

DESERT STAR

Exercise Bright Star 2007



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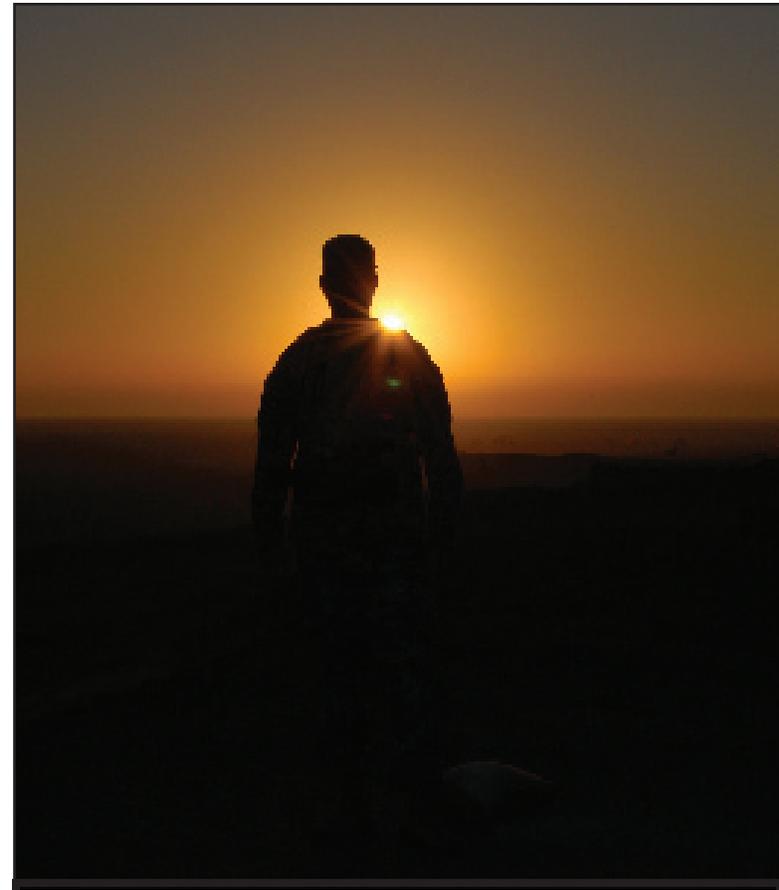
Five countries perform a friendship jump

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Photo collage from Exercise Bright Star

(Cover) A U.S. jumpmaster assists Egyptian paratroopers in exiting the C-17 Globemaster over Koum Osheem dropzone. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne).

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Bright Star 2007

BRIGHT STAR is a joint/combined exercise that includes a computer-aided command post exercise, two airborne drops, naval operations, and special operations training. Coalition forces from 13 countries representing all five components (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Special Operations) conducted the exercise in Egypt, 3-19 Nov., 2007. The exercise is designed to strengthen military to military relationships and improve readiness and interoperability between coalition forces.

Egyptian senior leader, Maj. Gen. Taha Elsayed, Chief of Egypt Training Authority (ETA), said “I want to thank the 12 coalition nations represented here for their continuing efforts to build a better understanding, friendship and cooperation through realistic and challenging training. I look forward to BRIGHT STAR 2009 and I hope to see a larger number of nations participating with their forces including Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Special Forces.”

“For more than 26 years, since 1981, the success of BRIGHT STAR has demonstrated to the world that a coalition of nations can come together and respond to any crisis that may arise. We’ve also demonstrated that we can deploy a strategic, coalition army headquarters, any where around the world,” said Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Commander Third Army/U.S. Army Central. He continued “this is my third BRIGHT STAR and each one has been better than the one before it. The coalition continues to grow, our friendships are stronger, and we are better trained after every exercise.”

BRIGHT STAR is the oldest and largest exercise in the region.

This year the exercise served as a demonstration of the shift in modern warfare by focusing on more operational and strategic warfighting after years of focusing mainly on ground maneuver forces. While unit training and field exercises were conducted with troops from several coalition countries, a major portion of the exercise was the Command Post Exercise (CPX).

The joint/combined computer-aided CPX was one of the highlights. It was simulated differently this year with a more realistic and challenging scenario that fully integrated officers from 12 nations into key coalition and joint task force command and staff positions.

Maj. Gen. Adel Fatah Farag, Deputy Chief of Egypt Training Authority (ETA) who has participated in six BRIGHT STARs said, “Each exercise we make great strides in strengthening our military-to-military relationships and gain tremendous experience in operating with our coalition counterparts. I really enjoy working with each of you during BRIGHT STAR and I look forward to future engagements in which we can work together.”

This year Egypt, the United States, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, France, Jordan, Pakistan, United Kingdom, Greece, Kuwait, Turkey and Yemen participated in BRIGHT STAR.



Coalition forces conduct strategic airborne operation

Story by U.S. Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley with photos by Fathi Hissan Egyptian Department of Morale Affairs; Capt. Markus Will, German Army and U.S. Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields

On Koum Asheem drop zone located south of Cairo, Egypt, 29 Egyptians and 112 Americans from the five branches of service (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Special Operations) conducted a strategic airborne operation that included jumping from two C-17 Globemasters that were inbound from a 15-hour flight from Fort Campbell.

The 29 Egyptian soldiers had been in Fort Campbell participating in air assault training and airborne refresher training that started in the middle of October.

“Bright Star is aimed to enhance the interoperability between the United States, Egyptian and coalition forces,” said Staff Major General Esmat Morad, commander of Egyptian paratroopers, who was at the drop zone site to watch his troops perform the strategic jump.

The strategic airborne operation demonstrated the coalition paratrooper’s commitment to regional stability by being able to respond to a crisis anywhere in the world.

In addition to Morad, other senior military leaders in attendance of the strategic airborne operation were Staff General Sami Anan, the Egyptian Army Joint Command Chief of Staff and Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commander, Third Army/U.S. Army Central.



photo by Capt. Markus Will, German Army

(Top) Paratroopers drift to the drop zone during the strategic airborne operation after exiting the C-17 Globemaster that arrived from Fort Campbell, Ky., after a 15-hour flight as part of Exercise Bright Star.



(Left) Staff General Sami Anan, the Egyptian Army Joint Command Chief of Staff talks with Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third Army / U.S. Army Central Commander about the strategic airborne operation conducted by both nation’s airborne soldiers. The strategic airborne operation was one of the key military to military events that occurred during Exercise Bright Star.



photo by Fathi Hissan Egyptian Department of Morale Affairs



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne)

Staff Maj Gen. Abdel Fatah Farag, Deputy of the Egyptian Training Authority, congratulates Egyptian paratroopers on a successful jump.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne)

After a 15-hour flight from Ft. Campbell, Ky, U.S. and Egyptian paratroopers exit a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster as part the final phase of the strategic airborne operation.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne)

Paratroopers land on the drop zone at Koum Osheem in Egypt in Exercise Bright Star.



photo by Fathi Hissan Department of Morale Affairs

Coalition forces along with Staff Maj. Gen. Abdel Fatah Farag and Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, pose for a group photo.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Egyptian explosive ordnance trainers conduct field training for demolition technicians from France, Yemen, Egypt, Pakistan and Kuwait at Mubarak Military City.

Troops blow up barriers during Bright Star

Story by U.S. Army Maj. Tom Alexander Jr. with photos by Fathi Hissan, Egyptian Department of Morale Affairs, U.S. Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley and U.S. Sgt. Brian Walker

Demolitions is a common task for any explosive ordnance disposal unit. During Exercise Bright Star, soldiers from Egypt, Kuwait, Yemen, Pakistan and France conducted that common task while sharing tactics, techniques and procedures used to ensure the task was accomplished to standard.

“This has definitely been an eye-opening experience”, said Paco, a combat engineer with the French air force.

The overall eagerness and the willingness to share ideas were apparent in the eyes of the participants and the Egyptian training officers.

During the exercise, the coalition partnership building was evident as the Egyptian trainers took the special operations soldiers from each nation through weapons training, day and night land navigation and explosives training.

As the training took place each coalition partner had the opportunity to share the different tactics, techniques and procedures that were unique to their nation.

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photo by Sgt. Brian Walker, 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion

Soldiers from Egypt, Kuwait, Yemen, Pakistan and France pose for a photo during the demolition training held in Mubarak Military City.



photo by Fathi Hissan, Egyptian Department of Morale Affairs

Egyptian and Pakistan demolition soldiers set the denotation cap on C-4, explosives.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Coalition soldiers detonate C-4 during Exercise Bright Star.

Egyptian 9th Armored teams with 42nd Infantry Division



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs
Coalition officers participate in a mission rehearsal.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division
Egyptian officers from the review battle plans with the coalition team.

By U.S. Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg with photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse and Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley

Nearly 40 Egyptian staff officers from the Egyptian 9th Armored Division joined almost 200 members of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division headquarters, in a jointly executed, large-scale command post exercise at Cairo West Air Force Base as part of Bright Star 2007.

The Egyptian Army's 9th Armored Division command and staff teamed with the U. S. Army National Guard Soldiers to replicate a multinational senior headquarters during the battle simulation exercise.

The Egyptian staff learned about the U. S. Army's military decision-making process and techniques on how to command and control combat forces in the field and joined the 42nd Division staff for the exercise. Planning for the exercise began almost immediately after Bright Star 2005 ended, when planners from the Egyptian army and the U.S. Third Army began outlining this year's exercise. The participating units were identified and began their preparations. Egyptians officers trained with the 42nd Infantry over the course of the last year conducting several site and staff visits. The 42nd Division hosted Egyptian and Third Army leaders at a final planning conference in New York in March.

The training culminated with the U.S. division's deployment to Bright Star.

"We came with a plan," said 42nd Division chief of staff, Col. Carl Pfeiffer. "We are here to demonstrate to the Egyptians that we are willing to work and partner with them as we work through the (training) scenario."

Many members of the 42nd Division deployed to Cairo are veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, having served with the division headquarters in Tikrit, Iraq, in 2005. Much of the training sessions and mission planning involved applying lessons learned from that deployment.

The two division commanders, Maj. Gen. El Araby El Suray from the Egyptian 9th Armored Division and Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux from the 42nd Infantry Division both led discussions among the joint staff.

"I can not be more pleased in the cooperative effort I'm seeing between our two staffs," Genereux said. "My goals for this mission were to safely deploy our command post and train alongside the Egyptian 9th Armored, achieving real unity in our two organizations for the exercise."

"They [the Egyptians] are taking our products to get synchronized with us," Pfeiffer said. "That is unusual, but of all the units I've worked with in this part of the world, this unit (the Egyptian 9th Armored Division) is the best, by far."

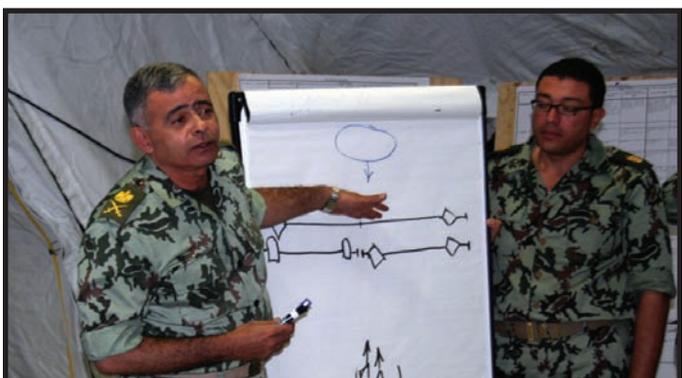


photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division
Egyptian commander conducts an orientation briefing.



photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, HQ, 42nd Infantry Division
Egyptian officers show coalition troops their strategy during a mission rehearsal.

Special ops training in Egypt

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Atique Ur Rehman, Pakistan Inter Services Public Relations

Special operations forces from Pakistan, Yemen, Egypt, France and Kuwait conducted training in the desert near Mubarak Military City, north of Cairo as part of Bright Star.

The training ran from Nov. 3-15 and focused on weapons familiarization, desert camouflage and survival techniques, day and night land navigation, demolitions training, combat operations, and counter-improvised explosive device tactics. The weapons familiarization included each nation demonstrating the use of their weapons and all the soldiers firing the weapons on the range. The weapons included pistols, rifles such as the AK-47 and G-3, RPG-7s, and crew served weapons including the Russian RPK and PKM family of weapons.

Over the next two days, soldiers from Kuwait and Egypt conducted training and demonstrations in desert camouflage and survival. After the demonstrations, the soldiers conducted a practical exercise applying their new skills. The practical exercise concluded with day and night land navigation.

The next phase of the training began with a lecture on counter-improvised explosive device tactics and techniques. The lecture was followed by an information exchange as each nation discussed their techniques. The following day the Egypt Special Service Group arranged hands-on demolitions training in the deep desert.

The special operations forces training concluded with a small unit operations tactics lecture by Major Adil, a Pakistani Special Service Group Officer. The lecture was followed by demonstrations of ambush techniques by Pakistani and Egyptian forces.

This was the first year for Pakistani SOF participation in Bright Star. The 37-member contingent was commanded by Lt. Col. Naveed Malik. Malik stated their stay in Egypt was very rewarding and they had enjoyed the hospitality of their Egyptian brothers. He added that participation of Pakistani troops in the coalition exercise will go a long way in enhancing military to military relations with their coalition partners.



Soldiers from Egypt and Pakistan show their counterparts their Ghilly suits.



Special operations soldiers practice at a live fire range outside of Mubarak military City.



A Pakistan soldier adjusts the front site of a RPG-7 during training.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

An Egyptian CH-47D lands at Koum Osheem drop zone.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Egyptian soldiers carry a litter in the coalition mass casualty exercise at Koum Osheem drop zone.

Medical training exercise

Story by U.S. Lt. Col. Gordon Mays and Egyptian Dr. Sherif H. Abdel Fattah

During Exercise Bright Star, the coalition partners conducted a simulated mass casualty medical evacuation exercise. The exercise began with medical training and rehearsals in preparation for the actual mass casualty and medical evacuation to Dar Al Fouad Hospital in Egypt.

The rehearsals conducted before the actual mass casualty exercise lasted for two days and proved to be valuable training. It prepared coalition medical personnel for the actual evacuation of the ambulatory patients and the strapping and loading of the litter patients onto the aircraft while also providing in-flight medical care. The training also consisted of evaluating and treating the patients prior to and during the exercise. A medical team from Third Army and 3rd Medical Command provided aircraft safety procedures, litter team training, loading and unloading ground and air ambulances, medical equipment and tactics techniques and procedures used as part of in-flight care of patients. Tracking of patient care was exercised by Third Army's patient administration team. An Egyptian aircrew provided valuable training on their medical equipment, litter connections, and information relating to the aircraft and its safety. The medical evacuation training conducted during the two-day rehearsal included air evacuation via an Egyptian CH-47D courtesy of the Air Force Squadron, Koum Asheem Air Base. Ground ambulance support was provided by Third Army, 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Maadi Military Hospital, and Dar Al Fouad Hospital. As part of the mass casualty exercise, a flight evacuation team consisting of Egyptian and U.S. Soldiers, working to provide crucial and vital patient care.

On the day of the exercise, a CH-47D landed at the 6 October City helipad where litter teams transferred patients to Dar Al Fouad's ambulances. Under the supervision of Dr. Sherif H. Abdel Fattah, Hospital Emergency Coordinator, the 16 patients were physically transported to Dar Al Fouad Hospital and actually admitted, processed into their emergency rooms, examined, and treated for their injuries by Egyptian doctors and nurses.

Demonstration of technology



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Geoff Freeman, 335th Signal Brigade (fwd) commanding general, along with American and Egyptian soldiers, receives a communications brief.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Members of the Third Army operations team show the Egyptians their office setup during the CPX.

Story by U.S. Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley with photos by Fathi Hissan Egyptian Department of Morale Affairs, Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, Said Abd El Mohsin, Egyptian Morale Affairs Dept.

Demonstrating technology as a battlefield enabler, the command post exercise was the culminating event of this year's Exercise Bright Star held at Cairo West Air Force Base, in Egypt.

The exercise was designed to simulate real-world battle scenarios that each country could face and was the true test of how each coalition country executes battle drills in response to the scenarios that are presented.

Throughout the exercise, senior military leaders evaluated the proficiency of the combined joint task force. The evaluators then compared the execution of the battle drills by the task force to the pre-determined measures of effectiveness to determine if the desired effect was achieved.

The command post exercise allowed the command cell to integrate allies from all over the world into the exercise. This style of exercise reduces expenses that are used to get personnel and equipment to the exercise while achieving the same results.

Egypt, Germany, the United States, Italy, Netherlands, France, Jordan, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Greece, Kuwait and Turkey participated in the exercise.

A contingent of Soldiers and civilians from the U.S. Joint Warfare Center provided the evaluation team which controlled the notional enemy forces and provided realism for the scenario

At the conclusion of the command post exercise the coalition partners held an after action review to discuss the results of the exercise.



photo by Staff Sgt Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Coalition soldiers meet and greet at the start of the command post exercise.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne)

Maj. Gen Abdel Fatah Farag, Deputy of the Egyptian Training Authority and Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commander, Third Army/U.S. Army Central review the coalitions' rehearsal exercise.



serving as a battlefield enabler



photo by SFC Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division
Egyptian officers teach a class during the command post exercise.



photo by Said Abd El Mohsin, Egyptian Morale Affairs Dept.
Egyptian officers give a brief during the command post exercise.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division
Egyptian officers give a brief during the command post exercise.



photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, HQ, 42nd Infantry Division
A representative from Third Army operational intelligence staff meets Bright Star 2007 staff members from France.



photo by Lt. Col. David Hylton, Third Army Public Affairs
French, Dutch and Greek Soldiers plot points on a map



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs
Coalition troops learn about the Command Post Exercise.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Coalition friendship jump

Story by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley with photos by Fathi Hissan Egyptian Department of Morale Affairs, Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Field

The coalition paratroopers came together in the early of morning of Nov. 11 at Cairo East Air Base and prepared for the friendship jump by going through a rigorous jump master parachute inspection from the coalition's jumpmasters. The jumpmasters explained the equipment and techniques used by the various coalition allies in pre-jump preparations. In addition, Soldiers were also able to share their knowledge with other paratrooper about techniques and procedures that work best for them during a jump.

The 107 American, 103 Egyptian, nine Yemeni, eight Kuwaiti, and six German paratroopers departed from Cairo East on board C-17 Globemaster airplanes. It took two lifts to deliver all of the jumpers to the Koum Osheem drop zone.

Exercise Bright Star 2007 is a great opportunity to make new friends. The coalition troops did this by helping each other with the pre-jump preparations, in-flight checks and with the assistance they gave each other after they landed.

"This was a great experience and a once in a life-time opportunity. I was glad to be a part of Exercise Bright Star and to be here with our coalition partners and be part of something that is a true joint operation," said Sgt. Donovan M. Burson, a 101st Airborne Division Soldier from Morgan Town, Ky., and a participant in the friendship jump.

The friendship jump concluded with a wing exchange between the participating nations. The ceremony started with each of the airborne commanders thanking their Egyptian hosts for making Exercise Bright Star and specifically the friendship jump a great experience for all the participating nations. Each of the airborne commanders were very pleased with how everything went with both the strategic and friendship jumps and stated they were eager to participate in the next Bright Star airborne operation.



photo by Lt. Col David Hylton, Third Army Public Affairs

(left to right) Paratrooper Commanders from Yemen, Kuwait, Germany, U.S. and Egypt participate in the wing exchange.



photo by Fathi Hissan, Egyptian Morale Affairs

A U.S. jump master conducts an inspection of an Egyptian paratrooper.



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Malachi Fields, 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne)

A Egyptian jumpmaster assists coalition troops in exiting the C-17 Globemaster over Koum Osheem dropzone.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Buckley, Third Army Public Affairs

Coalition Paratroopers drift to the ground after jumping out of C-17s Globemasters during the friendship jump at Kaum Osheem drop zone.

