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Understanding Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb: responses to terrorist tactics and insurgent strategies

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**UNDERSTANDING AL QAEDA IN THE
ISLAMIC MAGHREB**

RESPONSES TO TERRORIST TACTICS
AND INSURGENT STRATEGIES

Sergei Boeke

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**Understanding Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb:
responses to terrorist tactics and insurgent strategies**

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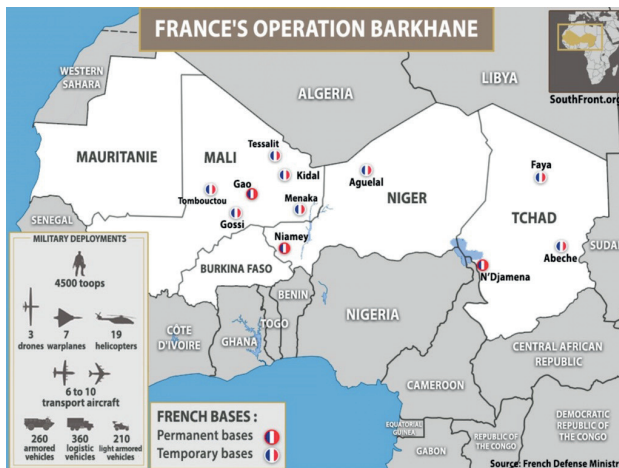
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Map of Mali



Source: United Nations Maps and Geospatial Services: (<https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/mali.pdf>)

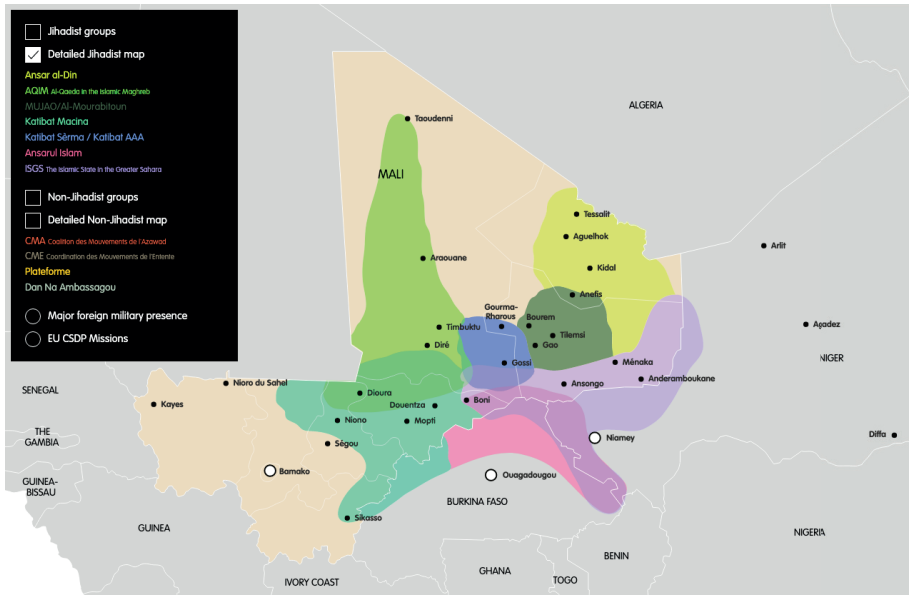
Operation Barkhane in 2019



French Operation Barkhane In Africa's Sahel Region (Map Update) South Front

Source: South Front, at: (<https://s2.cdnstatic.space/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Frances-Operation-Barkhane.jpg>)

Jihadist Groups in Mali, May 2019



The European Union - Mapping armed groups in Mali and the Sahel (ecfr.eu).

Source: European Council on Foreign Relations, at (https://ecfr.eu/special/sahel_mapping/european_union)

Glossary

Abbreviation	Explanation
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data
AFD	Agence française de développement
AFISMA	African-Led International Support Mission to Mali
AIVD	Algemene Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst (Netherlands General Intelligence and Security Service)
AQAP	Al Qaeda in the Arabic Peninsula
AQC	Al Qaeda Central
AQI	Al Qaeda in Iraq
AQIM	Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
ASIFU	All Sources Information Fusion Unit
ATT	Amadou Toumani Touré
AU	African Union
CMA	Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (Coordination of Azawad Movements)
CMFPR	Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance (Coordination of the Movements of Patriotic and Resistance Fronts)
CMFPR II	Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance II (Coordination of Patriotic Resistance Movements II)
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
COIN	Counterinsurgency
CPA	Coalition pour le peuple de l'Azawad (Coalition for the Azawad People)
CT	Counter-terrorism
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DGSE	La Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (French foreign intelligence service)
DRS	Le Département du Renseignement et de la Sécurité (Algerian intelligence service)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAMA	Forces armées maliennes (Malian armed forces)
FIS	Front islamique du salut (Islamic Salvation Front)
FPA	Front populaire de l'Azawad (Popular Front of Azawad)
FSI	Failed/Fragile States Index
GAT	Groupes armés terroristes
GATIA	Groupe d'autodéfense des touareg Imghads et alliés (Imghad and Allied Touareg Self Defence Movement)
GIA	Groupe islamique armé (Armed Islamic Group)
GSPC	Groupe salafiste pour la prédication et le combat (Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat)
GWOT	Global War on Terror
HCUA	Haut conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (Higher Council for the Unity of Azawad)
HUMINT	Human Intelligence
IBK	Ibrahim Boubacar Keita

ICCT	International Centre for Counter-Terrorism
ICG	International Crisis Group
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IS	Islamic State
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force (in Afghanistan)
ISWAP	Islamic State's West Africa Province
JMAC	Joint Mission Analysis Centre
JNIM	Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin' (Support Group for Islam and Muslims)
JPEL	Joint Prioritized Effects List
JSS	Journal of Strategic Studies
MAA	Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad (Arab Movement of Azawad)
MDP	Mouvement pour la défense de la patrie (Movement for the Defence of the Country)
MEI	Mouvement pour l'État islamique (Movement for the Islamic State)
MIA	Mouvement islamique armé (Armed Islamic Movement)
MINUSMA	Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali)
MIVD	Militaire Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst (Netherlands Military Intelligence and Security Service)
MNLA	Mouvement national de liberation de l'Azawad (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad)
MPSA	Mouvement Populaire pour le salut de l'Azawad (Popular Movement for the Salute of Azawad)
MUJAO	Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
RECAMP	Renforcement des capacités africaines de maintien de la paix
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute
SCT	Studies in Conflict and Terrorism
SIGINT	Signals Intelligence
SITE	The Search for International Terrorist Entities group (an OSINT company)
SSR	Security Sector Reform
TPV	Terrorism and Political Violence
TSCP	Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
US	United States

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