

## 18. TUNISIA

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### Major Changes

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- The Tunisian air force is absorbing its two new C-130J cargo aircraft. The force is scheduled to receive its first UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter by the end of 2015
  - The Tunisian navy is receiving 12 patrol boats donated by Italy, and the first of 4 patrol boats from the USA.
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### General Data

**Official Name of the State:** The Republic of Tunisia

**Head of State:** President Beji Caid Essebsi

**Prime Minister:** Habib Essid

**Minister of Defense:** Farhat Horchani

**Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces:**

**Chief of staff of the Land Forces:** Brigadier General Ismaïl Fathali

**Commander of the Air Force:** Brigadier General Béchir Bédoui

**Commander of the Navy:** Vice Admiral Mohamed Khamassi

**Area:** 164,206 sq. km.

**Population:** 10,937,000

### Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forces deployed abroad</li> </ul>	Democratic republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint maneuvers</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security cooperation</li> </ul>	

## Tunisia

### Arms Trade

#### Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
France	• Arms transfers	Upgrading SA 342 Gazelle helicopters (2010)
Italy	• Arms transfers	Carabinieri Classe 500 (2011), Carabinieri Classe 700 PBs (2011), CP-800 PBs (2013), Cantiere Navale Vittoria P270TN, Cantiere Navale Vittoria P350TN
USA	• Arms transfers • Assistance	C-130J aircraft (2013, 2015), Archangel and other PBs (2012-2014) \$4.9 million military aid (2012)

#### Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
USA	• Facilities	Use of AFBs

#### 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. Project to build a 900 MW nuclear reactor.

##### 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	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>General data</b>					
• Personnel (regular)	35,500	35,500	35,500	35,500	35,500
<b>Ground forces</b>					
• Number of brigades	5	5	5	5	5
• Tanks	139	139	139	139	139
• APCs/AFVs	326	326	326	326	326
• Artillery (including MRLs)	205	205	205	205	205
<b>Air force</b>					
• Combat aircraft	18	18	18	18	18
• Transport aircraft	16 (17)	16 (17)	16 (17)	17 (18)	18 (19)
• Helicopters	68	68	68	68	68
<b>Air defense forces</b>					
• Light SAM launchers	83	83	83	83	83
<b>Navy</b>					
• Combat vessels	15	15	15	15	15
• Patrol craft	37	37	42	46	83*

\* Due to change in estimate

#### Personnel

	Regular	Reserve	Total
Ground Forces	27,000		27,000
Air Force	4,000		4,000
Navy	4,500		4,500
<b>Total</b>	35,500		35,500
<b>Paramilitary</b>			
• 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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	

#### Tanks

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

#### APCs/AFVs

Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
<b>APCs</b>				
• 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		
<b>IFVs</b>				
• Engesa EE-11	+	+	1982	Included with Engesa EE-9
<b>Reconnaissance</b>				
• Engesa EE-9	36	36	1982	
• Saladin	20	20	1962	
• AML-60/90	40	40	1969	
Subtotal	96	96		
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>326</b>		

#### Artillery

Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Towed guns and howitzers</b>				
• 155mm M198	48	48	1987	

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Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
• 155mm M114	18	18	1970	
• 105mm M101	45	45	1980	
Subtotal	111	111		
<b>Mortars, under 160mm</b>				
• 120mm Brandt	18	18	1987	
• 107mm	40	40	1980	
• 107mm SP	36	36	1987	Mounted on M106
Subtotal	94	94		
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>205</b>		

### Logistics and Engineering Equipment

M728 ECV (4), SK-105 ARVs (5)
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### 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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>			

## Air Force

### Order-of-Battle

Category	In Stock	In service	Notes
Combat	18	18	
Transport	19	18	
Helicopters	68	68	

### Combat Aircraft

Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Multi-role</b>				
• F-5 E/F	18	18	1984	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>		

### Transport Aircraft

Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
• C-130J-30	2	2	2013	
• C-130B/H Hercules	9	9	1985	

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Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
• G-222	5	5	2000	
• L-410	3	2	1994	
<b>Total</b>	19	18		

### Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Jet trainers</b>				
• L-59T	12	12	2006	Upgraded
• Aermacchi MB-326 B/KT/LT	11	5	1974	
Subtotal	23	17		
<b>Piston/Turbo-prop</b>				
• SF-260WT/C	20	10	1974	
• S 208A/M	2	2	1979	
Subtotal	22	12		
<b>Total</b>	45	29		

### Helicopters

Model	In Stock	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Light Attack</b>				
• SA 342F2 Gazelle	5	5	1991	Armed only with MGs
<b>Medium transport</b>				
• AB-205/UH-1H	37	37	1978	
• S-61R/HH-3E	3	3	1994	
• AS 365 Dauphin II	1	1	1986	
Subtotal	41	41		
<b>Light transport</b>				
• Alouette II/III	11	11	1964	
• AS 350 Ecureuil	6	6	1982	
Subtotal	22	22		
<b>Total</b>	68	68		
<b>Future procurement</b>				
• S-70B Seahawk	6			Fate of the deal unknown
• UH-60M Blackhawk	12			Being delivered

### Advanced Armament

<b>Air-to-air-missiles</b>				
AIM-9J Sidewinder				

## Tunisia

### Air Force Infrastructure

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Military airfields	4
Bizerta (Sidi Ahmad), Gabes, Gafsa, Sfax	

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## Air Defense Forces

### Surface-to-Air Missiles

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

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### Other Air Defense Systems

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

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## Navy

### Combat Vessels

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Type	In Stock	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
<b>MFPBs</b>			
• Combatante III	3	56/345	8xMM40 Exocet SSMs 1x76mm gun 2x40mm guns 4x30mm guns
• Albatros (Type 143B)	6	57.6/391	2x533mm Torpedo tubes 2x76mm gun Mine-laying capability

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Type	In Stock	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Bizerte class (P-48)	3	48/250	8xSS-12M SSMs 4x37mm guns
Subtotal	12		
<b>Gunboats</b>			
• Modified Haizhui class	3	35/120	4x25mm guns
<b>Total</b>	15		

### Patrol Craft

Type	In Stock	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
• Cantiere Navale Vittoria P270TN	4	27/90	
• Cantiere Navale Vittoria P350TN	6	35/140	with National Guard
• Coastal patrol craft (Socomena)	2	20.5/32	1x12.7mm MG with National Guard
• CNG Carabinieri Classe 700	4	14.20/18	Ex-Italian coast Guard with National Guard
• CNG Carabinieri Classe 500	2	10.40/8	Motor boat
• CNG Carabinieri Classe 800/P58	7	17/30	With National Guard
• CNG Carabinieri Classe Squalo	8	13.50/13	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
• 44-ft Archangel RB-M	3	13.41/14.5	USCG
• 25-ft Defender RB-S	5	7.6/4.3	USCG
• SAFE 27-ft Full Cabin	5	8.9/5.5	
• SAFE 25-ft Center Console (MSF)	7	7.6/3.9	
• SAFE 65-ft Full Cabin Inboard	1	20.3/42	USCG
<b>Total</b>	83		



## Tunisia

Type	In Stock	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
<b>Future procurement</b>			
• Cantiere Navale Vittoria P270TN	2	27/90	Delivery in progress
• SAFE 65-ft Full Cabin Inboard	1	20.3/42	Being Delivered

### **Auxiliary Vessels**

Type	In Stock	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	1x20mm gun 1,130 tons
• White Sumac	2	40.5/485	
• Coastal tug	1	32.4/412	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>		

### **Naval Infrastructure**

<b>Naval bases</b>	6	
Bizerta, Kelibia, La Goulette , Sfax, Sousse, Tunis		
<b>Ship maintenance and repair facilities</b>	2	
4 dry-docks and 1 slipway in Bizerta; 2 pontoons and 1 floating dock at Sfax. Capability for maintenance and repair of existing vessels.		