

COLOMBIA

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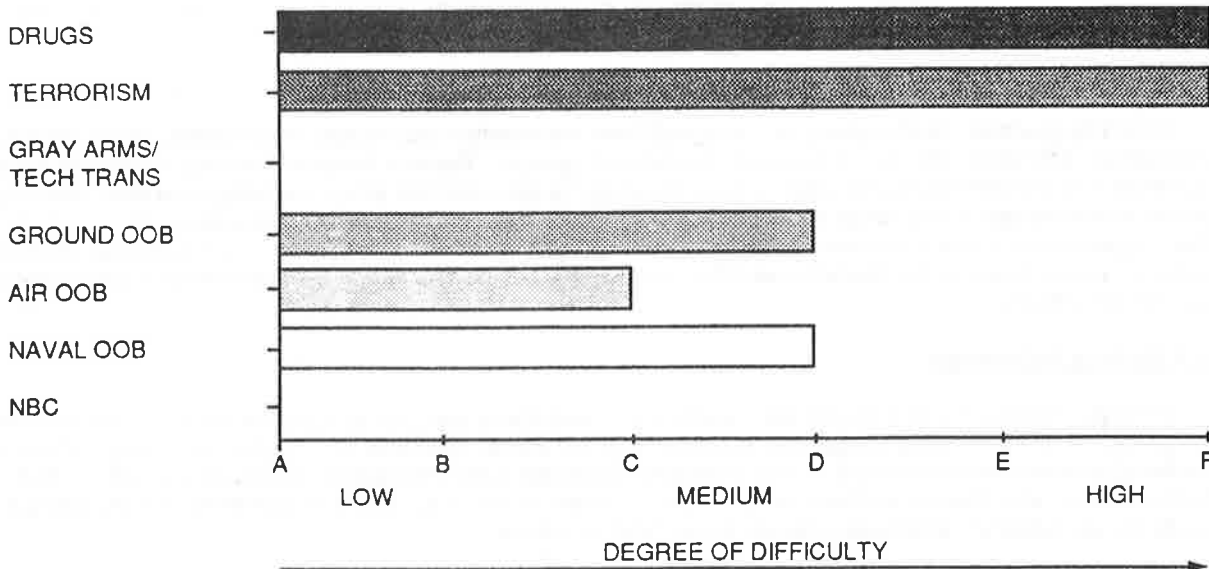


SUMMARY

Colombia is the world's third largest producer of coca and the center of **South American** cocaine trafficking. It is involved in drug production and processing, and the distribution of precursor chemicals. Narco-terrorism is also a serious threat. Terrorist organizations operating in **Colombia** include the 19th of April Movement (M-19), the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and at least three others. **Colombia** has medium sized ground, air, and naval Order of Battle (OOB) capabilities as compared to other expeditionary environment countries.

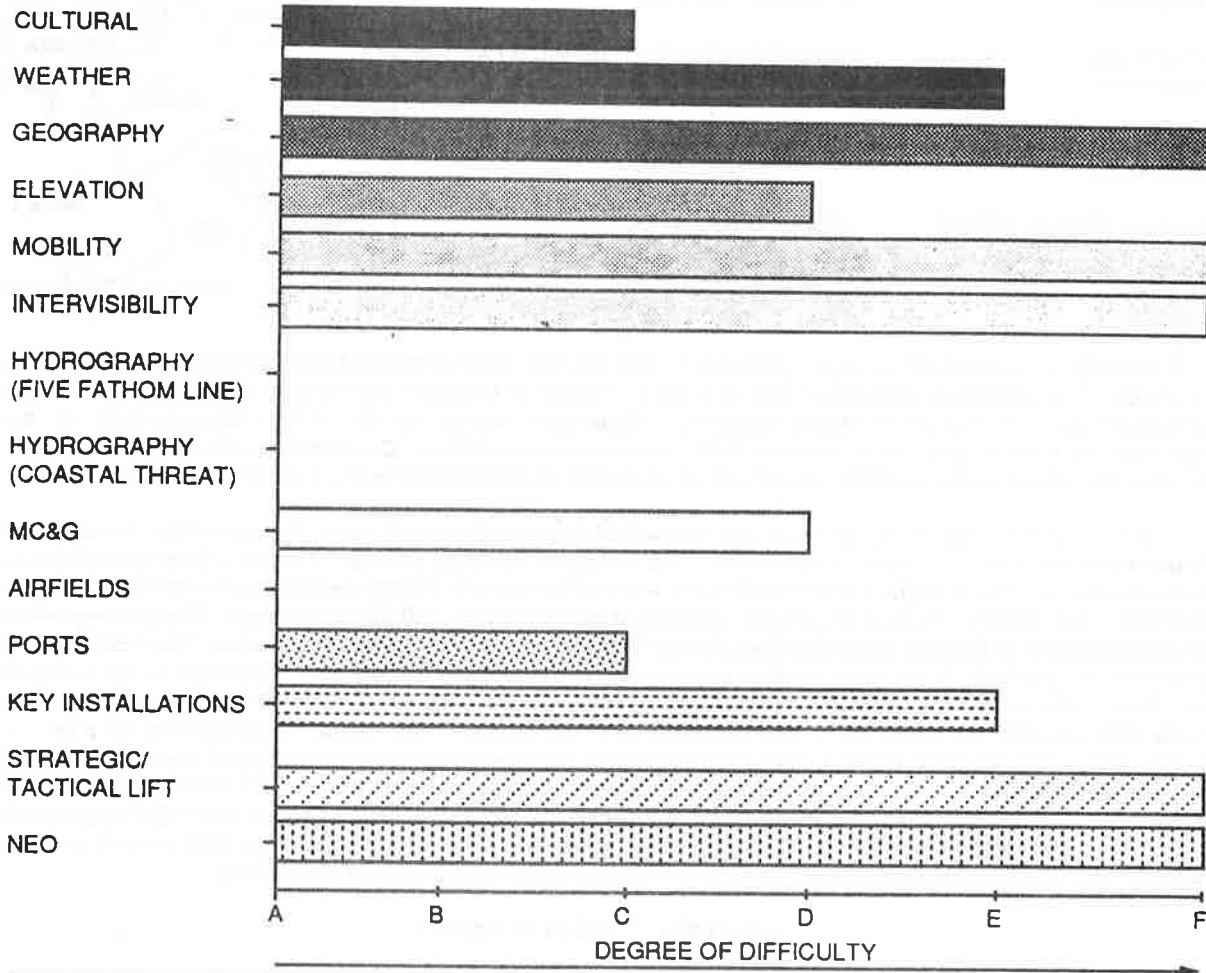
A wet/hot climate, mountainous terrain, and high elevation make **Colombia** one of the most difficult countries in **South America** in which to conduct operations. This country is generally unsuited for cross-country movement by tracked vehicles. The average standoff distance for engagement by line-of-sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters. There is only partial coverage of this country by 1:50,000 scale maps. This coverage exists for locations such as **Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Punta Chirambira** and the northern coastal area. The 1:50,000 scale maps are not available for the large riverine networks along **Colombia's** borders with **Venezuela** to the northeast and **Peru** to the south. From the standpoint of key installations, **Colombia** has numerous industrial sites plus oil fields and pipelines for crude oil, refined products, and natural gas. The typical response time for a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) on the **U.S.** east and west coasts to embark on amphibious ships and move to **Colombia** is in excess of six days. In terms of the potential number of evacuees (over 18,000) and the distance they must be transported (217 nautical miles from off the coast to **Bogota**), the conduct of Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) by a MEU would be very difficult. **Colombia** is accessible by air with three C-5 capable airfields (two are daylight only) and has three moderate size ports with **Santa Marta** having the best capabilities.

COLOMBIA - THREAT SUMMARY



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COLOMBIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

Killings by guerrillas, death squads, and drug traffickers are common occurrences in **Colombia**. It has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between the different groups. Reports indicate that drug traffickers have laundered over \$5 billion during the past 10 years by using it to purchase real estate, including rural land. Guerrilla groups which operate in rural areas are subsidized by private armies which the drug barons set up to police them. The drug economy is thus a key element in **Colombian** agriculture as well as finances. The country has become accustomed to killings as the **Medellin** and **Call** drug cartels continue to feud among themselves and terrorize government officials.

U.S. Equities in Colombia

Generally, the record of **U.S.-Colombian** relations has been one of constructive cooperation. In recent years the two governments have closely cooperated in narcotics control efforts. Currently several prominent drug traffickers are being extradited from **Colombia** for trial in the **U.S.** **Colombia** is the third ranking trading partner with the **U.S.** in **Latin America**, after **Mexico** and **Venezuela**. There are about 18,000 **U.S.** citizens in **Colombia** and the total **U.S.** equity (direct investment and trade) amounts to over 5 billion dollars.

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Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

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
2,037	1,411	1,737	12	5,197	18,000	5 6	11	High

Drug Threat

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

- Third largest producer of coca.
 1988 produced 19,000 - 24,200 metric tons
 1987 produced 18,000 - 23,000 metric tons
 1986 produced 12,000 - 13,600 metric tons
 1985 produced 12,400 metric tons
- Center of **South American** cocaine trafficking.
- Largest producer of marijuana.
 1988 produced 5,927 - 9,625 metric tons
 1987 produced 3,435 - 7,760 metric tons
 1986 produced 2,530 - 3,630 metric tons
 1985 produced 2,000 - 4,000 metric tons

Colombia has destroyed more than 90 percent of cannabis growing in traditional northern areas, but traffickers have planted extensively in the **San Lucas Mountains** and south in **Cauca**. Marijuana tonnage increased in 1988 despite an aggressive eradication campaign. Coca cultivation increased above the 1987 level although eradication of 230 hectares was conducted manually. Despite police efforts to harass the **Medellin** cartel and other trafficking groups, large amounts of cocaine continued to flow to the **U.S.**; almost 20 metric tons were seized by **U.S.** Customs. Overall enforcement remains hampered by a judicial system that has been intimidated by violence. Drug profits flow into and out of **Colombia**, but money laundering per se is not a major activity.

Terrorism

Increased efforts against international narcotics trafficking are generating growing, violent reactions from the narcotics traffickers, who often employ the tactics of terror. A marriage of convenience between some traffickers and insurgents occasionally has produced common objectives in **Colombia** where assassination-for-hire arrangements have occurred between narcotics dealers and leftist terrorists.

M-19 is a leftist guerrilla group in **Colombia** with ties to **Cuba**, **Nicaragua**, and **Libya** which carried out nine attacks on international targets in 1988. In late March 1988 the group fired a rocket at the **U.S.** Embassy in **Bogota** to protest **U.S.** troop maneuvers in **Central America**.

Another terrorist group is FARC. It is reputed to be the largest, best-trained and equipped, and most effective insurgent organization in **South America**. Since May 1984, FARC has carried out terrorist actions such as extortion, kidnappings, and killings, as well as armed attacks against military units.

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The National Liberation Army (ELN) is a terrorist group of about 1,000 operating in **Colombia** and supported by **Cuba**. It has most recently concentrated its efforts on attacking petroleum pipelines and facilities, damaging **Colombia's** economic infrastructure and investment climate.

Colombia's democratic institutions are also threatened from terrorist attacks by narcotraffickers. Narcotics-connected violence has recently been intense and designed to intimidate government officials to allow unrestricted pursuit of the narcotics trade.

Consolidated Threat

In the **Western Hemisphere**, **Colombia** constitutes the most serious threat in the combined areas of narcotics and terrorism.

General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	LAV	Howitzers	69	6	145	D

Ground OOB includes 69,000 troops of whom 25,800 are conscripts. The army has recently reorganized and is among the better counterinsurgency forces in the region. The tank is the M-3A1, and the primary artillery piece is the M-101.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Day/VFR Jets	Day Jet Atk	EW Radar	4	6	80	C

Fighter Aircraft: Kfir C-2; Close Air: AT-33A (light attack), Cessna A-37B, Mirage 5COA, T-37C; Air Defense: Cactus/Crotale SP SAMs and AA guns.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	HE	ASUW/Anti-air	9	6	95	D

Ships: 4 Frigates with SSMs and SAMs; SSMs: Exocet; Patrol Craft: 2 Fast Attack Craft with guns, fire control, and radars; 3 River Gun Boats; 2 Coastal Patrol Craft; 6 River Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Spanish
Primary religion - Catholic

There is a relatively small cultural difference between Colombia and the U.S.

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
58-82	56	81	Wet/Hot

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		

The wet/hot and humid climate of Colombia, combined with significant elevation associated with mountainous terrain, makes operations difficult.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

In about two-thirds of Colombia, conditions for cross-country movement are unsuited at all times for tracked vehicles due to steep slopes, dense forest, soft ground, and streams and gullies with wide banks. In the remaining third of the country, much of the tracked movement is limited during the wet season, mid-April through November.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Poor.

Conditions in about two-thirds of Colombia limit line of sight distances to less than 1,000 meters. This is due to the large amount of broken and covered terrain including steep slopes, dense forests, and deep gullies.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- Good NGF support for amphibious operations.

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DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
21033/22040	1,610	Good

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

- Limited map coverage.

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

1:50,000 map coverage exists for locations such as **Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Punta Chirambira** and the northern coastal area.

Airfields

- Highly accessible by air, with more than one airfield that can handle C-5 aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
10	3 C-5 4 C-141B 2 C-130 1 None	3/7	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Alfonso Bonilla Aragon (Cali)	C-141B, C-130	Daylight only. Daylight only. Narrow taxiway. The C-5s are limited to runway only. Daylight/VFR only. Low runway Weight Bearing Capacity (WBC), however a weight waiver is possible. Low runway WBC. Daylight/VFR only. Daylight/VFR only.
Ernest Cortesoz (Barranquilla)	C-141B, C-130	
Eldorado International (Bogota)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Polonegro (Bucarãmanga)	C-141B, C-130	
Rafael Nunez (Cartagena, Crespo)	C-141B, C-130	
German Olano Air Base (Palanquero)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Jose Maria Cordova (Rionegro)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Los Garzones (Monteria)	C-130	
Olaya Herrera (Medellin)	None	
Sesquicentenario (San Andres)	C-130	

Ports

Three moderate size ports, with **Santa Marta** being most accessible.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Cartagena	Small	36-40/46-50	36-40	Yes
Barranquilla	Medium	26-30/56-60	31-35	Yes
Santa Marta	Small	Over 76/Over 76	36-40	Yes

Key Installations

Oil fields, industrial centers, and communications networks will make military operations more complex. Oil fields are found in the vicinity of **Santander, Norte de Santander, Putumayo,** and the **Guajira Peninsula**. There are exploratory wells in the eastern part of the country.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Bogota (Colombia's major industrial centers are Barranquilla, Cali, Medellin, and Bogota)	- Radio relay system - Satellite station - 439 Radio stations - 33 TV stations	75,450 km	3,563 km	3	10	- Crude oil - Refined products - Natural gas - Natural gas liquids	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The time required for a MEU on the **U.S.** east and west coasts to embark on amphibious ships and sail to **Colombia** is in excess of six days. The AAF/ACB can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

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NEO

- NEO conducted in **Colombia** by a MEU would be very difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
444	18,000	217 (Bogota)	F

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

Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
NBC