

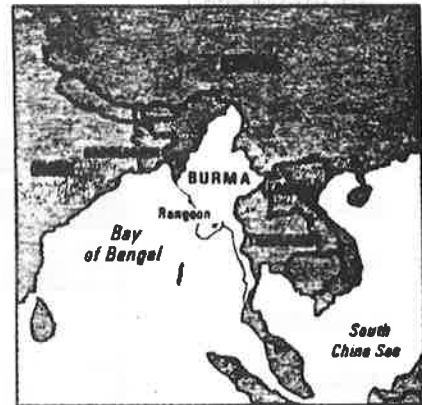
BURMA

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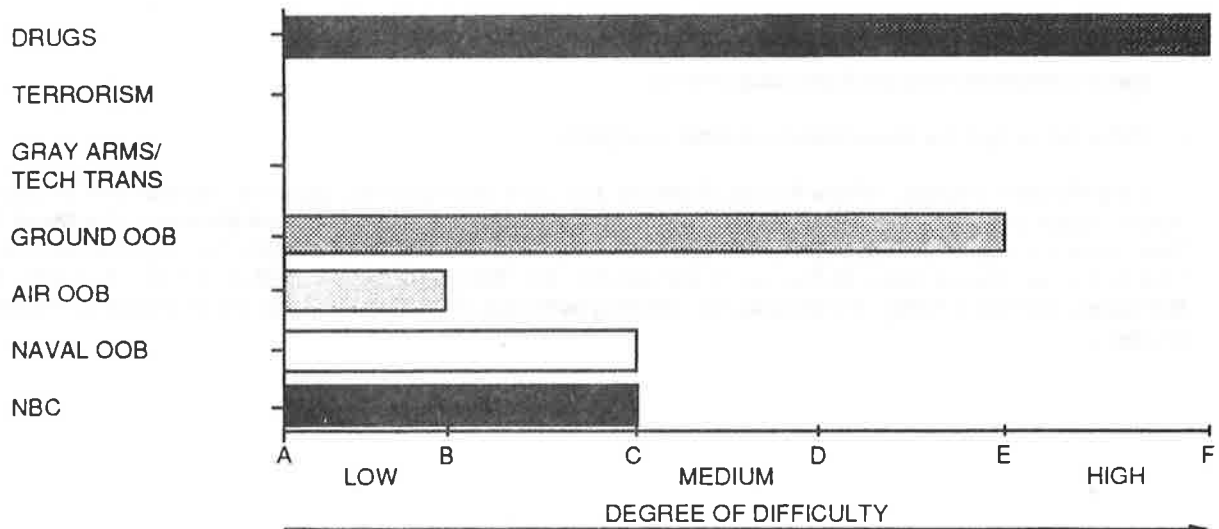


SUMMARY

Insurgency in **Burma** is pursued by ethnic groups motivated by demands for secession or autonomy. Most insurgents depend largely on the narcotics trade for financial existence. The Mong Tai Revolutionary Army, an insurgent group that operates in the **Burmese-Thai** border region, extorts protection from heroin factories in order to finance its war against the **Rangoon** Government and rival insurgents, the **Burmese** Communist Party. Overall **U.S.** equity in **Burma** is low. Specific **U.S.** interests in this country include bilateral cooperation to suppress the illicit drug trade, assistance to **Burmese** economic development, commercial access, and cultural exchanges. About 150 **U.S.** citizens live there. **Burma** is the world's largest opium producing country with an output of 1,065 to 1,500 metric tons in 1988. Production reportedly increased in 1989 due to favorable climatic conditions and a decrease in government eradication efforts. **Burma** has an army of 170,000 volunteers plus a relatively small air force and navy. In addition to counterinsurgency, the mission of the armed forces include internal security, territorial defense, assistance to the national administration, and civic action. **Burma** purchases small amounts of military equipment and training from various countries including the **U.S.** and **Western Europe**. In the area of NBC, **Burma** is reportedly producing mustard gas for chemical weapons.

Burma has a significant cultural difference from the **U.S.**, a wet/hot tropical climate with heavy coastal rainfall, and geography that includes mountains in the north, east, and west and a dense jungle interior. About two-thirds of the country is not suited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 500 meters due to the broken terrain, thick vegetation, and frequent rainfall. Hydrographic conditions off the coast would prevent NGF platforms from moving in close enough to provide support for operations ashore. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is not available for **Burma**. The three primary airfields and one major port would be constrained to handle strategic lift. Communications and ground transportation facilities are adequate at best. The **Pacific** ARG with its embarked MEU would require between four and six days to reach **Burma**.

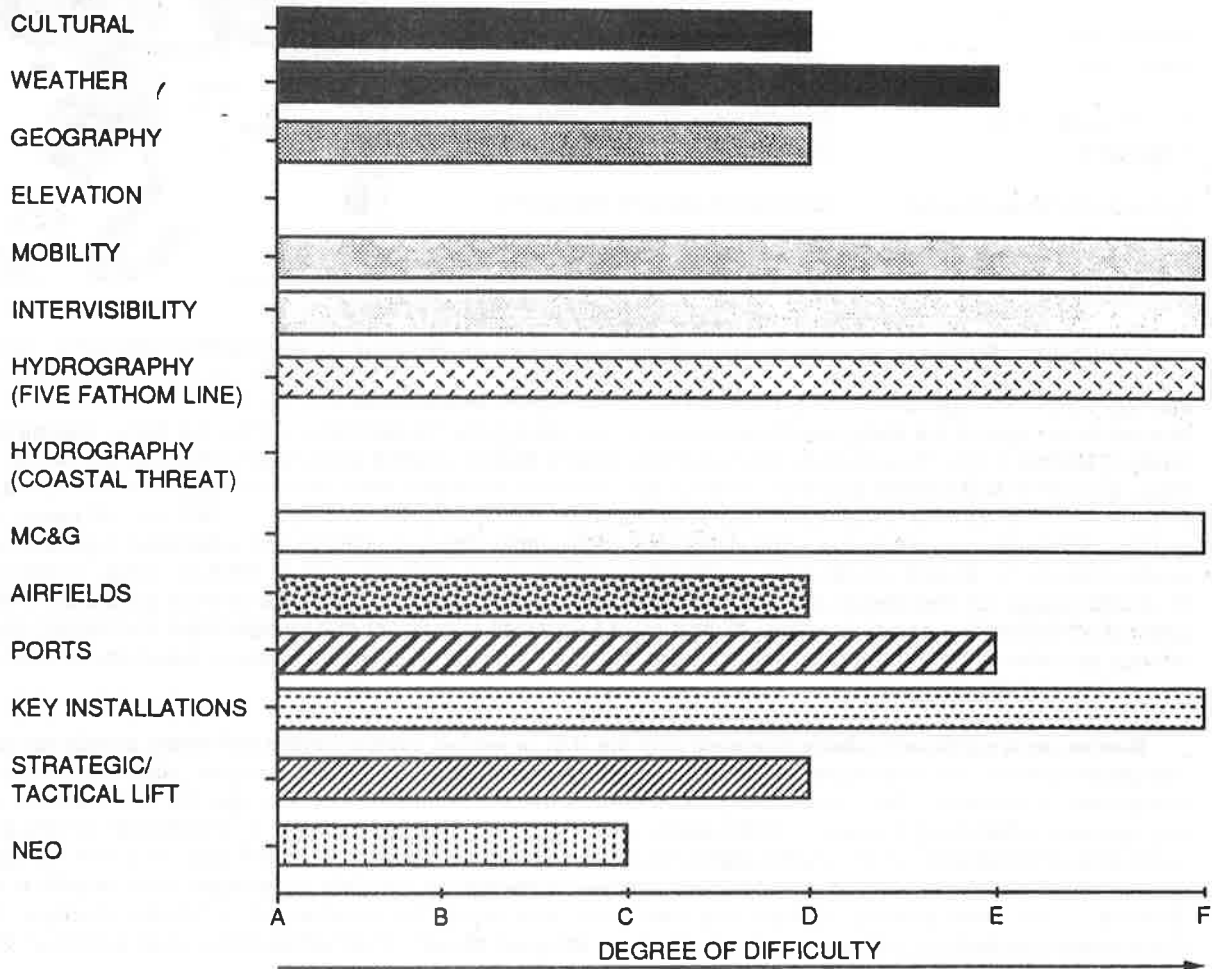
BURMA - THREAT SUMMARY



Burma - 1

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BURMA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Heroin production finances **Burmese** guerrillas.
- Rebel forces fight the Government and other insurgents.

In the "Golden Triangle," where **Burma**, **Thailand**, and **Laos** share a border, opium is produced and refined into heroin. Much of this heroin is shipped via **Thailand** to drug dealers in the **U.S.** and **Europe**. The Mong Tai Revolutionary Army, an insurgent group that operates in the **Burmese-Thai** border region extorts protection money from heroin factories in order to finance its war against the **Rangoon** Government and rival insurgents, the **Burmese** Communist Party. Terrorist tactics, including bombings and assassinations, are employed by all these groups.

U.S. Equities In Burma

- Overall U.S. equity is low.

U.S. and Burma maintain friendly relations. Specific U.S. interests in this country include bilateral cooperation to suppress the illicit narcotics trade, assistance to Burmese economic development, commercial access, and improved cultural exchanges. U.S. aid has been provided to Burma for health and agricultural projects. About 150 U.S. citizens reside there.

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
-	-	-	10	10	150	1 1	2	Low

Drug Threat

Drug Production	Drug Processing	Precursor Chemicals	Money Laundering	Transit Point
X				X

- World's largest producer of opium.
 - 1988 produced 1,065 - 1500 metric tons
 - 1987 produced 925 - 1230 metric tons
 - 1986 produced 770 - 1100 metric tons
 - 1985 produced 490 metric tons
- Reports indicate production will increase.

Burma's political turmoil has grounded its large-scale aerial eradication program until an effective Government is seated in Rangoon. Traffickers capitalized on diminished enforcement efforts to smuggle large quantities of opium and heroin with little interference. The prospect for 1989 is grim; with highly favorable climatic conditions and the suspension of programs to destroy crops or seize shipments of drugs or precursor chemicals from China, Thailand, and India, traffickers may harvest and move as much as 1,400 metric tons of opium to heroin refiners in Southeast Asia.

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/Exp	LAV	Howitzers	170	6	256	E

Ground OOB consists mainly of 170,000 volunteers. Recruits are trained in their units and NCOs are trained at their own school. Officers are trained at a four-year service academy or through an officer training school for college graduates. The army has gained experience fighting insurgents. Tanks: Comet; Artillery: M-101, M-1948.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Props	Props	Early AAA	9	6	45	B

Fighter Aircraft: none; Close Air: AT-33, PC-7, SF260WB, Turbo-Trainer; Air Defense: AA guns.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	None	Lg Gun Boats	7	6	73	C

Ships: 4 Corvettes with guns, antisubmarine mortars, depth charges, and radars; SSM: none; Patrol Craft: 21 Gun Boats; 9 Coastal Patrol Craft; 36 River Patrol Craft.

Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threat

Burma is reported to be producing mustard gas using materials imported from Italy and West Germany. The delivery means of this chemical weapon are not known. No nuclear weapons are suspected.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Burmese (English)
Primary religion - Buddhist

There is a significant cultural difference between Burma and the U.S.

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Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

Geographic Information
Department of Defense

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
64-97	59	30-200	Wet/Hot

Burma has a tropical monsoon climate. Rainfall varies from an average of 300 inches annually on the coast to 30 inches in the central region.

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					

Burma is rimmed on the north, east, and west by mountain ranges. Rivers and thick, dense, jungle forests cover much of the coastal and inland areas.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- Burma is generally unsuited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

In approximately two-thirds of Burma, conditions for cross-country movement are unsuited year round due to mountains, hills, swamps, and densely forested plains. Movement is feasible on the flat to rolling and dissected plains of the central interior.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

In most of Burma, line of sight distances would be less than 500 meters due to mountains, hills, swamps, and dense tropical forests.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- Hydrographic conditions prevent NGF platforms from approaching the coast to provide support for operations ashore.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
63413	32,200	Unsatisfactory

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Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Limited coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
105 mm M-101	11,000	U.S. NGF Advantage

MC&G Shortfalls

- 1:50,000 scale map coverage of **Burma** is not available.

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

Airfields

- Accessible by air, with one airfield that can handle C-141B aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
3	1 C-141B 2 C-130	1/2	2-4/C-130

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Hmawbi Mandalay Mingaladon (Rangoon)	C-130 C-130 C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.

Ports

- One major port with marginal capability to accommodate strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Rangoon	Small	26-30/26-30	26-30	-

Key Installations

Facilities may be available for the production and storage of chemical weapons. Communications and transportation facilities are adequate at best. Telephone service is slow with frequent delays. Public transportation is inadequate, unsafe, and overcrowded. The **Irrawaddy River** is the country's economic lifeline and major transportation system connecting **Rangoon** with **Mandalay** in the central area.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Rangoon	- Fair telecomm - 2 Radio stations - 1 TV station - 1 Satellite station	27,000 km	4,353 km	1	3	None	None	C

Strategic and Tactical Lift

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

NEO

With 150 potential evacuees and a distance of 61 nautical miles to the probable evacuation site (**Rangoon**), **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions in **Burma** would not be difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
65	150	61 (Rangoon)	C

Note: In **Burma** the following factors are of little significance:

- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer

