

VIETNAM

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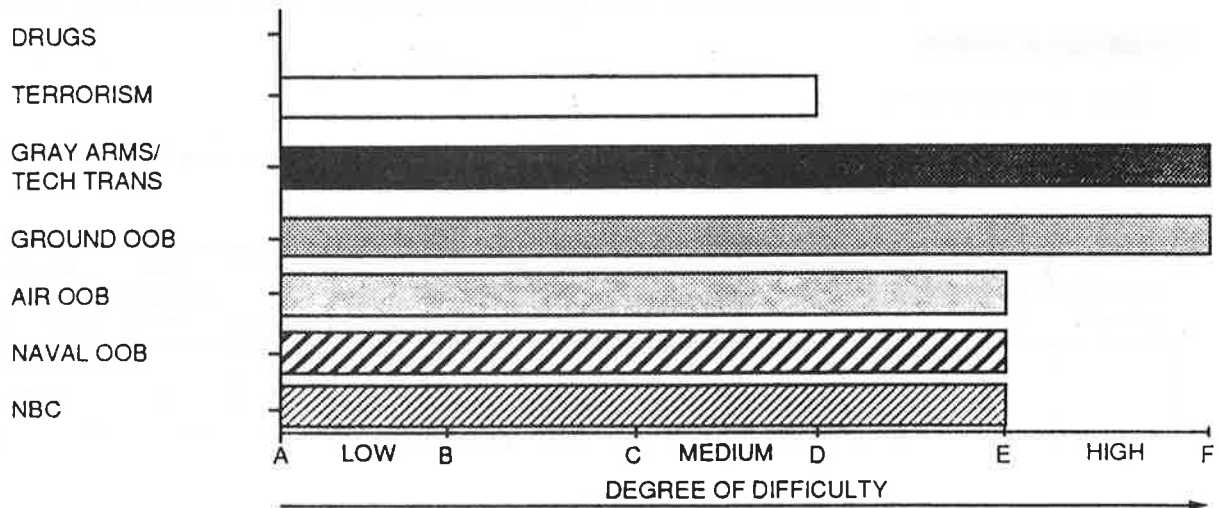


SUMMARY

The U.S. has no diplomatic relations with Vietnam and U.S. equity in that country is nonexistent. Recent moves have been made toward normalization since the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and the recent willingness of Vietnam to help recover the remains of U.S. servicemen reported missing during the war. Vietnam has supported terrorist actions by insurgents operating against the Government in El Salvador. Most foreign-made weapons used by these insurgents, are U.S. arms that were lost during the Vietnam War and later sold by Vietnam. Due to involvement with both terrorism and gray arms sales, Vietnam warrants special attention. Vietnam has the third largest ground OOB in the Asia/Pacific region with over one million personnel. It also has a moderate size air force and navy. There have been published reports that Vietnam recently used chemical and biological weapons while operating in Laos and Cambodia.

Vietnam has a culture significantly different from that of the U.S. It is a long, narrow country with a 1,400 mile coastline. There is a heavily populated valley in the north, coastal plains in the center, and the wide, often marshy, river delta in the south. The remaining land consists of semi-arid plateaus and barren mountains, with stretches of tropical rain forest. The climate in the north is monsoonal, with a hot, humid wet season in summer and a warm, humid dry season in the winter. Southern Vietnam has a year-round tropical climate with varied heavy rainfall. The combination of mountains, jungle, and marshes preclude cross-country movement of vehicles in about three-fourths of Vietnam. The average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) would normally be limited to less than 1,000 meters. NGF platforms can approach the coast to support operations ashore but these platforms could expect to be out-gunned by Vietnamese coastal defense weapons. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is limited to coastal areas and the northern border with China. Several airfields and one port can receive strategic lift. The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU would require between two to four days to reach Vietnam.

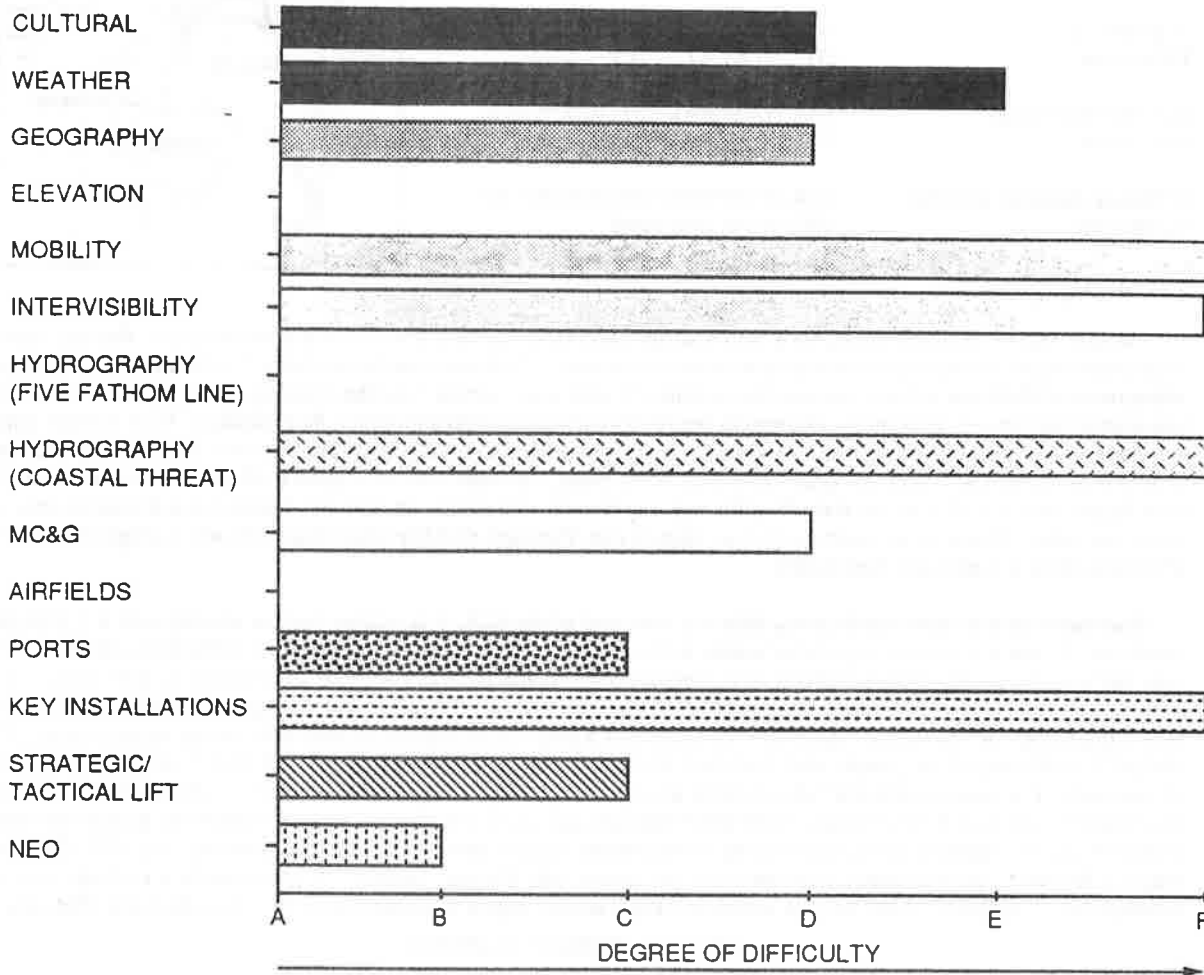
VIETNAM - THREAT SUMMARY



Vietnam - 1

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VIETNAM - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



U.S. Equities in Vietnam

- Overall U.S. equity is low.

The U.S. does not have diplomatic relations with Vietnam although there has been some movement toward normalization. The economy and infrastructure of the country are in poor condition.

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
-	-	-	-	-	-	0 0	0	Low

Terrorism

Vietnam, together with Cuba, Nicaragua, and the U.S.S.R, sponsors the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) operating against the Government of El Salvador. The FMLN, while primarily an insurgent group, frequently resorts to terrorist tactics, especially when its more conventional military resources are weak.

Gray Arms/Technology Transfer

Most of the foreign-made weapons used by the FMLN insurgents in El Salvador are U.S. arms that were lost during the Vietnam War and later provided by Vietnam.

Consolidated Threat

Vietnam warrants special consideration because of its involvement in the two threat categories of terrorism and gray arms trade.

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General Ground OOB

Vietnam has the third largest ground OOB in the region.

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/Exp	T-54	Bloc	1,100	21	1,231	F

Ground OOB consists of 1,100,000 personnel which are mainly conscripts. Initial recruit training is accomplished in village militias and upon call-up is completed in training units. Officers are selected to attend one or two military schools near Hanoi. Tanks: M-47, M-48, T-34, T-54, T-55, Type 59; Artillery: D-20, D-30, M-46, M-101, M-102, M-114, M-1938, M-1944, M-1946, T-12.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Bloc	Early Smart	Bloc	15	21	166	E

Fighter Aircraft: MiG-19, MiG-21, MiG-23; Close Air: MiG-17F, Su-20/22; Air Defense: SA-2, SA-3, SA-6, SA-7, and SA-9 SAMs and AA guns. There are about 100 radar sites throughout Vietnam to provide air defense surveillance and control of aircraft.

General Naval OOB

Vietnam has the fifth largest naval OOB in the region.

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
ASUW/Air/ASW	Bloc	Bloc	6	21	157	E

Ships: 7 Frigates (5 Ex-Soviet, 2 Ex-U.S.) and 2 Corvettes (Ex-U.S.) with SSMs, guns, torpedoes, mines, countermeasures, and radars; SSMs: SS-N-2C; Patrol Craft: 8 Fast Attack Craft-Missile (Ex-Soviet) with SSMs, guns, and radars; 21 Fast Attack Craft-Torpedo (Ex-Soviet); 9 Fast Attack Craft-Patrol (Ex-Soviet); 18 Large Patrol Craft (Ex-Soviet); 2 Coastal Patrol Craft (Ex-Soviet).

Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threat

- Strong evidence that chemical and biological weapons have been used.

There has been published evidence that Vietnamese forces have been using toxic chemical weapons in Laos and Cambodia. It was reported that Vietnamese forces poisoned water supplies in Cambodia and conducted a chemical attack that killed 43 persons and injured hundreds in 1986.

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Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - Vietnamese (French, Chinese)
Primary religion - Eastern

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

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
69-90	72-79	68-160	Wet/Hot

The north has a monsoon climate comprised of a hot, humid wet season from mid-May to mid-September; a relatively warm, humid dry season from mid-August to mid-March; and two short transitional seasons.

The south has a year-round tropical climate with relatively cool conditions in the central lowlands and mountains from about October to March. Rainfall is heavy in the delta and highlands in summer and central lowlands in winter.

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					

Vietnam is a long, narrow country with a 1,400 mile coast. There is a densely populated valley in the north, narrow coastal plains in the center, and the wide, often marshy, **Mekong River** delta in the south. The remainder of the land consists of semi-arid plateaus and barren mountains, with some stretches of tropical rain forests.

General Cross-Country Mobility

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

The combination of mountains, jungle, marshes, and coastal swamps preclude cross-country movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles over approximately 75 percent of **Vietnam**. The remaining 25 percent of the country, composed of coastal plains, and deltas, offers limited movement but may become unsuitable during the rainy season.

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Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

The combination of mountains, tropical rain forests broken by large areas of monsoon forests, and covered marshes, would restrict line of sight distances to under 1,000 meters in about two-thirds of the country.

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
93442/93446	3,000	Good

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Significant coastal threat.

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 map coverage exists for coastal areas and along the northern border with China.

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
10	2 C-5 7 C-141B 1 None	0/10	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Bein Hoa Air Base	C-5, C-141B, C-130	Runway only for C-5s. Daylight/VFR only.
Cam Ranh Bay	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Da Nang Air Base	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Ho Chi Minh (Tan Son Nhut)	C-5, C-141B, C-130	-
Nha Trang	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Phan Rang Air Base	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Unknown status.
Phu Cat	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Pleiku Air Base	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.
Qui Nhon	None	-
Tuy Hoa Air Base	C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only.

Ports

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

Major Ports	Harbor Size	Channel/Anchorage Depths (Feet)	Cargo Pier Depth (Feet)	Cranes
Vinh Cam Rahn	Small	Over 76/56-60	41-45	Yes

Key Installations

Facilities may be present for the production and storage of chemical and biological weapons. There are a limited number of key industrial, communications, and land transportation facilities; however, most of these are underdeveloped.

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
None	- Marginal telecomm - 17 Radio stations - 2 TV stations - 2 Satellite ground stations	85,000 km	2,943 km	1	10	- Refined products	None	BC

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The Pacific ARG with its embarked MEU would require between two to four days to reach Vietnam. 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 would not be difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
0	0	52 (Hanoi)	B

Note: In Vietnam, the drug threat is of little significance.

13 APR 2021

