

**MALAYSIA**

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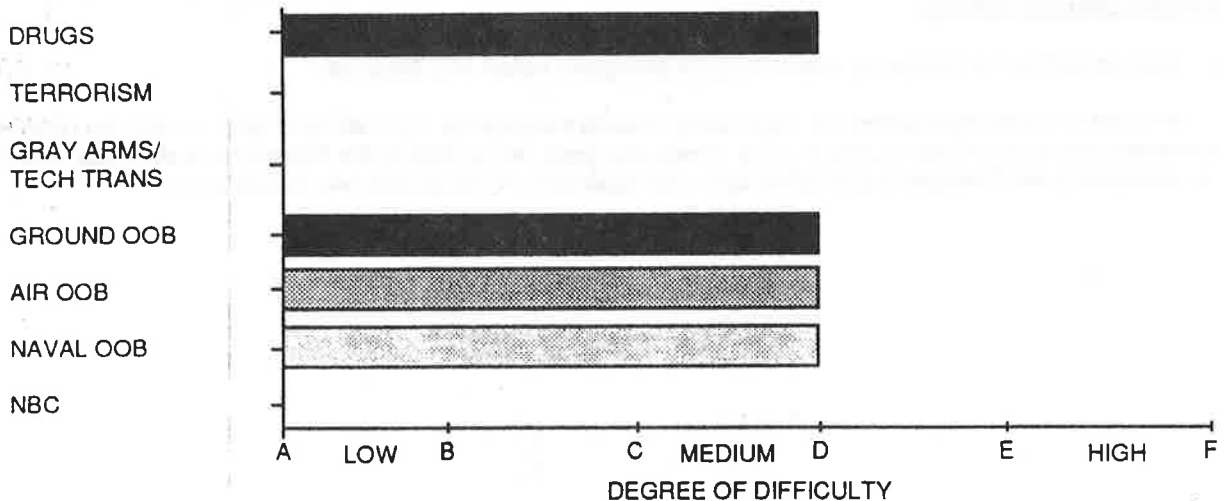


**SUMMARY**

In **Malaysia**, the possibility of a revived communist insurgency along the border with **Thailand** is viewed with great seriousness. The **U.S.** supports **Malaysia** through cooperation in the areas of narcotics enforcement and military assistance programs. Overall **U.S.** equity in **Malaysia** is moderate. In bilateral trade, the **U.S.** receives about 14 percent of **Malaysia's** exports and provides 26 percent of its imports. Over 2,000 **U.S.** citizens reside there. **Malaysia** is an important heroin processing center and transit site, exporting drugs primarily to **Europe** and **Australia**. The country has moderate size armed forces which have been mainly directed at containing the communist insurgency. Recently, a major program has been initiated to expand and modernize the military to meet both internal and external threats. The army in particular is being reorganized and its equipment upgraded. **Malaysia** is a member of the Five-Power Defense Arrangement with the **U.K.**, **Australia**, **New Zealand**, and **Singapore**. Under the arrangement, small **Australian** air units are stationed in **Malaysia**.

**Malaysia** has a culture significantly different from that of the **U.S.** The climate is mainly hot and humid with large amounts of rainfall. The country is basically broken into two regions, the **Malay Peninsula** which borders with **Thailand**, and **East Malaysia** which occupies the northern part of the island of **Borneo**. On the peninsula, a range of forested mountains runs north and south and is flanked on the east and west by coastal plains. **East Malaysia** is composed of a broad, swampy coastal plain, drained by wide rivers which merge into hills and mountains of the interiors. Most of **Malaysia** is covered with dense jungle. Due to these conditions, at least two-thirds of **Malaysia** is unsuited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) would be less than 500 meters due to the adverse terrain and frequent heavy rainfall. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is not available for **Malaysia**. Airfields and ports are satisfactory to handle strategic lift entering the country. Key installations include oil fields on both the **Malay Peninsula** and **East Malaysia**. The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked **MEU** would require between two and four days to reach **Malaysia**. Due to the over 2,000 potential evacuees, **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions in **Malaysia** would be very difficult.

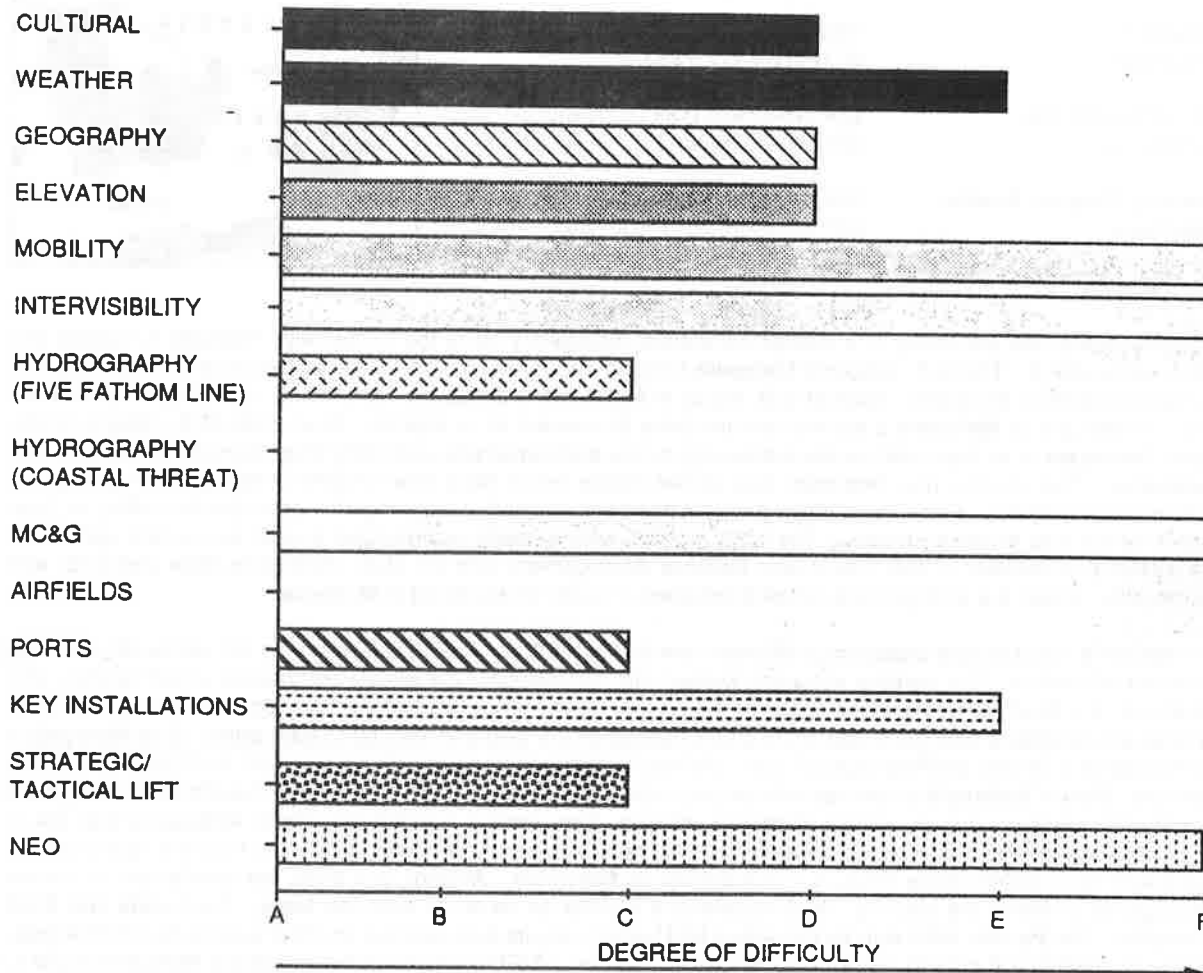
MALAYSIA- THREAT SUMMARY



Malaysia - 1

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## MALAYSIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



### Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Revived communist insurgency active along the **Malaysian** border with **Thailand**.

Although no longer representing the major threat to **Malaysian** stability that it did from 1948 to 1960, the revived communist insurgency in this country is being viewed with great seriousness by the Federation of **Malaysia**, which has cooperated with **Thailand** to coordinate operations against the rebels across their mutual border.

**U.S. Equities in Malaysia**

- Overall U.S. equity is moderate.

The U.S. and Malaysia maintain cordial relations. As trading partners, the U.S. receives about 14 percent of Malaysia's exports and provides 26 percent of its imports. U.S. direct investment is over \$1 billion, most of which goes to petroleum development and integrated circuit production. Over 2,000 U.S. citizens live in Malaysia.

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
1,111	1,897	3,053	-	6,061	2,390	5 3	8	Medium

**Drug Threat**

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

Malaysia is an important heroin conversion and transit center, exporting primarily to Europe and Australia. A strong domestic enforcement program which drove heroin seizures up by 700 percent seems to have reduced drug availability in 1988, and a new property forfeiture act provides a vital new weapon, but the expected bounty of opium coming from the Golden Triangle in the future will put the country's forces to a test.

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## General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	LAV	Howitzers	90	11	171	D

Ground OOB consists of 90,000 volunteers. Army recruits receive basic training at a training center with further training carried out in the units to which they are assigned. In addition, there are specialist schools in such areas as administration and transport. Most officer training is accomplished at the Federal Royal Military College. Some cadets attend **British** and **Commonwealth** schools. Tanks: Scorpion; Artillery: M-56 pack howitzer, M-102A1.

## General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Early Radar	Early Smart	EW Radar	11	11	112	D

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E; Close Air: A-4M; Air Defense: AA guns. Late in 1988 the U.K. agreed to provide **Malaysia** with a wide range of equipment including Rapier and Javelin SAMs plus Marine Martello radars. The **Malaysian** Air Defense Ground Environment (MADGE) system is operational and provides air surveillance and control services for civil and military aircraft in **Malaysian** airspace.

## General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	HE	ASUW/Anti-air	13	11	104	D

Ships: 2 Frigates and 2 Corvettes with SSMs, guns, antisubmarine mortars, countermeasures, fire control, and radars; SSMs: Exocet; Patrol Craft: 8 Fast Attack Craft-Missile with SSMs, guns, countermeasures, fire control, and radars; 6 Fast Attack Craft-Gun; 21 Large Patrol Craft.

## Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Malay (English, Chinese, Tamil)  
Primary religion - Eastern

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

**Weather**

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
73-88	High	100	Wet/Hot

Malaysia has a tropical climate with hot, humid conditions. At higher elevations temperatures are lower and more variable. Annual rainfall is heavy although it varies considerably in different locations.

**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		

A range of forested mountains runs north and south along the center of the Malay Peninsula flanked on the east and west by coastal plains. About 50 percent of this area is covered by tropical jungle and the rest by extensive-rubber or palm oil estates. East Malaysia (northern part of the island of Borneo) consists of a broad, frequently swampy coastal plain, drained by wide rivers, which merges into the jungle-covered hills and mountains of the interior.

**General Cross-Country Mobility**

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

In approximately two-thirds of Malaysia, conditions for cross-country movement are unsuitable year round due to mountains, hills, and dense forests. Movement is somewhat feasible on the flat to rolling and dissected plains of the coastal lowlands.

**Intervisibility (Line of Sight)**

- Poor, with line of sight distances limited to less than 500 meters.

The terrain of Malaysia is generally characterized by narrow coastal plains which give way to mountainous and jungle covered interior. Heavy rainfall which averages about 100 inches yearly, would frequently limit visibility. Due to these conditions, line of sight distances would not exceed 500 meters over most of the country.

**Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)**

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
71270/71271	9,000	Fair

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## 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-102	11,500	U.S. NGF Advantage

## MC&G Shortfalls

- Coverage of **Malaysia** by 1:50,000 scale maps is not available.

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
9	2 C-5 7 C-141B	7/2	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Butterworth (Prai)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Kota Kinabalu	C-141B, C-130	-
Kuantan	C-141B, C-130	-
Kuching	C-141B, C-130	-
Labuan Aero	C-141B, C-130	-
Penang	C-141B, C-130	-
Simpang	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Subang/Kuala Lumpur	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Sultan Ismail	C-141B, C-130	-

**Ports**

- Ports are available that can accommodate strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Pelabuhan	Medium	26-30/36-40	31-35	Yes
Miri	Small	41-45/41-45	6-10	-
Lutong	Small	41-45/36-40	11-15	-

**Key Installations**

Oil production is roughly equally divided between the offshore fields of **East Malaysia** and Peninsular **Malaysia**. Specifically, oil fields are located off the west coast of **Sarawak** at **Bintulu** and **Miri**, off the west coast of **Sabah**, and offshore to the east of **Kuala Terengganu**. Exploration is underway in the south **China Sea**.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Kuala Lumpur	- Good telecomm - 31 Radio stations - 33 TV stations - 5 Satellite stations	29,026 km	1,801 km	3	9	- Crude oil - Natural gas	Yes	None

**Strategic and Tactical Lift**

The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked **MEU** would require between two to four days to reach **Malaysia**. The **AAF/ACB** can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

**NEO**

Due to the over 2,000 potential evacuees, **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions in **Malaysia** would be very difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
74	2,390	26 (Kuala Lumpur)	F

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

- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- NBC

