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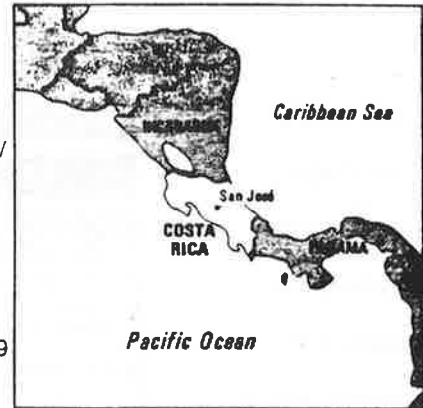
COSTA RICA

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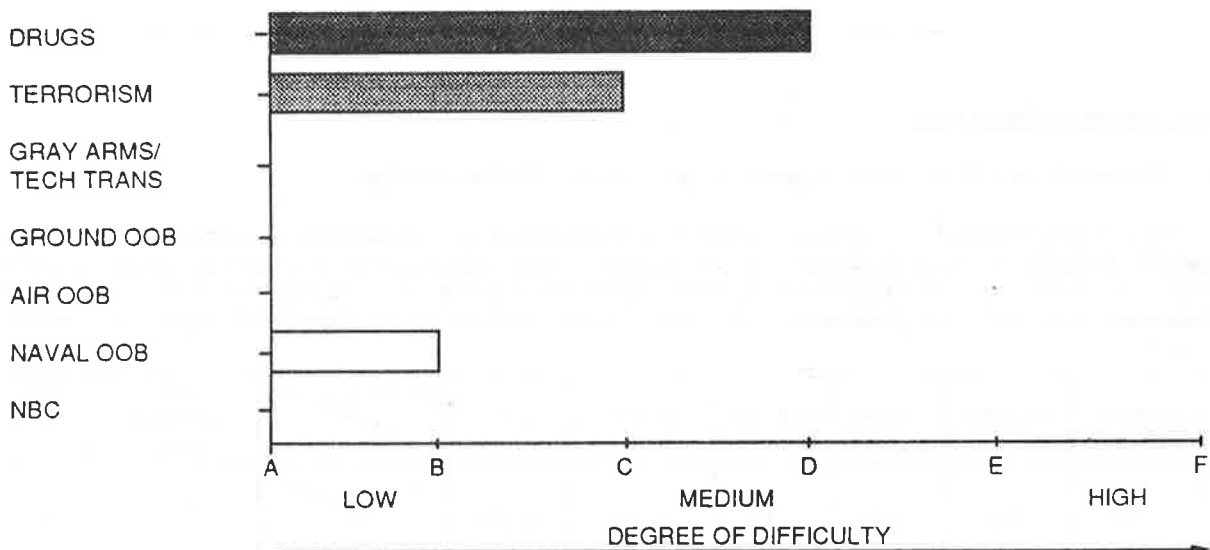


SUMMARY

Costa Rica is a major trading partner with the **U.S.** and shares an interest in promoting democracy in **Central America**. This country is increasingly important as a transit point for narcotics, with estimates that 6 to 12 metric tons of cocaine are being transported through its territory yearly. **Libyan** terrorists are suspected of attacking **U.S.** citizens in **Costa Rica**. The armed forces of **Costa Rica** are practically negligible and this country would be hard pressed to defend itself from outside invasion.

With a hot, humid climate, dissected terrain, and thick ground cover, **U.S.** military operations in **Costa Rica** would prove difficult. A rugged, central massif runs the length of the country separating coastal plains. Trafficability by tracked vehicles would be severely limited and cross-country movement would be feasible only for foot troops. Due to the rough topography and jungle conditions, the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is restricted to the area around **San Jose**, the northern border with **Nicaragua**, the eastern coast on the **Caribbean**, and the southern border with **Panama**. One airfield is available at **San Jose** to accommodate C-5 aircraft. **Costa Rica** has three small ports, all having limited accessibility to strategic sealift. The estimated response time for a MEU on the **U.S.** east and west coasts to embark on amphibious ships and sail to **Costa Rica** is in excess of six days. NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in **Costa Rica** would be quite difficult due to the sizeable number (20,000) of potential evacuees.

COSTA RICA - THREAT SUMMARY

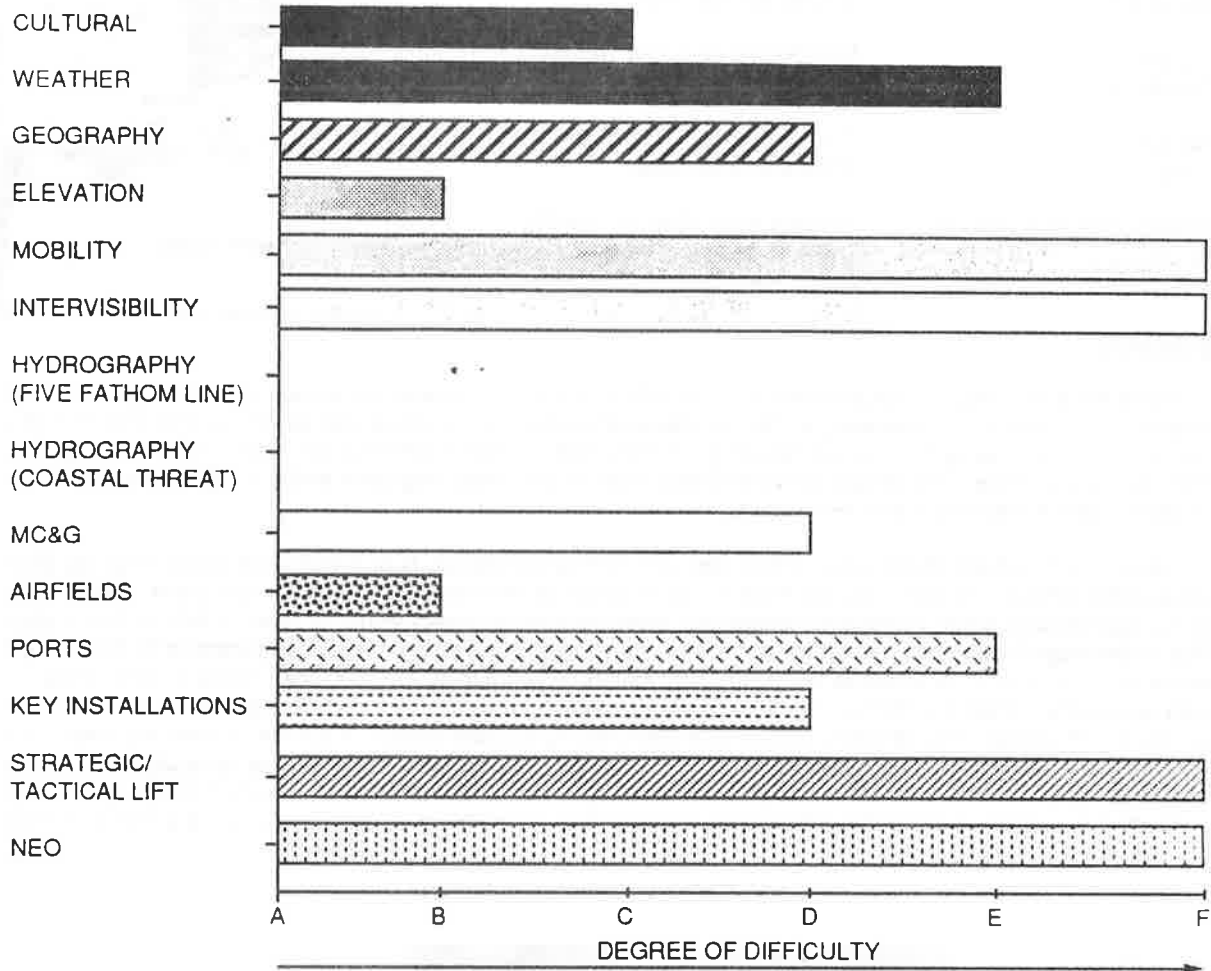


Costa Rica - 1

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COSTA RICA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Costa Rica

- Shares with the **U.S.** an interest in promoting democracy in **Central America**.

This country shares with the **U.S.** an interest in, and has played an important role in, promoting democracy in **Central America**, including **Nicaragua**. **Costa Rica** is a major trading partner with the **U.S.**; 53 percent of its exports go to the **U.S.**; and 40 percent of its imports come from the **U.S.** The **U.S.** has also responded to **Costa Rica's** economic plight through developmental assistance and humanitarian aid. Overall **U.S.** equity in **Costa Rica** is high.

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
120	415	492	159	1,186	20,000	3 6	9	High

Drug Threat

Drug Production	Drug Processing	Precursor Chemicals	Money Laundering	Transit Point
				X

- Cocaine transit country.

Costa Rica is increasingly important as a cocaine transit country, with estimates that 6 to 12 metric tons of cocaine are being transported through its territory by air and sea. Authorities remain vigilant to the possibility of labs being established; but no new labs were found in the last two years. Cannabis cultivation appears to be less extensive than previously estimated and the export trade is a minor enterprise.

Terrorism

- Terrorist attacks against **U.S.** citizens.

In April 1988, a bomb exploded near the **U.S.** binational cultural center in **San Jose, Costa Rica** in which several persons were injured. A group with ties to **Libya** was the prime suspect.

Consolidated Threat

In the **Western Hemisphere**, **Costa Rica** is involved with both narcotics and terrorism.

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
PM	None	None	0	3	33	A

Costa Rica has no army. There is a 9,500 person paramilitary security force which is considered to be well trained and experienced. Tanks: none; Artillery: none.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
None	None	None	0	0	0	A

Costa Rica has no airforce, therefore it has no aircraft or air defense weapons.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Small Surface	None	Lg Gun Boats	Negligible	3	43	B

Ships: none; SSMs: none; Patrol Craft: 1 Fast Patrol Craft (118 displacement tons); 4 Coastal Patrol Craft; 11 Inshore Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Spanish
Primary religion - Catholic

There is a relatively small cultural difference between **Costa Rica** and the **U.S.**

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
60-77	68	76	Wet/Hot

The climate is tropical in the lowlands and semitropical on the interior plateau.

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				

A rugged, central massif runs the length of the country separating coastal plains. There is dense ground cover throughout.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- **Costa Rica** is generally unsuited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Cross-country movement would be feasible only for foot troops in most of **Costa Rica** due to rough or steep terrain, dense forests, and marshes and swamps. In limited areas of the country, tracked movement is feasible, but very difficult.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

In most of **Costa Rica**, the terrain is suitable only for light infantry and line of sight distances beyond 500 meters are infrequent. This is due to the rough or steep topography, dense forests, and marshes and swamps.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- NGF platforms are able to approach the coast to provide satisfactory support for operations ashore.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
21544/21546	1,830	Good

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Negligible coastal defense threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
	0	U.S. NGF Advantage

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MC&G Shortfalls

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

1:50,000 scale map coverage exists for the area around the capital of **San Jose**, the northern border with **Nicaragua**, the eastern coast on the **Caribbean Sea**, and the southern border with **Panama**.

Airfields

- Accessible by air, with one airfield at **San Jose** which can accommodate C-5 aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
7	1 C-5 4 C-130 2 None	1/6	1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Cabo Velas	None	-
Chacarita (Puntarenas)	None	-
Juan Santamaria International (San Jose)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Las Canas	C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
Limon International	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Santa Cruz	C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
Tomas Guardia International (Llano Grande)	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.

Ports

Three small ports are available with limited accessibility to strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Puerto Limon	Small	26-30/31-35	31-35	Yes
Puerto Golfito	Small	31-35/31-35	26-30	-
Puntarenas	Small	-/26-30	26-30	Yes

Key Installations

While primarily an agricultural country **Costa Rica** is gradually improving its infrastructure. Key industrial facilities are located around **San Jose**.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
San Jose	- Satellite station - Good telecomm system - Microwave connection - 71 Radio stations - 18 TV stations	15,400 km	800 km	3	7	- Refined products	None	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 **Costa Rica** is in excess of six days. The AAF/ACB can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

NEO

- NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be very difficult due to the large number (20,000) of potential evacuees.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
54	20,000	35 (San Jose)	F

Note: In **Costa Rica** the following factors are of little significance:

- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- Ground OOB
- Air OOB
- NBC

