

**JAMAICA**

MEF G-2: CG II MEF//G-2//  
Telephone: STU-III AV 484-8095

Theater J-2: USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J-2//  
Telephone: STU-III AV 564-6626

DIA DB Desk Code: DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-3C//  
Telephone: STU-III AV 243-3096

Embassy Defense Attache: USDAO KINGSTON JM//DATT//  
Telephone: 809-929-4850, EXT 233/234  
DIRECT: 926-6440

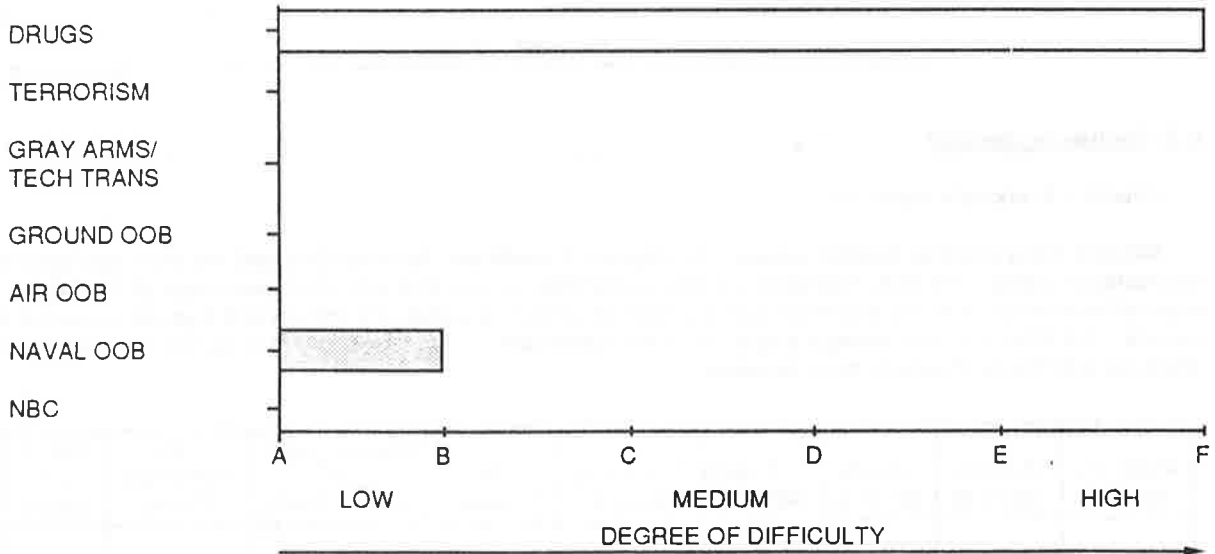


**SUMMARY**

Jamaica has a strategic location in the Caribbean Sea astride the main sea lanes for the Panama Canal. The U.S. maintains close, cooperative relations with this country and overall U.S. equities there are substantial. Over 120 U.S. firms have operations in Jamaica and almost 5,000 U.S. citizens reside there. The island serves as a transit point for drug traffickers moving cocaine from South America to the U.S. Jamaica also produced about 405 metric tons of marijuana in 1988. The country has a very small army of 2,000 regular troops which is inadequate to contain any significant internal conflict or resist foreign invasion. The size of the air force and navy is negligible.

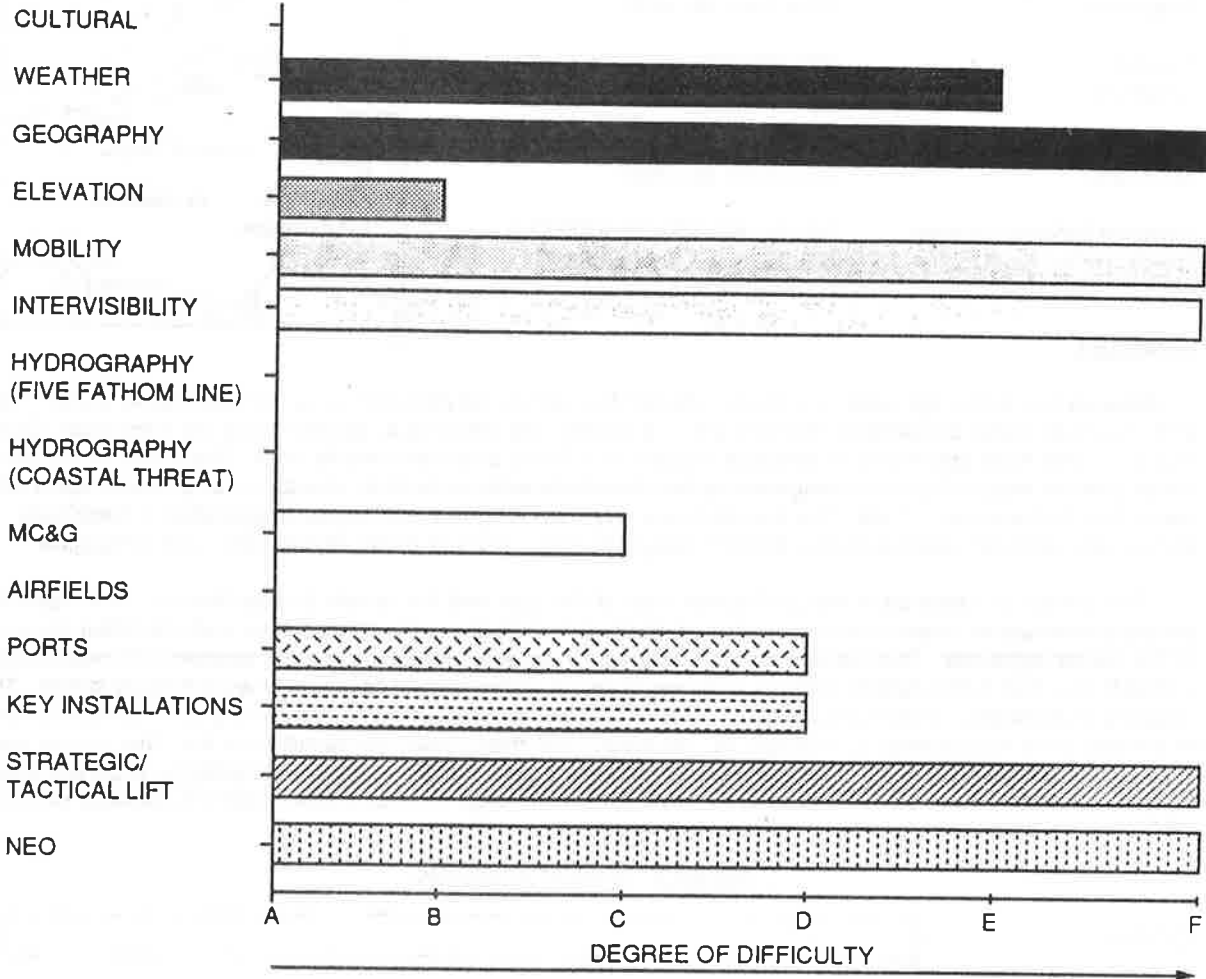
The climate of Jamaica is hot and humid most of the year and the terrain is mountainous. The island is generally unsuited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles due to the steep slopes and unfordable streams in the interior highlands. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters because of the rough terrain, dense ground cover, and frequent heavy rainfall. The mapping of Jamaica by older 1:50,000 scale maps may be somewhat outdated. Airfields and ports are satisfactory to provide good accessibility by strategic lift. Although most main roads are paved, they are often narrow and winding through the mountains. The time required for an east coast MEU to embark on amphibious ships and move to Jamaica is estimated to be in excess of six days. Due to the large number of U.S. citizens in Jamaica (4,803), NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be very difficult.

JAMAICA - THREAT SUMMARY



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JAMAICA- TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Jamaica

- Overall U.S. equity is moderate.

Jamaica has a strategic location between the Caymen Trench and Jamaica Channel, the main sea lanes for the Panama Canal. The U.S. maintains a close, cooperative relationship with the Government of Jamaica. A bilateral trade situation exists where the U.S. provides 44 percent of Jamaica's imports and buys 33 percent of its exports. The U.S. has been strongly supportive of the Jamaican Government's efforts to revitalize the economy. There are 4,803 U.S. citizens living in Jamaica.

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
129	601	422	88	1,240	4,803	3 4	7	Medium

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Public Release Approved  
2021 Dated Information

## Drug Threat

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

**Jamaica** produced about 405 metric tons of marijuana in 1988. The island is also a transit point for cocaine; traffickers are now paying for services in kind, increasing the amount of cocaine available for **Jamaican** consumption. Money laundering does not appear to be a major problem, with most drug proceeds being laundered elsewhere.

## General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	None	Mortars	2	2	54	A

Ground OOB consists of 2,200 regular troops. The army is inadequate to contain any significant internal conflict or resist foreign invasion. Training is obtained from **Britain** and **Canada**. Tanks: none; Artillery: 81 mm mortars.

## General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Props	None	None	Negligible	2	12	A

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

## 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	2	42	B

Ships: none; SSMs: none; Patrol Craft: 1 Large Patrol Craft; 4 Small Patrol Craft.

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## Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - English  
Primary religion - Protestant

There is no cultural difference between **Jamaica** and the **U.S.**

## Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
71-88	66	78	Wet/Hot

The climate is humid and tropical most of the year, but temperatures from November to March are cooler, particularly along the north shore where the range is 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

## 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				

**Jamaica** is the third largest island in the **Caribbean**. Mountains cover about 80 percent of its surface.

## General Cross-Country Mobility

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

The coastal lowlands, ranging from five to twenty miles in width along most of the coast, are generally suitable for tracked movement due to a relatively flat surface and extensive road and trail network. Approximately 75 percent of the country --the interior highlands--is unsuited for tracked movement due to steep forested slopes and unfordable streams.

## Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

Mountains cover about 80 percent of **Jamaica** which severely restrict the distance of line of sight visibility. Only in the coastal lowlands would line of sight distances up to 1,000 meters be feasible.

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
26121	4,025	Good

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Limited coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
81 mm Mortar	4,595	U.S. NGF Advantage

MC&G Shortfalls

- Complete coverage by old 1:50,000 scale maps.

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

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
2	2 C-5	2/0	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Norman Manley International (Kingston)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Sangster International (Montego Bay)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-

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## Ports

**Jamaica** has two moderate size ports which can receive strategic sealift.

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

## Key Installations

Communications, transportation, and industrial facilities in **Jamaica** are relatively modern and improving. Almost all main roads are paved, but due to the mountainous conditions, they are often narrow and winding, with uneven surfaces.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Kingston	- Fully automatic telecomm - 2 Satellite ground stations - 25 Radio stations - 8 TV stations	18,200 km	370 km	2	2	- Refined products	None	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 **Jamaica** 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 **Jamaica** would be very difficult due to the large number of potential evacuees (4,873).

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
70	4,803	0 (Kingston)	F

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

- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- NBC