



CHAD



Background: Chad, part of France's African holdings until 1960, endured three decades of civil warfare as well as invasions by Libya before a semblance of peace was finally restored in 1990. The government eventually drafted a democratic constitution, and held flawed presidential elections in 1996 and 2001. In 1998, a rebellion broke out in northern Chad, which sporadically flares up despite several peace agreements between the government and the rebels. In 2005 new rebel groups emerged in western Sudan and have made probing attacks into eastern Chad. Power remains in the hands of an ethnic minority. In June 2005, President Idriss Deby held a referendum successfully removing constitutional term limits.

Geography: Location: Central Africa, south of Libya. Area: total: 1.284 million sq km. Area - comparative: slightly more than three times the size of California. Land boundaries: total: 5,968 km. Border countries: Cameroon 1,094 km, Central African Republic 1,197 km, Libya 1,055 km, Niger 1,175 km, Nigeria 87 km, Sudan 1,360 km. Climate: tropical in south, desert in north. Terrain: broad, arid plains in center, desert in north, mountains in northwest, lowlands in south. Natural resources: petroleum, uranium, natron, kaolin, fish (Lake Chad), gold, limestone, sand and gravel, salt. Natural hazards: hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds occur in north; periodic droughts; locust plagues. Environment - current issues: inadequate supplies of potable water; improper waste disposal in rural areas contributes to soil and water pollution; desertification. Geography - note: landlocked; Lake Chad is the most significant water body in the Sahel.

Military Notes:

198X Car, Armd, 4x4. Panhard AML-90.

Remarks: Approximately 50 cars with 90mm cannon had been delivered from France by 1987 (see France for vehicle details).

198X Car, Armd, 4x4. Cadillac-Gage V-150.

Remarks: By 1987 eight Cadillac Gage armored cars with 90mm guns had been delivered by the United States (see US for vehicle details).

198X Carr, Anti-Aircraft. AML-20.

Remarks: By 1987 approximately six AML-20s had been delivered from France (see France for

vehicle details).

198X Car, Armd, 6x6. Panhard ERC-90.

Remarks: By 1987 four ERC-90 armored cars with 90mm guns had been delivered by France (see France for vehicle details).