

**MADAGASCAR**

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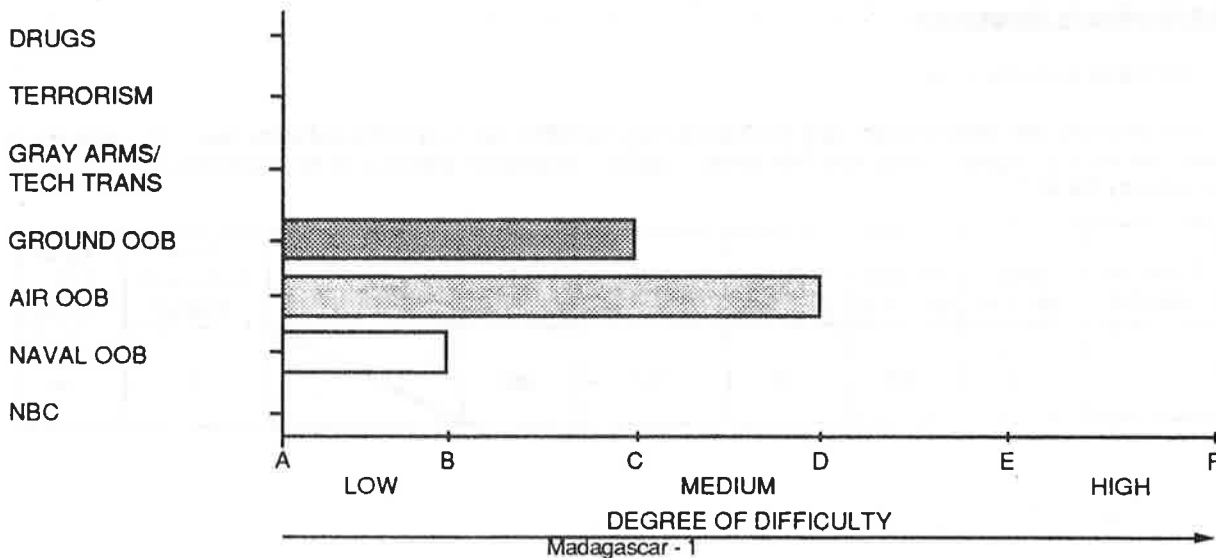


**SUMMARY**

**Madagascar**, the world's fourth largest island, is located 250 miles off the southeast coast of **Africa**. U.S. equity in this country is low. Relations between the two suffered during the 1970's but have improved since then. The U.S. is **Madagascar's** second largest market and fifth major supplier. The country has potentially large oil deposits and U.S. oil companies have undertaken extensive exploratory drilling efforts. The Popular Armed Forces of **Madagascar** number about 22,000 personnel. A portion of the ground OOB has been designated the Intervention Force with the mission to deploy rapidly to areas of internal and external threat. Currently **Madagascar** relies heavily on the **Soviet Union** for military equipment and training. **North Korea**, **France**, and the **U.S.** also have military assistance programs with **Madagascar**. Reports indicate there have been **Cuban** trainers in the country.

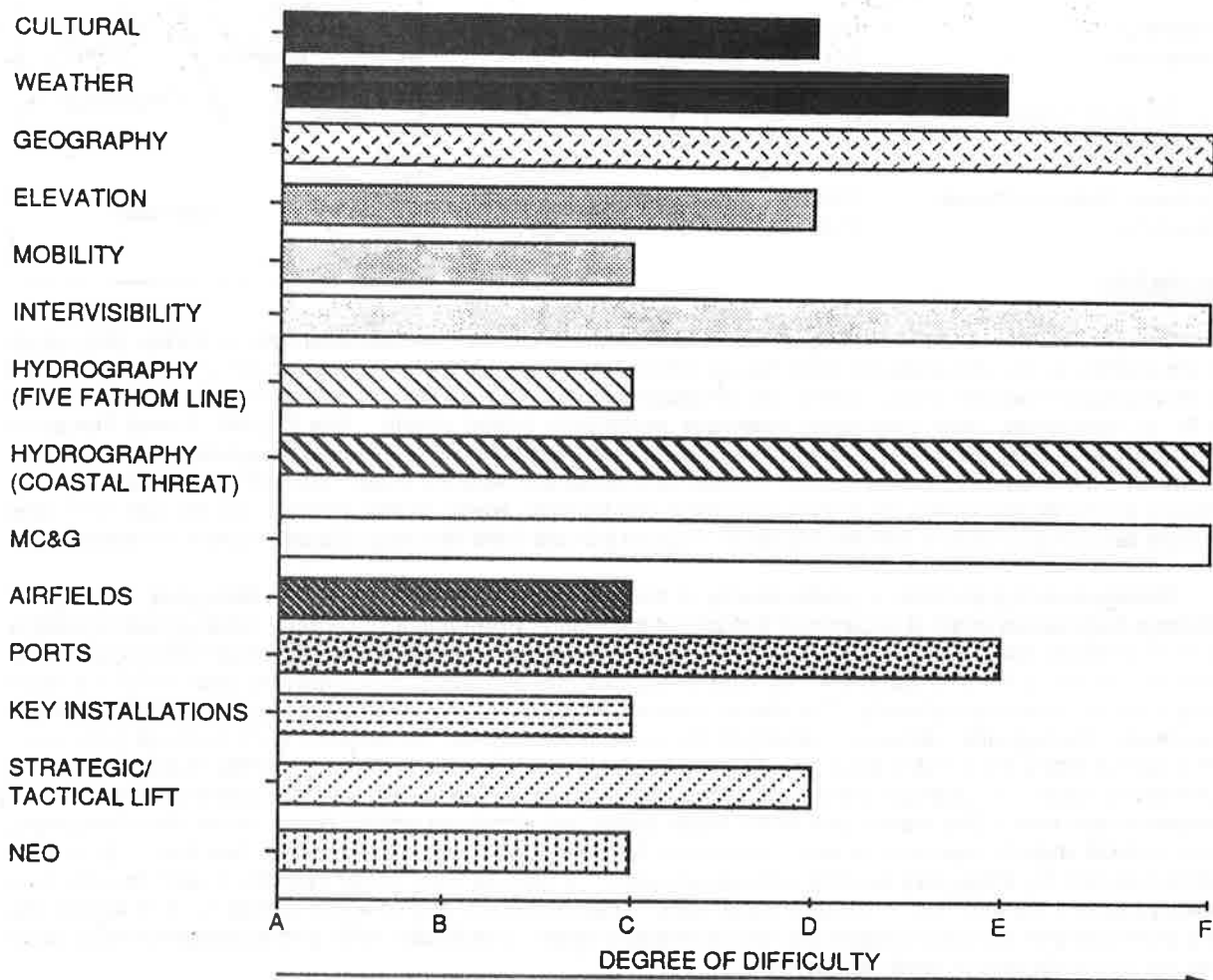
**Madagascar's** population is predominantly of mixed **Asian** and **African** origin. The **Malagasy** language of **Malayo-Polynesian** origin is understood throughout the island. **French** is also spoken. Most people practice a form of animism combined with ancestor worship as their religion. The culture of **Madagascar** differs significantly from that of the **U.S.** The climate of the coastal region is hot and humid throughout the year while it is more temperate in the central highlands. The island's interior consists of a high plateau averaging about 6,000 feet above sea level. The highlands descend gradually to the coast in the west but the transition is more abrupt in the east. The coastal plains are suitable for cross-country vehicular movement while this kind of mobility is precluded in the central highlands. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is normally limited to less than 1,000 meters due to the rough terrain and significant ground cover. While the hydrography permits NGF ships to approach the coast and provide limited support for operations ashore, their 5-inch guns would be out-ranged by **Malagasy** coastal defense weapons. A serious shortfall for ground combat operations in **Madagascar** is the absence of 1:50,000 scale maps. Airfields are available to accommodate C-141B aircraft, but the one major port has poor capability to receive strategic sealift. The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked MEU would require four to six days to reach **Madagascar**.

MADAGASCAR - THREAT SUMMARY



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MADAGASCAR - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



**U.S. Equities in Madagascar**

- Overall U.S. equity is low.

U.S. relations with Madagascar were troubled during the 1970's but have improved since then. The U.S. is this country's second largest market and fifth major supplier. Significant amounts of humanitarian aid have been provided by the U.S.

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
-	23	64	17	104	160	1 / 1	2	Low

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## General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Draft/TR	LAV	Bloc	20	1	91	C

Ground OOB numbers 20,000 troops which are all conscripts. The **Soviets** have provided some technical training. Reports also indicate there have been small **Cuban** and **North Korean** training staffs in **Madagascar**. Arms are purchased mainly from the **U.S.S.R.** Tanks: PT-76; Artillery: D-30, M-46, ZIS-3.

## General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Bloc	None	Bloc	1	1	102	D

Fighter Aircraft: MiG-17, MiG-21; Close Air: none; Air Defense: SA-9 SAMs and 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 Patrol Craft; 5 Small Patrol Boats.

## Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Malagasy (French)

Primary religion - Animists

There is a significant cultural difference between **Madagascar** and the **U.S.**

## Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
55-80	-	55-112	Wet/Hot

The coastal region of **Madagascar** is tropical with a hot, humid climate throughout the year. The east coast receives heavier rainfall due to the trade winds and monsoons. There are periodic cyclones along the coasts. Southern **Madagascar** is arid but the climate in the central highlands is more temperate.

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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		

**Madagascar**, the world's fourth largest island, is located 250 miles off the southeast coast of **Africa**. The interior contains a high plateau averaging about 6,000 feet above sea level. The highlands descend gradually to the coast in the west but the transition is more abrupt in the east.

## General Cross-Country Mobility

- Some parts of **Madagascar** are suited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Cross-country tracked and vehicular movement is generally precluded due to the rugged terrain of the dominating central plateau. Movement is possible in the low lying areas spanning the east coast and throughout the broad coastal plains of the western plateau.

## Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

The terrain of **Madagascar** is generally described as a plateau, rising sharply from a narrow plain of the east coast and descending in a series of steps to the strip of rocks along the west coast. There is some evergreen forest on the eastern edge of the plateau. Most of the country is covered with savanna. Due to the rough terrain and ground cover, it is expected that line of sight distances would not exceed 1,000 meters.

## Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
61420/61430	14,500	Fair

## 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

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## MC&G Shortfalls

- 1:50,000 scale map coverage of **Madagascar** is not available.

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

## Airfields

- Accessible by air, with more than one airfield that can handle C-141B aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
6	6 C-141B	2/4	>5/C-130

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Antananarivo/Arivonimano	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Antananarivo/Ivato	C-141B, C-130	-
Antseranana/Andrakaka	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Mahajanga/Ambarovy	C-141B, C-130	-
Nosy-be/Fascene	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Toamasina	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.

## Ports

- One port with poor capability to receive strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Tamatave	Small	31-35/36-40	36-40	Yes

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Key Installations

**Madagascar** has an underdeveloped infrastructure. Some parts of the country can be covered by rail. The road network is badly deteriorated and many areas are not accessible by ground vehicle.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Antananarivo	- Fair telecomm; above average in Africa - 11 Radio stations - 6 TV stations - 1 Satellite station	27,500 km	884 km	1	6	None	None	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked MEU could reach **Madagascar** in between four to 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 **Madagascar** would not be very difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
33	160	87 (Antananarivo)	C

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

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