

SAUDI ARABIA

MEF G-2:
Telephone:

CG I MEF//G-2//
STU-III AV 365-9103

Theater J-2:
Telephone:

USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FLA//J-2//
STU-III AV 968-6265

DIA DB Desk Code:
Telephone:

DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-8C//
STU-III AV 243-4315

Embassy Defense Attache:
Telephone:

USDAO RIYADH SA//DATT//
966-1-488-3800, Ext 275-282

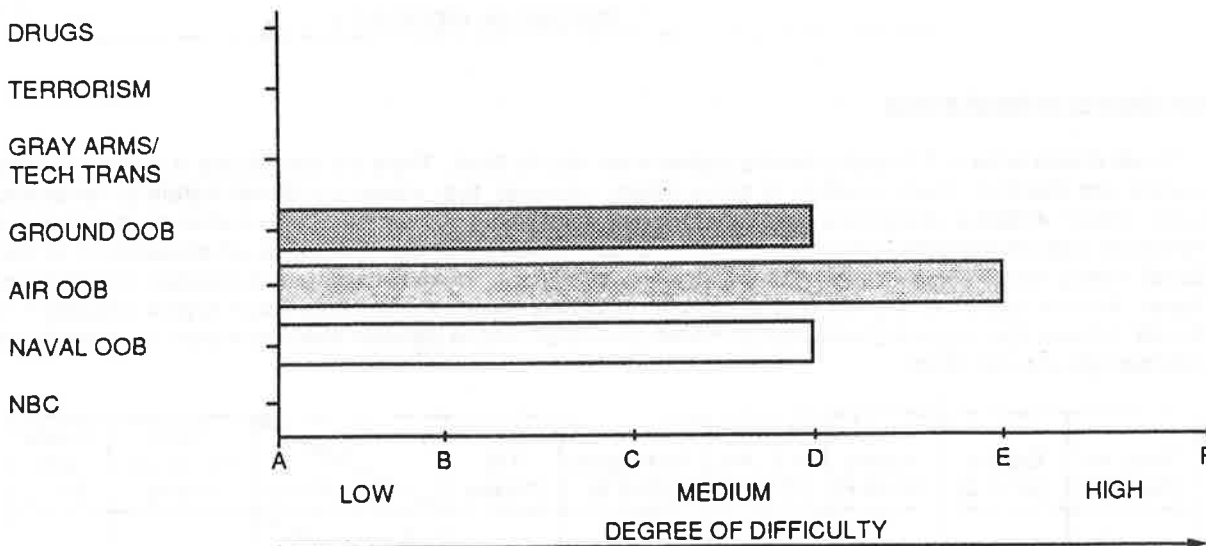


SUMMARY

Saudi Arabia is of major importance due to its oil reserves, strategic location on the **Arabian Peninsula** bordering **Kuwait, Iraq, and Jordan**, and because over 20,000 **U.S.** citizens reside there. **Saudi Arabia** is the largest trading partner of the **U.S.** in the **Middle East** and continued availability of oil from the country is important to the **U.S.** economy. In recent years, the **U.S.** has provided significant military support to **Saudi Arabia** to help strengthen its defenses from outside attack. As compared with other countries within the region, **Saudi Arabia** has moderate size armed forces equipped with many modern **U.S.**-supplied weapon systems. Military training is patterned after the **U.S.** armed forces.

With a culture quite different from the **U.S.**, a dry/hot summer climate, and topography which is mainly desert, ground combat operations in **Saudi Arabia** would present some difficulties. The northern part of the country is generally suited for cross-country movement of vehicles while the western highlands are basically unsuited due to the rugged terrain. The average standoff distance for engagement by line-of-sight weapons (intervisibility) is mainly limited to less than 1,000 meters. Although **NGF** ships can approach the **Red Sea** and **Persian Gulf** coasts to provide fair support, the **Saudi Arabian** coastal defense weapons could present a serious threat. There is limited mapping throughout the country with sporadic 1:50,000 scale map coverage along the **Persian Gulf**, the capital of **Riyadh**, and the area around **Jeddah** on the **Red Sea**. **Saudi Arabia** has many key installations, including oil fields, pipelines, refineries, and modern communication and transportation facilities which should be considered when planning military operations. Likewise, the planning and execution of **NEO** by a **MEU** under normal conditions would be exceedingly complex due to the presence of many **U.S.** citizens who might require evacuation.

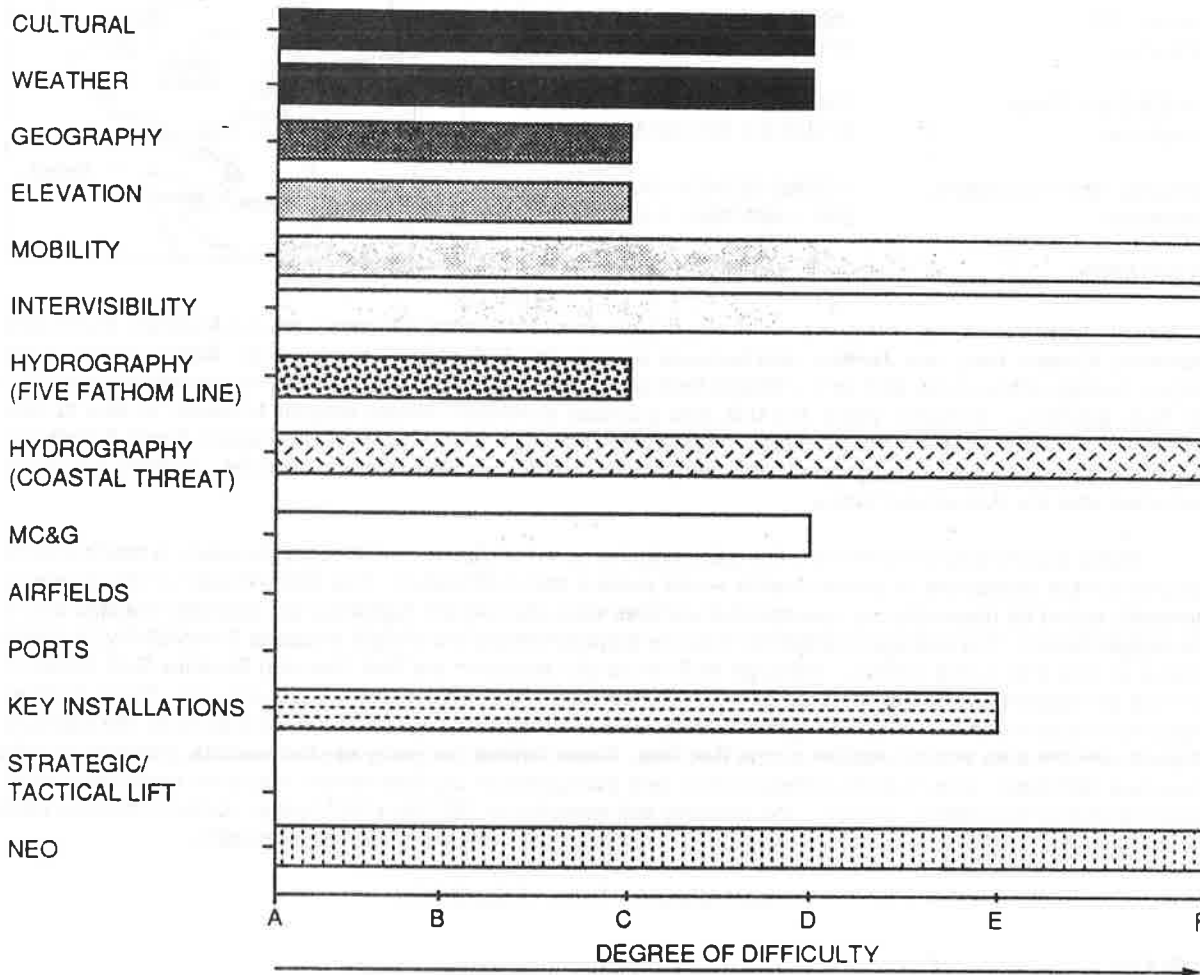
SAUDI ARABIA - THREAT SUMMARY



Saudi Arabia - 1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SAUDI ARABIA - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the U.S.'s largest trading partner in the Middle East. There are over 20,000 U.S. citizens in this country, and total U.S. equity exceeds 10 billion dollars. However, U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia go far beyond trade. Saudi Arabia's unique role in the Arab and Islamic worlds and its strategic location on the Arabian Peninsula make its friendship critical to the U.S. for Middle Eastern stability. The continued availability of oil from Saudi Arabia remains very important to the economy of the U.S. as well as those of European countries and Japan. In recent years the U.S. has sold a significant amount of military equipment to Saudi Arabia including F-15 aircraft, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft, and air defense weapons in order to strengthen its defenses from outside attack.

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
2,385	3,373	4,887	-	10,645	21,600	6 6	12	High

Consolidated Threat

In the **Middle East**, **Saudi Arabia** constitutes a negligible threat to the **U.S.** in the areas of drugs, terrorism, and gray arms/technology transfer.

General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	M-60	Howitzers/SP	38	11	129	D

Ground OOB includes 38,000 regular troops, all of whom are volunteers. Conscription is used to augment this force. Training is patterned after the **U.S.** armed forces. There are recruit training and numerous branch technical schools. The **U.S.** Training Mission in **Saudi Arabia** provides direct training assistance to the **Saudi** army and supervises contractor personnel providing training, construction, and logistical support. Conditions of service in the regular forces are good and pay is the highest of any military force in the **Middle East**. The tank inventory consists of the AMX-30, M-60A1, and M-60A3. Artillery includes the ASTROS MRS, M-101, M-102, M-109, and M-198.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
3d Gen Radar	NT/AW	3d Gen SAMs	15	11	156	E

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E, F-15C/D, F-53, Tornado ADV; Close Air: Tornado IDS; Air Defense: Crotale, HAWK, Redeye, Shaline, and Stinger SAMs and AA guns. The **U.S.** has provided 3-dimensional air surveillance radars and AWACS aircraft. A joint air defense system called Peace Shield has been established using the AWACS and ground-based radars to provide integrated coverage for **Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, U.A.E., Bahrain, Qatar,** and **Oman.**

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	Counter-measures	ASUW/Anti-air	8	11	129	D

Ships: 4 Frigates and 4 Missile Corvettes with ASUW/Air/ASW capabilities; SSMs: Otomat, Harpoon; Patrol Craft: 9 Fast Attack Craft-Missile with SSMs, guns, countermeasures, fire control, and radars; 3 Fast Attack Craft-Torpedo; 1 Large Patrol Craft; 8 Coastal Patrol Craft.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Arabic
Primary religion - Islam

There is a relatively large cultural difference between **Saudi Arabia** and the **U.S.**

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
73-92	55	3	Dry/Hot

Rainfall is erratic, averaging 2 to 4 inches annually, except in **Asir** (mountainous region along the southern **Red Sea** coast), which averages 12 to 30 inches in the summer. During summer, the heat is intense over much of the country, frequently exceeding 120 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, with high humidity along the coasts. In winter, temperatures sometimes drop below freezing in the central and northern areas, but snow and ice are uncommon.

General Geographic Conditions

URBAN	DESERT	JUNGLE	MOUNTAINOUS
	X		

Saudi Arabia occupies about four-fifths of the **Arabian Peninsula** which is roughly the size of the **U.S.** east of the **Mississippi**. Boundaries are not fully defined in the south and southeast. From the mountain ranges near the **Red Sea**, the land slopes gently eastward toward the **Persian Gulf**. The topography is mainly desert. **Saudi Arabia** has no permanent rivers or bodies of water.

Operational Elevation

<2,000 FT	<4,000 FT	<6,000 FT	>6,000 FT	>9,000 FT	>12,000 FT
		X			

The higher elevations are in the mountain ranges near the **Red Sea**.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- Portions of **Saudi Arabia** are generally suitable for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Conditions for cross-country movement are fair to good in about a third of the country, where vehicles can move freely across firm sandy and gravelly surfaces. Elsewhere, extensive sand dunes, high escarpments, lava fields, sebkhas, and steep-sided wadis would limit movement. The western highlands are also unsuited for tracked movement due to the rugged terrain.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

Well over half of **Saudi Arabia** would have line of sight distances limited to less than 1,000 meters due to high escarpments, lava fields, steep-sided wadis, and sand dunes. The mountains in the west near the **Red Sea** would be particularly restrictive. The eastern part of the country is noted for having heavy fogs.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- Fair NGF support for coastal operations.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
62242 (Jeddah)	9,155	Fair

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Significant coastal defense threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
ASTROS MRS	60,000	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 exists for the **Saudi Arabian** coast north of **Dhahran** along the **Persian Gulf**, for the area around the capital **Riyadh**, and for the area around **Jeddah** on the **Red Sea**.

Airfields

- Highly accessible by air, with more than nine unconstrained airfields that can handle C-5 aircraft.

Number of Airfields	Type Aircraft (C-5, C-141B, C-130) Accommodated	Airfield Utility (Unconstrained/Constrained)	Rating
18	10 C-5 8 C-141B (1 Emergency use)	14/4	>1/C-5

Saudi Arabia - 5

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

11-121

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Abha	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Daylight/VFR only. Emergency use only.
Dhahran International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Gizan	C-141B, C-130	
Jeddah	C-141B, C-130	
Jubail	C-141B, C-130	
Abdul Aziz International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Abdul Aziz Naval Base	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
King Khalid Air Base	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
King Khalid International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
King Khalid Military City	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Madinah	C-141B, C-130	
Riyadh International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Sharourah	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Sulayel	C-141B, C-130	
Tabuk Air Base	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Taif	C-5, C-141B, C-130	
Wejhh	C-141B, C-130	
Yenbo	C-141B, C-130	

Ports

- Six major ports with Jubail being the most accessible.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Jiddah	Small	Over 76/Over 76	31-35	Yes
Ad Damimam	Small	46-50/46-50	36-40	Yes
Jubail	Medium	Over 76/Over 76	71-75	Yes
Ras At Tannurah	Medium	56-60/26-30	46-50	Yes
Juaymoh Oil Terminal	Small	66-70/Over 76	-	-
Ras Al Khafji	Small	51-55/41-45	16-20	-

Key Installations

Oil fields are located onshore and offshore in the **Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone**. Production is shared equally between these countries. Other oil fields in **Saudi Arabia** are at **Al Ghawar**, **As Saffaniyah**, and **Khurays**. Most oil exports move by tanker from the **Eastern Province** oil terminals of **Ras Tanura** and **Ju 'Ayman**. The remaining oil exports are mainly transported by a pipeline running east-west across the country to the **Red Sea** port of **Yanbu**. Communications networks are excellent with expanding telephone and telegraph service. Transportation facilities are quite modern with many domestic and international airline flights scheduled daily.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Riyadh	- Good telecomm - 37 Radio stations - 97 TV stations - 8 Satellite stations	74,000 km	886 km	6	18	- Crude oil - Refined products - Natural gas	Yes	None

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU could reach **Saudi Arabia** 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 very large number (21,600) of potential evacuees in **Saudi Arabia**, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be a formidable endeavor.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
132	21,600	196 (Riyadh)	F

Note: In **Saudi Arabia** the following factors are of little significance:

Drugs
Terrorism
Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
NBC

Saudi Arabia - 7

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

TAD 011

