

BRIGHT STAR 23



Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2023 (August 31 – September 14) is a multilateral military exercise led by the Arab Republic of Egypt’s Army and United States Central Command (CENTCOM). It is the biggest, longest-running and most significant military exercise in the Middle East that covers multiple scenarios of conventional and irregular warfare. Bright Star joint exercise has been a foundational event in building and enhancing collaboration between Egypt, the United States, and regional allies on key multinational security challenges.

BRIGHT STAR was initially a bilateral training exercise between the U.S. and Egypt conceived during the Camp David Accords of 1977. The first Exercise was conducted in 1980 in Egypt and has rapidly expanded to include other partner nations. BRIGHT STAR 23 will include 34 countries participating and bring more than 8,000 troops to Mohammed Naguib Military Base in Egypt. This year’s exercise builds on the success of BRIGHT STAR 21 which brought 21 countries to Egypt.


BRIGHT STAR strengthens military-to-military relationships between Egyptian, U.S., and participating nations’ armed forces by enabling allied militaries to work together on responding to modern-day security scenarios and emerging and unconventional threats. It involves various operations including air, ground, naval, and special operations dealing with counter-insurgency drills, counter-terrorism operations, and cybersecurity exercises. Bright Star provides a unique opportunity to increase interoperability levels between Egypt and US militaries as well as other participant countries. It also helps in providing participant countries with the experience of desert warfares, in addition to combining different military doctrines and learning about various tactics and schools of combat. There is also an extensive post-exercise evaluation and senior leader seminars to further facilitate information sharing and maximize benefiting from lessons learned. BRIGHT STAR 23 will serve as a unique opportunity for enhancing regional partnerships among the participating nations, advancing regional and global security, as well as showcasing the roles that Egypt plays in that regard.




Texas and Minnesota National Guardsmen participate in BRIGHT STAR 23 as they did in previous exercises.

Egypt signed a security cooperation partnership last year under the U.S. National Guard State Partnership Program.

 Egypt Army + U.S. CENTCOM led

 Air, Ground, Naval, and Special Operations Exercises

 Cyber Exercise

 Tactical Live Fire Exercise

18th BRIGHT STAR exercise since 1980

34 Countries Participating

8,000 Troops Participating

“The growth of the BRIGHT STAR Exercise is key to improving the interoperability between CENTCOM forces, Egypt’s Armed Forces, and all the other regional forces participating. Egypt’s leadership is critical to security in the region.”



General Michael Kurilla,
Commander of U.S. Central Command

“The bottom line for President Biden is that he values the relationship with Egypt. He believes they are an important security partner.”



Dana Stroul
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East

“BRIGHT STAR 23, [is] a demonstration of Egypt’s leadership and the strength of continued U.S.-Egypt cooperation to improve regional security and credible deterrence.”



Lloyd Austin
U.S. Secretary of Defense