

VECTOR RESULTANTS

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Algeria Sowed Seeds of Hostage Crisis as It Nurtured Warlord

ALGIERS — To the Algerians, the desert warlord in the swirling blue robes was a man of his word — the key to managing the crisis next door in northern [Mali](#) — and for months they lodged his representative here in the Algerian capital in high style in one of the city's finest hotels.



Iyad Ag Ghali, founder of the Islamic group Ansar Dine.

INTRODUCTION: Vector (A): Logos to Algiers...2000 miles due North.
Vector (B): Algiers to Timbuktu....1400 miles at 80° South of West.
Vector (C): Timbuktu to Dakar.....1500 miles due west.

QUESTION: Find resultant(R) displacement (magnitude & direction) from Logos, Nigeria to Dakar, Senegal?

HINTS: Find A,B, & C's components in X & Y direction & make grid to find R's X and Y components.

ANSWER: 1850 MILES @ 19.6° North of West.



They were nurturing a viper. The warlord, as the Algerians well knew, was the leader of one of the militant Islamist groups holding northern Mali captive. That was not a deal-breaker, they reasoned. To the contrary, having tight connections with a powerful militant across the border, much as Pakistan does in Afghanistan, could protect their interests. But instead of ensuring that the conflict remained outside their country, a longstanding imperative of the Algerians, the warlord, Iyad Ag Ghali, ended up bringing it right to them. His forces made a sudden push toward the Malian capital in January, enraging his Algerian patrons, bringing on a French military intervention and ultimately giving extremists a rallying cry to seize an Algerian gas field, leading to the deaths of at least 38 hostages.