



The European Union Military Operation in Chad and Central African Republic

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THE OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS of European Union Force Chad/Central African Republic in Mont Valérien, France, near Paris, is located 270 kilometers from the political and strategic decision-making headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and 4,300 kilometers from the two military theaters of operation in Chad and the Central African Republic. Chad is the fifth largest country in Africa. It is surrounded by Sudan to the east, Libya to the north, Niger and Nigeria to the west, and Cameroon and part of the area of operations in the Central African Republic to the south.

The geographical distances involved are important. The force headquarters is in Abéché, more than 2,000 kilometers from the port of Douala in Cameroon, the main sea point of disembarkation. The area of operations measures some 850 kilometers long and 250 kilometers wide.

Abéché is the regional capital of the Quaddai District and is approximately 800 kilometers from the capital N'Djamena where the rear force headquarters is located. The main function of this headquarters is to provide coordination and liaison with relevant actors (including the Chadian Security Agency) and to coordinate logistical support for the force to enable it to sustain operations in theater.

The area of operations has three distinct geographical features. The northern region of Iriba and northwest Abéché is mostly desert. The eastern Quaddai, Dar Sila region is mostly plateaus and hills. To the south, the Salammat region of Chad and the northeast Vakaga region of the Central African Republic are mostly plains and desert.

The dry and wet seasons are dominant features influencing the climatic conditions in the area of operations. The dry season stretches from the end of October to the end of May, and the wet season is from June to September. There are only two tarred runways in the country, one in the capital city and the second in Abéché. All other runways are dirt strips. There are no rail services. Except for 400 kilometers of tarred roadway, the road network is all dirt tracks. While the country produces oil, there are less than 12 petrol stations in the country. Journeys by convoys are measured in days, not hours. The duration of journeys changes in the wet season when large areas of the low-lying central region are navigable only by boat.

The most important problem for Chad and the Central African Republic is the number of refugees and internally displaced persons fleeing violence

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PHOTO: An overall view of the Sudanese refugee camp of Farchana, eastern Chad, on 14 March 2009 one day before the end of the European force (EUFOR) mandate in the country. (AFP Photo, Philippe Huguen)

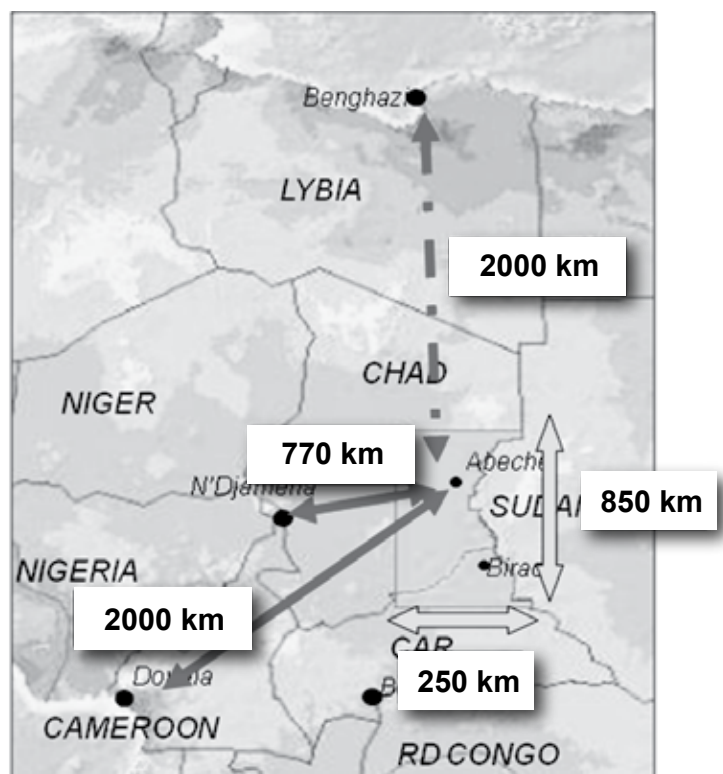


Figure 1. European Union Force Chad/Central African Republic area of operations.

in the region. In 2003, some 230,000 Sudanese refugees fled across the Chadian border and some 15,000 across the Central African Republic border. In 2008, there were close to 400,000 refugees and 180,000 internally displaced persons. While the refugees are north of Chad, internally displaced persons are mainly concentrated in the central region and the south.

What is noticeable is the layout, which highlights the concept of UN organization and management in contrast to the internally displaced persons camps. The primary focus of the European Union Force Chad/Central African Republic operation is creating a safe and secure environment within the camps.

The core issues facing the Chadian government are—

- The internal power struggle.
- The regional Darfur instability within Sudan and the consequential effects of the Chad (Central African Republic) Sudan rebel conflicts.
- The migration of people seeking food.

There are two significant rebel groups inside Sudan involved in the ongoing conflict inside Chad. After an initial success, in late January 2008 in N'Djamena, the rebels were unable to cope with the

Chadian air assets. Chad president Idriss Deby's forces regained the initiative on 4 February 2008. Many public buildings, including banks, the National Assembly, Justice Palace, and the Chadian national radio station, as well as the city's principal market, were destroyed or badly damaged. There were reports of mass looting during these days. President Deby was successful in driving the rebels out of the capital. This confrontation forced UN personnel and large numbers of Chadians to cross the Chari Bridge into Cameroon. European Union Force contract work was halted and the first elements of a peacekeeping force were scheduled to deploy on 11 February 2008. The rebel attack coincided with the European Union decision to launch the operation. The establishment of European Union Force was a part of an overall response from the international community to the crisis in Darfur, which spilled over into neighbouring Chad and the Central African Republic. On 12 September 2007, the European Union approved a crisis management concept for the deepening humanitarian crisis in Chad and armed attacks by rebel groups against the civilian population.

The United Nations also considered the crisis under UN Security Resolution 1778 on 25 September 2007. The resolution provided for the deployment of a mission in the Central African Republic and Chad and authorized the European Union to deploy forces in these countries for a period of one year from the declaration of initial operational capability. On 15 October 2007, the European Union Council adopted a joint action on the European Union Military Operation in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic. This action formally designated Mont Valérien as the operations headquarters and appointed Lieutenant

The most important problem of Chad and the Central African Republic is connecting with refugees and internally displaced persons.

General Patrick Nash from Ireland as the Operation Commander and Brigadier General Jean-Phillipe Ganascia from France as the Force Commander. On the 28 January 2008, the European Union Council decided to launch the operation.

On 15 March 2008, the operation commander declared initial operational capability. The operation has 22 nations working at the headquarters in France and 18 troop-contributing nations have deployed troops and assets in theatre in Africa.

The main role of the European Union Force is to contribute to establishing a safe and secure environment in the area of operations by—

- Protecting civilians.
- Improving security to facilitate the transport of supplies and personnel.
- Protecting UN and associated personnel,
- Facilitating the return of internally displaced persons.

The force in Chad is deployed in battalion strength in three sectors. Multinational Battalion North under Polish command (and in the future with a Croatian element) is in the northern sector. Multinational Battalion Center under French command (with a Slovenian element) is in the central sector. In the southern sector there is the Multinational Battalion South under Irish command (with a Dutch company), and also the Multinational Battalion Birao in the Central African Republic under French command. In addition, special operation forces are

deployed throughout the theater. France and Italy provide two hospitals.

The following challenges face the European Union Force Chad/Central African Republic:

- Non-existent host-nation logistical support.
- The encroaching regional crisis.
- The attitude of the rebel groups against the European Union Force.
- The climate.

The operation has reached full operational effectiveness. The operational presence is now visible over a wider area and with a far greater regularity. The frequency of incidents is relatively high but most of these relate to local difficulties within tribal framework or tribal disputes that lead to killings. One significant event that received much publicity was the murder of Pascal Marlinge, the head of the United Kingdom Save the Children organization in Chad. Because of the recent rebel attacks, significant ordnance is concentrated in areas where the fighting took place.

The operation's mandate prevents armed troops from entering refugee camps, so civil-military cooperation teams are the eyes in these situations. Having close liaison with other actors in theater is an ongoing part of the operation now. All operational activity seeks to develop greater situational awareness to respond more effectively as situations arise. All headquarters staff members have trained on gender issues (including standards of behavior and UN Security Council Resolution 1325).

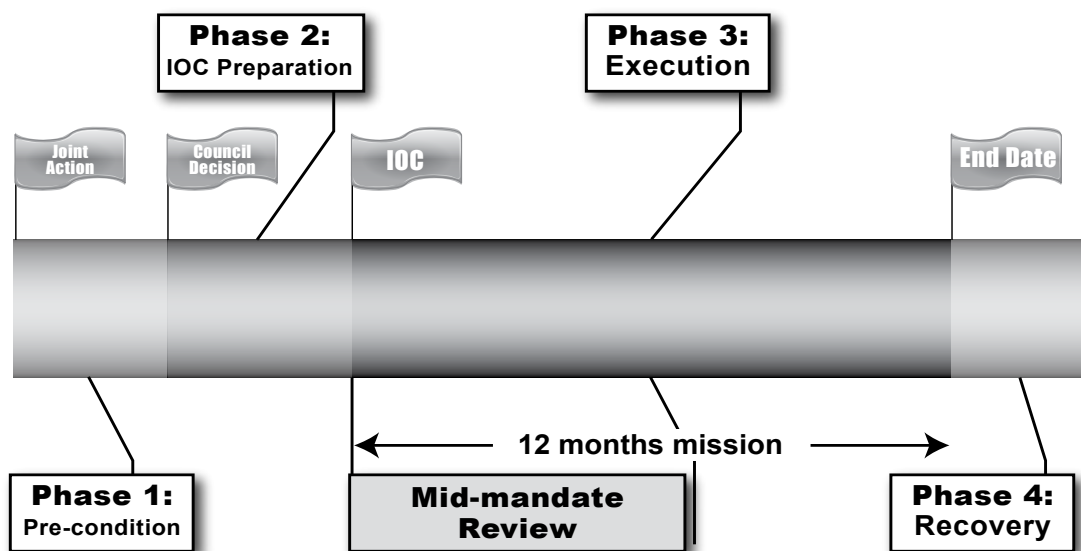


Figure 2. Phases of European Union Force CHAD/Central African Republic operation.

AFP Photo, Philippe Huguen



A French Soldier of the 517th regiment of the “Train de Chateauroux” changes his insignia during a hand over ceremony, 15 March 2009 in Abeche.

Countries in the region are poor, underdeveloped, and corrupt. It is a region of complex, mixed ethnic, tribal, religious, and cultural divisions in a very harsh climate and environment not controlled by borders. There are a number of different active rebel movements in the region as well as cross-border disputes between the states where these rebel movements are based.

In central Africa a number of security-related international operations and missions are shaping

the situation. The European Union Force has to cooperate with these international organizations, most notably the United Nations. On 14 January 2009, the UN adopted Resolution 1861, which was a milestone for European Union Force’s planning with respect to recovery and handover to the UN follow-on force for this mission. The resolution confirmed 15 March 2009 as the date of transfer of authority from European Union Force to the UN follow-on force.

After 15 March 2009, European Union Force confined its operations to three domains:

- Force protection.
- Freedom of movement for recovery operations.
- Retaining limited but reduced capability to

intervene *in extremis* situations.

By 30 June 2009, EUFOR withdrew its forces from the area of operations, finishing the largest European Union military operation in its history.

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New Army Field Manual FM 5-0, *The Operations Process*



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The new FM 5-0, *The Operations Process*, expands Army doctrine on the exercise of command and control during the conduct of full spectrum operations. No longer a manual strictly concerning planning, FM 5-0 now describes the relationship of all activities of the operations process – planning, preparing for, execution, and assessing operations.

In addition, for the first time in Army doctrine, the manual weaves “design” throughout the operations process. This version of FM 5-0 provides a guide for Army leaders in understanding, visualizing, and describing complex, ill-structured problems and developing approaches to solve them.

FM 5-0 will be available for download at the Combined Arms Center Web site: <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/FM50>

More information may be obtained by calling the U.S. Army Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate (CADD) at: (913)684-2159/ DSN 552-2159.

