

TUNISIA

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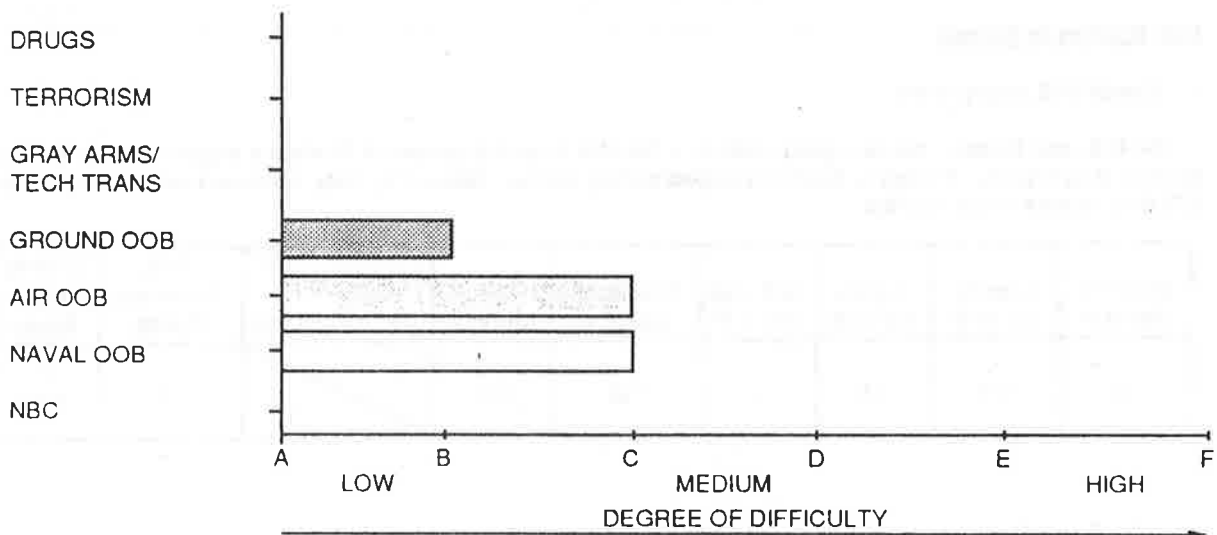


SUMMARY

Tunisia is the smallest of the North African countries and has a 1,000 mile coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. U.S.-Tunisian relations in recent years have generally been good. The only temporary setback occurred in 1985 when Tunisia mistakenly perceived that the U.S. supported an Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters outside of Tunis. Overall U.S. equity in Tunisia is low. As the country's fourth ranking trade partner, the U.S. buys 6.6 percent of Tunisia's exports and provides 5.8 percent of its imports. About 675 U.S. citizens live there. Tunisia has relatively small armed forces with a combined strength of about 38,000 personnel and has looked mainly to the U.S. and France for military assistance. With the military aid it received, Tunisia has acquired a squadron of F-5 aircraft, M-60 tanks, assorted surface-to-air missiles, and extensive military training (primarily in the U.S.) for its personnel.

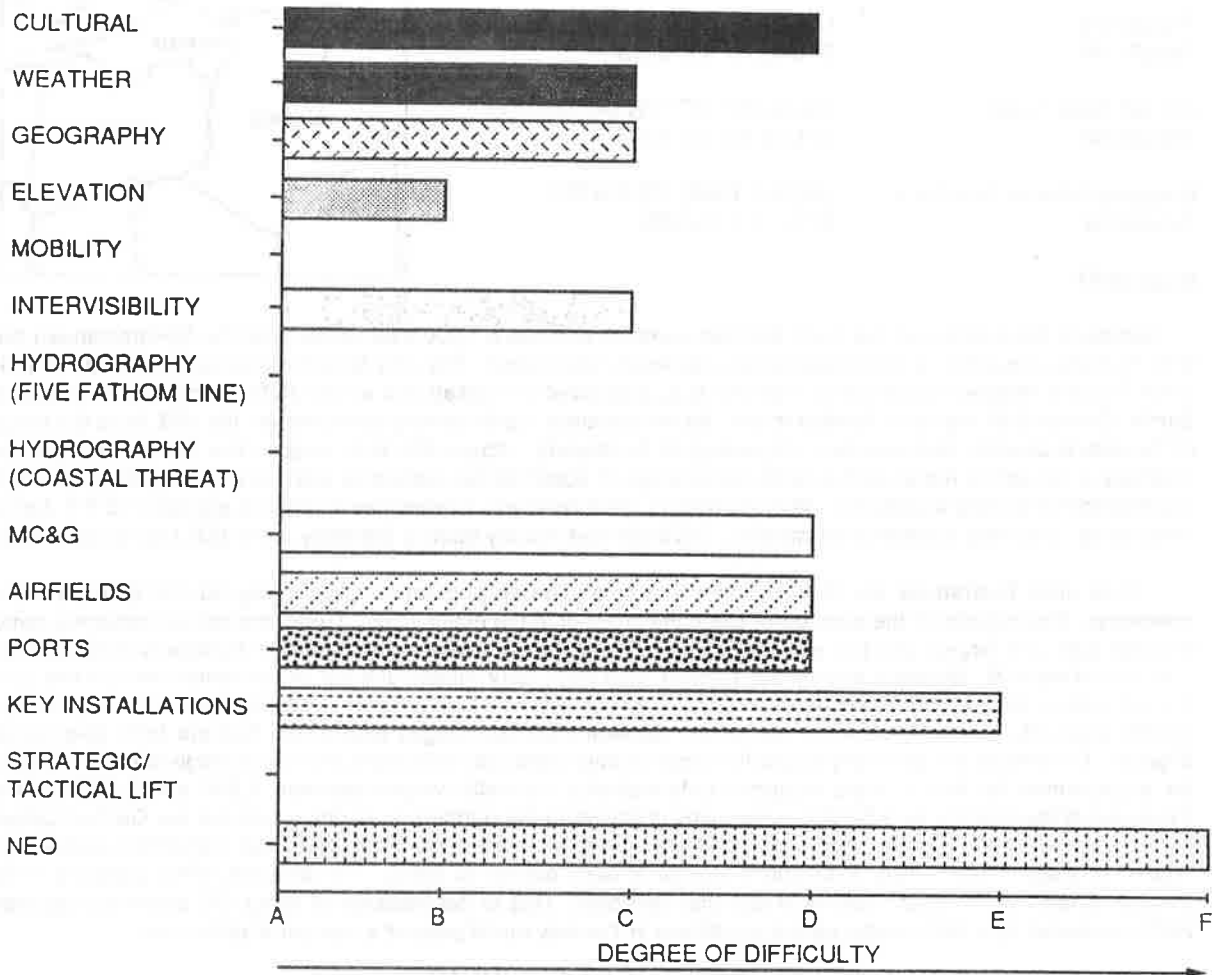
While most Tunisians are Muslim, there is a small Jewish population and roughly 50,000 Europeans in residence. The majority of the people live along the coast or in the major cities. Tunis, the capital, industrial center, principal port, and largest city, has just under 20 percent of the population. The culture of Tunisia is much different from that of the U.S. Northern and central Tunisia have mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers while in the south it is hot and dry year-round. The country's topography consists of a well-watered and fertile northern area, a central coastal plain, and primarily desert in the south. Several mountain ranges extend into Tunisia from neighboring Algeria. Conditions are generally suited for cross-country vehicular movement and the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) normally ranges between 1,000 and 2,000 meters. Coverage of the country by 1:50,000 scale maps is limited to the northern area down to about the Gulf of Gabes. Airfields are available to accommodate C-141B aircraft and there are three major ports with moderate capabilities to receive strategic sealift. Key installations include at least eleven oil fields. The Atlantic ARG operating in the Mediterranean could reach Tunisia in less than two days. Due to the presence of about 675 potential evacuees, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in Tunisia would present a number of difficulties.

TUNISIA - THREAT SUMMARY



Tunisia - 1

TUNISIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Tunisia

- Overall U.S. equity is low.

The U.S. and Tunisia maintain good relations. The U.S. buys 6.6 percent of Tunisia's exports and provides 5.8 percent of its imports. France is Tunisia's largest trading partner, followed by Italy, Germany and the U.S. About 675 U.S. citizens live in Tunisia.

| 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 |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 | 119 | 73 | - | 196 | 675 | 1 / 2 | 3 | Low |

General Ground OOB

| Infantry | Tank OOB | Artillery | Army Size (Thousands) | Quality | Total Capability Value | Rating |
|----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|--------|
| Draft/TR | M-60 | Howitzers/SP | 31 | 4 | 85 | B |

Ground OOB consists of 31,000 personnel of which 25,000 are conscripts. There are some schools for army personnel within the country. Officers are sent to **France** and the **U.S.** for advanced training. Tanks: AMX-13, M-41, M-48, M-60A3; Artillery: M-101A2, M-108, M-109, M-114A1.

General Air OOB

| Air OOB | Close Air | AAW (IAD) | Air Force Size (Thousands) | Quality | Total Capability Value | Rating |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------|
| Day/VFR Jets | Day Jet Atk | EW Radar | 2 | 4 | 76 | C |

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E/F; Close Air: Aermacchi MB-326B (light attack jet trainer); Air Defense: RBS-70 with Giraffe radars and Chaparral SAMs and AA guns.

General Naval OOB

| Naval OOB | S/S Missiles | Patrol Craft | Navy Size (Thousands) | Quality | Total Capability Value | Rating |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|--------|
| ASUW/Air/ASW | HE | ASUW/Antiair | 5 | 4 | 89 | C |

Ships: 1 Frigate (Ex-U.S.) with guns, torpedoes, fire control, and radars; SSMs: Exocet; Patrol Craft: 3 Fast Attack Craft-Missile with SSMs, guns, countermeasures, fire control, and radars; 4 Fast Attack Craft-Gun; 2 Fast Attack Craft-Patrol; 4 Large Patrol Craft; 14 Coastal Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Arabic (French)
Primary religion - Islam

About 99 percent of the population is Muslim. There is a small Jewish community, and roughly 50,000 **Europeans** live there. The culture of **Tunisia** is much different from that of the **U.S.**

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Weather

| Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit) | Average Relative Humidity (Percent) | Average Annual Rainfall (Inches) | Rating |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 43-91 | 56 | 8-59 | Mixed |

Northern and central **Tunisia** has a **Mediterranean** climate, with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. The period of greatest rain is from December until March. In the south, the climate is hot and dry year-round.

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 | | | | |

Topographically, **Tunisia** is subdivided into a well-watered and fertile northern area, the source of most of the country's agricultural production; a central coastal plain, noted for pasture and olive groves; and a semiarid central steppe area gradually blending into the **Sahara**. The third region accounts for more than one-third of the country and lacks sufficient rainfall to support more than sparse grazing and seminomadic peoples.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- **Tunisia** is generally suited for cross-country vehicular movement.

Throughout northern **Tunisia**, tracked movement is possible on the plains and in the valleys except during the rainy season when flooding may occur. Movement may be hindered in some parts of the southern region due to rocky desert surfaces, sand dunes, and steep-sided erdis.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Line of sight distances are restricted to between 1,000 and 2,000 meters in most of **Tunisia**.

The northern region of **Tunisia** has extensive cork forests and fertile grasslands which would limit visibility. The southern region contains a central plateau and desert area which merges into the **Sahara**. More than one-fourth of the country is covered with esparto grass which is the characteristic vegetation of the steppe region. It is expected that line of sight distances would range between 1,000 and 2,000 meters in the southern half of this country.

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 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 52186 | 1,370 | Good |

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Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Limited coastal threat.

| Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon | Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters) | Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal) |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 155 mm M-109 | 18,000 | U.S. NGF 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 map coverage exists for northern Tunisia.

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 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 4 | 4 C-141B | 3/1 | 2-4/C-130 |

| Airfields | Type Aircraft | Comments |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Bigerte/Sidi Ahmed | C-141B, C-130 | Daylight/VFR only. |
| Habib Bourguiba | C-141B, C-130 | - |
| Tunis/Carthage | C-141B, C-130 | - |
| Zarzis | C-141B, C-130 | - |

Ports

- Three major ports with moderate capabilities to receive strategic sealift.

| Major Ports | Harbor Size | Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet) | Cargo Pier Depth (Feet) | Cranes |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Susah | Small | 31-35/26-30 | 36-40 | Yes |
| Halq Al Wadi | Small | 26-30/31-35 | 26-30 | Yes |
| Banzart | Medium | 36-40/36-40 | 31-35 | Yes |

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Key Installations

Oil fields are located at **El Borma, Ashtart, Ad Douleb, Tamesmida, Sidi Litayem, Didon, Miska, Isis, Tazerka, Birsa, and Halk el Manzel.**

| 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 **Tunisia** in less than two days. The **AAF/ACB** can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

NEO

- Due to the 675 potential evacuees, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in **Tunisia** would present numerous difficulties.

| Embassy Staff | Evacuees | Inland Objective (nm) | Rating |
|---------------|----------|-----------------------|--------|
| 100 | 675 | 8 (Tunis) | F |

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

- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- NBC