

AFGHANISTAN

MEF G-2: Telephone:	CG I MEF//G-2// STU-III AV 365-9103
Theater J-2: Telephone:	USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FLA//J-2// STU-III AV 968-6265
DIA DB Desk Code: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-2C// STU-III AV 243-2491
Embassy Defense Attache: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DAH-3// STU-III AV 243-0566

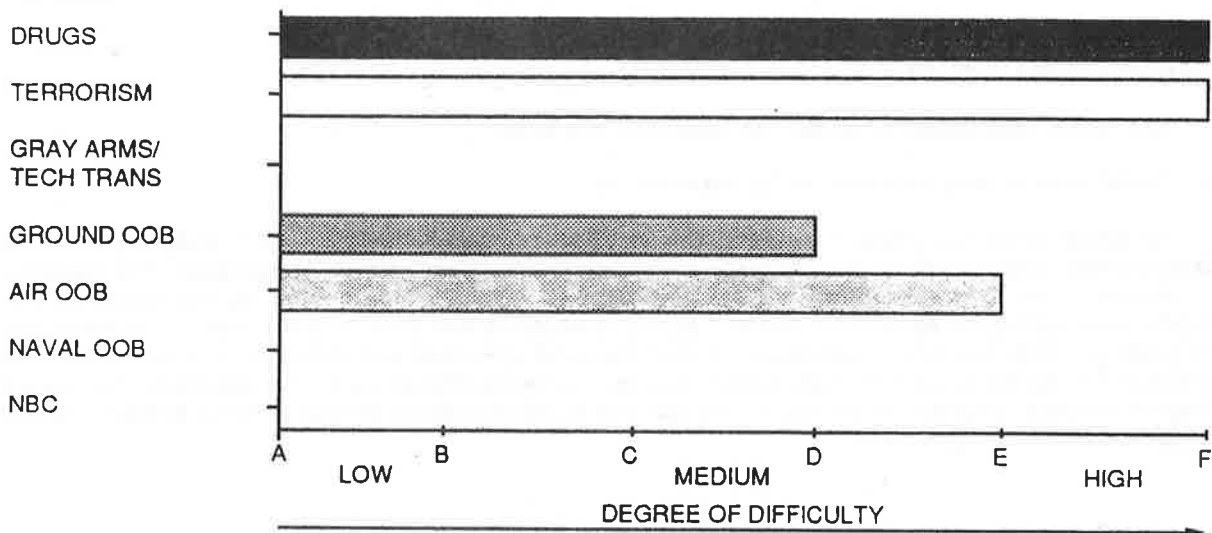


SUMMARY

Soviet forces occupied **Afghanistan** and battled **Afghan** rebels for nine years. A UN-mediated agreement was signed in 1988 providing for the withdrawal of **Soviet** troops, creation of a neutral **Afghan** state, and repatriation of millions of **Afghan** refugees. **Afghan** rebels rejected the agreement and vowed to continue the resistance while a **Soviet** backed government remained in control. The **U.S.** has never recognized the communist regime in **Kabul** and since the **Soviet** withdrawal has continued to assist the **Afghan** resistance and the displaced refugees. Overall **U.S.** equity in **Afghanistan** is low. This country is the largest producer of opium in **Southwest Asia** with an output of 700 to 800 metric tons in 1988 and remains a principal source for this drug in **European** and **U.S.** markets. The **Afghan** Government has sponsored violent terrorist attacks against **Afghan** refugees and other civilians in **Pakistan**. Because of its involvement in both opium production and terrorism, **Afghanistan** should be considered as a serious source of concern. The country has a moderate size army with about 50,000 troops, a small air force, and no navy. Most of its military equipment is provided by the **Soviet Union**. Training and morale in the armed forces is marginal.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country divided from southeast to northeast by towering mountain ranges. Small valleys intersperse the mountains and large desert areas. Due to the rugged and broken terrain, cross-country movement of tracked and heavy wheeled vehicles is not feasible in about two-thirds of the country. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters because of the geographic conditions. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is restricted to the northern **Afghan** border area with the **Soviet Union**. While there are no airfields that can handle C-5 aircraft, two airfields are available that can accommodate C-141B aircraft. The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked MEU would require in excess of six days to reach **Afghanistan**. NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in **Afghanistan** would be very difficult due to the 582 nautical miles distance to **Kabul**, the most likely evacuation point.

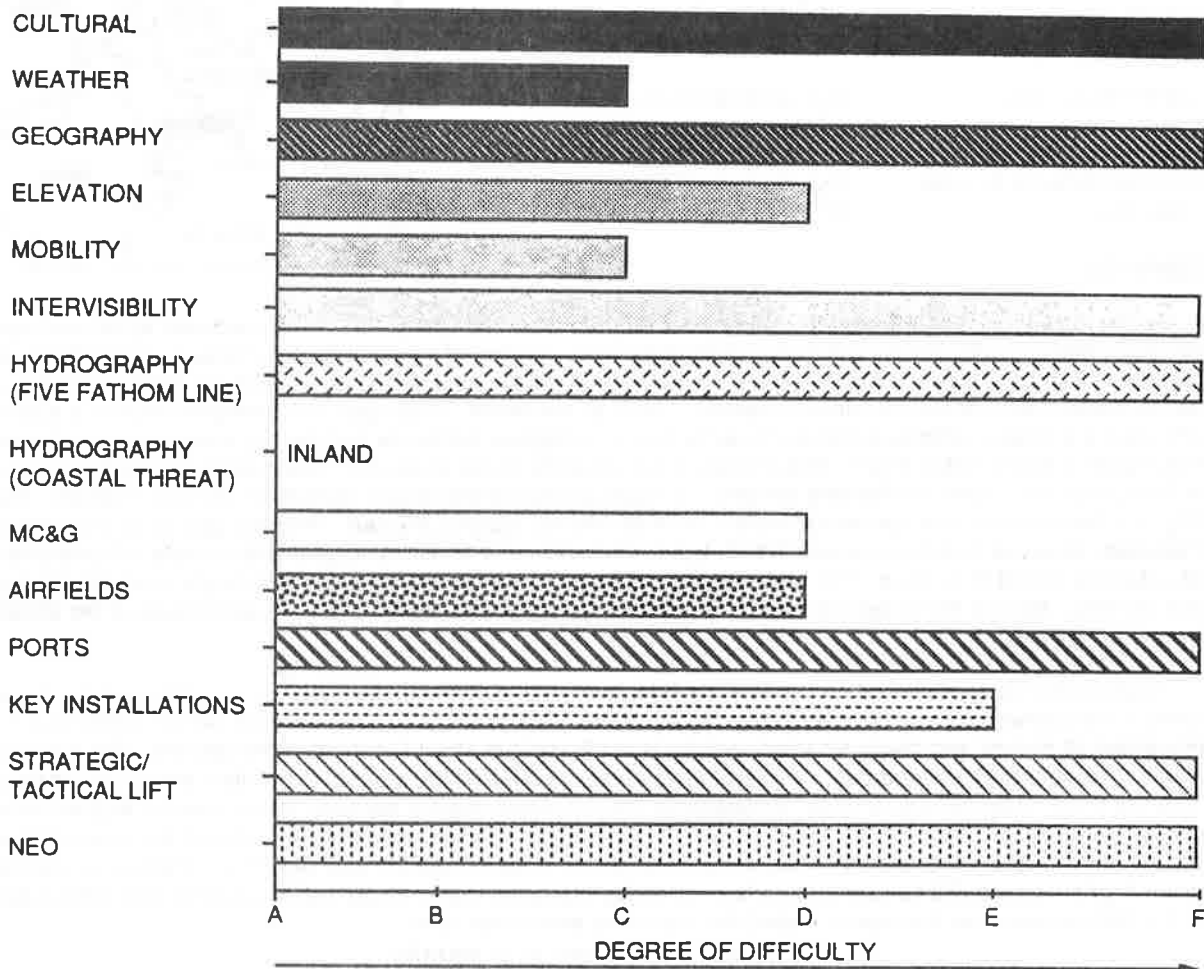
AFGHANISTAN - THREAT SUMMARY



Afghanistan - 1

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AFGHANISTAN - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- U.S. backed Mujahadeen rebels fight the Soviets for nine years.
- Soviet forces recently withdrawn but fighting continues.

Pro-Soviet leftists took power in a bloody 1978 coup and concluded an economic and military treaty with the Soviet Union. Late in 1979, the Soviets began a massive military airlift into Kabul, Afghanistan. This resulted in another coup and the installation of a more pro-Soviet leader. Soviet troops of up to 100,000 spread out over Afghanistan fighting the Mujahadeen rebels. Fighting continued for nine years as the Soviets found themselves engaged in a long, protracted guerrilla war. A U.N.-mediated agreement was signed in 1988 providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, creation of a neutral Afghan state, and repatriation of millions of Afghan refugees. Afghan rebels rejected the pact and vowed to continue fighting while the Soviets and their puppets remained in Afghanistan.

U.S. Equities In Afghanistan

- Overall U.S. equity is low.
- U.S. provides support for **Afghan** refugees.

The **U.S.** has never recognized the **Soviet-backed Kabul** regime and, since the **Soviet** withdrawal from **Afghanistan**, has sought to assist the **Afghan** resistance and the displaced refugees which have poured into **Pakistan**.

Direct Inv (Mil of \$)	Exports (Mil of \$)	Imports (Mil of \$)	U.S. Aid (Mil of \$)	Total Equity (Mil of \$)	U.S. Citizens	\$ Rating Rating	Total Numerical Rating	Overall U.S. Equity
-	-	-	29	29	23	1 1	2	Low

Drug Threat

Drug Production	Drug Processing	Precursor Chemicals	Money Laundering	Transit Point
X				

- Largest producer of opium in **Southwest Asia**.
 1988 produced 700 - 800 metric tons
 1987 produced 400 - 800 metric tons
 1986 produced 400 - 500 metric tons
 1985 produced 400 - 500 metric tons
- Returning **Afghan** refugees may cause opium production to increase.

Afghanistan produced 700 to 800 metric tons of opium in 1988 and remains a principal but politically inaccessible source of opium/heroin for **European** and **U.S.** drug markets. Given the current instability in the wake of the **Soviet** withdrawal, there are no forecasts as to the time and circumstances under which a Government in **Kabul** will attempt to suppress cultivation and refining. The situation is complicated by the resettlement of **Afghan** refugees who may turn to opium as a cash crop, increasing the likelihood that production may increase.

Terrorism

Afghanistan's Ministry of State Security, WAD, has sponsored an increasingly violent terrorist bombing campaign in **Pakistan**, particularly in the Northwest Frontier Province. Over 200 **Afghan** refugees and **Pakistani** civilians have been killed and 1,200 wounded in over 100 attacks attributed to WAD in 1987 alone.

Consolidated Threat

In the **Asia/Pacific** region, **Afghanistan** should be a source of concern due to its involvement in both drug production and terrorism.

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/Exp	T-62	Bloc	50	6	186	D

Ground OOB consists of 50,000 troops which are predominantly conscripts. The army was plagued by desertion and weakened by purges under **Soviet** control, and the government has in the past resorted to kidnapping to fill the ranks. Present training for conscripts is marginal. There is normally an NCO corps, with its own school, and other technical schools in-country. In the 1960s, many **Afghan** officers were trained in the **Soviet Union** and the **Soviets** had more than 1,000 military advisors with the **Afghan Army**. Tanks: PT-76, T-34, T-54, T-55, T-62; Artillery: D-1, M-30, M-46, M-1944.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Bloc	Early Smart	Bloc	7	6	143	3

Fighter Aircraft: MiG-17, MiG-19, MiG-21; Close Air: Il-28, Mi-24, Su-7, Su-17, Su-22; Air Defense: SA-2, SA-3, and SA-7 SAMs and AA guns.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
None	None	None	0	0	0	A

Ships: none; SSM: none; Patrol Craft: None.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Pushtu (Persian or Dari, Turkic)
Primary religion - Islam

There is a large cultural difference between **Afghanistan** and the **U.S.**

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
32-100	30-65	11	Mixed

The climate is dry with cold winters and hot summers.

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Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

General Geographic Conditions

URBAN	DESERT	JUNGLE	MOUNTAINOUS
			X

Operational Elevation

<2,000 FT	<4,000 FT	<6,000 FT	>6,000 FT	>9,000 FT	>12,000 FT
			X		

Afghanistan is a landlocked country divided from southeast to northeast by towering mountain ranges. Small valleys intersperse the mountains and large desert areas.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- Portions of **Afghanistan** are suitable for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Approximately two-thirds of **Afghanistan** precludes the cross-country movement of tracked and heavy wheeled vehicles due to a vast network of mountains, steep slopes, and rugged surfaces. Comprised mainly of desert and small valleys, the remaining third of the country is suitable for the cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Poor, with line of sight distances limited to less than 1,000 meters.

Afghanistan is divided by the towering **Hindu Kush** and **Pamir** mountain ranges. In most of the country line of sight distances would be less than 1,000 meters due to the large networks of mountains and rugged surfaces. The part of **Afghanistan** composed mainly of flat desert terrain would have better visibility in many locations.

MC&G Shortfalls

- Limited map coverage.

1:50 New	1:50 Old	Some 1:50	MSI Avail	1:250 New	None
		X			

1:50,000 scale map coverage is limited to the **Afghan** border with the **Soviet Union**.

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Airfields

- No airfields are available to handle C-5 aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
3	2 C-141B 1 None	1/2	2-4/C-130

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Faizabad Kabul International Kandahar International	None C-141B, C-130 C-141B, C-130	- - Daylight/VFR only.

Key Installations

Faryab and Jowzjan provinces contain oil reserves. Oil fields are located east of Sheberghan and south of Mazar e Sharif.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Kabul	- Limited telecomm - 5 Radio stations - 1 TV station - 1 Satellite station	21,000 km	9.6 km	0	3	- Natural gas	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU would require in excess of six days to reach Afghanistan. The AAF/ACB can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

NEO

- NEO conducted by a MEU in Afghanistan under normal conditions would be very difficult due to the 582 nautical miles distance to Kabul, the most likely evacuation point.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
0	23	582 (Kabul)	E

Note: In Afghanistan the following factors are of little significance:

- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- Naval OOB
- NBC
- Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)
- Hydrography (Coastal Threat)
- Ports