

**SURINAM**

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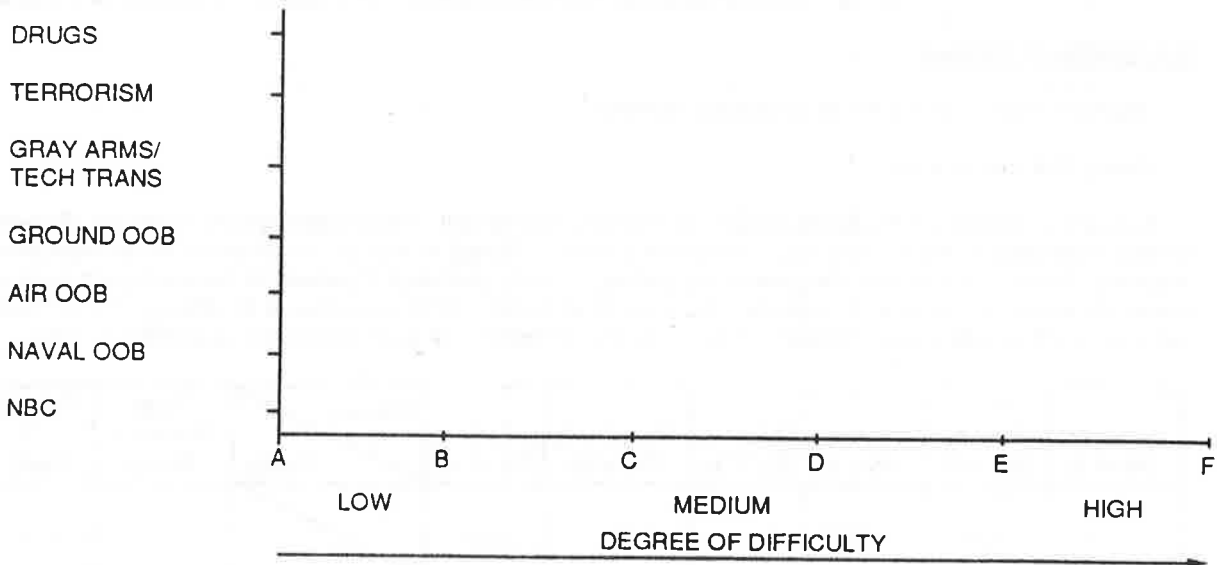


**SUMMARY**

Surinam occupies an important position on the **South American** mainland near **Brazil** and adjacent to oil tanker routes from **South America**. The **U.S.** maintains cordial relations with **Surinam** and is **Surinam's** largest trading partner. Due to human rights violations in 1982, when the Government executed several prominent opposition leaders without trial, the **U.S.** suspended economic and military assistance. The Government subsequently came under democratic leadership in 1988. **Surinam** has a very small army of 2,700 troops, no air force, and a negligible sized navy. Training is provided to the army by up to 200 **Libyan** military advisors. **Brazil** also provides some military assistance and training.

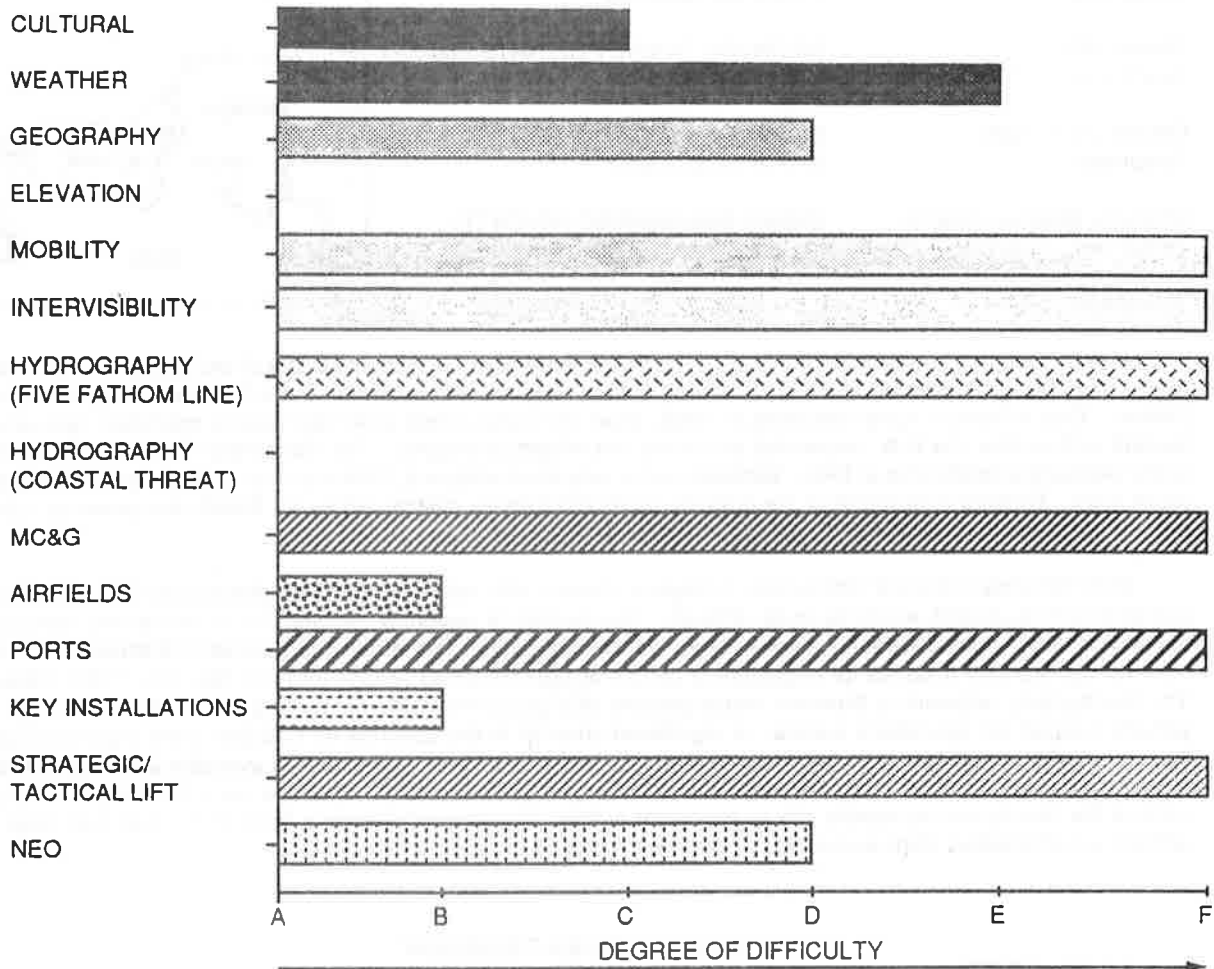
With significant cultural differences, a tropical climate with heavy rainfall, and dense jungle, **U.S.** military operations in **Surinam** would be quite difficult. The country is generally unsuited for cross-country vehicular movement due to coastal swamps, thick forests, and wet conditions. The terrain and weather of **Surinam** would limit the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) to less than 1,000 meters. The hydrography adjacent to **Surinam** would prevent NGF platforms from approaching the coast within range to provide support for operations ashore. A significant shortfall is the absence of 1:50,000 scale map coverage. **Surinam** lacks a major port to accommodate strategic sealift. However, one airfield is available which can handle C-5 aircraft. There are not many key installations in **Surinam**. Roads and bridges are few and austere and large parts of the country are accessible only by helicopter or foot. The time required for a MEU on the **U.S.** east coast to embark on amphibious ships and deploy to **Surinam** would be in excess of six days.

SURINAM - THREAT SUMMARY



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## SURINAM - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



### U.S. Equities in Surinam

- Important location on the **South American** mainland.
- Overall **U.S.** equity is low.

**Surinam's** location on the **South American** mainland near **Brazil** makes it strategically important. **Soviet** or **Cuban** penetration of the country would constitute a threat to **Brazil** as well as the oil tanker routes from **South America**. The **U.S.** is **Surinam's** largest trading partner, normally providing 30 percent of the country's imports and taking 40 percent or more of its exports. As a result of human rights concerns, **U.S.** economic and military assistance to **Surinam** was suspended in 1982. The Government came under democratic leadership in 1988.

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
-	135	146	-	281	260	1 1	2	Low

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	None	Mortars	3	0	53	A

Ground OOB consists of 2,700 troops who are all volunteers. Training is conducted by up to 200 Libyan military advisors. Officers receive military instruction in the **Netherlands**. Tanks: none; Artillery: 81 mm mortars.

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
Small Surface	None	Lg Gun Boats	Negligible	0	40	A

Ships: none; SSM: none; Patrol Craft: 3 Large Patrol Craft; 4 Coastal Patrol Craft; 3 River Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Dutch (English, Spanang Tongo)  
Primary religion - Hindu

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

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
73-87	74	91	Wet/Hot

**Surinam's** climate is tropical with heavy rainfall. Temperatures are high throughout the year with little seasonal change. The hottest month is **September**. Sudden wind twisters occasionally occur and have caused extensive damage in the jungle forests.

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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					

The terrain varies from coastal swamps to dense forests with intermittent scattered savannas in the central region. The southern zone is hilly with thick jungle terrain.

## General Cross-Country Mobility

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

The country is generally unsuited for cross-country tracked movement due to dense tropical forests, wet grounds, and extensive network of deep rivers, numerous swamps and marshes, and steep slopes in the hills and mountains.

## Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

The central and southern zones of Surinam consist of broken terrain and forests with scattered savannas. In the south, low mountains with heavy vegetation cover most of the land. Line of sight distances would be limited to under 1,000 meters throughout most of this country.

## Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

- NGF platforms are not able to approach the coast to provide satisfactory support for operations ashore.

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
24370/24375	25,760	Unsatisfactory

## Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Limited coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
81 mm Mortars	4,595	U.S. NGF Advantage

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## MC&G Shortfalls

- 1:50,000 scale map coverage 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
1	1 C-5	1/0	1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Zanderij (Zandery)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-

## Ports

Surinam has no major ports that can accommodate strategic sealift.

## Key Installations

Communication, transportation, and industrial facilities in Surinam are few and austere. There are few roads and bridges, and large parts of the country are accessible only by helicopter or on foot with fording equipment.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Paramaribo	- Good telecomm - 13 Radio stations - 6 TV stations - 2 Satellite stations	8,300 km	166 km	0	1	None	None	None

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## Strategic and Tactical Lift

The time required for a MEU on the **U.S.** east coast to embark on amphibious ships and sail to **Surinam** is in excess of six days. 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 **Surinam** could be accomplished without great difficulty.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
19	260	22 (Paramaribo)	D

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

- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- OOB (ground, air, naval)
- NBC