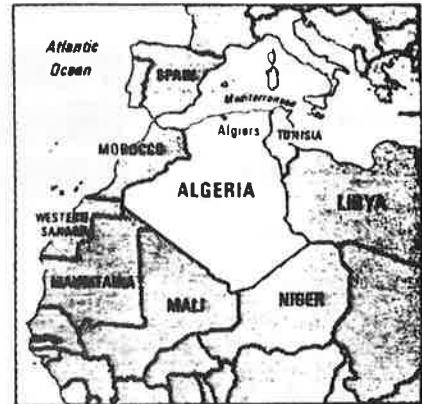


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ALGERIA

MEF G-2: Telephone:	CG II MEF//G-2// STU-III AV 484-8095
Theater J-2: Telephone:	USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//J-2// STU-III AV 430-8003
DIA DB Desk Code: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-8D// STU-III AV 243-4377
Embassy Defense Attache: Telephone:	USDAO ALGIERS AG//DATT// (00213) 2601186/2601225, EXT 7032/7035

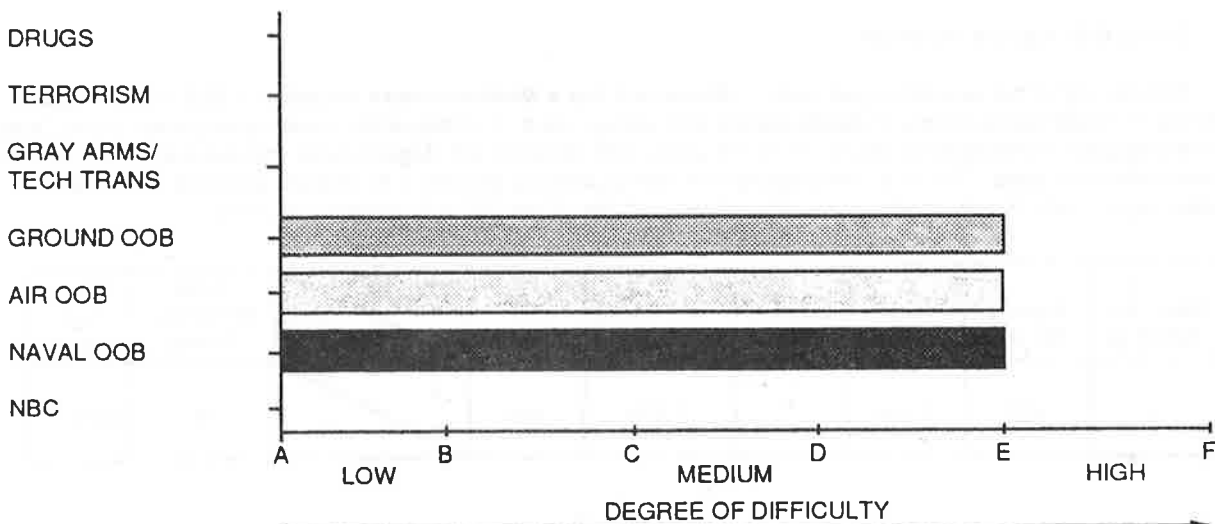


SUMMARY

Algeria is the second largest nation in **Africa** and has a coastline stretching 620 miles. Its foreign policy is one of independence and nonalignment and is frequently a leading proponent of the Third World viewpoint in international affairs. In recent years **U.S.** relations with **Algeria** have significantly improved. The **U.S.** and **Algeria** are trading partners and the **U.S.** imports some **Algerian** petroleum products. Over 300 **U.S.** citizens live in the country. In the region, **Algeria** has the largest air OOB and second largest ground and naval OOBs. Most of the military equipment is furnished by the **Soviet Union** and, **Soviet** advisors assist with operational training. The armed forces are oriented primarily toward its borders with **Morocco** and **Libya**. Over the past several years, defense related expenditures have amounted to between six and almost 10 percent of its total budget.

The **Algerian** culture is different from that of the **U.S.** The topography consists of three zones parallel to the **Mediterranean Sea** and separated by mountain ranges. There is a fertile plain along the coast backed by the **Tellian Atlas Mountains**. In the central region there is a high plateau followed to the south by the **Saharan Atlas Mountains**. In the south there is mainly desert. Generally, the summers are hot and dry with rain in the winter. Dust and sandstorms frequently occur between February and May. About two-thirds of **Algeria** is suitable for cross-country movement of vehicles. Average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) usually exceeds 2,000 meters except when limited by weather conditions. NGF ships can approach the coast to provide support for operations ashore, but would be severely out-gunned by coastal defense weapons. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is restricted to coastal areas around **Algiers**, **Mostaganem**, and **Tlemcen**. Airfields are numerous but cannot accommodate C-5 aircraft. There are excellent port facilities to receive strategic sealift. Key installations include a number of oil fields. The **Atlantic ARG** with its embarked MEU could reach **Algeria** in less than two days. With over 300 potential evacuees, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would not be difficult.

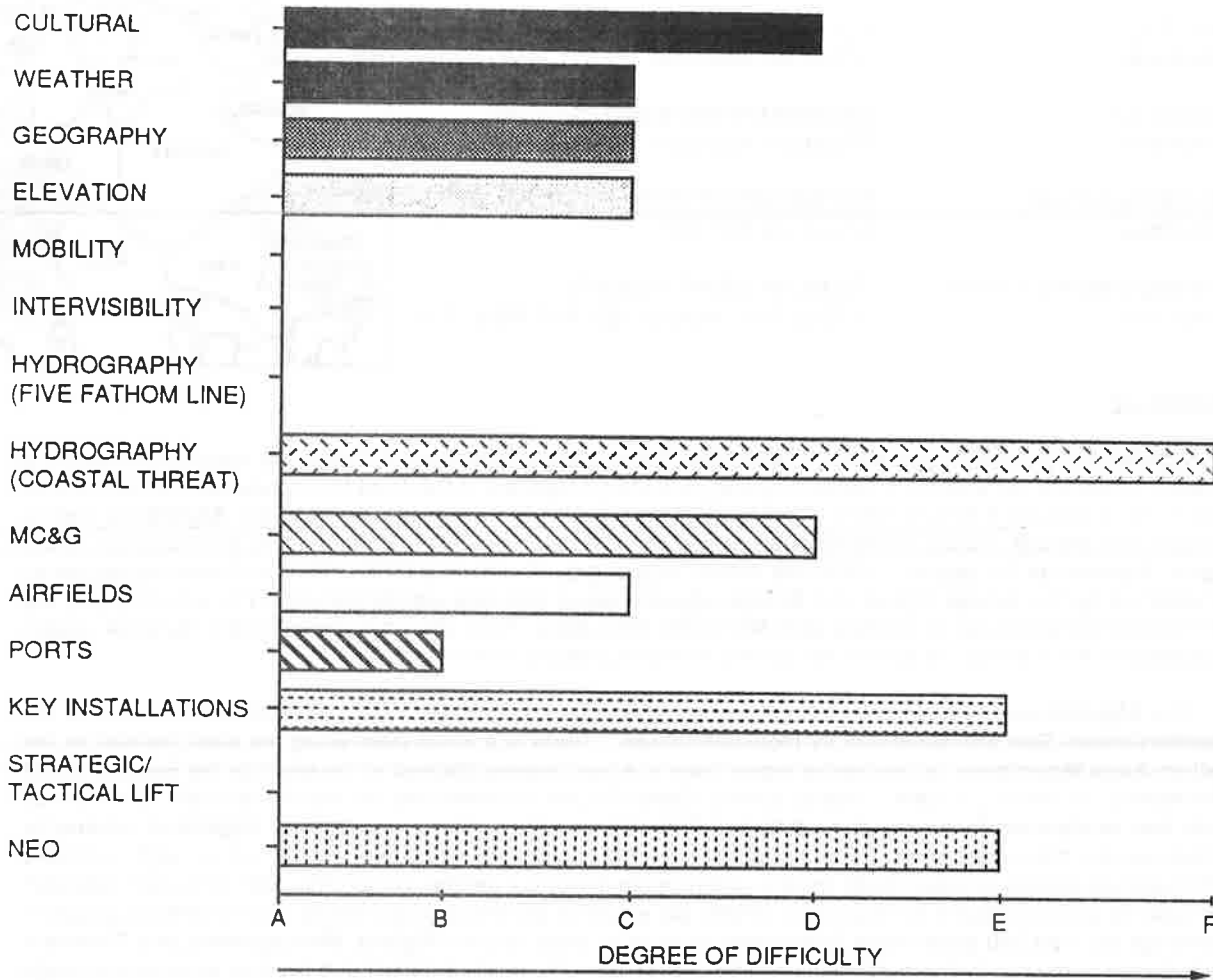
ALGERIA - THREAT SUMMARY



Algeria - 1

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ALGERIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Algeria

- A leading proponent of the Third World viewpoint.
- Overall U.S. equity is moderate.

This country is the second largest state in Africa and has a Mediterranean coastline of 620 miles. Algeria defines its foreign policy as one of independence and nonalignment. It is frequently a leading proponent of the Third World viewpoint in international affairs. In recent years, U.S. relations with Algeria have improved and can now be characterized as good. The U.S. and Algeria are trading partners and the U.S. imports primarily hydrocarbons, consisting of crude oil, gas condensates, and refined products. Over 300 U.S. citizens live there.

Direct Inv (Mil of \$)	Exports (Mil of \$)	Imports (Mil of \$)	U.S. Aid (Mil of \$)	Total Equity (Mil of \$)	U.S. Citizens	\$ Rating Rating	Total Numerical Rating	Overall U.S. Equity
-	426	2,144	-	2,570	316	4 1	5	Medium

General Ground OOB

- Second largest ground OOB in the region.

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Draft/TR	T-72	Bloc	120	8	228	E

Ground OOB consists of 120,000 troops of which 70,000 are conscripts. There is a military college for officers and a technical school for NCOs at **Blida**. **Soviet** advisors assist with operational training. Tanks: PT-76, T-34, T-54, T-55, T-62, T-72; Artillery: D-30, D-44, FROG SSM, ISU-152, M-30, M-1931, M-1937, M-1938, M-1942, M-1974.

General Air OOB

- Air OOB is the largest in the region.

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Bloc	Early Smart	Bloc	12	8	150	E

Fighter Aircraft: MiG-21, MiG-23, MiG-25; Close Air: Il-28, Magister, Mi-24, Su-7, Su-20; Air Defense: SA-2, SA-3, SA-6, SA-7, SA-8, SA-9, and SA-13 SAMs and AA guns.

General Naval OOB

- Second largest naval OOB in the region.

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	Bloc	Bloc	7	8	145	E

Ships: 3 Frigates and 4 Corvettes with ASUW/Air/ASW capabilities; SSMs: SS-N-2A; Patrol Craft: 9 Fast Attack Craft (Ex-Soviet) with SSMs, guns, and radars; 9 Fast Attack Craft-Gun; 1 Coastal Patrol Craft (Ex-Soviet).

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Arabic (Berber, French)
Primary religion - Islam

There is a significant cultural difference between **Algeria** and the **U.S.**

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Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
39-82	61	30	Mixed

Algeria's weather is irregular from year to year, but in the north, the summers are usually hot with little rainfall. Winter rains begin in the north in October. Frost and snow are rare except on the highest slopes of the **Tellian Atlas Mountains**. Dust and sandstorms occur most frequently between February and May.

General Geographic Conditions

URBAN	DESERT	JUNGLE	MOUNTAINOUS
	X		

Operational Elevation

<2,000 FT	<4,000 FT	<6,000 FT	>6,000 FT	>9,000 FT	>12,000 FT
		X			

The terrain consists of three zones roughly parallel to the **Mediterranean Sea** and divided by mountain ranges. The first is a relatively fertile coastal plain backed by the **Tellian Atlas Mountains**. Second there is a high plateau region backed by the **Saharan Atlas Mountains**. The third zone is desert. About 80 percent of the land is desert, wasteland, and mountains.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- **Algeria** is generally well suited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Approximately two-thirds of **Algeria**, primarily the desert region, is suitable for both wheeled and tracked movement. Elsewhere most tracked movement would be precluded by mountains, steep slopes, rough surfaces, and rugged hills.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Optimum, with line of sight distances normally exceeding 2,000 meters in at least half the country.

In about 50 percent of **Algeria**, mainly the desert region, line of sight distances would exceed 2,000 meters. Other parts of the country would be more limited in visibility due to mountains, rugged hills, and other rough terrain.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- NGF platforms are able to approach the coast to provide satisfactory support for operations ashore.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
52069	1,000	Good

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Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Significant coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
FROG SSM	70,000	Threat Advantage

MC&G Shortfalls

- Limited map coverage.

1:50 New	1:50 Old	Some 1:50	MSI Avail.	1:250 New	None
		X			

1:50,000 scale map coverage is limited to the coastal areas surrounding **Algiers, Mostaganem, and Tlemcen.**

Airfields

- Accessible by air, with more than one airfield that can handle C-141B aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
11	10 C-141B 1 C-130	4/7	>5/C-130

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Ain Oussera	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Bechar (Leger)	C-141B, C-130	Daylight only.
El Mellah (Annaba)	C-141B, C-130	-
Hovari/Boumediene (Algiers)	C-141B, C-130	-
Laghoat	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Noumerate (Ghardaia)	C-141B, C-130	-
Ouargla	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Reggani	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Tafaraoui (Oran)	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Tamanrasset	C-141B, C-130	-
Tindouf	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.

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Ports

- Good port facilities to accommodate strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Annaba	Medium	36-40/66-70	31-35	Yes
Skikda	Small	Over 76/Over 76	46-50	Yes
Bejaia	Small	41-45/31-35	41-45	Yes
Alger	Large	71-75/46-50	31-35	Yes
Mostaganem	Small	26-30/46-50	26-30	Yes
Arzew	Small	31-35/46-50	31-35	Yes
Oran	Large	Over 76/36-40	41-45	Yes

Key Installations

Oil fields are located in the area of **Hassi Messaoud-Haoud el Hamra** in the northeastern part of the Sahara and along the **Libyan** border at **Zarzaitne** and **Edjeleh** in the **Palignac** basin. Other smaller fields are found at **Nezla**, **Houad Beraocii**, **Ouargla**, **Messdar**, **El Borma**, **Hassi Keskessa**, and **Guellala**. The newest fields are located at **Touat** in **Adrar**, **Moukhag El Kebach** in **El Hadjira**, and at **Rhourd Chegga**, northeast of the **Hassi Messaoud** field.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Tunis	- Telecomm is above African average - 22 Radio stations - 14 TV stations - 3 Satellite stations	17,700 km	2,115 km	3	4	- Crude oil - Refined products - Natural gas	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The **Atlantic ARG** with its embarked **MEU**, which normally operates in the **Mediterranean Sea**, could reach **Algeria** in less than two days. The **AAF/ACB** can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

NEO

- NEO conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions in **Algeria** would not be exceptionally difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
38	316	2 (Algiers)	E

Note: In **Algeria**, the following factors are of little significance:

Drugs
Terrorism
Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
NBC