

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE  
DE L'ÉTAT-MAJOR DES ARMÉES

Paris, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**- Operation BARKHANE -  
Transfer of the Gossi site**

- **The overall reorganisation of the French military set up deployed in the Sahel-Saharan Strip, officialised by the French President and his G5-Sahel counterparts, started in July 2021 with the transfer of three sites occupied by the Barkhane Force to the Malian armed forces in the north of Mali;**
- **Given the fact that Malian junta does not abide by the political commitment it made vis-à-vis the international community regarding the political transition, France, coordinating with all its partners, decided in February 2022 to reorganise the units of the Barkhane Force outside the Malian territory;**
- **In that context, after Tessalit, Kidal and Timbuktu in the second half of 2021, the sites of Gossi, Menaka and Gao will be transferred to the Malian armed forces. It is the case for Gossi today, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

The results seen since 2013 are real: the engagement of the French forces has enabled to avoid the collapse of Mali, the creation of terrorist safe heavens – especially the permanent settling of Islamic State – Grand Sahara (IS-GS) in the three-border area – and the build up and hardening of the Malian armed forces.

Since the Malian junta failed to abide by the commitments made towards the international community regarding the political transition, and since the junta wants to question the partnership with the countries engaged in Mali since 2013, France, coordinating with all its partners, has decided to reorganise the units of the Barkhane force outside the Malian territory.

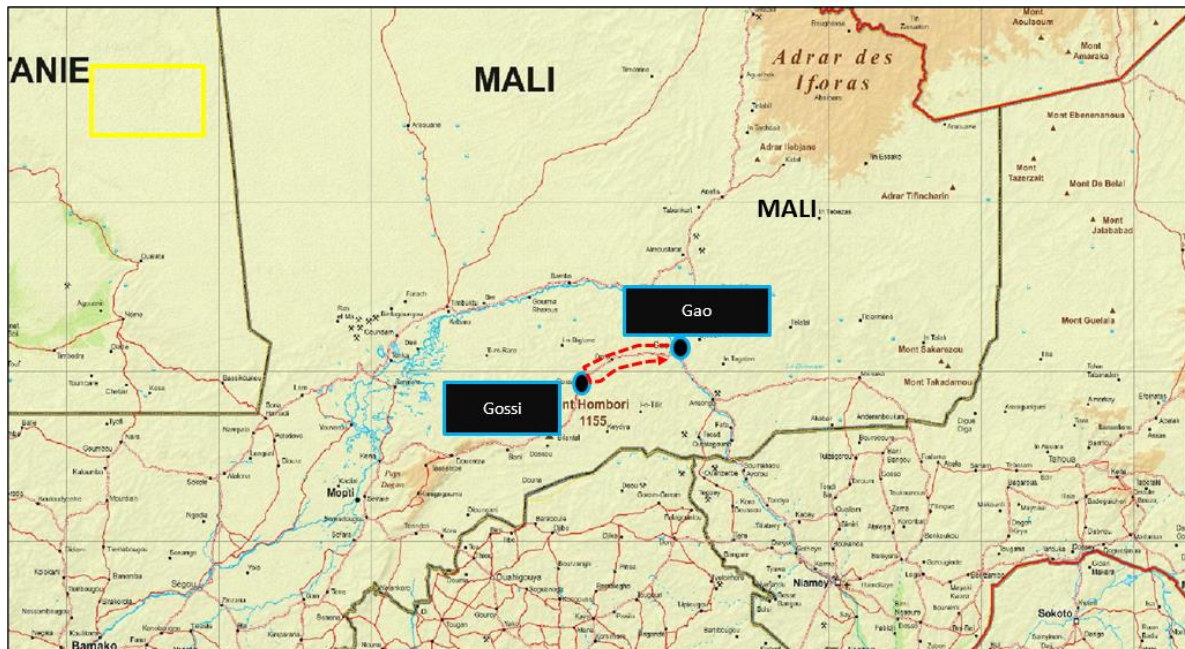
The transfer of the base in Gossi has been finalised today. It has been progressive, well-controlled and carried out in liaison with the Malian armed forces. It took place in an orderly manner and safely, in total transparency, at a time when the Barkhane force is confronted with regular information attacks aimed at marring its action and credibility.

In the coming months, this transfer will be followed by that of the sites in Menaka and Gao. Like in Gossi, they will consist in complex logistic manoeuvres and operations against the terrorist armed groups to preserve the freedom of action of the Barkhane force.

Operational since September 2018, the base in Gossi enabled the Barkhane force to keep putting a strong pressure on the terrorist armed groups in the region, to instil security among the local populations and to provide a significant support through many projects related to education, youth and health. In Gossi, the relationship between the Barkhane force and the

local population have been exemplary. They enabled to create strong bonds of friendship and respect.

The reorganisation of the Barkhane force does not mean the departure of the French armed forces from the Sahel Saharan Strip. The fight against the terrorist armed groups alongside the countries in the region, together with all the countries and international organisations mobilised in this fight, remains an absolute priority.



Media points of contact:

État-major des armées (Joint Staff)  
Cellule communication

[cab-cema-com.relation-presse.fct@def.gouv.fr](mailto:cab-cema-com.relation-presse.fct@def.gouv.fr)  
09 88 68 28 62 - 06 72 23 81 90 - 09 88 68 28 61

Centre média du ministère des Armées (Armed Forces Ministry)

[media@dicod.fr](mailto:media@dicod.fr)  
09 88 67 33 33

**Délégation à l'information et  
à la communication de la défense  
DICoD**

Centre media du ministère des Armées  
60 boulevard du général Martial Valin  
CS 21623 - 75009 Paris Cedex 15