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ORDER OF BATTLE SUMMARY, FOREIGN GROUND FORCES (U)

AP-220-1-4-67-INT

1 January 1967 ✓

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (EGYPT)

OB Summary, 1 January 1966, is superseded,  
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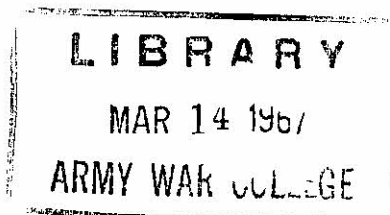
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PREPARED BY  
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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ORDER OF BATTLE SUMMARY - UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (EGYPT) (U)

1. ~~(S/NFD)~~ Introduction

a. ~~(S/NFD)~~ General. The Egyptian Army, a conscript force, is the dominant element of the Armed Forces and has primarily a defensive mission. Basic tactical doctrine is developing along Soviet Army principles with the aid of Soviet and Eastern European advisors and instructors in the UAR and through the training of some Egyptian personnel in the Warsaw Pact countries. Diverse British and German influences remaining from earlier foreign schooling and training missions are largely being replaced. Arms and equipment are predominantly of Soviet origin and World War II design. Organized reserve forces mainly comprise infantry and artillery units equipped with older Western weapons and generally in a low state of training. Paramilitary forces include:

(1) The Frontier Corps: a light reconnaissance-type desert police force of 6,000 men responsible for the operation of frontier posts and patrolling of desert areas. It is subordinate to the Frontier Administration in the Ministry of War.

(2) The Security and Guard Forces: 25 lightly armed and low-quality battalions, with a total strength of 5,000, manned mostly by personnel too old for military service. Their mission is to guard important industrial facilities, public utilities, and communications centers.

(3) The National Guard: reportedly loosely organized into a division of eight brigades, but for operational purposes consisting of small guard platoons and companies formed in many of the larger towns and cities. Most or all of these units are of the commando or fedaveen type, lightly armed and trained in guerrilla and sabotage activities. Its estimated active duty strength is only 3,000. However, 45,000 former members could carry out guerrilla and sabotage activities.

(4) The Coast Guard: a force whose mission is to prevent smuggling and illegal immigration and to exercise complete police functions in coastal regions and inaccessible areas. It is equipped with small arms and has a strength of approximately 7,300 men.

b. (C) Command Structure. The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces is the President. The top military commander is the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. There are governmental provisions for a National Defense Council to formulate defense policy, but, in fact, all major decisions concerning the Armed Forces are taken by one or both of the above individuals. The Minister of War, brought back into the armed forces chain of command by Republican Decree (11 Oct 66), now has the powers and assignments formerly held by the Office of the Deputy Supreme Commander and is over all general and flag officers. The operational staff for the Armed Forces at GHQ, Al 'Abbasiyah, Cairo, also serves as HQ for the army. Multiple command channels extend from GHQ to tactical units directly, through territorial HQ, and through chiefs of the combat arms.

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