

Algerian Armed Forces

Covering an area of almost 2.4 million square kilometers Algeria is one of the biggest countries in the world, with the population of around 40 million people. Population is mostly homogenous, around 99% of the nation identifies itself as Arab-Berber (combining Islamic faith with North African Berber cultural identification). Algeria unlike some other North African countries hasn't been destabilized with the Arab Spring, however certain security issues are becoming a major problem for the government.

Throughout the second part of the twentieth century the Algerian government had been actively supporting various anti-imperialist movements in the region and many leftist terrorist organizations in Europe as well. Algeria was a leading contributor for the African Liberation Committee whose objective was to coordinate and help African liberation movements. In the sixties the government provided training for more than a thousand guerilla fighters from Mozambique, Angola and South Africa. The country also provided security and safe refuge for members of Red Brigades, Baader-Meinhof and Black Panthers. This revolutionary, anti-imperialist also anti-capitalist attitude was sustained even after the end of the Cold war and was also implemented in the country's armed forces.

Until the Arab Spring and the overall destabilization of the MENA region, Algiers had more or less stable relations with their neighbors. Traditional disputes over the borders with Morocco and geopolitical contest with the Libyans in northern Mali were petty issues in comparison to the problems which have risen after the Arab Spring. The collapse of the Libyan regime and evolving crisis in northern Mali combined with a massive proliferation of armed groups in the region are representing the most serious security threats for the Algerian nation. AQIM, Ansar al-Dine, GSPC, Islamic State and other groups are exploiting the situation in the region, including Algerian long and porous borders, to move and operate in the country. Preventing further terrorist activities will be the top priority of all Algerian security forces in the future.

The Algerian military has a long tradition that reaches back to the Roman ages and Berber tribesmen. Crisis, resistance and hardships throughout history had solidified the Algerian military prowess which is now manifested in the country's armed forces. In 1954 the modern foundations of the Algerian armed forces was laid by the revolutionary leaders. The military was divided into six different regions which were later subdivided into zones, areas, etc. The armed forces consist of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The president is the supreme commander under the constitution and he is also responsible for national defense. High Security Council and the Council of Ministers are also involved in creation of the country's defensive policy. Both of these governmental bodies are present when the president is deciding whether to declare state of

emergency in cases of imminent danger to the country's institutions, independence or territorial integrity.

Algeria is one of the leading proponents of the combined training in the region in order to counter terrorist activities and has built solid relations with other security forces in Maghreb and Sahel. Algeria also has one of the largest military forces in the region, made of 130,000 active and 150,000 reserve military personnel.

The Army

The Army represents the core of the Algerian armed forces with 110,000 active personnel and 150,000 reserves. The enlargement of the army happened in 1978 when the size almost doubled, main reason behind this was a dispute over Western Sahara with Morocco which could have easily escalated into an open conflict. The Army is divided across six military regions, each with its own HQ located in the principal city. The regions are: Military Region I (Blida), Military Region II (Oran), Military Region III (Bechar), Military Region IV (Ouargla), Military Region V (Constantine), Military Region VI (Tamanrasset). This regional military structure was adopted shortly after the country gained its independence. While regions Ouargla and Tamanrasset are crucial military points since they are located on the borders with Libya and Mali most of the military is usually deployed in the west of the country where most of the industry is located. The country has been following the Soviet doctrine since its independence and was quite reserved towards the Western military powers, however in recent times there has been a significant progress towards cooperation with other militaries (even with the US).

FORCES BY ROLE

Manoeuvre

2 armored divisions and 1 independent armored brigade

2 mechanized divisions and 3 independent mechanized brigades

2 independent motorized brigades

1 airborne division

EQUPEMENT OF THE ALGERIAN ARMY

MBT 1,195: 300 T-90S; 325 T-72; 300 T-62; 270 T-54/T55

RECCE 134: 44 AML-60; 26 BRDM-2; 64 BRDM-2M with 9M133 *Kornet*

AIFV 1,089: 100 BMP-3; 304 BMP-2M with 9M133 *Kornet*; 685 BMP-1

APC (W) 729: 250 BTR-60; 150 BTR-80; 150 OT-64; 55 M3 *Panhard*; 24 TPz-1 *Fuchs*; 100 *Fahd*

ARTY 1,091 **SP** 224: **122mm** 140 2S1; **152mm** 30 2S3; **155mm** 54 PLZ-45 **TOWED** 393: **122mm** 345 160 D-30; 25 D-74; 100 M-1931/37; 60 M-30; **130mm** 10 M-46; **152mm** 20 ML-20 M-1937; **155mm** 18 Type-88 **MRL** 144: **122mm** 48 BM-21; **140mm** 48 BM-14/16; **240mm** 30 BM-24; **300mm** 18 9A52 *Smerch* **MOR** 330: **82mm** 150 M-37; **120mm** 120 M-1943; **160mm** 60 M-1943

AT MSL MANPATS *Milan*: 9k135 *Kornet-E*; 9K115-2 *Metis-M1*; 9K11 *Malyutka*; 9K111 *Fagot*; 9K113 *Konkurs* **RCL** 180: **107mm** 60 B-11; **82mm** 120 B-10 **GUNS** 250: **57mm** 160 ZIS-2 M-1943; **85mm** 80 D-44; **100mm** 10 T-12

AD SAM 288 **SP** 132: 48 9K33M *Osa*; 20 9K31 *Strela-1*; 96K6 *Pantsir-S1* **MANPAD** 9K32 *Strela-2* **GUNS** 830 **SP** 225 ZSU-23-4 **TOWED** 605: **14.5mm** 100: 60 ZPU-2; 40 ZPU-4; **23mm** 100 ZU-23; **37mm** 150 M-1939; **57mm** 75 S-60; **85mm** 20 M-1939 KS-12; **100mm** 150 KS-19; **130mm** 10 KS-30

The Navy

The Algerian Navy has around 6,000 personnel deployed in the north of the country on the Mediterranean coast. During the 80s the Navy went through a comprehensive modernization and enlargement. This modernization endeavor was mostly financed by the Soviet Union. This naval project was very important for the government in order to deal with the Libyan and Moroccan fleets in the Mediterranean, furthermore, it allowed the Algiers to project its naval power deeper into the Mediterranean. During the 90s the Algerian Navy slowly started to cooperate with the Western countries. Many high-ranking officers were or are undergoing advance training and education in various countries such as Russia, France and the US. Principal naval bases are located near Algiers, Mers el Kebir, Annaba.

EQUIPEMENT OF THE ALGERIAN NAVY

SUBMARINES TACTICAL SSK 4: 2 Kilo with 6 Single **553mm** TT with Test-71ME HWT/3M54 Klub-S AShM; 2 improved Kilo with 6 single **533mm** TT with Test-71ME HWT/3M54 Klub-S AShM

PRINCIPAL SURFACE COMBATANTS FRIGATES FF 3: 3 *Mourad Rais* with 2 twin **533mm** TT, 2 RBU 6000 *Smerch* 2, 2 twin **76mm** gun

PATROL AND COASTAL COMBATANTS 24 CORVETS 6 :FGSM 3 *RaisHamidou* with up to 4 twin launchers with 3M24 *Uran* AShM, 1 twin launcher with 9M33 *Osa-M* SAM, 1 AK630 CIWS, 1 twin **57mm** gun **FSG** 3 *Djebel Chenoua* with 2 twin launchers with C-802 AShM, 1 AK630 CIWS, 1 **76mm** gun **PBFG** 9 *Osa II* with 4 single launchers with P-15 *Termit* AShM **PB** 9 *Kebir* with 1 **76mm** gun

PRINCIPAL AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS LPD 1 *Kalaat Beni Abbas* with 1 16-cell A50 VLS with Aster-15 SAM, 1 **76mm** gun LS 3: LSM 1 *Plnochny B* with 1 twin AK230 CIWS; LST 2 *Kalaatbeni Hammad* with 1 medium helicopter landing platform

LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT 11 : AGS 1 El Idrissi; **AX** 1 Daxin with 2 twin AK230 CIWS, 1 **76mm** gun, 1 helicopter landing platform; **YGS** 2 *Ras Tara*; **YPT** 1 *Pluchat I*; **YTB** 6: 1 *El Chadid*; 1 *Kader*; 4 *Mazafran*

The Air Force

The Algerian Air Force is charged with guarding the country's air space, providing support for ground troops, supplying military with transportation capabilities and airlift and also carrying out land and maritime reconnaissance. In the 90s the Air Force was augmented with more than 190 combat air craft and more than 50 helicopters. The Algerian Air Force is mostly using Soviet technology which required extensive training of the Algerian pilots. The pilots were regularly sent to Egypt, Syria or Russia to receive the needed training and specialization. The Air Force has around 14,000 active personnel with pilots having 150 flying hours per year.

FORCES BY ROLE

FIGHTER: 1 squadron with MiG-25DS/RU *Foxbat*; 4 squadrons with MiG-29C/UB *Fulcrum*

FIHTER/GROUND ATTACK: 2 squadrons with Su-24M/MK *Fencer D*; 3 squadrons with Su-30MKA *Flanker*

ELINT: 1 squadron with Beech 1900D

ISR: 1 squadron with Su-24MR *Fencer*; MiG-25RBSH *Foxbat*

TANKER: 1 squadron with Il-78 *Midas*

TRANSPORT: 1 squadron with C-130H/H-30 *Hercules*; 1 squadron with C-295M; 1 squadron with Gulfstream IV-SP; 1 squadron with Il-76MD/TD *Candid*

TRAINING: 2 squadrons with Z-142; 1 squadron with Yak-130 *Mitten*; 2 squadrons with L-39C/ZA *Albatros*; 1 helicopter squadron with PZL Mi-2 *Hoplite*

ATTACK HELICOPTER: 3 squadrons with Mi-24 *Hind*

TRANSPORT HELICPOTER: 1 squadron with AS355 *Ecureuil*; 5 squadrons with Mi-8 *Hip*; 1 squadron with Ka-27PS *Helix*

EQUEPEMENT OF THE ALGERIAN AIR FORCE

120 combat capable Aircrafts

FTR 35: 12 MiG-25 *Foxbat*; 23 MiG-29C/UB *Fulcrum*

FGA 77: 44 Su-30MKA; 33 Su-24M/MK *Fencer*

ISR 8: 4 MiG-25RBSH *Foxbat*; 4 Su-24MR *Fencer*

TKR 6 Il-78 *Midas*

TPT 67: **Heavy** 12: 3 Il76MD Candid B; 9 Il76TD Candid; **Medium** 17: 9 C-130H *Hercules*; 6 C-130H-30 *Hercules*; 2 L-100-30; **Light** 32: 3 Beech C90B King Air; 5 Beech 200T King Air; 6 Beech 300 King Air; 12 Beech 1900D; 5 C-295M; 1 F-227 *Friendship*; PAX 6: 1 A340; 4 Gulfstream IV-SP; 1 Gulfstream

TRG 99: 36 L-39ZA *Albatros*; 7 L-39C *Albatros*; 16 Yak-130 *Mitten*; 40 Z-142

HELICOPTERS

ATK 32 Mi-24 *Hind*

SAR 3 Ka-27PS *Helix D*

MRH 3 Bell 412EP

MRH/TPT 75 Mi-8 *Hip*

TPT 45: **Medium** 4 Ka-32T *Helix*; **Light** 41: 8 AS355 *Ecureuil*; 5 AW139; 28 PZL Mi-2 *Hoplite*

AD SAM S-75 *Dvina*; S-125 *Pechora-M*; 2K12 *Kvadrat*; S-300PMU2 **GUNS** 725 **100mm/130mm/85mm**

MSL ASM Kh-25; Kh-29; Kh-23; Kh-31P/A; Kh-59ME **ARM** Kh-25MP **AAM** IR R-3; R-60; R-73; IR/SARH R-40/46; **ARH** R-77

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