

# Republic of Chad

## Smart Card



Produced by the TRADOC Culture Center  
550 Cibique Street, Suite 111  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613  
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### POPULATION

**Population:** 11,631,456 (July 2015), 65% under 25 years old, 22% live in urban areas. Population unequally distributed; majority of population found in south of country

**Ethnic groups:** Sara 28%, Arab 12%, Mayo-Kebbi 11%, Kanem-Bornou 9%, Ouaddai 9%, (1993); Semi-nomadic herders (north), sedentary farmers (south); +200 ethnic groups

**Religious groups:** 53% Muslim, 34% Christian, 7% animist Muslim (north), Christian-animist (south)

**Language:** French and Arabic official languages; over 120 languages spoken

### REFUGEES

Ongoing conflicts in the neighboring countries of the Central African Republic, Nigeria and South Sudan, have led to a large refugee population of over 450,000 in Chad and are a stress on basic services and social structure.


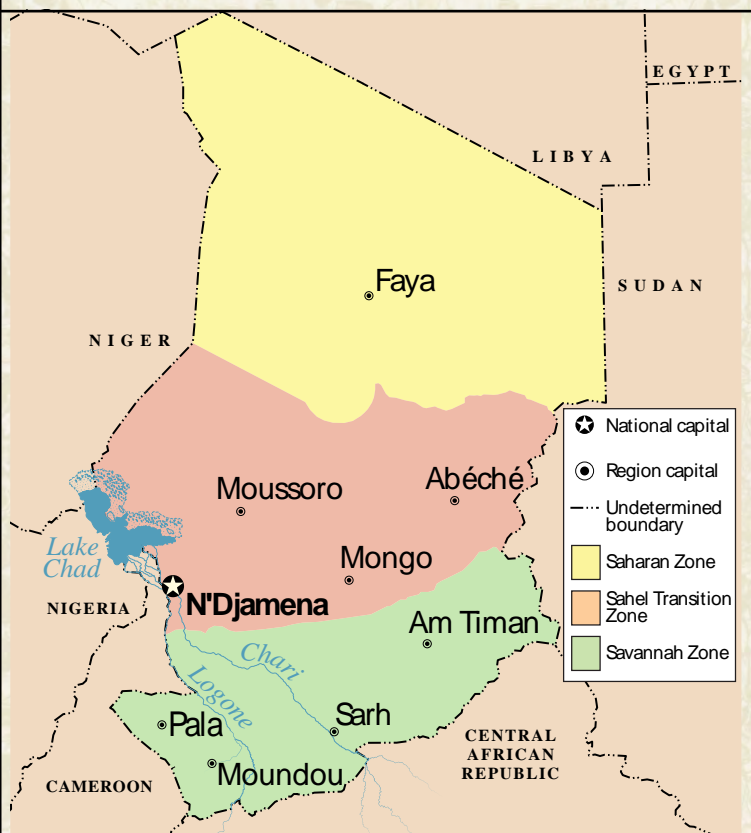


Photo by: Mark Knobil



Three climatic zones: Saharan Zone in the desert north, Sahel Transition Zone in central Chad, and the forest or Savannah Zone in the south. The major body of water, Lake Chad in the southwest, is drying up.

### HISTORY

Chad has been inhabited since at least 500 BCE with the population usually focused on the Lake Chad area. The Kanem-Bornu Empire formed around 900 CE controlling the area in combination with the Baguirmi and Ouaddai Kingdoms.

France began colonizing in 1891, culminating with a French victory over a combined local and Sudanese force at the Battle of Kousseri in 1900. Chad was given separate colonial status in 1920. However, France only maintained nominal control until Chad gained independence in 1960; after which the French continued to maintain a permanent military presence.



After independence, Chad experienced over three decades of civil war, in addition to several incursions by Libya, before achieving peace in 1990. After several years of fragile peace, another rebellion began in northern Chad that has continued periodically despite several peace accords between the government and rebels.

### BASIC FACTS

- Fifth largest African country; three times the size of California
- Mid-level oil producer since 2003; oil revenues have allowed increased defense spending
- One of 16 landlocked African countries
- Member of US-sponsored Trans-Saharan Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP)
- The French military has a permanent air-base in N'Djamena
- Security forces are historically key players in politics and remain a highly politicized force
- Hybrid political institutions; Western style politicians control urban areas, traditional rulers control countryside



### HELPFUL PHRASES

Most Chadians speak a local language as their mother tongue. Most government, business and military officials speak French.



English	French
Good morning	<i>Bonjour</i>
Do you speak English?	<i>Parlez-vous Anglais?</i>
Excuse me	<i>Pardonnez-moi</i>
My name is...	<i>Je m'appelle ....</i>
How are you?	<i>Comment allez-vous?</i>
Yes / No	<i>Oui / Non</i>
Where is...?	<i>Ou est...?</i>
Please	<i>S'il vous plait</i>
How many?	<i>Combien?</i>
Welcome	<i>Bienvenue</i>
Thank you	<i>Merci</i>

### MILITARY OVERVIEW

The Chadian Armed Forces (***Armée Nationale du Tchad*** – ANT) includes the army; air force; gendarmerie, serving as a para-military force; and republican guard, which is the best trained and equipped unit and under the president's direct control.





Photo by: Dans

Compulsory military service begins at age 20 with a three-year service obligation, although conscription has never been fully implemented. Volunteers are accepted at age 18 and are the primary means to fill the military. Military service is a popular career since employment is difficult to find.

Although the military is open to all ethnic groups, northern ethnic groups dominate. It has remained a challenge to expand the recruitment base to make it more representative. Understanding the ethnicity of your military colleagues and those of the region you are operating in, will help you build rapport.



Chad Soldier in WWII

### MILITARY RANKS

The Chad military is generally considered the most capable military force in the region and is an important institution within the country.

Private 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Corporal	Sergeant	Chief Sergeant
Sergeant Major	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Captain
Major	Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel	Brigadier General



## NATIONAL IDENTITY

National identity is problematic in Chad. Chad's national identity results from the inherited postcolonial administrative structure. For example, French and Arabic are the official languages, but neither are native to the territory.

In general, the French favored southerners over northerners and settled populations over nomads. This bias continued after independence and has become an important element in civil conflict. However since 1979, northerners have gained predominance in government contrary to their former status. The legal system also has challenges from this mixed past as it must contend with conflicts between sharia, traditional and civil law.

Potential issues related to the role of ethnic traditions, religious identity, and balanced ethno-regional representation continue to be a problem. Additionally, soldiers may encounter strong attachments to kin and co-ethnics instead of a unified national identity.



Photo by: Mark Knobil

## CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

### INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY

Individuals in Chad identify themselves both by ethnicity and clan. There are over 200 ethnic groups in Chad. Mostly nomadic tribes live in the north; the largest is the Toubou. The south is dominated by sedentary groups like the Sara, Chad's largest ethnic group. In the Sahel transition areas, sedentary groups live side-by-side with nomadic groups, including Arabs, the country's second major ethnic group.

Clans, which are essentially family groups connected to a shared ancestor, are important in both the north and south of Chad. Lineage and clan membership is especially important among the pastoralist groups such as the Toubou; and in southern village groups, like the Nar.

Note that political affiliation mostly follows clan and ethno-regional lines. Both of these are important for understanding the political landscape.



Photo by: Mark Knobil

### RELIGION

Chadians practice three primary religions: Islam (predominately Sunni), Christianity, and local beliefs. The vast majority reject extremist forms of religion.

Islam, practiced mainly in the north and east of the country, is the dominant faith of about half the population. Christianity (practiced by around 30 percent of the population) and traditional beliefs (practiced by 20 percent of the population) are both practiced primarily in the south.

Religious groups blend traditional and animist religious rituals and beliefs with Islamic and Christian teachings. Many hold strong traditional beliefs in nature's power and the control of ancestral spirits.

Chad has six national holidays. Note that dates for both Christian and Muslim holidays can vary yearly based on the lunar calendar.



Click or Scan the QR code for more information.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Many Chadian social activities center around meals and food. It is important to know the religion of others and plan meals accordingly; pork and alcohol are forbidden to Muslims.

The main meal is in the evening and is served on a large communal plate, with men and women sitting on the ground and eating in separate areas. If invited to a meal, it is customary to bring a small token of appreciation. When visiting, the host is expected to offer refreshments and the guest is obliged to try what is offered.

The nightlife in Chad is active and most towns have bars. Nightclubs and pubs in urban areas are busy, especially on weekends. Although alcohol is available in many areas, Soldiers should only drink in establishments. Avoid drinking alcohol and eating in public areas as it is considered offensive.



Photo by: Rebecca Musarra



Shore in N'Djamena

## BASIC

The most difficult aspect of rapport is the time that it takes to develop, especially during missions when time is valuable. You should consider where you spend your time.

Taking time to build rapport can be critical, so you should also ensure that you identify the appropriate individuals to work with.

### Rapport tips to consider:

- Seek to understand before being understood
- Take ownership of your counterpart's issues and needs
- Align with your counterpart's communication style
- Work to make a good first impression
- Focus on your appearance
- Once rapport is built, maintain coordination and communication



## RAPPORT

### COMMON GREETINGS

A handshake is the most common greeting for men. It is important to shake the hand of everyone in the room, starting with eldest to youngest, while always using the right hand when greeting others. Chadians may also kneel or bow to greet elders. A verbal greeting for and among women is the norm.

Chadians usually stand close when speaking to each other, and male colleagues will often touch each other for emphasis. However, personal space is more distant between men and women and physical contact is very limited.

Officials and colleagues will often ask for gifts, **cadeaux**, in order to get things done. So ensure that you understand corruption is widespread and comprehend 'gift giving' rules prior to beginning any conversation.

If you are fortunate to be invited to a celebration or funeral, understand guests are often expected to contribute money to help pay costs, with wealthier guests expected to pay a larger share and share their income with the less prosperous.

## BUILDING

### PUBLIC LIFE

Unannounced visits by Chadians are very common and often occur in the evenings and on Sundays. Social visits usually take place outside in the shade but may take place inside in larger homes.

During Ramadan many restaurants close and there are restrictions on drinking and smoking. During other holidays, families visit their neighbors and are treated to small meals at each house and children are often given candy.

Men often carry daggers in public, especially in the north. It is a cultural tradition and not meant to threaten. Showing an interest in these weapons can help build rapport.

Soccer is the most popular national pastime; and playing and watching it will help Soldiers build rapport. Additional popular sports and activities include camel racing, archery and wrestling in the north; and footraces, track events, and basketball in the south.

Bragoto River Bridge



## COMMUNICATION

Communication tends to start indirectly. Chadians usually make small talk at the start of every conversation. After establishing familiarity they can be very direct.

Rigid schedules are not followed in Chad and being late is not viewed as impolite. Few events proceed on schedule and giving the appearance of being in a hurry during negotiations may be seen as rude. Chadians often do not

make eye contact when communicating. Looking beyond the speaker or at the ground is a sign they are listening; while direct eye contact is viewed as anger or disagreement. To agree, a Chadian may click their tongue against the roof of their mouth and push their chin upward. Chadians will clap or announce greetings aloud outside someone's gate or house to announce their arrival.



Photo by Anaberto