

ETHIOPIA

MEF G-2: Telephone:	CG II MEF//G-2// STU-III AV 484-8095
Theater J-2: Telephone:	USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//J-2// STU-III AV 430-8003
DIA DB Desk Code: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-8D// STU-III AV 243-4377
Embassy Defense Attache: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DAH-6// STU-III AV 243-0597

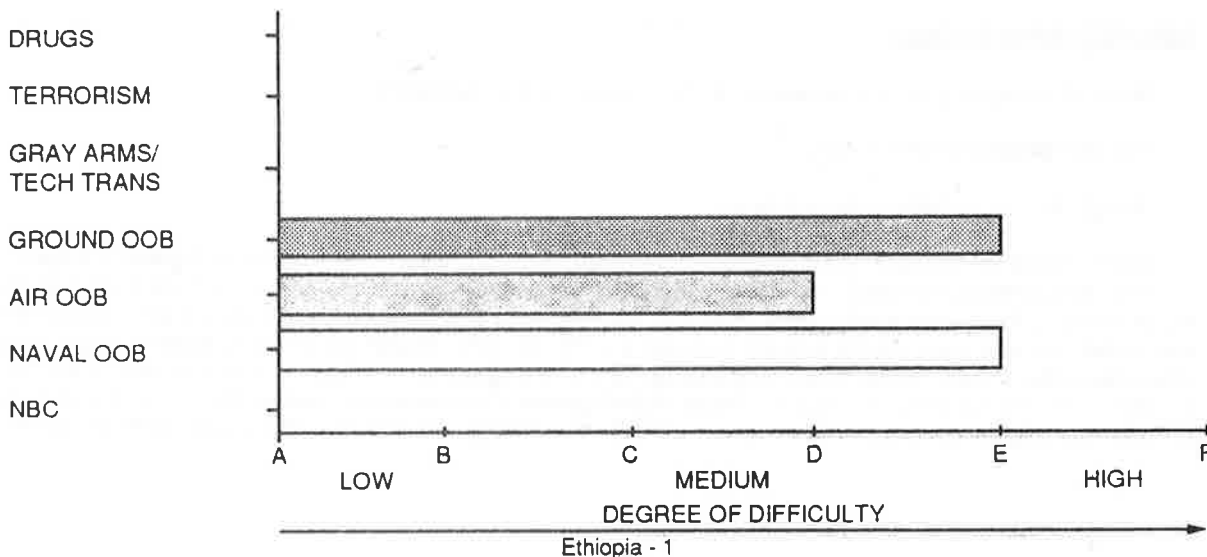


SUMMARY

Located on the **Horn of Africa**, **Ethiopia** is bordered in the northeast by the **Red Sea**. About ten insurgent movements are active within the country ranging from separatists to royalists. The Eritrean guerrillas in the north have been the most active. In recent years drought has caused wide spread starvation and death. Overall U.S. equity in **Ethiopia** is low. While in the past the U.S. has provided **Ethiopia** with significant amounts of humanitarian aid, relations between the two countries has been poor due to differences over **Ethiopian** foreign policies and human rights. **Ethiopia** has one of the largest armed forces on the **African** Continent. Since the war with **Somalia** in 1977 and 1978, the army has grown to about 250,000 troops. The U.S. was **Ethiopia's** major arms supplier until 1977 when the country began receiving massive arms shipments from the **Soviet Union**, and incurred a debt estimated at over \$3.5 billion. The **Ethiopian** military has been engaged recently on two fronts: in the north against the Eritrean and Tegreran insurgent groups and in the east and southeast against ethnic **Somali** guerrillas.

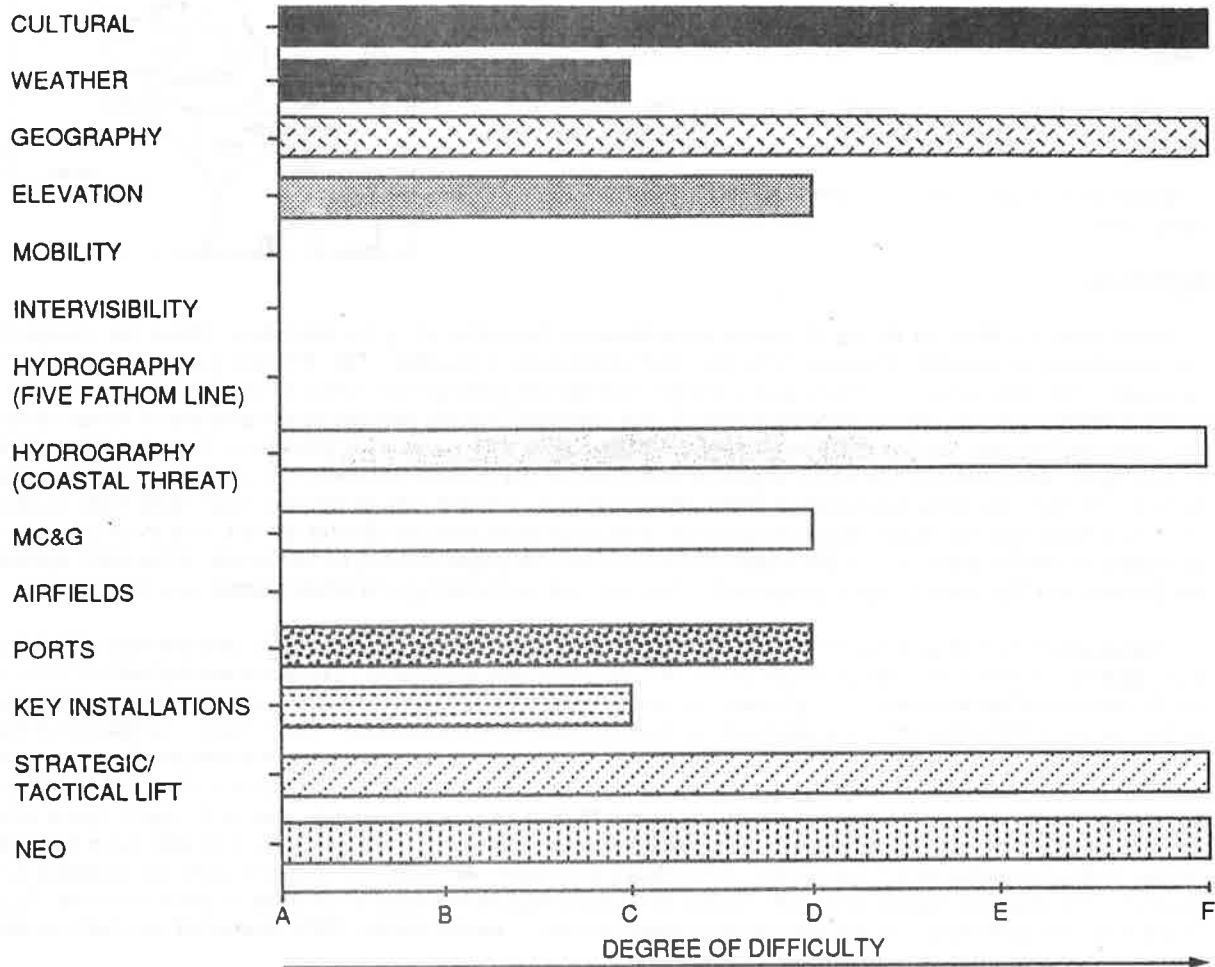
There are more than 40 different ethnic groups within **Ethiopia** and the culture is vastly different than that of the U.S. **Ethiopia's** terrain consists of a high central plateau mixed with mountains. Elevations are highest just before the **Great Rift Valley** which splits the plateau diagonally. The plateau has a number of rivers crossing it and slopes to the lowlands of the **Sudan** in the west and the **Somali** plains in the southeast. The climate is temperate in the highlands and hot in the lowlands. Over half of **Ethiopia** is suited for the cross-country movement of vehicles and average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) exceeds 2,000 meters in large portions of the country. Hydrographic conditions permit NGF ships to approach the coast and support operations ashore but would be out-gunned by **Ethiopian** coastal defense weapons. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is limited to **Addis Ababa**, and the port cities of **Missawa** and **Aseb**. Adequate airfields and ports are available but there are few other key installations. The **Pacific ARG** would require in excess of six days to reach **Ethiopia**. Due to the over 700 evacuees, and the 356 nautical miles distance to **Addis Ababa**, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be very difficult.

ETHIOPIA - THREAT SUMMARY



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ETHIOPIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- About 10 insurgent groups in existence. Eritrean guerrillas are most active.
- War with **Somalia** ended in 1988.
- Drought has caused starvation and death.

Approximately ten insurgent movements exist within **Ethiopia**, ranging from separatists in **Tigre** and **Gojjam**, to royalists, to separatists in **Eritrea** and **Ogaden**. The Government has been torn by bloody coups and tribal uprisings in part aided by the **Sudan** and **Somalia**. Ties with the **U.S.**, once a major arms and aid source deteriorated, while cooperation accords were signed with the **Soviets** in 1977. In 1978, **Soviet** advisors and **Cuban** troops helped defeat **Somalian** forces. **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** signed a peace agreement in 1988. A worldwide relief effort began in 1984 as an extended drought caused millions of **Ethioplans** to face starvation and death. In 1988, victories by **Eritrean** guerrillas forced the curtailment of the relief efforts by foreign aid workers in the drought-stricken regions.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

U.S. Equities In Ethiopia

- Overall **U.S.** equity is low.
- Occupies a strategic geopolitical location.
- About 700 **U.S.** citizens reside there.

Ethiopia occupies a strategic geopolitical position along the world's busiest shipping lanes and close to Arabian oil fields. Conflict and instability in this country have been due in large part to the presence of more than 40 different ethnic groups. **Ethiopia** is strongly backed by the **Soviet Union** and has one of the largest armed forces on the **African** continent with more than 250,000 troops.

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
1	-	-	-	1	700	1 2	3	Low

Ethiopia - 3

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

General Ground OOB

- Largest ground OOB in the region.

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/Exp	T-72	Bloc	250	8	398	E

Ground OOB consists of 250,000 conscripts. All citizens 18 to 50 perform six months training. There are reports of ethnic tensions in the army. Primary training is conducted by **Soviet** and **Cuban** advisors. Civil war is waged in many areas of the country. Tanks: T-34, T-54, T-55, T-62, T-72; Artillery: D-20, M-46, M-109, M-116.

General Air OOB

- Fourth largest air OOB in the region.

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Bloc	Props	Bloc	4	8	132	D

Fighter Aircraft: MiG-17, MiG-21, MiG-23; Close Air: AT-28, Camberra B52, Mi-24; Air Defense: SA-2, SA-3, SA-6, and SA-7 SAMs and AA guns.

General Naval OOB

- Third largest naval OOB in the region.

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	Bloc	Bloc	2	8	140	E

Ships: 2 Frigates (Ex-**Soviet**) with guns, torpedoes, antisubmarine mortars, depth charges, mines, countermeasures, and radars; 1 Patrol Ship with SSMs, guns, and radars; SSMs: SS-N-12, SS-N-2A; Patrol Craft: 7 Fast Attack Craft-Missile (Ex-**Soviet**) with SSMs, guns, and radar; 2 Fast Attack Craft-Torpedo (Ex-**Soviet**); 1 Fast Attack Craft-Hydrofoil (Ex-**Soviet**); 3 Large Patrol Craft (2 Ex-**Soviet**); 6 Coastal Patrol Craft (2 Ex-**Soviet**).

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Amharic (Gallenija, Tingrinya, Arabic)
Primary religion - Islam

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

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
47-88	36-47	4-80	Mixed

The climate in **Ethiopia** is temperate in the highlands and hot in the lowlands. Rain occurs during February and April and again from June to September.

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		

Ethiopia is located on the **Horn of Africa** and is bordered on the northeast by the **Red Sea**. The country has a high central plateau with some mountains. Elevations are highest just before the **Great Rift Valley** which splits the plateau diagonally. A number of rivers cross the plateau. The plateau gradually slopes to the lowlands of the **Sudan** in the west and the **Somali** plains to the southeast.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- Over half of **Ethiopia** is generally suited to cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Over half of **Ethiopia**--the eastern and southern plains--is suitable for tracked vehicles, given the predominance of firm, open, dry surfaces. Restricted areas within this region can generally be bypassed. The central highlands offer poor conditions for cross-country tracked movement.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Optimum, with line of sight distances greater than 2,000 meters in much of the country.

Approximately half of **Ethiopia** consists of flat and open surface which would accommodate line of sight visibility beyond 2,000 meters. The remaining parts of the country, such as the central highlands, present intermittently broken terrain which would reduce these distances substantially.

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
62110	8,050	Good

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Significant coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
130 mm M-46	27,000	Threat 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 **Addis Ababa**, **Missawa** on the **Red Sea**, and **Aseb** on the **Red Sea** near **Djibouti**.

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
5	2 C-5 1 C-141B 2 C-130	2/3	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Aba Tenna Dejazmatah Yilm (Dire Dawa)	C-130	Taxiway narrow. Daylight only.
Bole International (Addis Ababa)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Harar Meda	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
Makale	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Yohannes IV International (Asmara)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-

Ports

- Two major ports with moderate capabilities to accommodate strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Aseb	Small	36-40/41-45	31-35	Yes
Mitsiwa	Small	31-35/36-40	26-30	Yes

Key Installations

There are few key installations in **Ethiopia** other than the ports and airfields. There is lack of good roads particularly in the highlands and those roads available are in poor condition. A railroad connects **Addis Ababa** with the port of **Djibouti** on the coast.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Addis Ababa	- Adequate telecomm for government use - 4 Radio stations - 1 TV station - 1 Satellite station	44,300 km	992 km	2	5	None	None (oil refinery)	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

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

NEO

- Due to the over 700 potential evacuees and the 356 nautical miles distance to the probable evacuation site (**Addis Ababa**), **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions would be very difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
33	700	356 (Addis Ababa)	F

Note: In **Ethiopia**, the following factors are of little significance:

- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- NBC

