 2019

Sergeant Romain Salles de Saint Paul, 5th combat helicopter Regiment, on 25 November 2019

Staff Sergeant Antoine Serre, 4th chasseur Regiment, on 25 November 2019

- Ten soldiers died in Mali during Operation Serval, between 11 January 2013 and 31 July 2014:

Major Damien Boiteux, 4th Special Forces Helicopter Regiment, on 11 January 2013

Staff Sergeant Harold Vormezeele, 2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment, on 19 February 2013

Senior Corporal Cédric Charenton, 1st Parachute Chasseur Regiment, on 4 March 2013

Sergeant Wilfried Pingaud, 68th Artillery Regiment of Africa, on 6 March 2013

Senior Corporal Alexandre Van Dooren, 1st Marine Infantry Regiment, on 18 March 2013

Sergeant Stéphane Duval, 1st Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment, on 29 April 2013

Sergeant Marc Martin-Vallet, 515th Transport Regiment, on 30 July 2013

Chief Corporal Thomas Guillebault, Air Force Parachute Commando n.20, on 26 December 2013

Staff Sergeant Marcel Kalafut, 2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment, on 8 May 2014

Command Sergeant-Major Dejvid Nikolic, 1st Foreign Engineer Regiment, on 14 July 2014
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