

Egyptian Navy

IHS Jane's Amphibious & Special Forces

This abridged sample is a static extract for indicative purposes only. The full, updated content – including vessel equipment and specifications – is available within [IHS Jane's Amphibious & Special Forces](#).

Egyptian Navy

The Egyptian Navy is a two-sea force, whose role has changed from facing Israel and Libya in the Mediterranean and Gulf of Suez to a wider role in the Red Sea.

Anti-submarine warfare operations receive greater deployment emphasis, while patrols to protect the exclusive economic zone and territorial waters are still maintained.

Cairo remains particularly concerned about the spread of Islamic fundamentalist revivalism in Sudan and the threat of possible instability within Saudi Arabia.

Piracy in the Red Sea is a major concern as is an increase in terrorist attacks against tourist resorts - usually those along the coasts.

Personnel

18,500 (includes 2,000 coast guard and 10,000 conscripts); reserves 14,000.

One to three years national service depending on educational qualifications.

Bases

Alexandria (Headquarters Med), Port Said, Mersa Matru, Abu Qir and Suez.

Safaqa and Hurghada (Headquarters Red Sea) on the Red Sea.

Naval Academy: Abu Qir.

Prefix to ships' name

ENS

Submarine fleet

Submarines

Egypt is considering the acquisition of an initial buy of two German Navy Type 206A class SSKs.

There is no hard evidence that the Egyptian submarine fleet is capable of operating swimmers; indeed, the four submarines have not been reported at sea for some time. Nevertheless, the navy does possess a UDT team and SDVs.

- Four improved Romeo class (Type 033) (SSK)

SDVs

The Egyptian Navy has a UDT team believed to be established on the lines of the USN's SEALs. Certainly these are equipped with a number of Italian-built

CF2 FX 100 SDVs and four, operational SDV support vessels. RIBS are in use with naval special forces while a further six SDV support vessels are in various states of repair.

Chariot CE2F/X100T

Because of their endurance, chariots are normally transported to within their operating range by a parent ship such as a SWAT, patrol submarine, helicopter, innocent-looking fishing vessel or, in the case of Egypt, the Seafox swimmer delivery craft.

The Chariot is designed to navigate undetected in hostile waters and carry two combat divers to their target (harbour, oil rig, coastal installation and so on) and then back to the parent ship after completion of the mission.

The Italian CE2F/X100T is a sturdy, two-man wet submersible vehicle designed for covert operations.

Surface fleet

Escorts

Only those escorts capable of operating troop-lift helicopters (Kaman SH-2G Seasprite) are shown. It must, though, be accepted that all surface ships can launch and recover the rubber assault craft known to be used by the army's commando groups. Additionally the two, 1,702 ton Jianghu I class FFGs and the two, 1,479 ton Descubierta class FFGs can supply naval gunfire support.

- Four 3,696 tonnes (full load) Oliver Hazard Perry class (FFG)
- Two 4,328 tonnes (full load) Knox class(FFG)

Patrol forces

The Egyptian Navy has a potent fleet of fast attack craft, many fitted with missile systems. These and the navy-manned vessels of the Coast Guard, would be deployed in support of amphibious landings and certainly in their prevention (see Jane's Fighting Ships for full details).

Amphibious fleet

This is a modest fleet of relatively elderly vessels. With no minor landing craft or fast assault craft, plans to conduct unilateral, opposed beach landings are unlikely. The LSMs and LCUs can operate rubber assault craft but probably in the reconnaissance role or special forces role rather than to hold a beach prior to a main landing. If all craft were operational, then a theoretical MBT lift of 45 could be achieved.

There has been a requirement for LPD/LST type ships for some years. Russia is a possible supplier of second-hand ships if funds can be found.

RoRo ferries are chartered for amphibious exercises.

LSMs

- Three Polnochny A (Type 770) class (LSM)

LCUs

- Nine Vydra class (LCU)

Mine warfare vessels

The Egyptian Navy offers a useful contribution to mine warfare in advance of any coalition amphibious assault in the Eastern Mediterranean or the Red Sea.

- Three 589 tonnes T 43 class (Minesweepers-Ocean) (MSO)
- Four 549 tonnes Yurka class (Minesweepers-Ocean) (MSO)
- Three 206 tonnes Swiftships type (Coastal Minehunters) (MHC)

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