

**NAMIBIA**

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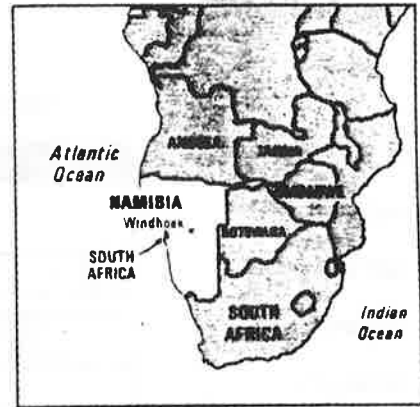
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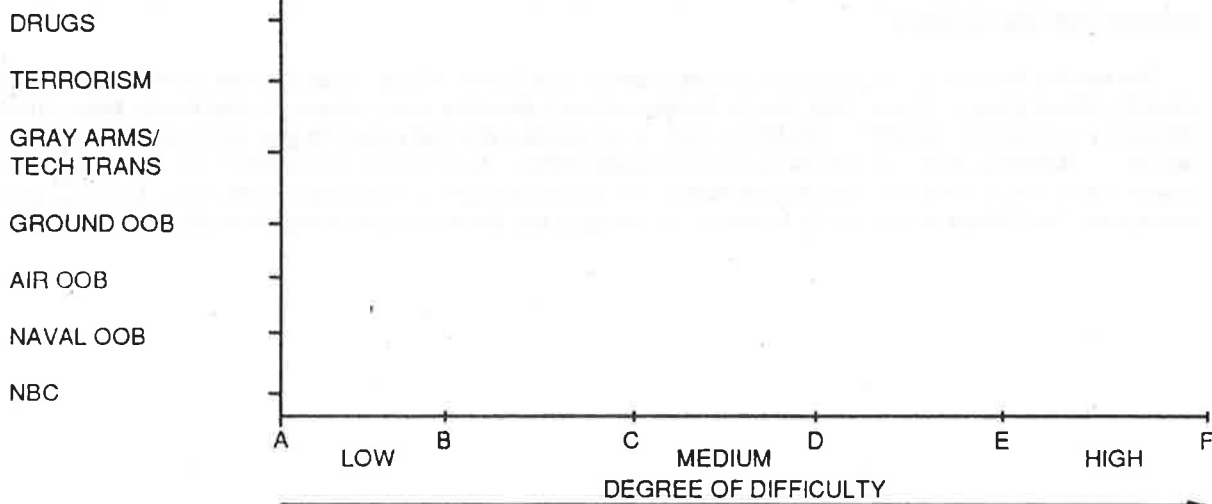


**SUMMARY**

**Namibia**, formerly known as **South West Africa**, was administered by **South Africa** for a number of years. When other **African** nations charged **South Africa** with exploiting **Namibia**, fighting broke out primarily between **South African** forces and the Marxist **South West Africa** People's Organization (SWAPO) supported by **Angola** and **Cuba**. In 1988, a **U.S.** mediated plan was agreed upon by **South Africa**, **Angola**, and **Cuba** which called for withdrawal of **Cuban** troops from **Angola** and black majority rule in **Namibia**. After free elections in 1989, **Namibia** became an independent nation in early 1990. Its president is the SWAPO guerrilla leader Sam Nujoma who apparently has dropped his Marxist rhetoric in favor of democratic ideals. The **U.S.** presently maintains no permanent deplomatic or consular representation in **Namibia** but **U.S.** Embassy officials in **South Africa** monitor developments in the country. **Namibia's** economy depends heavily on mining and ranching, with these resources concentrated in the hands of foreigners and the white minority. **Namibia** has no armed services, although now that it is independent it may soon establish some military capability.

With indigenous **Africans** of diverse ethnic origins and a minority white population, primarily **South African**, **British**, and **German**, the culture of **Namibia** is quite different from that of the **U.S.** The climate is mainly hot and dry. Periods of excessive winter drought alternate with short periods of heavy summer rainfall. Most of the country consists of a high plateau averaging about 3,600 feet above sea level. There is significant desert in both the coastal and inland regions. **Namibia** is generally unsuited for cross-country vehicular movement due to the broken terrain of the high plateau. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters in over 50 percent of the country. A problem for the conduct of ground operations in **Namibia** is the absence of 1:50,000 scale maps. One airfield is available at **Windhoek** to receive C-5 aircraft but the one major port at **Walvis Bay** has poor capability to accommodate strategic sealift. The **Atlantic ARG** with its embarked MEU would require in excess of six days to reach **Namibia**. NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in would be difficult due to the 142 nautical miles distance from the coast to **Windhoek**.

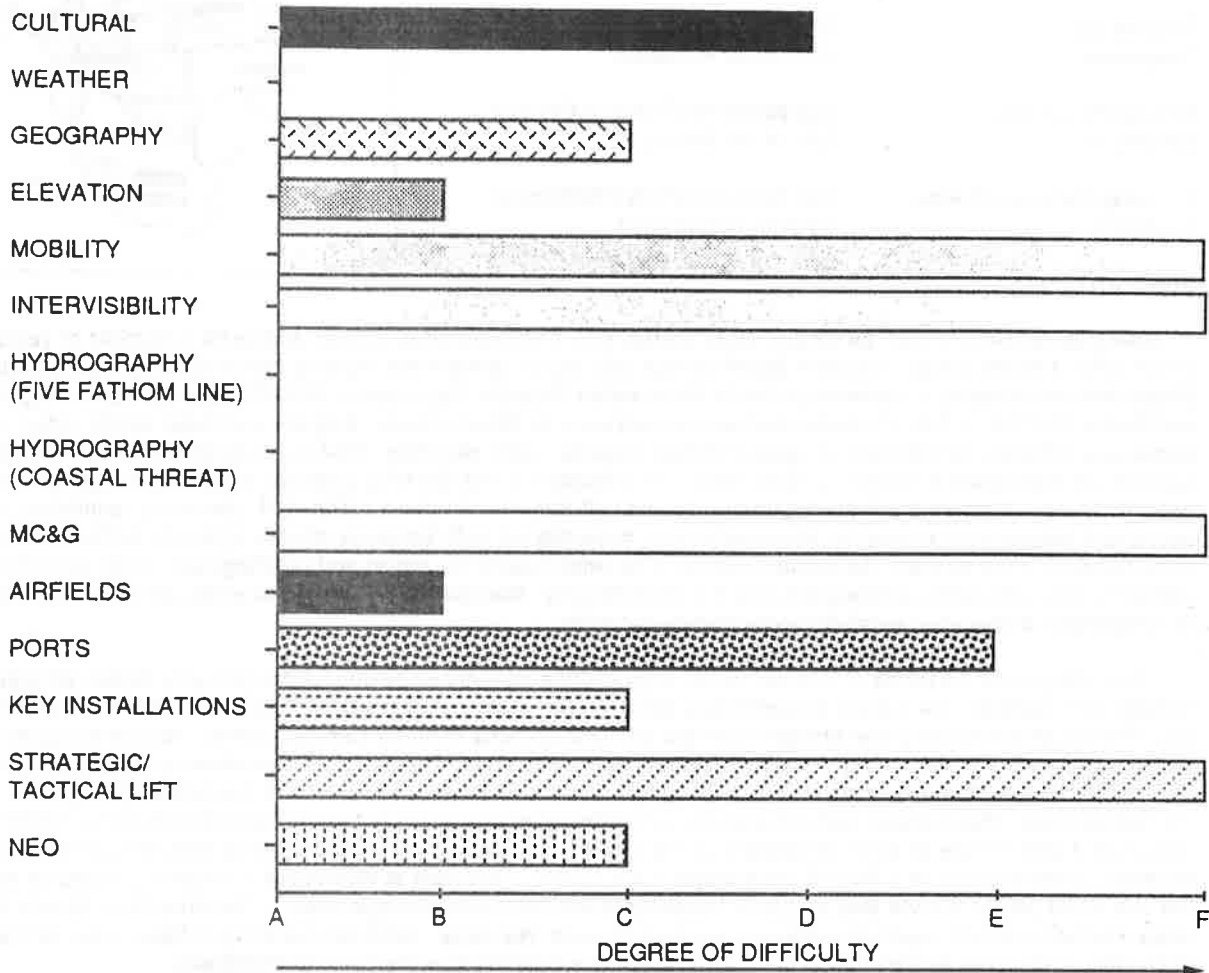
**NAMIBIA - THREAT SUMMARY**



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## NAMIBIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



### Existing Ongoing Conflicts

This country has had a long struggle for independence from **South Africa**. It also suffers from turmoil between internal political groups. Since 1984, **South African** forces in **Namibia** have battled with the **South West African** People's Organization (SWAPO). SWAPO is communist-backed and has stated its goal is to establish a people's republic in **Namibia**, then move on to overthrow **South Africa**. Negotiations sponsored by interested Western powers took place in 1988 between **Angola**, **Cuba**, and **South Africa** to secure peace in the area. Late that year, it was agreed that **Cuban** troops should withdraw from **Angola** and **South African** troops from **Namibia** by April 1989.

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## U.S. Equities in Indonesia

- Overall **U.S.** equity is low.

The **U.S.** maintains no permanent diplomatic or consular representation in **Namibia**. **U.S.** Embassy officials in **South Africa** monitor developments in the country. **Namibia** currently depends on mining and ranching, with economic power concentrated in the hands of whites and foreigners. The country's new constitution forbids nationalization without fair compensation.

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
-	-	-	-	-	-	0 0	0	Low

## General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
None	None	None	0	0	0	A

**Namibia** has no army, tanks, or artillery.

## General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
None	None	None	0	0	0	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
None	None	None	0	0	0	A

Ships: none; SSMS: none; Patrol Craft: none.

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## Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Afrikaans (English, German)  
Primary religion - Christian

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

## Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
55-73	60	1-16	Dry/Warm

**Namibia** has a subtropical climate which is mainly hot and dry. Periods of excessive winter drought alternate with heavy summer rainfall.

## 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				

Most of **Namibia** consists of a high plateau averaging about 3,600 feet above sea level. A coastal desert strip extends from the **Orange River** in the south to the **Kunene River** in the north. This area is mainly uninhabited. The eastern part of the country is also primarily desert but provides some grazing ground.

## General Cross-Country Mobility

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

Conditions for the cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles are poor to unsuited throughout most of **Namibia** primarily due to extensive desert areas and high plateau.

## Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

The topography of **Namibia** varies from coastal desert to semiarid high plateaus. Line of sight distances would be generally limited to less than 1,000 meters due to the broken terrain in over 50 percent of this country.

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## Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
57380/57381	5,000	Good

## Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Limited coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
-	0	U.S. NGF Advantage

## MC&G Shortfalls

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

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

## Airfields

- 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
5	1 C-5 2 C-141B 2 C-130	2/3	1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Grootfontein	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
J. G. H. Van der Wath (Keetmanshoop)	C-141B, C-130	-
J. G. Strijdom (Windhoek)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Mpacha	C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
Ondangwa	C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.

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## Ports

- One port with poor capability to receive strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Walvis Bay	Small	31-35/26-30	31-35	Yes

## Key Installations

Relative to the size of its population, **Namibia** may have the most highly developed infrastructure in **Africa**. It has a fairly substantial road system of which about 10 percent is paved. Railroads connect major economic and population centers with the **South African** rail system.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
None	- Good urban/air rural telecomm - Radio relay connects major towns; wire extends elsewhere - 15 Radio stations - 3 TV stations	54,500 km	2,340 km	1	5	None	None	None

## Strategic and Tactical Lift

The **Atlantic** ARG with its embarked MEU would require in excess of six days to reach **Namibia**. 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 **Namibia** would be difficult due to the 142 nautical miles distance to the probable evacuation site (**Windhoek**).

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
0	0	142 (Windhoek)	C

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

- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- OOB (Ground, Air, Naval)
- NBC