

HONDURAS

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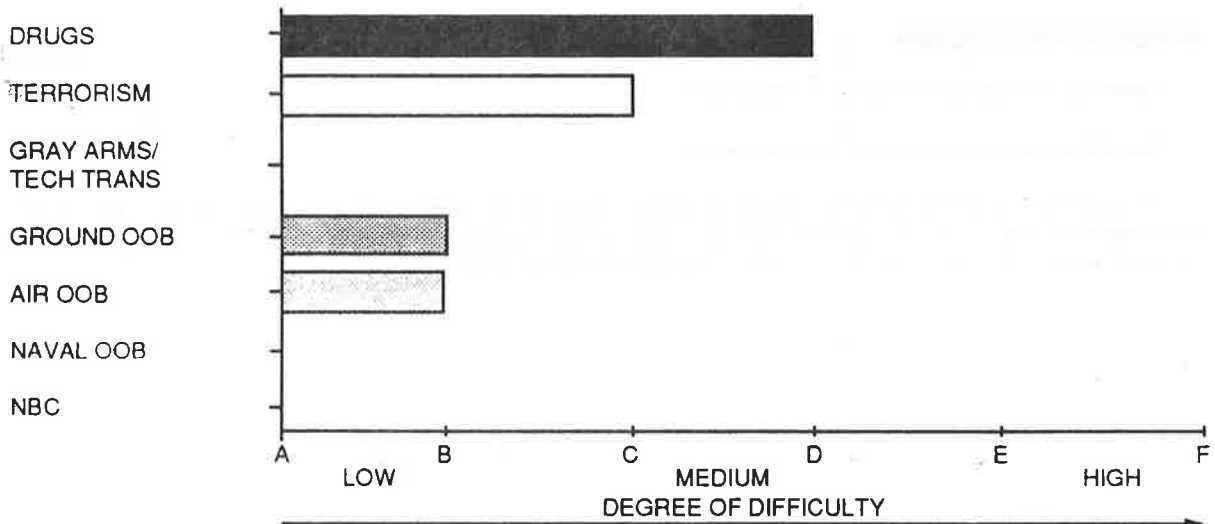


SUMMARY

Honduras feels threatened by the conflict in **El Salvador** and by potential further aggression and hostility of the **Nicaraguan Sandinistas**. It is the least developed country in **Central America** and faces serious economic and social problems. The **U.S.** and **Honduras** maintain close, cordial relations and work together to promote stability in the region. With moderate overall equity in **Honduras**, the **U.S.** supplies about 35 percent of the country's imports and buys more than half its exports. About 3,000 **U.S.** citizens reside in **Honduras**. In recent years, **Honduras** has been a transit point for **Colombian** cocaine moving to the **U.S.** Several terrorist groups sponsored by **Cuba** and the **Nicaraguan Sandinistas** operate in **Honduras** to promote disorder and instability. **Honduras** has a small armed force which in the past has been poorly trained but recently seems to be improving. In response to the threat of insurgency, **Honduras** has concentrated on building a mobile deterrent force with a strong counterterrorism capability.

With a hot, humid climate, mountainous terrain, and heavy vegetation, **Honduras** would pose some difficulties for **U.S.** military operations. These conditions would preclude cross-country movement of tracked vehicles in most of the country. The steep hills and mountains, dense forests, and frequent abundant rainfall would limit the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) to less than 1,000 meters. While the hydrography would permit NGF platforms to approach the coast and provide adequate support for operations ashore, **Honduras** coastal defense weapons would present a significant threat. A serious shortfall for military operations would be the absence of 1:50,000 scale map coverage for eastern **Honduras** and the border area with **El Salvador**. Three airfields are available to handle C-5 aircraft but there is only one major port with limited capabilities to accommodate strategic sealift. By modern standards, communications and ground transportation facilities in **Honduras** are generally poor. The response time for a MEU on the **U.S.** east and west coast to embark on amphibious ships and proceed to **Honduras** is estimated to be in excess of six days. Due to the large number of potential evacuees (3,000), NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in **Honduras** would be very difficult.

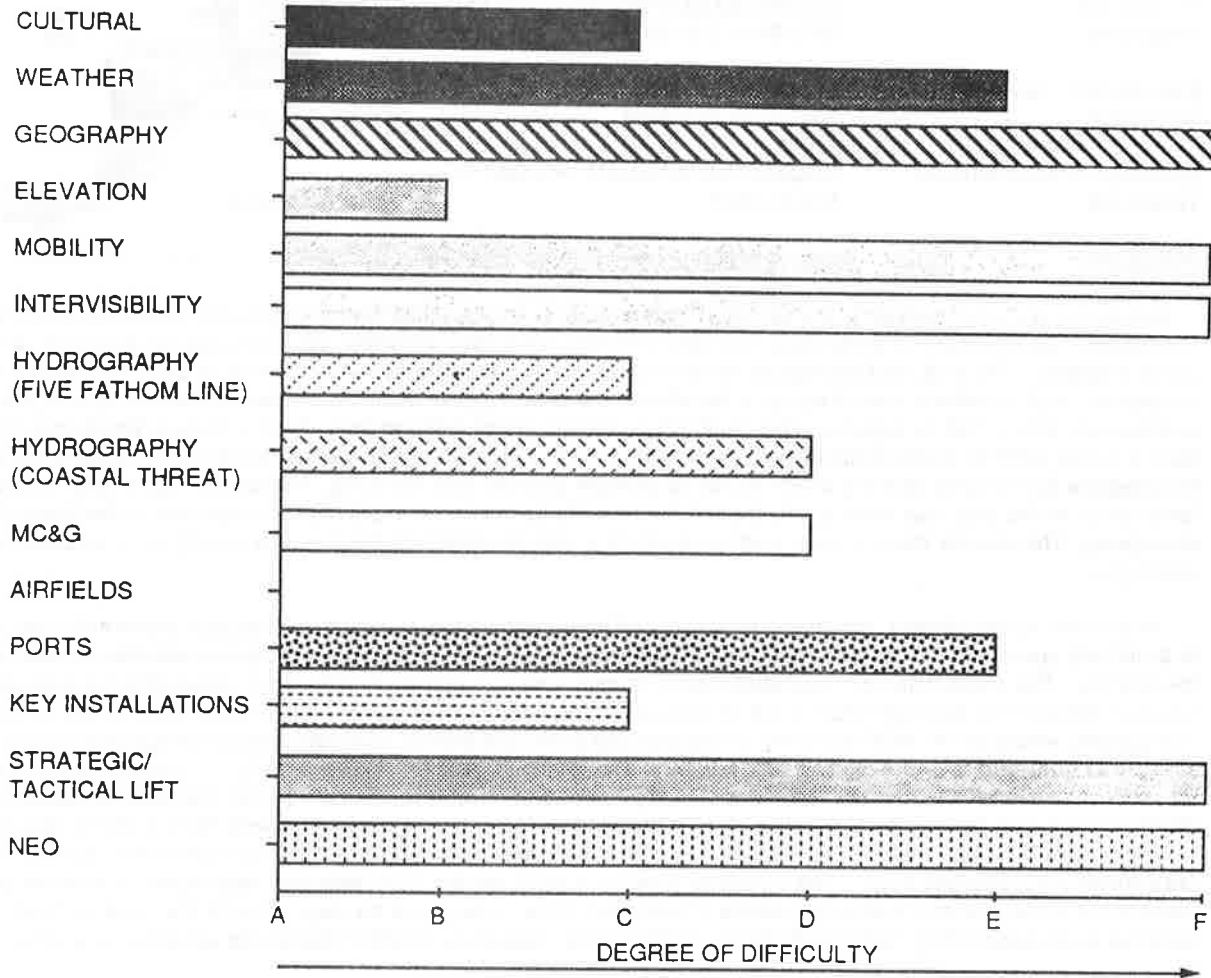
HONDURAS - THREAT SUMMARY



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HONDURAS - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Low-level insurgency with potential for growth.
- Severe economic problems and social unrest.

This country feels threatened by the leftist insurgency in **El Salvador** and by aggression and hostility of the **Nicaraguan** Sandinistas. The present low-level conflict has great potential for growth in this country with a new, unstable democratic Government, and serious economic and social problems.

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U.S. Equities in Honduras

- Supports U.S. policy towards **Nicaragua**.
- Overall U.S. equity is moderate.

This country speaks forcefully on the need for democracy and internal dialogue within **Nicaragua** and has been a strong supporter of U.S. policy toward **Nicaragua**.

The U.S. has traditionally been **Honduras's** most important trading partner supplying 30 to 40 percent of the country's imports and buying more than half of its exports. Also, significant amounts of economic aid are provided to this country by the U.S. About 3,000 U.S. citizens reside in **Honduras**.

Direct Inv (Mil of \$)	Exports (Mil of \$)	Imports (Mil of \$)	U.S. Aid (Mil of \$)	Total Equity (Mil of \$)	U.S. Citizens	\$ Rating		Total Numerical Rating	Overall U.S. Equity
						Rating	Rating		
79	543	479	205	1,306	3,000	3	4	7	Medium

Drug Threat

Drug Production	Drug Processing	Precursor Chemicals	Money Laundering	Transit Point
				X

Honduras is a transshipment point for **Colombian** cocaine moving to the U.S.

Terrorism

- Several terrorist groups supported by **Cuba** and the **Nicaraguan** Sandinistas operate in **Honduras**.

The number of leftist guerrilla groups, most of which were supported by **Cuba** and **Nicaragua** and assisted by guerrilla insurgents in **El Salvador**, were active in **Honduras** in 1988. There was a perceptible increase in terrorist attacks over the previous year.

Consolidated Threat

In the **Western Hemisphere**, **Honduras** 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
Draft/TR	LAV	Howitzers	15	1	56	A

Ground OOB consists of 15,400 troops of which 11,000 are conscripts. Training in the past has been poor but now seems to be improving. Tanks: Scimitar, Scorpion; Artillery: M-101, M-102, M-198.

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	2	1	53	B

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E; Close Air: Cessna A-37B; 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: 3 Large Fast Patrol Craft; 9 Small Coastal Patrol Craft; 8 Small River Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Spanish

Primary religion - Catholic

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

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
73-88	High	96	Wet/Hot

The climate is generally subtropical but varies considerably with elevation.

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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				

Honduras is bisected by mountain ranges that run north to south in the western part of the country and tropical lowlands lie along both coasts.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

Cross-country tracked movement would be feasible in most of **Honduras**. In more than 75 percent of the country, movement would be precluded by steep hills and mountains, dense forests, and perennially wet ground.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

Line of sight distances of less than 1,000 meters would be encountered in over 75 percent of **Honduras** due to steep hills and mountains, dense forests, and frequent rainfall.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
28143/28163	14,500	Fair

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Coastal defense weapons have significant capability.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
155 mm M-198	24,000	U.S. NGF and Threat Equal

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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 absent for eastern **Honduras** and the southeast border with **El Salvador**.

Airfields

- Highly accessible by air, with 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
18	3 C-5 7 C-130 8 None	0/18	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Aguateca	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Amapala	None	-
Catacamas	None	-
Choluteca	None	-
Coyota	None	-
El Paraiso	None	-
Goloson International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Jamastran	C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
La Jagua	None	-
La Mesa International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight only.
Mocoron/Durzuna	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Nacome	None	-
Puerto Lempira	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Roatan Island	None	-
San Lorenzo	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Soto Cano Air Base	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight only.
Tela	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Toncontin International	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.

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Ports

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

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

Key Installations

By modern standards, communication and transportation facilities in this country are poor. Limited rail service is confined to the **Caribbean** coast.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Tegucigalpa	- Inadequate telecomm - Microwave connection - 181 Radio stations - 22 TV stations - 2 Satellite ground stations	8,950 km	545 km	1	18	None	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 **Honduras** 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 **Honduras** would be very difficult due to the large number of potential evacuees (3,000).

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
76	3,000	52 (Tegucigalpa)	F

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

- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- NBC

