



Golden Eagle: Egyptian Paratroopers and Turkish Special Forces in Joint Exercise

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The multinational joint military exercise **“Golden Eagle”** concluded in recent days, featuring the paratroopers of the Egyptian Army and the special forces units *Thunderbolt* (Sa’aka) alongside Turkey's special units. The maneuvers, developed through various intensive phases, focused on consolidating rapid response capabilities and interoperability between the two countries in high-risk scenarios.

The culminating phase of the training simulated a vertical assault operation in an urban residential area, aimed at neutralizing a hostile stronghold, freeing hostages, and capturing insurgent elements. The training cycle also integrated live-fire sessions, advanced techniques for clearing confined spaces, procedures for countering improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and the tactical use of remotely piloted systems (drones) and anti-drone countermeasures.

The exercise concluded with the traditional *Friendship Jump*, during which the paratroopers displayed the national flags of Egypt and Turkey, sealing the bilateral military cooperation.

Turkey's Strategic Projection: From the Mediterranean to Africa

Beyond the purely training value, the “Golden Eagle” exercise is part of a broader and more complex **strategy of geopolitical influence and power projection** that Ankara is methodically pursuing along the axis connecting the Mediterranean to sub-Saharan Africa.

In recent years, Turkey has transformed its foreign and defense policy into a model of “assertive middle power”, leveraging the so-called “**drone diplomacy**” and military cooperation as key tools to weave long-term institutional ties. Unlike traditional superpowers or former colonial powers, Ankara presents itself as an alternative partner, capable of combining NATO's advanced technological standards with diplomatic flexibility free from the rigid political conditions typical of Washington or Brussels.

Control of Routes and Network of Strategic Outposts

Turkey's strategy is based on three interconnected pillars: defense framework agreements, infrastructure investments, and maritime logistical projection.

- **The Mediterranean and North Africa:** By leveraging the Libyan coast and agreements with North African countries, Turkey has secured a leading role in the security of the Eastern Mediterranean, projecting its influence towards the strategic chokepoints of global trade.
- **The Horn of Africa and the Sahel:** Through military cooperation agreements signed with dozens of African states — and the direct management of crucial hubs like the port of Mogadishu in Somalia (also home to the *TURKSOM* military base) and port agreements in the Red Sea and the Atlantic — Turkey is linking its internal security to the stability of the African continent.

The provision of remotely piloted systems (such as the Bayraktar TB2 and Akinci), combined with the training of special forces, gendarmerie, and local paratrooper forces, allows Ankara to consolidate a network of alliances that grants it a prime negotiating weight at regional decision-making tables, directly challenging the traditional power balances between Europe, the United

States, and emerging powers.

Links and Reference Sources

- You can consult the official report and details of the exercise on the Egyptian government portal: [Egypt State Information Service – Golden Eagle Exercise](#).
- For an in-depth analysis of Ankara's security and defense strategy in Africa and the Mediterranean: [Africa Defense Forum – Turkey Expands Reach as Security Partner](#).