



Between the Pyramids and the Future: Bright Star 2025 Unites Armies and Strategies

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On August 28, 2025, at the **Mohamed Naguib** military base, **Bright Star 2025** officially commenced, the **19th edition** of the historic joint military exercise between **Egypt and the United States**, now extended to a total of **44 nations**. The initiative, co-hosted by the **United States Central Command (CENTCOM)** and the **Egyptian Armed Forces Training Authority**, will conclude on **September 10** and represents one of the most significant events on the military calendar in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa).

During the opening ceremony, **Major General Sherif El-Arayshi**, head of the Egyptian Armed Forces Training Authority, conveyed greetings from the **Minister of Defense**, General **Abdel-Meguid Saqr**, and the **Chief of Staff**, Lieutenant General **Ahmed Khalifa**, emphasizing the key role of the exercise in **strengthening military ties** among the participating nations. Among those present were **high-ranking military commanders, representatives of the**

international press, and numerous **armed forces leaders** from the involved countries.

Brigadier General Patrick Clare, representing the United States, praised Egypt's exceptional organization of the exercise, highlighting how the level of planning makes Bright Star 2025 an “**ideal platform for the exchange of expertise** and understanding of different military cultures.”

Among the symbolic moments of the ceremony, a **joint parachute jump by Egyptian and U.S. paratroopers over the Pyramids of Giza**, attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt **Herro Mustafa Garg**. A gesture that combined **spectacle and symbolic value**, celebrating **bilateral cooperation** in an iconic setting.

The participating countries include some of the major military and regional powers, such as **Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Greece, India, Pakistan, Jordan, United Kingdom**, and **Italy**, demonstrating the growing geopolitical relevance of the exercise and its role in promoting **multilateral cooperation, operational interoperability**, and **international stability**.

Numbers, Content, and Training Objectives

Bright Star 2025 took place not only at the **Mohamed Naguib** base but also at **various Egyptian air and naval bases**, involving about **8,000 military personnel from 14 countries**, while another **30 countries participated as observers**. Unlike previous editions, this year's exercise included **units of the Egyptian civilian police, NATO delegates**, and **representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, marking a more **interinstitutional and multilevel approach**.

The program included:

- **Field training** and **conventional and unconventional warfare maneuvers**;
- **Command exercises** and **joint operation simulations**;
- **Academic seminars** on **regional security and counterterrorism**;
- **Strategic symposia** among military leaders, with discussions on **interoperability** and **common operational standards**;
- **Specific modules for detecting and reducing explosion risks**.

The inclusion of civilian and international organizations reflected the desire to address **realistic scenarios**, where **military cooperation**, **civil crisis management**, and **international humanitarian law** are increasingly intertwined.

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Detection and reduction of explosion risks

Bright Star 2025 also allowed for testing the efficiency of **command and control systems**, **logistical responsiveness**, and the **ability to operate in joint and multinational environments**, enhancing interoperability among armed forces of different cultures and doctrines.

Bright Star as a Tool of Diplomacy and Regional Stability

Since its inception in 1980 as a bilateral exercise between the United States and Egypt, Bright Star has evolved into a **multinational platform**, now more than ever a symbol of the desire to build a **collective security architecture** in the wider Mediterranean and the Middle East.

General Clare stated: “Bright Star 2025 is based on a **lasting partnership** between Egypt and the United States, founded on decades of cooperation in defense, counterterrorism, and regional stability.” The message is clear: the participating countries **remain united in the face of global challenges**, from the terrorist threat to regional conflicts, to maritime security and defense against hybrid threats.

For Egypt, hosting this exercise is a source of prestige and recognition of its role as a **central player in North African and Middle Eastern security**. For the United States, it is an opportunity to **strengthen existing alliances** and **build new strategic understandings**, maintaining a cooperative yet solid military posture in the region.

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Opening ceremony

In an era of **complex and interconnected threats**, Bright Star 2025 presents itself as **more than just a military training**: it is an exercise in operational diplomacy, trust-building, and sharing common values among different nations. It is, in essence, a collective response to a constantly evolving world, where peace and security can only be the result of **collaboration**,

planning, and unity.

With the participation of 44 nations, joint exercises in air, sea, and land, and an unprecedented logistical structure, **Bright Star 2025** confirms itself as the largest military exercise of its kind in the Mediterranean. An event that not only strengthens operational capabilities but also promotes a **common vision for global security**, based on cooperation, respect, and strategic readiness.

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