

NORTH YEMEN
(YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC)

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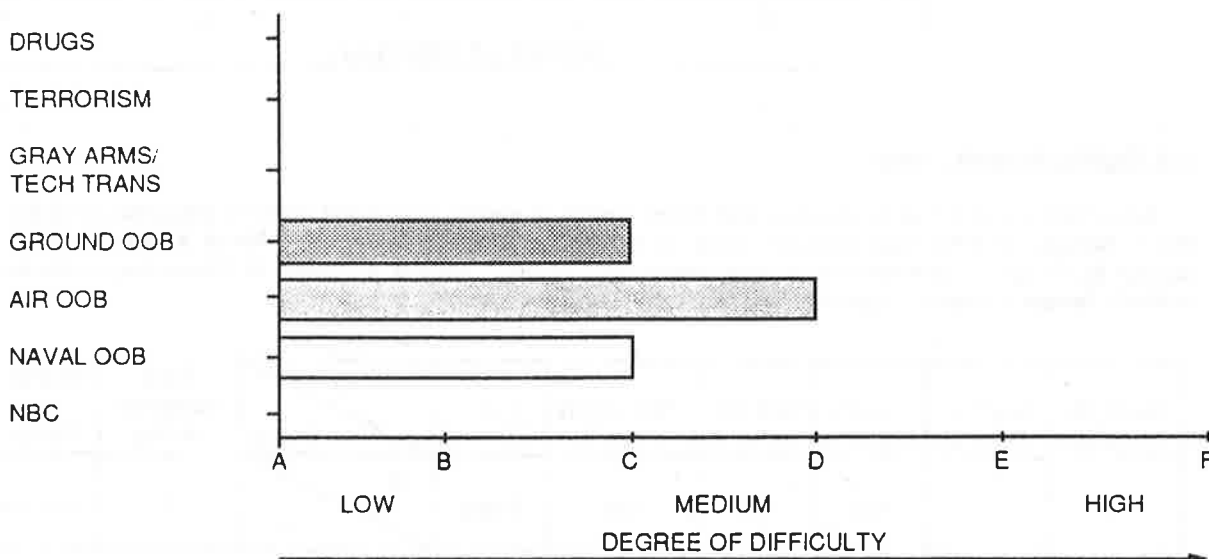


SUMMARY

The U.S. has helped to expand the security assistance program in **North Yemen** as well as providing this country with significant economic support. **North Yemen** has modest armed forces which would have difficulty in dealing with an attack from outside its borders. Almost all military training beyond the basic level is done outside the country mainly in **Egypt** and **Saudi Arabia**. Some foreign advisors are present in **North Yemen** to perform technical tasks and operate advanced equipment.

With a much different culture from the U.S., a hot/dry climate, and mostly mountainous terrain, military operations in **North Yemen** would present some difficulties. While some parts of the coastal plains would allow trafficability, the country in general is unsuited for off-road movement of tracked vehicles. Due to the dissected terrain, the average standoff distance for engagement by line-of-sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters. Because of shallow water off much of the **Red Sea** coast, NGF platforms would have a poor capability to approach the coast and provide support for operations ashore. A most serious setback to military operations in **North Yemen** could be the lack of 1:50,000 scale maps. While **North Yemen** is accessible by air with one airfield that can handle C-5 aircraft it has no major ports to accommodate strategic sealift. Oil fields are located in the eastern part of the country near the town of **Marib**. Communications facilities are underdeveloped but gradually improving. In a crisis situation, it is estimated that the Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU could reach **North Yemen** in two to four days. Under normal conditions, NEO conducted by a MEU would be quite difficult due to over 2000 potential evacuees.

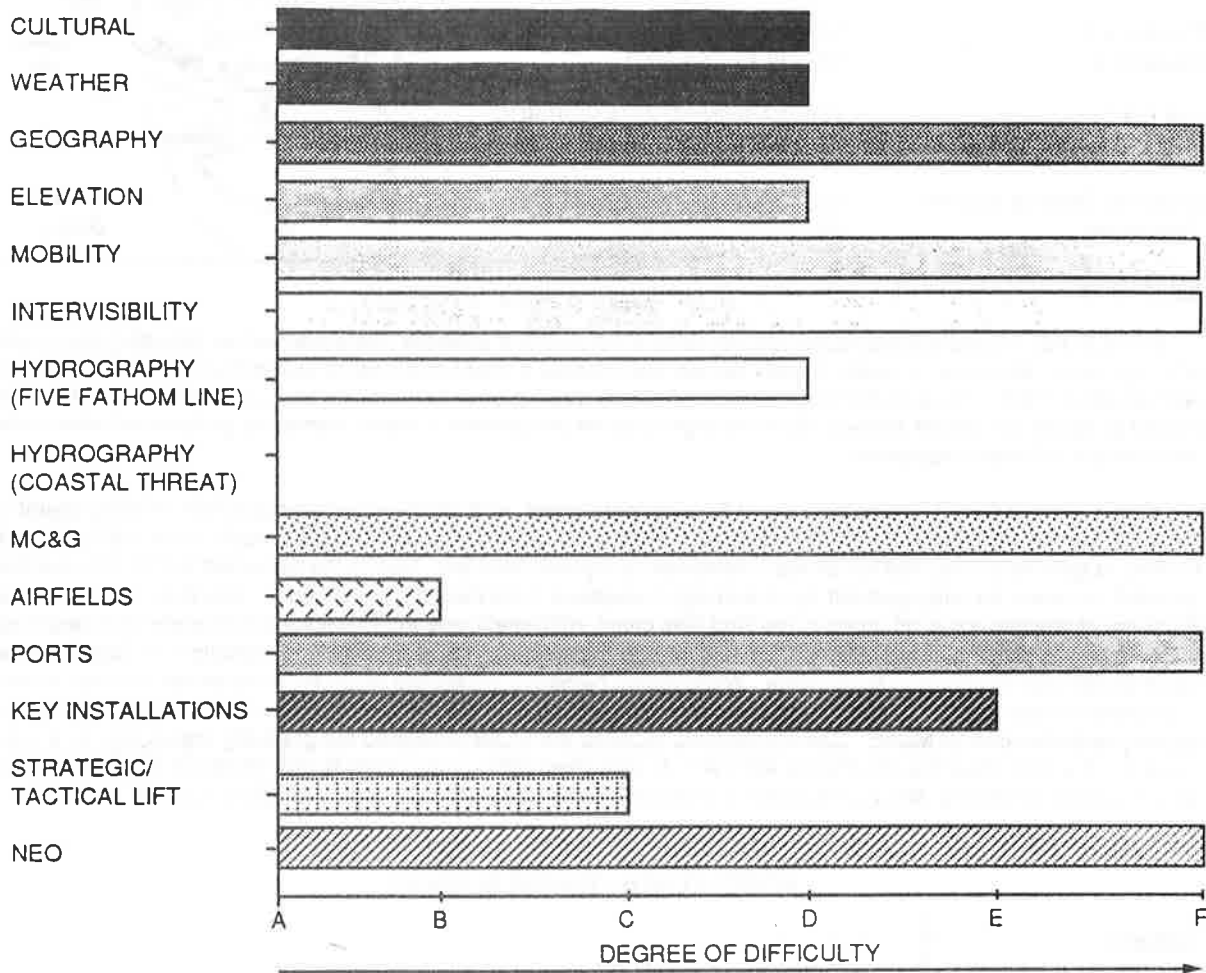
NORTH YEMEN - THREAT SUMMARY



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NORTH YEMEN - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in North Yemen

Since 1979 the U.S. has cooperated with Saudi Arabia to greatly expand the security assistance program in North Yemen. An American company, Hunt Oil of Dallas, Texas discovered oil in North Yemen in 1984. In addition to the Agency for International Development (AID) program, the U.S. has about 50 Peace Corps volunteers in North Yemen engaged in agricultural development, irrigation, nursing, and teaching.

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
-	-	533	47	580	2,340	2 3	5	Medium

General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Draft/TR	T-62	Howitzers	35	6	101	C

Ground OOB includes about 35,000 troops, most of whom are conscripts. Almost all training beyond the basic level is done outside the country, mainly in **Egypt** and **Saudi Arabia**. Foreign advisors are also present inside **North Yemen** to perform technical tasks and operate advanced equipment. Tanks: M-60, T-34, T-54, T-55, T-62; Artillery: BM-21 MRS, M-101, M-115, M-1931, M-1937, M-1942.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Bloc	Early Smart	Bloc	1	6	137	D

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E, MiG-17, MiG-21; Close Air: Il-28, Su-22; Air Defense: SA-2, SA-6, SA-7 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	Bloc	1	6	67	C

Ships: None; SSM: None; Patrol Craft: 5 Fast Attack Craft-Patrol (Ex-Soviet), 3 Small Coastal Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Arabic
Primary religion - Islam

There is a large cultural difference between **North Yemen** and the **U.S.**

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
80-91	60	3	Dry/Hot

Temperate in the interior with some rainfall; hot and humid on the coastal plain. Recently, severe drought conditions have prevailed.

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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		

North Yemen is mostly mountainous with a 40-mile wide coastal plain.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

Cross-country movement would be restricted by steep slopes and by dissected areas, salt flats, and dunes on the coastal plains. While there are some parts of the coastal plains which would allow tracked movement, the interior desert plains would not due to the extensive sand dunes, escarpments, lava fields, sebkhas, and steep-sided wadis.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

Except for the coastal plains which border the Red Sea, North Yemen consists of mountains, dissected terrain, and a series of highland plateaus. Line of sight distances over most of the country, with the possible exception of the coastal plains, would be restricted to less than 1,000 meters.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- Poor capability to approach the coast and provide NGF support for operations ashore.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
62292	20,000	Poor

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Coastal defense weapons cannot out-gun U.S. NGF.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
BM-21 MRS	20,500	U.S. NGF Advantage

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Public Release Approved
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MC&G Shortfalls

- Major shortfalls due to no coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps.

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 accommodate C-5 aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
2	1 C-5 1 C-141B	0/2	1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Sanaa Taizz	C-5, C-141B, C-130 C-141B	Daylight only. Daylight/VFR only.

Ports

- No accessible ports.

Key Installations

Oil fields are located 70 kilometers northeast of the town of **Marib**.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Sanaa	- Poor but improving telecomm - 3 Radio stations - 17 TV stations - 3 Satellite stations	4,000 km	None	0	1	- Crude oil	Yes	None

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TAB ME 9

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Strategic and Tactical Lift

- The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU could reach **North Yemen** in less than four 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 potential evacuees, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
73	2,340	88 (Sanaa)	F

Note: In **North Yemen** the following factors are of little significance:

Drugs
Terrorism
Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
NBC