

MEXICO

MEF G-2: Telephone:	CG I MEF//G-2// STU-III AV 365-9103
Theater J-2: Telephone:	USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//J-2// STU-III AV 282-3209
DIA DB Desk Code: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-3C// STU-III AV 243-3096
Embassy Defense Attache: Telephone:	USDAO MEXICO CITY MEX//DATT// DIRECT: 011-525 (OR 905) 525-2845 EMB: 905-211-0042 EXT 3760/61/75/80/82

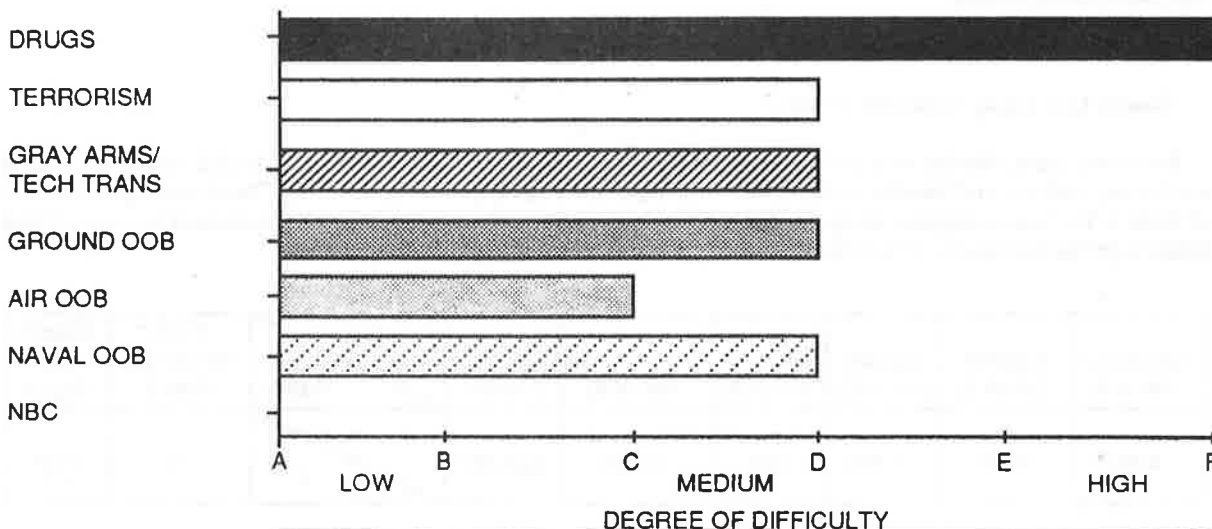


SUMMARY

Mexico has strategic importance due to its location on the southern border with the U.S. **Mexico** and the U.S. maintain close and cordial relations. Overall U.S. equity in **Mexico** is high with over 322,000 U.S. citizens residing there. Despite a program by the Government to stop drug trafficking, **Mexico** is a leading producer of heroin and marijuana. It also acts as a major transit point for cocaine entering the U.S. Terrorist groups such as the **Salvadoran FMLN** and the **Guatemalan URNG** are permitted to maintain offices in **Mexico City** where they can arrange and coordinate the acquisition of illicit weapons. Through its involvement in narcotics, terrorism, and gray arms transfers, **Mexico** constitutes a very serious concern to U.S. interests. With an army of 105,000 regular troops, **Mexico** has the third largest ground OOB in **Latin America**. The **Mexican** air force and navy are significantly smaller than the army. Training and morale in the armed forces are below average and most regulars are rural mestizos or Indians who have failed to find work elsewhere.

The climate of **Mexico** is mixed and ranges from tropical to desert. The geographic conditions vary considerably from low desert plains and jungle-like coastal regions to high plateaus and rugged mountains. **Mexico City**, with a population of about 20 million, is estimated to have the largest urban concentration in the world. About two-thirds of **Mexico** is generally suited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) normally varies between 1,000 and 2,000 meters. A major shortfall for military operations in this country is the lack of 1:50,000 scale maps. Airfields and ports in **Mexico** are satisfactory to accommodate most strategic lift requirements. Key installations include oil fields and nuclear power plants under construction. Depending on the destination in **Mexico** (north, central, or south) the time required for a MEU on the U.S. east or west coast to embark on ships and arrive could range from between two days to more than six. Because of the numerous U.S. citizens in **Mexico**, NEO by a joint U.S. force, including a MEU, would be a major endeavor.

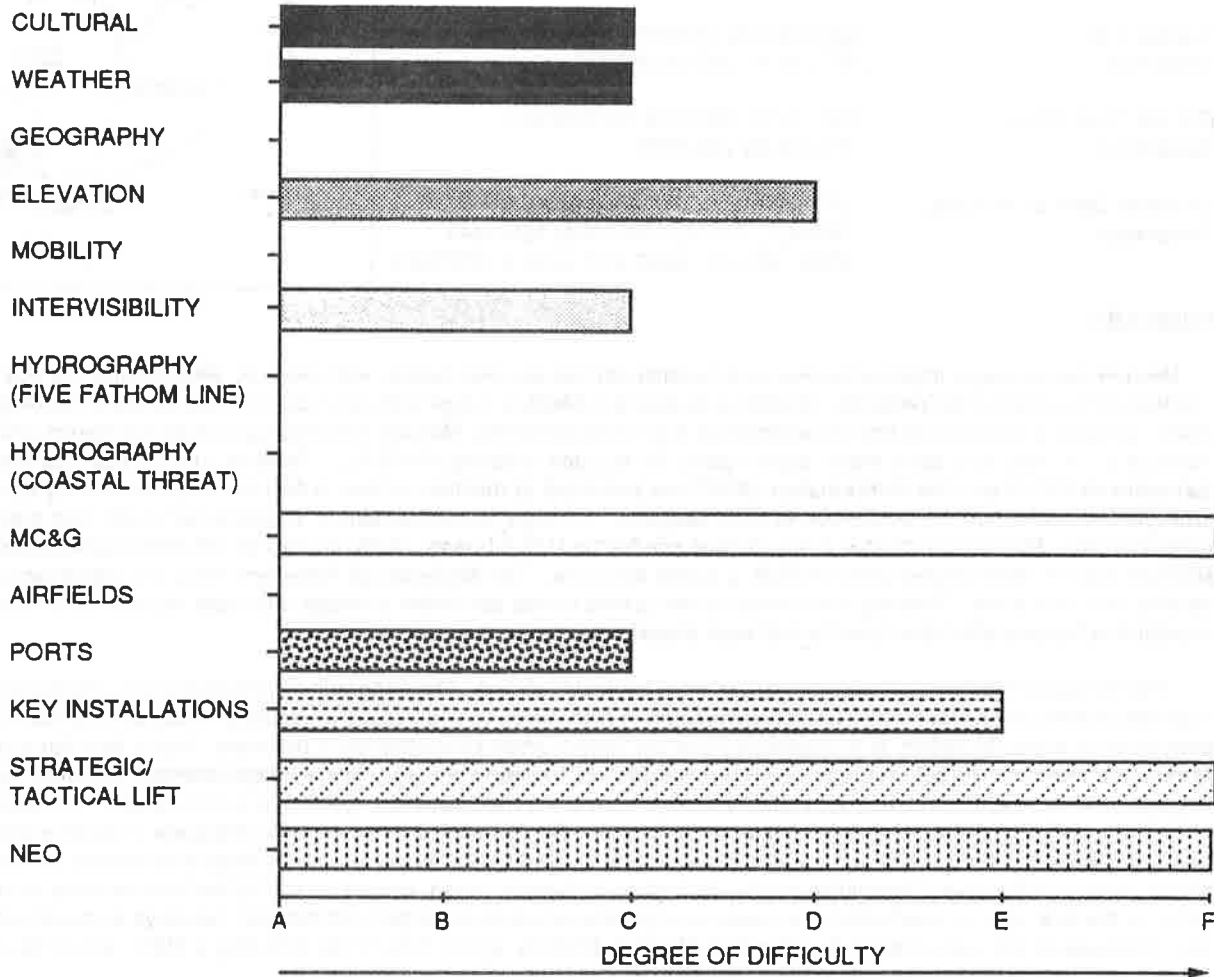
MEXICO- THREAT SUMMARY



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MEXICO - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Mexico

- Mexico has a strategic location on the southern border with the U.S.
- Overall U.S. equity in Mexico is high.

For many years, Mexico and the U.S. have maintained close and friendly relations. The U.S. is Mexico's number one trading partner, and Mexico is the fourth most important trading partner of the U.S. The discovery of extensive oil fields in the coastal regions along the Gulf of Mexico enabled Mexico to become self-sufficient in crude oil and to export significant amounts of petroleum. Over 322,000 U.S. citizens reside in Mexico.

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
4,997	8,532	11,826	540	25,895	322,250	6 6	12	High

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Drug Threat

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

- Large source of heroin.
- Second largest source of marijuana.
- Major transit point for cocaine.

Mexico remains the largest single source for heroin, the second largest source for marijuana, and leading transit point for cocaine. Newly elected President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has made antinarcotics programs a national priority for his new Government. However, **U.S.** officials are concerned about the inhibiting effects of corruption throughout the programs. **U.S.** enforcement agencies continue to monitor instances of drug-related corruption within **Mexico**.

Terrorism

- **Mexico** provides safe haven for terrorist groups.

Despite **Mexico's** official policy of nonintervention in the affairs of other nations, the **Salvadoran** FMLN and **Guatemalan** URNG are permitted to maintain offices or headquarters in **Mexico City**.

Gray Arms/Technology Transfer

Mexico has been a transit point for arms shipments from private organizations in the **U.S.** to the **Nicaraguan** Contras. Insurgent groups such as **El Salvador's** FMLN are permitted to maintain offices in **Mexico City** where they can arrange and coordinate the acquisition of weapons.

Consolidated Threat

In the **Western Hemisphere**, **Mexico** constitutes a very serious threat due to its involvement in narcotics, terrorism, and gray arms/technology transfer.

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General Ground OOB

- **Mexico** has the third largest ground OOB in **Latin America**.

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	LAV	Howitzers	105	3	178	D

Ground OOB consists of a 105,000 person regular voluntary force. Most regulars are rural mestizos or Indians who have failed to find work elsewhere. Recruits are trained in their units or at several specialized schools. Training for officers occurs largely at the military academy at **Chapultepec, Mexico City**, or special arms or staff training schools. Tanks: M-3; Artillery: 120 mm coastal defense guns, M-8 75 mm SP, M-101, M-116.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Early Radar	Day Jet Atk	Early AAA	6	3	69	C

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E/F; Close Air: AT-6G, AT-28D, AT-33A, PC-7; Air Defense: AA guns.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	None	Lg Gun Boats	27	3	90	D

Ships: 3 Destroyers with antisubmarine ASROC missiles, antisurface and antiaircraft guns, and ASW torpedoes; 6 Frigates with guns; 37 Patrol Ships with guns; SSMS: none; Patrol Craft: 36 Large Patrol Craft; 6 Coastal Patrol Craft; 11 River Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Spanish
Primary religion - Catholic

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

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Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
49-89	39-80	6-66	Mixed

The climate of **Mexico** varies from tropical to desert.

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 topography of **Mexico** ranges from low desert plains and jungle-like coastal strips to high plateaus and rugged mountains. With a population of 20 million, **Mexico City** is estimated to have the largest urban concentration in the world.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- **Mexico** is generally suited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Cross-country tracked movement would be possible during most of the year in about two-thirds of **Mexico**. In the remaining third of the country, tracked movement would be precluded by steep slopes in most places, as well as by limited areas of dense forests, swamps, and marshes.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Line of sight distances will normally fall between 1,000 and 2,000 meters.

With terrain that varies from low, flat desert regions and jungle-like coastal plains to high plateaus and rugged mountains, it is estimated that line of sight distances between 1,000 and 2,000 meters would be found in over 50 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
28320/28321	1,610	Good

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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)
120 mm Coastal Defense Gun	15,000	U.S. NGF Advantage

MC&G Shortfalls

- 1:50,000 scale map coverage 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 accommodate C-5 aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
25	5 C-5 19 C-141B 1 C-130	22/3	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Cancun International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Ciudad Obregon	C-141, C-130	-
Cozumel International	C-141, C-130	-
Don Miguel Hidalgo International (Guadalajara)	C-141, C-130	-
Durango	C-141, C-130	-
General Heriberto Jara International	C-141, C-130	-
General Ignacio P. Garcia International (Hermosillo)	C-141, C-130	-
General Jose Maria Yanez International (Guaymas)	C-141, C-130	-
General Juan N. Alvarez International (Acapulco)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
General Manuel Marq de Leon (La Paz)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
General Mariano Escobedo International	C-141B, C-130	-
General Rafael Buelna International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
General Rodolfo Sanchez International	C-141B, C-130	-
La Manga International	C-141B, C-130	-
Lic Benito Juarez International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Lic Gustavo Diaz Ordaz	C-141B, C-130	-
Loreto	C-141B, C-130	-
Merida	C-141B, C-130	-
Minatitlan	C-130	-
Playa de Oro International (Guadalajara)	C-141B, C-130	-
Quetzalcoatl International	C-141B, C-130	-
Santa Lucia	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Torreón	C-141B, C-130	-
Zacatecas	C-141B, C-130	The C-141B is limited to runway operations only. Daylight only.
Zapopan	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.

Ports

- Mexico has several ports that can readily accommodate strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Tampico	Medium	36-40/36-40	26-30	Yes
Veracruz	Medium	31-35/41-45	26-30	Yes
Pajaritus	Small	36-40/41-45	26-30	-
Coatzacoalcos	Small	36-40/-	31-35	No
Acapulco	Small	Over 76/ Over 76	36-40	Yes
Manzanillo	Small	-/36-40	36-40	Yes
Mazatlan	Small	31-35/over 76	31-35	Yes
Santa Rosalia	Small	26-30/46-50	26-30	Yes

Key Installations

In **Central Mexico**, oil fields are located in the **Tampico-Misantla** basin, and the **Chicontepepec** basin in the state of **Veracruz**. In **South Mexico**, oil fields are found in the **Macuspana** basin, the offshore **Tabasco-Campeche** basin, the **Tabasco-Chiapas** area, the continental shelf of the **Bahia de Campeche**, and the offshore **Reforma** fields that include the **Isthmus of Saline** basin. In **North Mexico**, oil fields are found in the **Sabinas** basin and the **Burgos** basin. **Mexico** has two nuclear powered reactors under construction. Its land transportation network is one of the most extensive in **Latin America**. It has a well developed telecommunications system, with its own satellites and hundreds of television and radio stations.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Mexico City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highly developed telecomm - Microwave connection - 679 Radio stations - 246 TV stations - 120 Satellite terminals - 2 Satellite ground stations 	210,000 km	20,680 km	8	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crude oil - Refined products - Natural gas 	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

Depending on the destination in **Mexico** (north, central or south), the time required for a MEU on the **U.S.** east and west coasts to embark on amphibious ships and sail to this country could range between two to more than six days. The AAF/ACB can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

NEO

- Due to the large number of **U.S.** citizens in **Mexico** (322,250) it is unlikely that a MEU would be the only force conducting NEO in this country. NEO of this magnitude conducted by a joint force with MEU participation would require detailed planning and execution.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
750	322,250	148 (Mexico City)	F

Note: In **Mexico**, the NBC factor is of little significance.