

President El Sisi Meets US CENTCOM Commander General

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met with U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander General Joseph L. Votel.

President El Sisi underscored the importance of the Egyptian-US military relations, which are a key aspect of ongoing cooperation. In this context, the President welcomed launching the joint Egyptian-US military exercise Bright Star 2017, which is currently being held at Mohammed Naguib military base. He noted that the military exercise demonstrates the important and profound military cooperation between the two countries, in light of the current circumstances in the region that require concerted efforts to address challenges that threaten peace and stability in the region and the world.

President El Sisi reviewed Egypt's counter-terrorism efforts at various levels through adopting a comprehensive strategy that encompasses cultural, social and economic dimensions in tandem with military and security aspects. This aims at uprooting this menace and confronting the threats it imposes on Egypt, the region and the entire world. This is in addition to confronting states and parties that support and fund terrorism, while confronting all terrorist organizations without selectivity.

General Votel affirmed the US's keenness on strengthening partnership and enhancing cooperation with Egypt. He welcomed the resumption of the Bright Star military exercises and confirmed the importance of fostering both countries' efforts in the face of common challenges, primarily terrorism. He commended Egypt's pivotal role in the region and underscored the US's commitment to boosting the strategic relations. General Votel expressed his appreciation for Egypt's counter-terrorism efforts and emphasized the importance of its role in reinforcing regional security and stability.

The meeting touched on the latest developments pertaining to the region's crises. The President underscored the need to continue to work on finding political solution to the various crises, maintaining national state institutions in countries mired by conflict and preserving these countries' sovereignty, territorial integrity and people's resources so as to restore stability in the region and offer a better future for its peoples.