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THAILAND

MEF G-2:
Telephone:

CG III MEF//G-2//
STU-III AV 635-6910

Theater J-2:
Telephone:

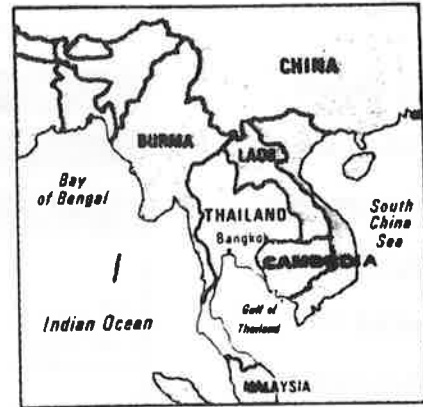
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J-2//
STU-III AV 477-7323

DIA DB Desk Code:
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DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-2C//
STU-III AV 243-2491

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USDAO BANGKOK TH//DATT//
66-2-252-5040, EXT 2261/2432/2442

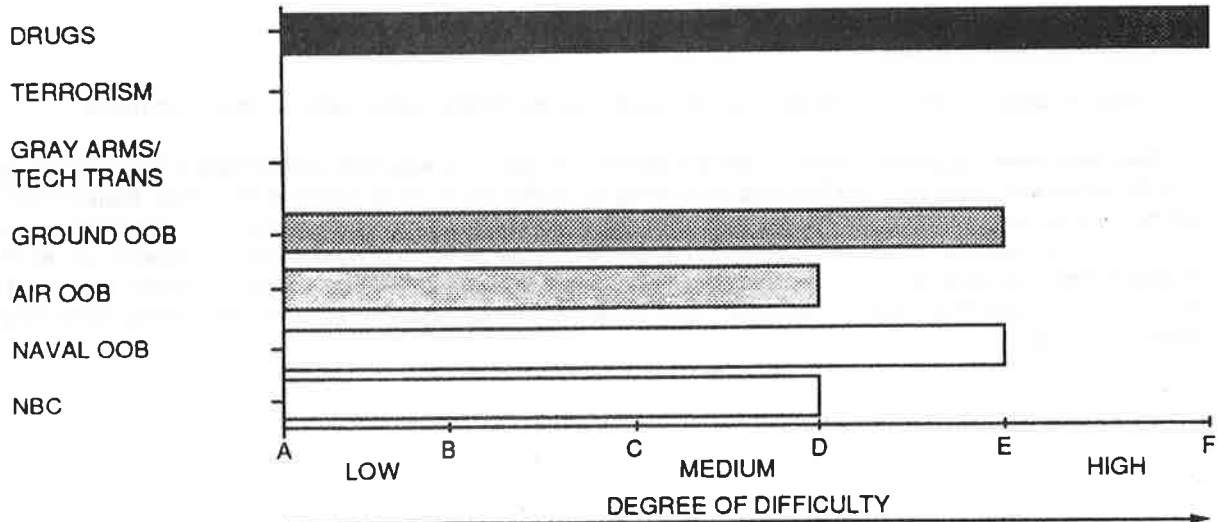


SUMMARY

Drug trafficking, a communist insurgency, minority unrest, and fighting in neighboring **Cambodia** are all continuing problems. **Thailand** is strategically important because it controls the land route from **Asia** to **Malaysia** and **Singapore**. **U.S.** equity in **Thailand** is high. The **U.S.** has over \$1 billion in direct investment in **Thailand** and in recent years has provided over \$50 million in economic and military assistance. About 10,000 **U.S.** citizens live there. **Thailand** has reduced opium cultivation to about 28 metric tons annually, but remains a refiner of heroin and a transit site for drugs departing the **Golden Triangle**. **Thailand** also has an active trade in precursor chemicals and is a money laundering center. The armed forces stress defense from external attack as their primary mission and internal security as a secondary role. The armed forces have a combined strength of about 239,000 personnel. **Laos** recently accused **Thailand** of using chemical weapons during a border incident.

Thailand has a different culture from that of the **U.S.** The climate is hot and humid with heavy rainfall particularly in the south. The topography consists of a central plain, an eastern plateau, a mountain range in the west, and the southern densely forested isthmus joining the country with **Malaysia**. Cross-country movement of vehicles is virtually impossible due to steep slopes, thick vegetation in the plains, numerous rivers, and coastal swamps. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters. **NGF** ships can approach the coast to support operations ashore but **Thai** coastal defense weapons would provide significant opposition. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is restricted to the **Thai** borders with **Laos** and **Cambodia** and around **Bangkok**. Airfields are satisfactory to receive **C-5** aircraft but the major port at **Bangkok** is inadequate to handle sealift. Key installations may include facilities for chemical weapons. The **Pacific ARG** with its embarked **MEU** would require between two to four days to reach **Thailand**. Due to about 10,000 potential evacuees, **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions would be extremely difficult.

THAILAND - THREAT SUMMARY



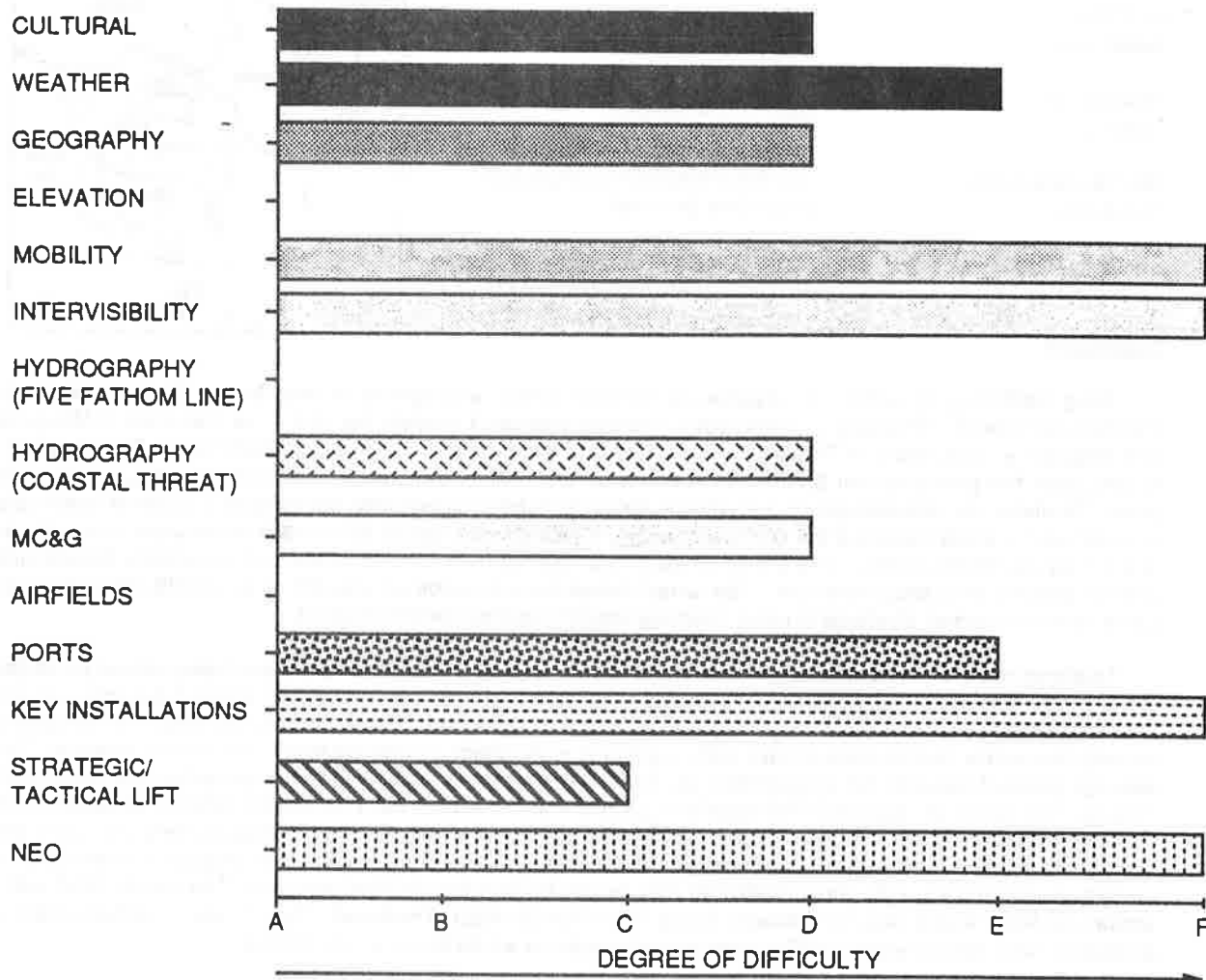
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THAILAND - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Drugs, insurgency, minority unrest, and fighting in neighboring **Cambodia** are continuing problems.

The Government appears to have turned the corner in its efforts to suppress a persistent communist insurgency. This is because of success in the field and in meeting the social and political needs of its people, friendlier links with **China**, and paradoxically, the communist takeover of **Cambodia**, which presented a particularly unpleasant example of a "worker's paradise" in action. Cooperation with **Malaysia** in conducting antiguerrilla operations along their mutual frontier has been of critical importance as well. Efforts against the private armies of various drug lords remain frustratingly inconclusive, however, and there also appears to be **Libyan**-sponsored unrest among the country's tiny Moslem minority.

U.S. Equities In Thailand

- Overall U.S. equity is high.
- Thailand controls the only land route from Asia to Malaysia and Singapore.

The U.S. has a long history of good relations with Thailand. In recent years the two countries have worked together to counter the illicit narcotics trade centered in the Golden Triangle. Thailand has received U.S. military equipment, essential supplies, training, and assistance in the construction of key installations. A U.S. military advisory group in Thailand oversees the delivery of equipment to the Thai armed forces. For military assistance, the U.S. provided over \$50 million in grants during 1987.

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
1,282	1,544	2,387	57	5,270	9,550	5 5	10	High

Drug Threat

Drug Production	Drug Processing	Precursor Chemicals	Money Laundering	Transit Point
X	X	X	X	X

- Producer and processor of opium.
 - 1988 produced 23 - 33 metric tons
 - 1987 produced 20 - 45 metric tons
 - 1986 produced 20 - 25 metric tons
 - 1985 produced 35 metric tons
- Producer of marijuana.
- Active trade in precursor chemicals.

Thailand has reduced opium cultivation to about 28 metric tons, but remains as a significant refiner of heroin and conduit for opium/heroin from other sources in the Golden Triangle. High-quality Thai marijuana is exported to the U.S. and other markets and there is also an active trade in precursor chemicals. Thailand is also an important money flow country.

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General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Draft/TR	M-48	Howitzers	166	4	210	E

Ground OOB consists of 166,000 conscripts. Recruits are trained in the units. Officers are mostly trained at a military academy near **Bangkok** while a few are sent to the **U.S.** and **U.K.** for instruction. Tanks: M-48A5, Type 69; Artillery: M-71, M-101, M-102, M-114, M-198, M-618A2.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Early Radar	Day Jet Atk	EW Radar	48	4	132	D

Fighter Aircraft: F-5E/F; Close Air: A-37B, AC-47, AU-23A, OV-10C, T-33A; Air Defense: Blowpipe and Spada SAMs and AA guns. A program is underway to automate and modernize the Royal Thai Air Defense System (RTADS). Initial efforts are designed to link radars along the border with **Cambodia** and upgrade the existing communications system.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	Counter-measures	ASUW/Antiair	25	4	139	D

Ships: 6 Frigates and 2 Corvettes with SSMs, SAMs, guns, torpedoes, countermeasures, fire control, and radars; SSMs: Harpoon, Exocet, Gabriel I; Patrol Craft: 6 Fast Attack Craft-Missile with SSMs, guns, countermeasures, and radars; 3 Fast Attack Craft-Gun; 21 Large Patrol Craft; 35 Coastal Patrol Craft; 40 River Patrol Craft; 1 Hydrofoil.

Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threat

Laos has accused **Thailand** of using chemical weapons.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Thai
Primary religion - Buddhist

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

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
75-86	62	40-150	Wet/Hot

Thailand's tropical climate is dominated by monsoons, with high temperatures and humidity. Rainfall varies but generally is heaviest in the south and lightest in the northeast.

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					

In Thailand, topography is broken into four general regions: a densely populated central plain watered by the Chao Phraya River system; an eastern plateau bordered on the east by the Mekong River; a mountain range spanning the country in the west and separating the plain and plateau in east-central Thailand; and the southern isthmus joining the land mass with Malaysia.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

Cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles is virtually impossible due to steep slopes in the mountains and hills, dense forests in many plain areas, and coastal swamps. Movement of foot troops is feasible throughout most of Thailand, however movement would be slowed in areas of dense undergrowth in forests, over flooded ground, and on steep slopes.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

The topography of Thailand is characterized by thickly forested mountains in the north, an agricultural central region, dissected plateaus in the northeast, and a narrow strip of land covered mainly by rain forest in the south. Due to the rough terrain and heavy vegetation, line of sight distances would be under 1,000 meters in most of this country.

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Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
93224/93243	4.575	Good

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Significant coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
155 mm M-198	24,000	U.S. NGF and Threat Equal

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 along the **Thai** border with **Laos** and **Cambodia** and for the area surrounding **Bangkok**. There is only spotted coverage elsewhere.

Airfields

- Highly 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
14	7 C-5 5 C-141B 1 C-130 1 None	4/10	>1/C-5

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2021 Dated Information

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Bangkok International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Chiang Mai International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Hat Yai International	C-141B, C-130	-
Korat	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Airfield has obstacles.
Nakhon Phanom West	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Low runway WBC.
Nam Phong Air Base	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Phitsanulok	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Phrae	None	-
Surat Thani	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Tak	C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Takhli	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Less than 6,000 feet of runway. Daylight/VFR only.
U-Tapao International	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Ubon	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Udon (Udon)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Runway narrow for C-5s. Low runway WBC.

Ports

- One major port with poor capabilities to receive strategic sealift.

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Bangkok	Large	26-30/26-30	26-30	Yes

Key Installations

There may be facilities in the country for the production and storage of chemical weapons. Industrial facilities are numerous and developing. Communication facilities are adequate in the major cities. Roads vary in quality from modern divided highways to ungraded roads that may be impassable in the rainy season.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Bangkok	- Adequate telecomm - 300 Radio stations - 11 TV stations - 1 Satellite ground station - Domestic satellite system being developed	44,534 km	3,940 km	1	14	- Natural gas - Refined products	None	C

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Strategic and Tactical Lift

The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU would require between two to four days to reach Thailand. 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 (about 10,000), NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be extremely difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
453	9,550	15 (Bangkok)	F

Note: In Thailand, the following factors are of little significance:

- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer