

18. TUNISIA

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Major Changes

- Tunisian navy received six Type 143 combat vessels from Germany.
 - No other major change was recorded for the Tunisian armed forces.
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General Data

Official Name of the State: The Republic of Tunisia

Head of State: President Zayn al-Abedine Bin Ali

Prime Minister: Mohamed Ghannouchi

Minister of Defense: Dali Jazi

Secretary of State for National Defense: Chokri Ayachi

Commander of the Ground Forces: Brigadier General Rashid Amar

Commander of the Air Force: Major General Rida Hamuda Atar

Commander of the Navy: Commodore Brahim Barak

Area: 164,206 sq. km.

Population: 10,200,000

Tunisia

Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs/Berbers	10,408,000	98.0%
• Europeans	102,000	1.0%
• Others	102,000	1.0%
Religious groups		
• Sunni Muslims	10,408,000	98.0%
• Christians	102,000	1.0%
• Others	102,000	1.0%

Economic Data

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
• GDP (current prices)	\$ bn	22.5	25.0	28.2	28.7	29.4
• GDP per capita	\$	2,165	2,530	2,820	2,842	2,882
• Real GDP growth	%	1.7	5.6	5.8	4.1	4.9
• Consumer price index	%	2.7	2.7	3.6	2.1	4.6
• External debt	\$ bn	14.0	16.7	18.7	19.5	19.7
Balance of payments						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	6.86	8.03	9.68	10.49	11.3
• Imports fob	\$ bn	8.98	10.3	12.1	12.46	13.8
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	-0.75	-0.73	-0.56	-0.3	-0.72
Government expenditure						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	0.35	0.41	0.43	0.43	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	1.7	17.1	4.9	0.0	NA
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	NA
Population	m	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.2
Official exchange rate	TD:\$1	1.422	1.289	1.246	1.297	1.335

Sources: EIU Quarterly Report, EIU Country Profile, IMF International Financial Statistical Yearbook, SIPRI Yearbook.

Tunisia

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Forces deployed abroad	Burundi (ONUB) , Congo (MONUC) , Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), Ivory Coast (UNOCI)
• Joint maneuvers	Algeria (2004), France (2004), Greece (2003) , Spain (unconfirmed), US
• Security cooperation	Egypt (2001), Germany (2003), Greece (2001), Libya (2001), Morocco (2000), Spain (2004)

Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Czech Republic	• Arms transfers	Upgrade of L-59 aircraft (2006)
Germany	• Arms transfers	Type 143 MFPBs (2005)
Italy	• Arms transfers	G222 aircraft (2003)
Spain	• Arms transfers	Barcelo PBs (2005)
US	• Assistance	\$4 million military aid (2005)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
US	• Facilities	Use of AFBs (2006)

Defense Production

	M	P	A
Naval Craft			
• 20 meter patrol craft, with assistance from South Korea		√	
Note:	M - manufacture (indigenously developed) P - production under license A - assembly		

Strategic Assets

NBC Capabilities

Nuclear capability

No known nuclear activity. Signatory to the NPT.

Chemical weapons and protective equipment

No known CW activities. Party to the CWC.

Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

Tunisia

Armed Forces

Order-of-Battle

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	35,500	35,500	35,500	35,500	35,500
Ground Forces					
• Number of brigades	5	5	5	5	5
• Tanks	139 (144)	139 (144)	139 (144)	139 (144)	139 (144)
• APCs/AFVs	326	326	326	326	326
• Artillery (including MRLs)	205	205	205	205	205
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	18	18	18	18	18
• Transport aircraft	15 (17)	15 (17)	15 (17)	15 (17)	15 (17)
• Helicopters	49	47	47	47	47
Air Defense Forces					
• Light SAM launchers	83	83	83	83	83
Navy					
• Combat vessels	9	9	15	15	15
• Patrol craft	35	36	40	40	41

Personnel

	Regular	Reserve	Total
Ground Forces	27,000		27,000
Air Force	4,000		4,000
Navy	4,500		4,500
Total	35,500		35,500
Paramilitary			
• Gendarmerie	2,000		2,000
• National Guard	7,000		7,000

Tunisia

Ground Forces

Formations

	Independent brigades / groups	Regiments in brigades
Mechanized/ Infantry	3	1 armd., 2 mech., 1 aty. each
Commando/ Paratroops	1	
Sahara brigade	1	
Total	5	

Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
MBTs				
Medium and low quality				
• M60 A1/A3	89	84	1984	
Light tanks				
• SK-105 (Kürassier)	55	55	1983	
Total	144	139		

APCs/AFVs

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• M113 A1/A2/ M125/M577	120	120	1980	35 M901 ITV listed under Anti- Tank Weapons
• Fiat Type 6614	110	110	1980	
Subtotal	230	230		
IFVs				
• Engesa EE-11	+	+	1982	Included with Engesa EE-9
Reconnaissance				
• Engesa EE-9	36	36	1982	
• Saladin	20	20	1962	
• AML-60/90	40	40	1969	
Subtotal	96	96		
Total	326	326		

Tunisia

Artillery

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Towed guns and howitzers				
• 155mm M198	48	48	1987	
• 155mm M114	18	18	1970	
• 105mm M101	45	45	1980	
Subtotal	111	111		
Mortars, under 160mm				
• 120mm Brandt	18	18	1987	
• 107mm	40	40	1980	
• 107mm SP	36	36	1987	Mounted on M106
Subtotal	94	94		
Total	205	205		

Logistics and Engineering Equipment

M728 ECV (4), SK-105 ARVs (5)

Anti-Tank Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• BGM-71A TOW	100		1982	
• M901 ITV SP	35		1987	Also listed under APCs
• MILAN	500		1982	
Total	635			

Tunisia

Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
Combat	18	18	
Transport	17	15	
Helicopters	47	47	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Multi-role				
• F-5 E/F	18	18	1984	
Total	18	18		

Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• C-130B Hercules	9	8	1985	
• G-222	5	5	2000	
• L-410	3	2	1994	
Total	17	15		

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• L-59	12	9	1995	Being upgraded
• Aeromacchi MB-326 B/KT/LT	11	5	1974	
Subtotal	23	17		
Piston/Turbo-prop				
• SF-260WT/C	20	10	1974	
• S 208A/M	2	2	1979	
Subtotal	22	12		
Total	45	29		

Tunisia

Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Attack				
• SA-342 Gazelle	5	5	1991	
Medium transport				
• AB-205/UH-1H	22	22	1978	
• S-61R/HH-3E	3	3	1994	
• AS 365 Dauphin II	1	1	1986	
Subtotal	25	25		
Light transport				
• Alouette II/III	11	11	1964	
• AS-350 Ecureuil	6	6	1982	
Subtotal	17	17		
Total	47	47		

Advanced Armament

Air-to-air-missiles

AIM-9J Sidewinder

Air Force Infrastructure

Military airfields 4

Bizerta (Sidi Ahmad), Gabes, Gafsa, Sfax

Tunisia

Air Defense Forces

Surface-to-Air Missiles

Model	Launchers	Since	Notes
Light missiles			
• MIM-72A Chaparral	35	1977	
• RBS-70	48	1982	
Total	83		
Shoulder-launched missiles			
• SA-7 (Grail)	+		

Other Air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Short-range guns				
• 40mm	12	12	1964	
• 37mm M-1939	15	10	1980	
• 20mm M-55	100	90	1990	
Total	127	112		
Radars				
• TRS-2230	+	+		
• TRS-2100 Tiger S	6	6	1988	

Tunisia

Navy

Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
MFPBs			
• Combatante III	3	56/345	8xMM40 Exocet SSMs 1x76mm gun 2x40mm guns 4x30mm guns
• Type 143	6	57.6/391	4xMM38 Exocet SSMs RAM 21 SAMs 1x76mm gun Mine-laying capability
• Bizerte class (P-48)	3	48/250	8xSS-12M SSMs 4x37mm guns
Subtotal	12		
Gunboats			
• Modified Haizhui class	3	35/120	4x25mm guns
Total	15		
Future procurement			
• Javier Quiroga (Barcelo-class)	+	36.2/145	1x40mm gun 1x20mm gun 2x12.7mm MGs 2x533mm torpedoes

Tunisia

Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Kondor I class	6	51.9/377	2x25mm guns formerly a minesweeper, now with National Guard
• Coastal patrol craft	4	31.5/60	2x20mm guns
• Coastal patrol craft	6	25/38	1x20mm gun
• Bremse class	5	22.6/42	2x14.5mm MGs with National Guard
• Coastal patrol craft (Socomena)	11	20.5/32	1x12.7mm MG with National Guard
• Gabes class	4	12.9/18	2x12.7mm MGs with National Guard
• Rodman 38 class	4	11.6/1.2	with Royal Guard
• Javier Quiroga (Barcelo-class)	1	36.2/145	1x40mm gun 1x20mm gun 2x12.7mm MGs 2x533mm torpedoes Ex Spanish navy possibly with National Guard
Total	41		

Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
Future procurement			
• LCT-3	1	58.6/355	Was to be delivered by the end of 2004
Total			

Tunisia

Auxiliary Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m./ displacement (t.))	Notes/armament
• Robert Conrad class	1	63.7/1,370	Survey ship
• Wilkes (T-AGS-33)	1	87/2,843	Survey ship
• El Jem	2		Training ship
• Simeto class tanker	1	69.8/1,887	
• White Sumac	2	40.5/485	
• Coastal tug	1	32.4/412	
Total	8		

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases 6
Bizerta, Kelibia, La Goulette , Sfax, Sousse, Tunis

Ship maintenance 2

and repair facilities

4 dry-docks and 1 slipway in Bizerta; 2 pontoons and 1 floating dock at Sfax.
Capability for maintenance and repair of existing vessels.