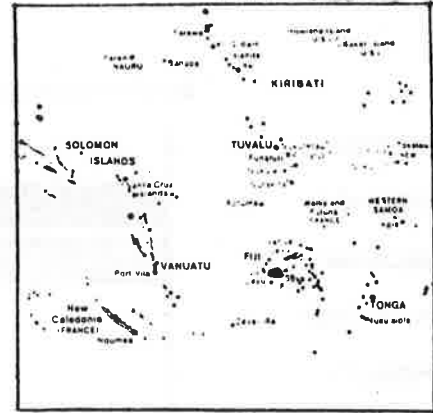


**SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS
(FIJI AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS)**

MEF G-2: Telephone:	CG III MEF//G-2// STU-III AV 635-6910
Theater J-2: Telephone:	USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J-2// STU-III AV 477-7323
DIA DB Desk Code: Telephone:	DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-2C// STU-III AV 243-2491
Embassy Defense Attache: Telephone:	USDAO SUVA FJ//DATT// FIJI AMEMBASSY 314-466

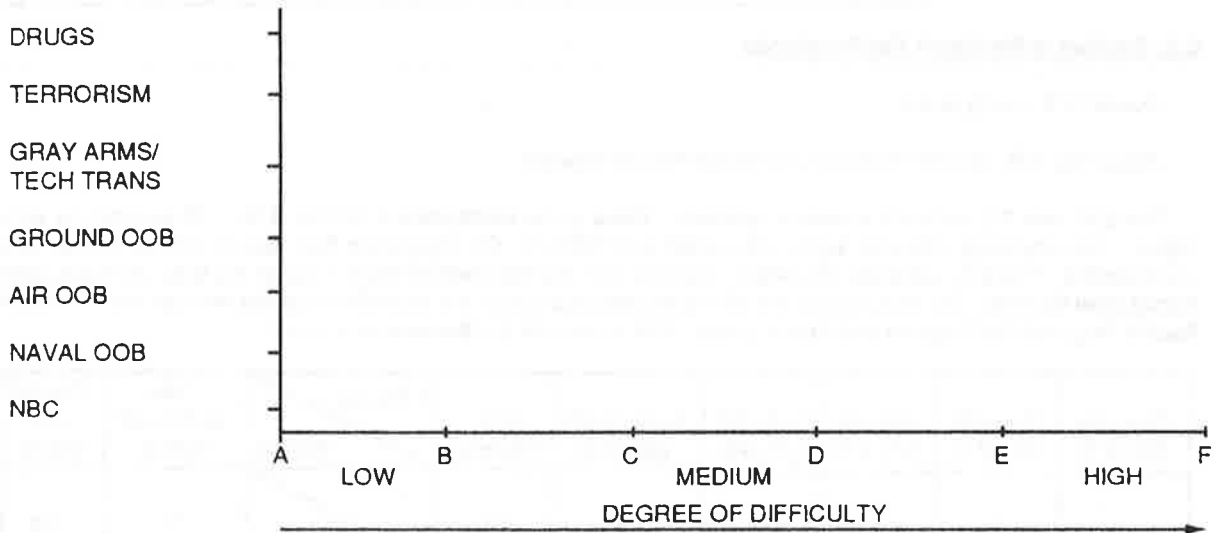


SUMMARY

For purposes of this examination, the **South Pacific Islands** include **Fiji** and the **Solomon Islands**. The **U.S.** maintains cordial relations with these island nations and **U.S.** equity is low. About 500 **U.S.** citizens reside on the islands. **Suva**, the capital city of **Fiji**, is the local headquarters for the **U.S.** Agency for International Development (**AID**) which administers assistance to the entire region. **Fiji** has a small ground **OOB** consisting of about 5,000 volunteers. Units have served with the **United Nations** forces in **Lebanon** and the multinational force in the **Sinai**. **Fiji's** contributions to peacekeeping in the **Middle East** and **Africa** are unique for a nation of its size. No military forces are maintained by the **Solomon Islands**; a police force of about 500 provides internal security. Prior to independence, the **Solomons** were administered by the **U.K.** as a protectorate and the **U.K.** continues to be responsible for the defense of these islands from outside attack.

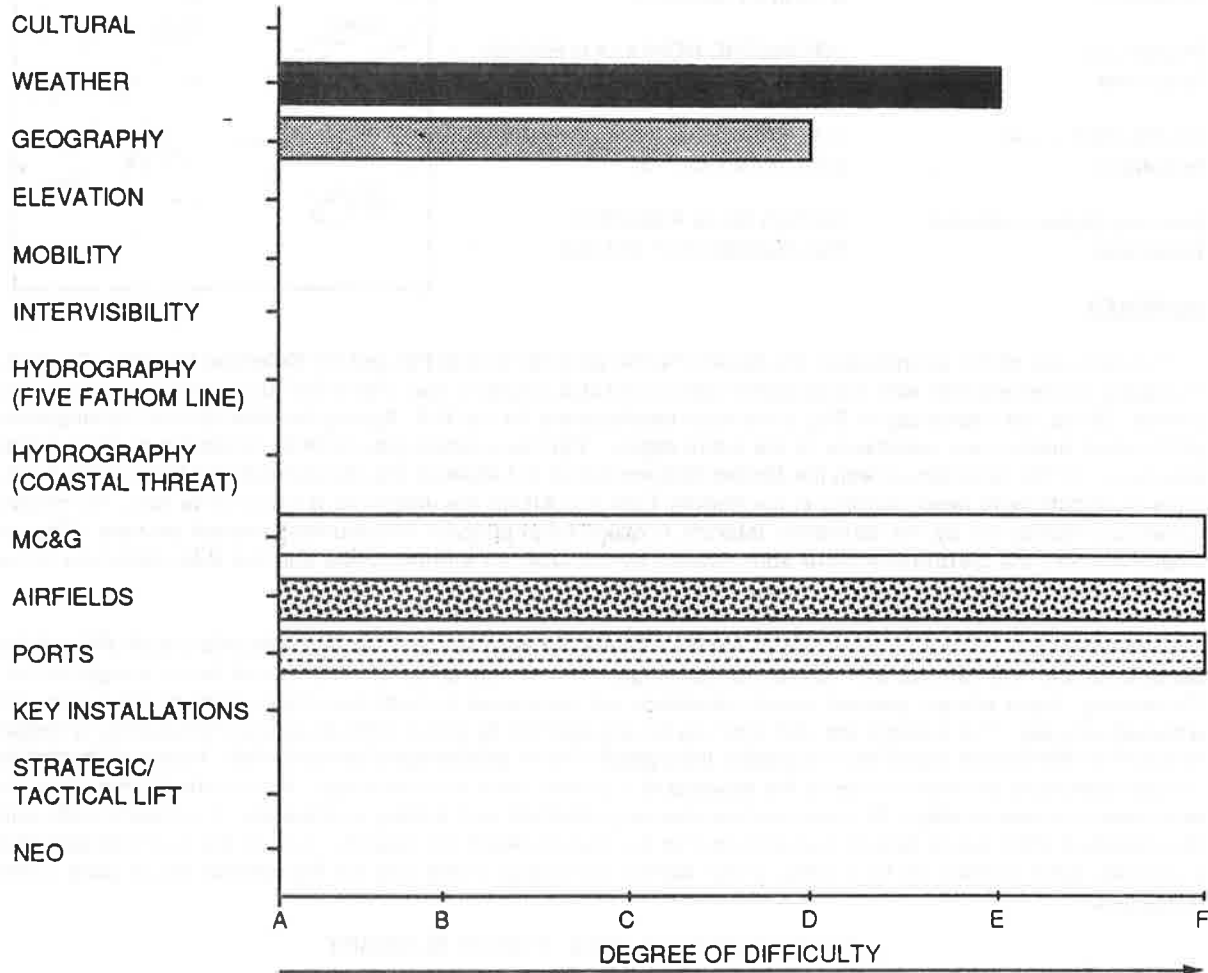
The cultures of the **U.S.** and the **South Pacific Islands** are quite similar. The larger islands of both **Fiji** and the **Solomons** are mountainous with dense, tropical jungle. The climate is hot and humid with heavy annual rainfall. Collectively, these islands present terrain conditions not conducive to cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 500 meters due to the mountains, thick ground cover, and frequent heavy rainfall. A serious shortfall for military operations in these islands is the absence of 1:50,000 scale map coverage. While airfields and ports are adequate to receive strategic lift, there are few other key installations of military significance. The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked **MEU** would require between four to six days to reach the islands. Due to the over 500 potential evacuees, **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions in **Fiji** and the **Solomons** would pose some difficulties.

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS - THREAT SUMMARY



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SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in the South Pacific Islands

- Overall U.S. equity is low.
- About 500 U.S. citizens reside on the South Pacific Islands.

The U.S. and Fiji maintain excellent relations. Suva is the headquarters for the U.S. AID serving the entire region. The economy relies on sugar production and tourism. Oil exploration has begun, but so far has been unsuccessful. The U.S. conducts diplomatic relations with the Solomon Islands through the U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea. The U.S. assists the economic development of the Solomon Islands through the U.S.-South Pacific Regional Aid Program and Peace Corps. U.S. trade with the Solomons is small.

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	-	22	24	500	1 2	3	Low

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	None	Howitzers	5	0	65	A

The Fiji ground OOB consists mainly of 5,000 volunteers. Defense of Kiribati and the Solomon Islands is the responsibility of the U.K. In the past, Fiji enlisted personnel were trained in New Zealand and officers in the U.K. or Australia. These arrangements have been largely suspended following the coups of 1987. Tanks: none; Artillery: 25-pounder guns/howitzers, 81 mm mortars.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Props	None	None	Negligible	0	10	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
Small Surface	None	Lg Gun Boats	Negligible	0	40	A

Ships: none; SSMs: none; Patrol Craft: Fiji: 3 Coastal Minesweepers; 2 Patrol Craft; Solomon Islands: 3 Small Patrol Craft; Vanuatu: 1 Large Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - English (French, Creole, Hindi, Urdu, Fijian, Hindustani, Gilbertese, Spanish)
Primary religion - Protestant

There is a very small cultural difference between the South Pacific Islands and the U.S.

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Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
77-90	80	40-120	Wet/Hot

The climate of **Fiji** is tropical maritime. Conditions are hot and humid with annual rainfall up to 120 inches. The climate in the **Solomon Islands** is tropical monsoon also with hot, humid conditions and heavy 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				

Fiji consists of 322 volcanic islands in the **South Pacific** of which about 100 are inhabited. The larger islands are mountainous and covered with dense, tropical forests on the southeastern side where rainfall is particularly heavy. The **Solomon Islands** form an archipelago in the **Southwest Pacific**. The six main islands have rain-forested mountain ranges, deep narrow valleys, and coastal belts lined with coconut palms and ringed by reefs. The smaller islands are atolls and raised coral reefs.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- The **South Pacific Islands** are generally unsuited for cross-country movement of tracked vehicles.

Collectively, the islands of the **South Pacific** present terrain not conducive to the cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles. Mountainous rugged terrain, excessive coralline formations, and insufficient surface area deny cross-country movement throughout these island nations.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

- Poor, with line of sight distances limited to less than 500 meters.

The islands of the **South Pacific** are mostly mountainous with dense tropical rain forest covering up to 90 percent of the land area. These conditions and the frequently heavy rainfall would generally limit line of sight visibility to under 500 meters.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
82015/82374/83574	8,050	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)
81 mm Mortar	4,595	U.S. NGF Advantage

MC&G Shortfalls

- 1:50,000 scale map coverage for the **South Pacific Islands** 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
8	1 C-5 1 C-141B 3 C-130 1 Emergency only 2 None	3/5	1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Lambasa (Fiji)	None	-
Matei (Fiji)	None	-
Nadi International (Fiji)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Nausori International (Fiji)	C-130	-
Canton (Kiribati)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Emergency only.
Christmas Island (Kiribati)	C-141B, C-130	Airfield has obstacles. Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
Tarawa (Kiribati)	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Port Vila (Vanuatu)	C-130	-

South Pacific Islands - 5

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Ports

- Ports are available with capability to receive strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Suva (Fiji)	Small	Over 76/41-45	41-45	Yes
Levuka (Fiji)	Small	61-65/61-65	31-35	-
Segond Channel (Vanuatu)	Small	41-45/41-45	31-35	Yes

Key Installations

On Fiji, facilities include several small factories and a satellite communications station. Improvements are being made to roads and telecommunications systems. There are few key installations in the Solomon and other South Pacific Islands and development is proceeding slowly.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Suva (Fiji)	- Modern local, interisland telecomm - 9 Radio stations - 1 Satellite station	2,960 km	644 km	2	4	None	None	None
None (Kiribati)	- 1 Radio station - 1,400 Telephones	483 km	None	0	2	None	None	None
None (New Caledonia)	- 5 Radio stations - 7 TV stations - 1 Satellite station - 23,000 Telephones	5,448 km	None	1	1	None	None	None
Honiara (U.S. Consulate) (Solomon IS)	- 4 Radio stations - 1 Satellite ground station - 2,000 Telephones	834 km	None	0	0	None	None	None
None (Vanuatu)	- 2 Radio stations - 1 Satellite ground station - 2,400 Telephones	240 km	None	1	1	None	None	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU would require between four to six days to reach the South Pacific Islands. 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 (over 500), NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions in the South Pacific Islands would be difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
27	500	4 (Suva, Fiji) 6 (Honiara, Solomon Is)	E

Note: In the South Pacific Islands, the following factors are of little significance:

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

