

## CHAD

Most of Chad is flat! The eastern portion is somewhat hilly and part of the district around the Libyan border is mountainous. There is a large depression called the "Bodele" in the west and the "ever-shrinking" Lake Chad is located in the southeast corner of the country. The majority of the population of about 5.5 million can be divided between Muslims in the north and Christians in the south, speaking over one hundred different languages! During the 1970's and 1980's there were rumors of rich uranium deposits in Chad, but these turned out to be just that...rumors. The average 1998 income "per-capita" came to an abundant US\$152. Chad is nominally a democracy. However, since coming to power in 1990, the current President, Idriss Debrey has proved intolerant of any sort of dissent.

The event that brought this large, but thinly populated, country to worldwide attention was the Libyan War of the 1980's. This conflict started as a civil war in which the rebels, under former president Goukouni Oueddei, were backed by the Libyans. It resulted in approximately 10,000 Chadian and Libyan deaths before it was halted by a cease-fire in 1987. French intervention in the Libyan War proved decisive, though Chadian courage and determination in this conflict cannot be denied. In a stunning and widely publicized operation, a Libyan armored force of over two hundred vehicles lost fifty of them to twelve "Milan" Launchers mounted in the beds of Toyota "Landcruisers". These vehicles were carefully dismantled and carried over rugged mountain passes by Chadian porters using primitive poles and reassembled in the Libyan rear in what can only be described as an epic example of military innovation. In 1994, UN observers monitored the withdrawal of the last Libyans from Chadian territory. Since then, Libyan support of Chadian opposition groups has been reduced as Tripoli deals with ongoing UN economic sanctions.

More recently, Chad was one of nine countries that have become embroiled in the, still unsettled, war in what was once called Zaire, now the "Democratic Republic of Congo" (DRC). For one "good" political reason or another, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi have all sent expeditionary forces into this ugly meat-grinder. Mercenaries from South Africa, Ukraine, Serbia, Bosnia, France, Germany, and elsewhere are involved on both sides making it a sort of "World War"! The Chadian contribution was considerable in light of their limited capacity to make war. President Debrey appeared to be responding to pressure from his neighbor Sudan which resents Ugandan support for rebel forces fighting within Sudan itself. A report dated June, 1999 confirmed rumors that the Chadian contingent of two thousand men had pulled out of the DRC, due to growing tribal tensions at home.

### FOREIGN WEAPONS

81mm Brandt Mortar, AML-60, AML-90, ERC-90- FR; 82mm M43 Mortar, 82mm M43120mm M43 Mortar, 122mm D30 - RU; "Milan" ATGM - UK; 105mm M101, V150, "TOW" ATGM - US; All other foreign weapons - Ru

### TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

#### CHADIAN FORCES: 1980+

**Generation: I, Air Superiority Rating: 0, Class: Militia, Base Determination Factor: 40%**

Infantry:	<u>TL2</u> Infantry(C) <u>or</u> <u>TL2</u> Infantry(D) <u>or</u> <u>TL3</u> Infantry(C) <u>or</u> <u>TL2</u> Infantry HQ(C)
Infantry Support:	<u>TL1</u> Support <u>or</u> <u>TL2</u> Support <u>or</u> <u>TL3</u> Support
Armored Cars:	AML-60[R] <u>or</u> AML-90[R] <u>or</u> ERC-90[R] <u>or</u> V-150[R]
Artillery:	81mm "Brandt" Mortar(1) <u>or</u> 105mm M101(1)/Truck
ATGM's:	"Milan"/Light Truck, TOW/Light Truck
<u>Weapons and Equipment Captured from the Libyans in 1987</u>	
Tanks:	T-55
APC's:	BTR-60
Armored Cars:	BRDM-2
Artillery:	82mm M43(1) <u>or</u> 122mm D30(2)/Truck <u>or</u> 120mm M43(1)/Truck
MRL's:	BM-21(8)
Anti-Aircraft:	14.5mm ZPU-4 <u>or</u> 23mm ZU-23/2 <u>or</u> SA-7 (MP)

Notes: 1) Please take note! The serviceability of weapons other than basic infantry or infantry support types is uncertain.  
2) Few, if any, of the captured weapons or vehicles above remain in service.

### TACTICAL NOTES

The Chadian army is almost entirely an infantry force. The overall flatness of the country means that this force can only hope for success in the mountainous north. Fortunately, the only war fought by Chad against a foreign invader was against its northern neighbor, Libya. Chadian troops must be allowed a fighting chance by setting any scenario in primarily rough terrain and allowing them at least some support from their French allies. However, there is an old adage that says, "It is a poor craftsman who blames his tools." Chadian troops gave a good account of themselves in the Libyan War in spite of worn out equipment and limited numbers of modern weapons, and would do so again. There are few thrills in wargaming more enjoyable than commanding a poorly armed, but highly motivated force and watching it trash a more lavishly equipped but poorly motivated one. The last time I commanded a bunch of these tough nomads in "mock" battle, the first thing I did was lean across the table toward my worthy opponent and state, "Dog of a dog! You cannot defeat us! We will rise in our thousands...in our tens of thousands! You cannot stop men who want to be free!"

He was stunned and visibly shaken. I won, by the way.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The army is President Debrey's base of power, and always has been. Military careers in Chad appear to rise and fall primarily as a result of presidential "whimsy". In 1998, the army was accused of intimidating voters to support Debrey's ruling party in the first round of voting for the new "multiparty" national assembly. This election confirmed the long standing split between the Muslim north and Christian south where the population perceives the army as primarily an occupation force. The discovery of a large oil deposit around the southern city of Doba has added a new dimension to Chadian politics. Most Chadians believe that, without political stability, the wealth generated by this new resource will not appreciably improve the currently abysmal national standard of living. This has brought a new urgency to southern calls for democratic reform and economic responsibility.

There are currently eight hundred French troops stationed in Chad. Local tribal leaders hope their presence will ensure the degree of stability necessary to encourage foreign investment. Chad desperately needs this investment to develop the Doba oilfields. Recently, however, relations between France and Chad have become more sensitive. France has refused to help Debrey's presidential guard suppress opposition among the southern tribes. The local population has opposed a US\$2 billion project by an international consortium to exploit the "Doba" oilfields and to build a pipeline from there to the port of Kribi in Cameroon. The consortium believes Doba will generate a total of over 900 million barrels of petroleum, but refuse to begin construction until the security of their workforce can be guaranteed. France refuses to be a party to any government crackdown on southern opposition forces, fearing accusations of complicity in human rights abuses. There are a number of opposition tribal militias at large in possession of a considerable number of weapons. Civil war between the Muslim north and Christian south remains a distinct possibility.

## 2002 CHADIAN ARSENAL

Vehicles:	45xAML-60/90, 4xERC-90, 8xV-150 "Commando"
AT Weapons:	8x"Milan", 4xTOW
Artillery:	10x105mm M-101 Howitzer (Towed), 12x81mm "Brandt" Mortar, 4x120mm M1943 Mortar, 4x122mm BM-21
Anti-Aircraft:	4xSA-7, 10xFIM-92A"Stinger"
Combat Aircraft:	2x"Pilatus" PC-7*, 2x"Savoia-Marchetti" SF-260*, 3xSA-330 "Puma", 5xAlouette III, 2x"Douglas" DC-4 * Turboprop "trainer" aircraft equipped with cannon etc. for ground attack missions.
Small Arms:	9mm Barretta and MAT-49 Submachineguns, 5.56mm M-16, 7.62mm FN-FAL, Kalashnikov AK-47 rifles, 7.62mm RPK, 12.7mm DshK, .50 cal Browning M2 Machineguns, 30mm AGS-17 Grenade Launchers
Libyan "Prizes":	50xT-55, 20xBTR-60, 100xBRDM-2, 8x122mm D-30

Note: All numbers above are approximate. Most equipment other than "small arms" must be considered unserviceable.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

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