

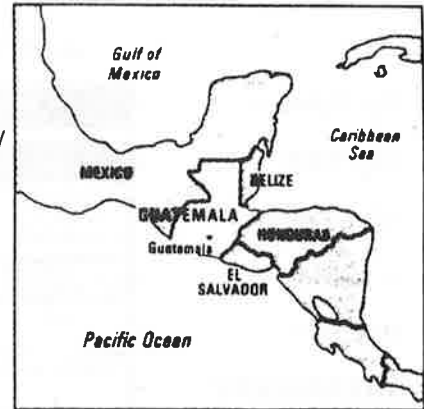
GUATEMALA

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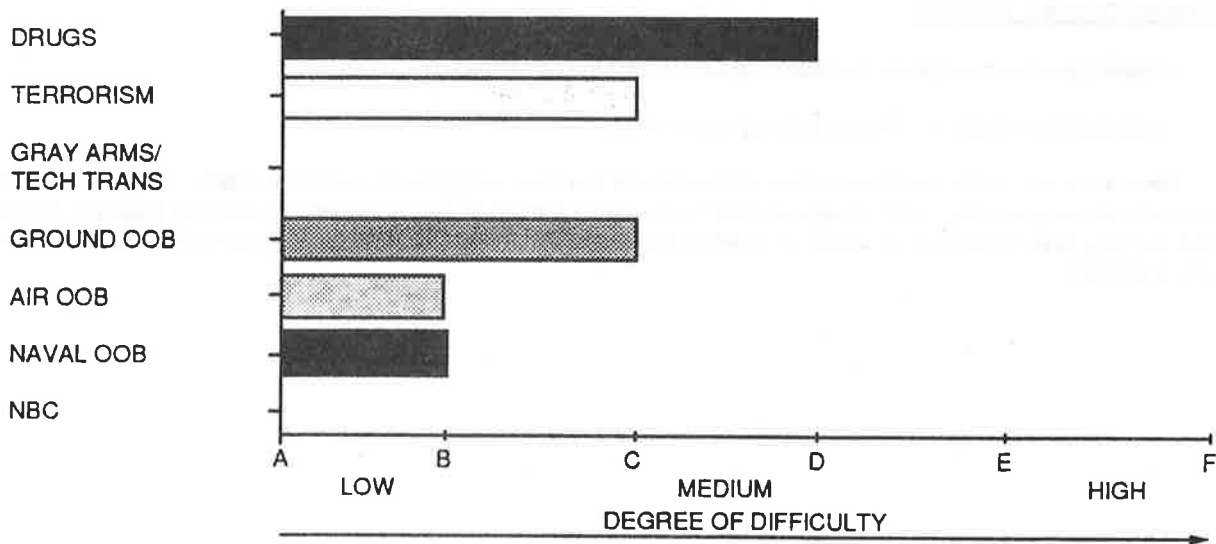


SUMMARY

In **Guatemala**, there are continuing domestic, economic, and social problems as well as human rights violations. The **Guatemalan** Government conducts ongoing counterinsurgency operations against communist guerrillas. Relations between the **U.S.** and **Guatemala** have been good and the **U.S.** has helped this country address many of its problems. The **U.S.** exports oil from **Guatemala** and strives to maintain a mutually beneficial trade relationship. **Guatemala** produces a relatively small amount of opium and marijuana and acts as a transit point for cocaine moving to the **U.S.** and precursor chemicals being shipped to **South America**. The URNG is a terrorist group sponsored by **Cuba** which operates in **Guatemala** to promote disorder and instability. Within the region, close attention should be paid to **Guatemala** by military planners due to its involvement in both drug trafficking and terrorism. This country has a moderate sized army, but a small air force and navy. Some military personnel receive training in the **U.S.** and other countries in the region.

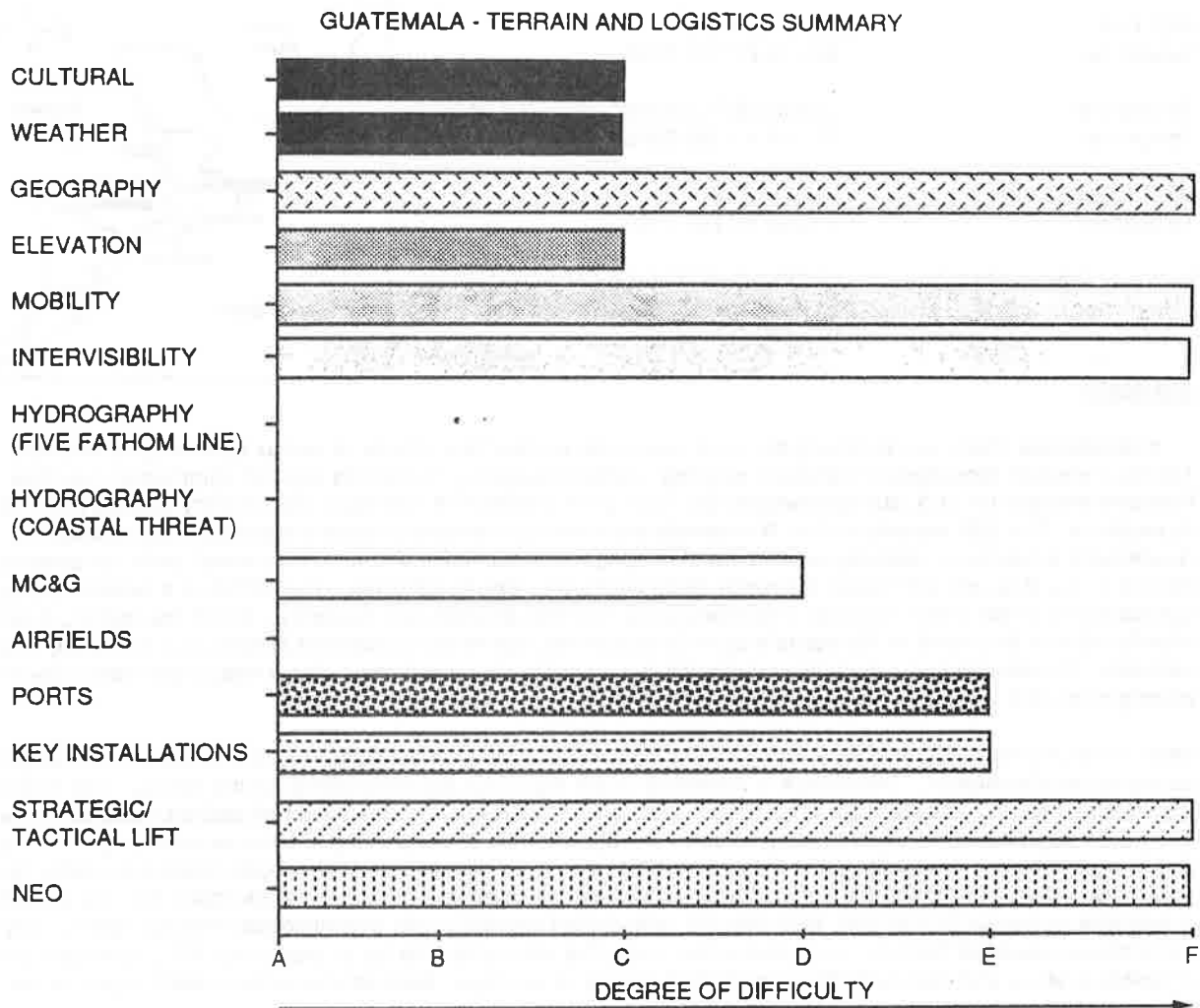
Most of the country is mountainous with a fairly narrow coastal plain on the **Pacific** side and fertile river valleys bordering the **Caribbean**. The climate is temperate in the highlands and semitropical on the coasts. Due to the mountainous terrain, **Guatemala** is generally unsuited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles. The geography, together with frequent heavy rainfall, normally limits the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) to less than 1,000 meters. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is available for most of **Guatemala** except for the northern extension called the Department of Peten. While more than one airfield is available to handle C-5 aircraft, only one port, with limited capability, can accommodate strategic sealift. Key installations include oil fields in the **Rubelsanto** area. The estimated time for an east coast MEU to embark on amphibious ships and deploy to **Guatemala** is in excess of six days. NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in **Guatemala** would be very difficult due to the 6,500 potential evacuees.

GUATEMALA - THREAT SUMMARY



Guatemala - 1

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Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Ongoing counterinsurgency operations against communist guerrillas.
- Unresolved domestic, economic, and social problems.

Since the early 1960s, the Government of **Guatemala** has been engaged in counterinsurgency operations against Marxist-Leninist guerrillas. The insurgency lost considerable ground in the late seventies, but has begun to revive, due partially to a rising level of unrest in **Central America**, but primarily to unresolved domestic, economic, and social problems.

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U.S. Equities in Guatemala

- Support for regional peace efforts.
- Overall U.S. equity is moderate.

Relations between the U.S. and Guatemala traditionally have been good. Guatemala's major diplomatic interests are related to regional security issues, and it has been an active participant in the Contadora process.

In the area of trade, the U.S. receives about 35 percent of Guatemala's exports which includes crude petroleum, coffee, sugar, and bananas. The U.S. provides about 37 percent of Guatemala's imports consisting mainly of agricultural chemicals, machinery, trucks, buses, aircraft, food products, and textiles.

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
123	407	350	156	1,036	6,500	3 5	8	Medium

Drug Threat

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

- Producer of opium and marijuana.
- Transit point for cocaine and precursor chemicals.

Guatemala increased in importance to the U.S. drug situation as larger amounts of opium and marijuana were produced during the past year. U.S. officials estimate that as much as 150 kilograms of heroin are smuggled into the U.S., probably under control of Mexican traffickers. Guatemala is also important to the cocaine trade, serving as a transit point for narcotics headed for Florida, Louisiana, and Texas and for precursor chemicals destined for South America.

Terrorism

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) is a terrorist organization sponsored by Cuba which operates in rural Guatemala. The URNG is anti-U.S. and has conducted assassinations of civilians and economic sabotage as well as attacks against the Guatemalan Army.

Consolidated Threat

In the Western Hemisphere, Guatemala is involved in the two threat areas of narcotics and terrorism.

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	LAV	Howitzers	40	1	111	C

Ground OOB includes about 40,000 regular troops. About 75 percent of army personnel are long-service volunteers. Officers are sent to army schools in the U.S. and other countries. Military pay is inadequate and personnel are allowed to obtain other means of income. Tanks: AMX-13, M-3, M-41A3; Artillery: 75 mm, 105 mm.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Day/VFR Jets	Day Jet Atk	Early AAA	1	1	52	B

Fighter Aircraft: none; Close Air: none; Air Defense: AA guns.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Small Surface	None	Lg Gun Boats	1	1	42	B

Ships: none; SSMs: none; Patrol Craft: 1 Large Gun Boat; 7 Small Gun Boats.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Spanish (Maya)

Primary religion - Catholic

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

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
58-78	65	52	Mixed

The climate is temperate in the highlands and semitropical on the coasts.

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 terrain is mostly mountainous. The **Pacific** plain is a fairly narrow belt between the mountains and ocean while the **Caribbean** lowlands have fertile river valleys.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

Cross-country movement of vehicles would be precluded in about 90 percent of the country, as well as in the rest of the country during seasonal rains. Some tracked movement would be feasible in scrub-covered and cultivated areas along the **Pacific** coast.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

Guatemala is mainly mountainous with much ground cover. Rainfall which would obscure visibility is heaviest from May to October with up to 200 inches accumulated in a year. Along the **Caribbean** coast, however, rainfall is frequent throughout the year. Line of sight distances are expected to be less than 1,000 meters over about 90 percent of the country.

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
21510	3,220	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

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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 available for large parts of the country except for the sparsely populated Department of Peten in the north.

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

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
La Aurora (Guatemala City) Puerto Barrios Santa Elena	C-5, C-141B, C-130 C-130 C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Daylight/VFR only.

Ports

One small port is available with limited capability to accommodate strategic sealift.

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

Key Installations

Primary oil fields in **Guatemala** are located at **Rubelsanto**. Recent development of its hydroelectric resources has made **Guatemala** self-sufficient in electrical energy.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Guatemala City	- Satellite station - Fairly good telecomm - 104 Radio stations - 24 TV stations - Microwave connection	26,429 km	870 km	1	3	- Crude oil	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The time required for a MEU on the **U.S.** east coast to embark on amphibious ships and sail to **Guatemala** 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 in **Guatemala** would be very difficult due to the large number of potential evacuees (6,500).

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
48	6,500	43 (Guatemala City)	F

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

Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
NBC

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