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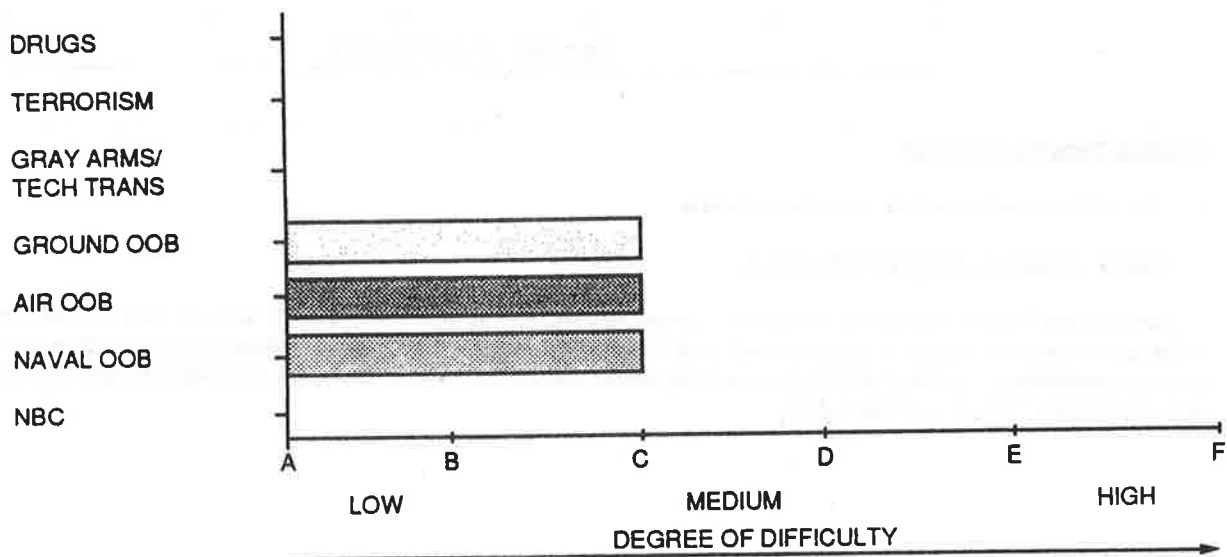


SUMMARY

While the Dhafari insurgents in southern Oman were all but wiped out in 1975, remnants of the group remain in the field and there is a possibility that this conflict may resume. There are also a number of border disputes ongoing between Oman and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.). Oil is the major source of income for Oman, and this country has strong political ties to the U.S. In northern Oman, the tip of the Ruus-al-Jebal peninsula controls access to the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. Under a U.S.-Omani agreement, the U.S. is provided access to Omani military facilities. These facilities are being upgraded for mutual use. Oman has a small armed force, which would have difficulty in defeating an attack from outside its borders.

A much different culture as well as a hot, dry climate and diverse terrain conditions would cause some difficulties for U.S. military operations in Oman. About two-thirds of Oman is unsuitable for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles due to the extensive volcanic mountain network and dissected geography. Due to adverse terrain and climatic conditions, the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters. While NGF ships can approach the coast to provide adequate support for operations ashore, the standard naval gun (5 inch, 54 caliber) would be out-gunned by Omani coastal defense weapons. Only northern Oman, including Muscat, has coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps. A major drawback to operations in Oman is that this country has no major ports that can accommodate strategic sealift. Key military installations in Oman are being improved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. With over 800 potential evacuees in Oman, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would require a significant effort.

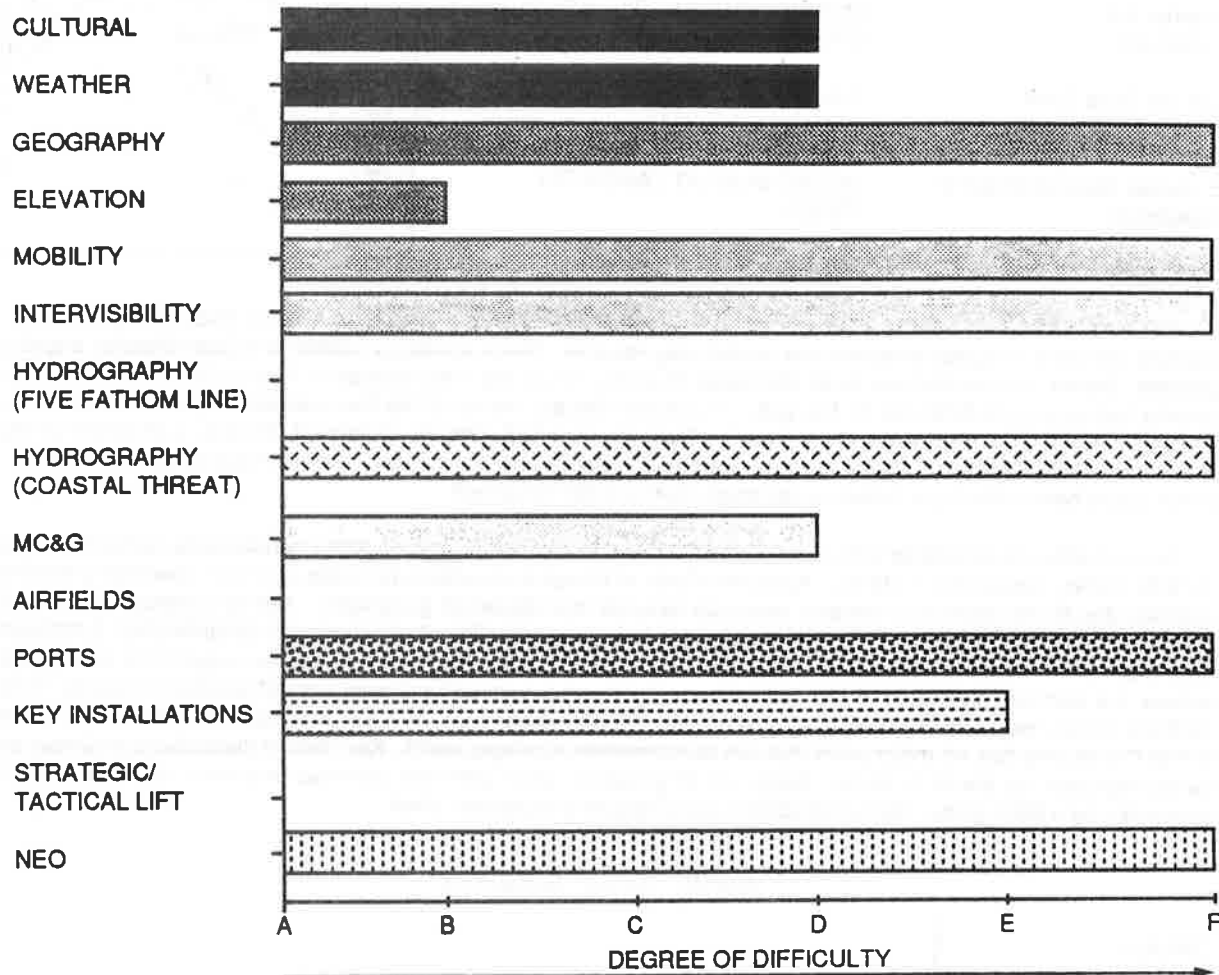
OMAN - THREAT SUMMARY



Oman - 1

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OMAN - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Dhafari insurgents operate in southern Oman.
- Border disputes ongoing with the U.A.E.

Although the Dhafari insurgents in southern Oman received losses in 1975 by Omani, British, and Iranian forces while South Yemeni attentions were focused on Ethiopia, they remain in the field in reduced numbers and there is a serious possibility of a revival of this once broadly based insurrection. Also, there are numerous border disputes ongoing between Oman and the U.A.E.

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Public Release Approved
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U.S. Equities in Oman

Under a U.S. - Omani agreement, the U.S. is provided access to Omani military facilities.

Direct Inv (Mil of \$)	Exports (Mil of \$)	Imports (Mil of \$)	U.S. Aid (Mil of \$)	Total Equity (Mil of \$)	U.S. Citizens	\$ Rating		Total Numerical Rating	Overall U.S. Equity
						1	2		
19	156	-	-	175	830	1	2	3	Low

General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	M-60	Howitzers	17	3	100	C

Ground OOB includes about 17,000 regular troops. The army was mostly run by **British** officers at the time of independence but is now going through transition to **Omani** officers. Basic recruit training is accomplished at a center near **Muscat**. Basic officer training also begins there with additional instruction obtained in **U.K.**, **Egypt**, **Jordan**, **Saudi Arabia**, and the **U.A.E.** Tanks: Chieftain, M-60; Artillery: M-46, M-109A2.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Early Radar	Early Smart	EW Radar	3	3	96	C

Fighter Aircraft: F-70 Hunter, Jaguar; Close Air: BAe Strikemaster, Hawk, Air Defense: Blowpipe and Rapier SAMs and AA guns. The Omani air defense system was recently upgraded with 28 Rapier fire units equipped with Blindfire radars. Also acquired were two long-range, 3-dimensional radars to extend air surveillance coverage. Additionally, improvements were made to existing air control facilities.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Small Surface	HE	ASUW/Anti-air	3	3	66	C

Ships: none; SSM: none; Patrol Craft: 4 Fast Attack Craft-Missile with SSMs, guns, countermeasures, fire control, and radars; 4 Fast Attack Craft-Gun; 4 Inshore Patrol Craft.

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Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Arabic
Primary religion - Islam

There is a large cultural difference between Oman and the U.S.

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
78-89	71	4	Dry/Hot

Hot and humid along the coast; hot and dry in the interior; summer monsoon in the far south.

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 terrain of Oman includes mountains, plains, and arid plateau. A negligible amount of land is forested; much is desert, waste or urban.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

Approximately two-thirds of Oman is unsuitable for the cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles due to the extensive volcanic mountain network. On the coastal plains, cross-country movement would be restricted by steep slopes, dissected areas, salt flats, and dunes. 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 distances limited to less than 1,000 meters.

Line of sight distances in about two-thirds of Oman would be less than 1,000 meters due to the large volcanic mountain complex. Along the coast, visibility would be restricted by steep slopes, irregular areas, salt flats, and dunes. In the south, the region of Dhofar experiences a strong monsoon season from May to September with frequent, heavy mists that would reduce visibility.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- NGF ships can approach the coast to provide good support for operations ashore.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
62355	3220	Good

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Coastal defense weapons have significant capability.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
130 mm M-46	27,000	Threat Advantage

MC&G Shortfalls

- Limited map coverage

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

1:50,000 scale map coverage is available only for northern **Oman**, including **Muscat**.

Airfields

- **Oman** is 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
4	2 C-5 2 C-141B	1/3	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Masirah Salalah Seeb International (Muscat) Thumrait	C-141B, C-130 C-141B- C-130 C-5, C-141B, C-130 C-5, C-141B, C-130	Taxiway narrow. Daylight/VFR only. Airfield has obstacles. Daylight/VFR only.

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Ports

- Oman has no major ports that can accommodate strategic sealift.

Key Installations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has worked on upgrading Omani military airfields.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Muscat	- Fair Telecomm - 6 Radio stations - 11 TV stations - 10 Satellite stations	16,900 km	None	0	4	- Crude oil - Natural gas	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU could reach Oman in less than two 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 require a significant effort.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
71	830	2 (Muscat)	F

Note: In Oman the following factors are of little significance:

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