

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

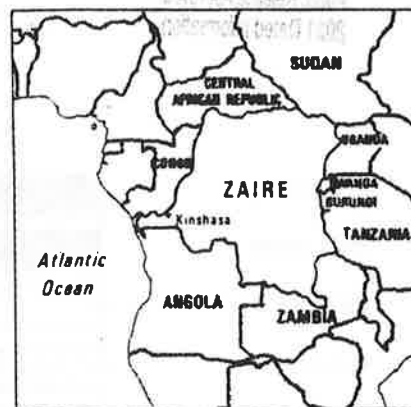
ZAIRE

MEF G-2: CG II MEF//G-2//
Telephone: STU-III AV 484-8095

Theater J-2: USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//J-2//
Telephone: STU-III AV 430-8003

DIA DB Desk Code: DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-8D//
Telephone: STU-III AV 243-4377

Embassy Defense Attache: USDAO KINSHASA CG//DATT//
Telephone: 011-243-12-25881/2/3/4/5, EXT 2225/2279

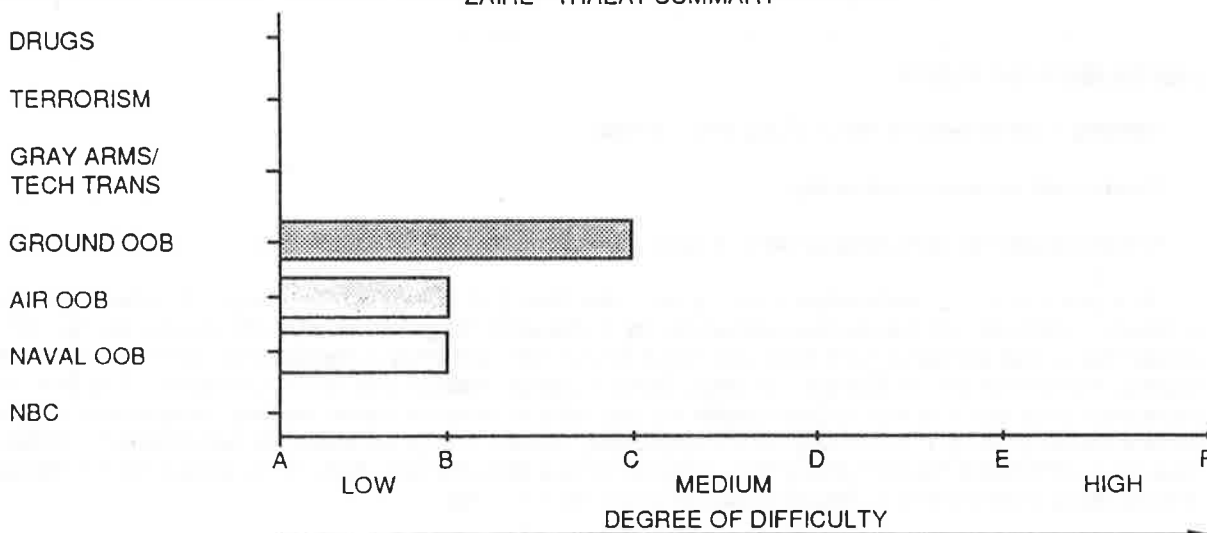


SUMMARY

Zaire is located in the heart of the African continent and pursues a policy of nonalignment. It is a underdeveloped country with more than 200 different ethnic groups. The U.S. has maintained close relations with the President Joseph Mobutu despite his reputation for extreme repression and widespread corruption. Zaire is presently facing an increasing insurgency problem. Cuban-trained secessionists have been active since the late 1970s and have proven to be a serious threat. Mobutu plans to increase his armed forces to 100,000 personnel to counter this threat. The armed forces consist of an army of 22,000 troops and a small air force and navy. Conditions and morale are poor, and soldiers receive little training at a few schools within the country but a small amount of foreign training has been obtained from the U.S., U.K., France, Belgium, Italy, and Morocco.

French is the primary language but 700 local languages and dialects are spoken. Based on language and religion, the culture of Zaire is considered to be moderately different from that of the U.S. The climate is hot and humid with much rainfall in the north and west. Conditions in the south central and eastern areas are cooler with less rainfall. Central Zaire is a basin-shaped plateau sloping to the west and covered by tropical rain forest. This area is surrounded by mountainous terraces in the west; plateaus merging into savannas in the south and southwest; and dense grasslands extending beyond the Zaire River in the north. High mountains are found in the extreme eastern region. Zaire is generally unsuited for cross-country vehicular movement and the average standoff distance for engagement by line of sight weapons (intervisibility) is limited to less than 1,000 meters. Hydrographic conditions would restrict NGF platforms from approaching the coast to engage targets ashore. Coverage by 1:50,000 scale maps is available only for the area around Kinshasa. Two airfields are available to receive C-5 aircraft, but the one major port has poor capability to accommodate strategic sealift. Key installations include oil fields. The Atlantic ARG with its embarked MEU would require in excess of six days to reach Zaire. Due to the over 3,000 potential evacuees, and the 217 nautical miles distance from the coast to Kinshasa, the most probable evacuation site, NEO conducted by a MEU under normal conditions would be very difficult.

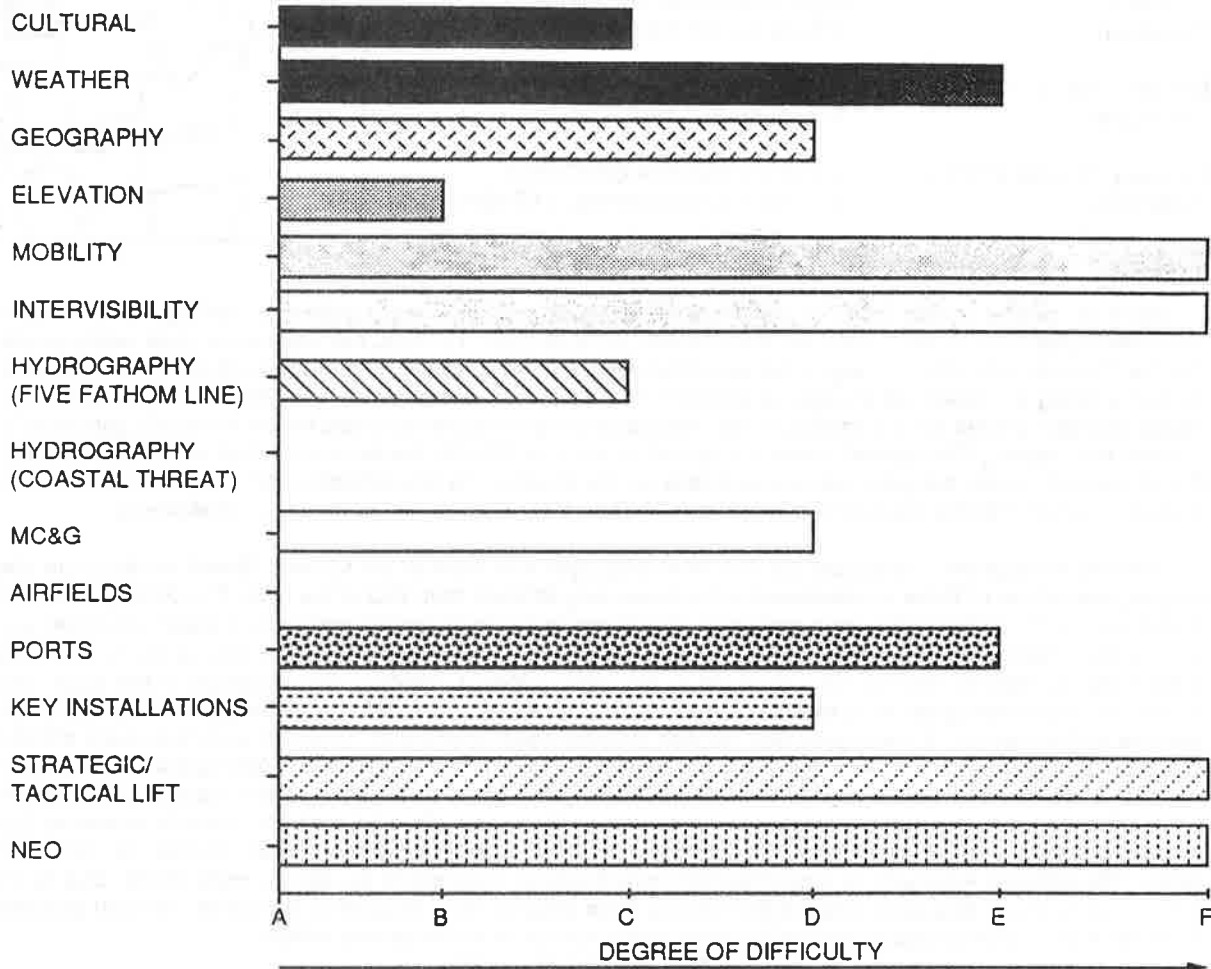
ZAIRE - THREAT SUMMARY



Zaire - 1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ZAIRE - TERRAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMARY



Existing Ongoing Conflicts

- Severely underdeveloped with over 200 ethnic groups.
- Government repressive and corrupt.
- Cuban-trained insurgent group based in **Angola** operates against Government forces.

This is a severely underdeveloped country with more than 200 different ethnic groups. It suffers from past colonialism which did not provide the national identity or the technical means to cope with independence. When independence was gained in 1960 there was much Government instability, violence, and unrest throughout the country, known then as the **Congo**. In 1965, General Joseph Mobutu was named president. The U.S. has maintained close relations with Mobutu despite his reputation for extreme repression and widespread corruption. **Zaire** is presently facing an increasing insurgency problem. **Cuban-trained** secessionists, operating out of **Angola**, have been active since the late 1970s and have proven to be a serious threat. Mobutu has announced his intention to increase his armed forces to 100,000 personnel to counter this threat.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Public Release Approved
2021 Dated Information

U.S. Equities in Zaire

- Overall **U.S.** equity is high.
- **Zaire** is strategically located in the heart of **Africa**.

Zaire is strategically located in the heart of the **African** continent and pursues a policy of nonalignment between East and West. As one of the larger markets in sub-**Saharan Africa**, **Zaire** is commercially important to the **U.S. American** private investment totals about \$141 million and is concentrated in petroleum and manufacturing. **Zaire** is one of the larger trading markets for the **U.S.** in sub-**Saharan Africa**. Over 3,000 **U.S.** citizens live in this country.

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
141	104	321	109	675	3,166	2 4	6	Medium

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

General Ground OOB

Infantry	Tank OOB	Artillery	Army Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Reg/TR	LAV	Howitzers	22	1	93	C

Ground OOB consists of 22,000 volunteers. **Zaire** has recently maintained a pro-Western foreign policy. Conditions in the army are poor. There are a few schools within the country and foreign training has been obtained from the U.S., U.K., France, Belgium, Italy, and Morocco. Tanks: Type 62; Artillery: D-30, M-116.

General Air OOB

Air OOB	Close Air	AAW (IAD)	Air Force Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Day/VFR Jets	Day Jet Atk	Early AAA	3	1	54	B

Fighter Aircraft: Mirage 5M/DM; Close Air: Aermacchi MB-326B (light attack); Air Defense: AA guns.

General Naval OOB

Naval OOB	S/S Missiles	Patrol Craft	Navy Size (Thousands)	Quality	Total Capability Value	Rating
Small Surface	None	Lg Gun Boats	2	1	43	B

Ships: none; SSMs: none; Patrol Craft: 4 Fast Attack Craft-Gun (Ex-Chinese); 6 Patrol Craft (Ex-U.S.); 29 Coastal Patrol Craft.

Culture (Language and Religion)

Primary language - French (Tribal)
Primary religion - Christian

The culture of **Zaire**, based on its primary language and religion is moderately different from that of the U.S.

Weather

Average Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Average Relative Humidity (Percent)	Average Annual Rainfall (Inches)	Rating
68-86	High	47-79	Wet/Hot

The climate of **Zaire** is equatorial, with hot and humid conditions in much of the north and west, and cooler and drier conditions in the south central area and the east.

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 tropical rain forest to mountainous terraces, plateau, savanna, dense grasslands, and mountains. The country's only outlet to the **Atlantic Ocean** is a narrow strip of land on the north bank of the **Zaire River**.

General Cross-Country Mobility

- **Zaire** is generally unsuited for cross-country vehicular movement.

The western highlands of **Zaire**, along the maritime approaches of the **Atlantic Ocean**, would restrict tracked movement, due to steep-sided valleys and scattered areas of dense forest.

Intervisibility (Line of Sight)

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

The terrain of **Zaire** consists mainly of a series of plateaus which are covered with dense tropical forests and savanna. It is estimated that line of sight distances would be limited to less than 500 meters over the majority of the country.

Hydrography (Five Fathom Line)

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

DMA Chart #	5 Fathom Line from Shore (Meters)	NFG Rating
57240/57242	10,465	Fair

Hydrography (Coastal Threat)

- Limited coastal threat.

Maximum Capability Coastal Defense Weapon	Maximum Range of Weapon (Meters)	Rating (Compared with 5"/54-cal)
152 mm GH	17,000	U.S. NGF Advantage

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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 only for the area around Kinshasa.

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
5	2 C-5 3 C-141B	0/5	>1/C-5

Airfields	Type Aircraft	Comments
Kamina Base Kinshasa/N Djili Kisangani/Ville	C-141B, C-130 C-5, C-141B, C-130 C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Daylight only. Runway only for C-141B. Daylight/VFR only.
Kitona Base Lubumbashi/Luano	C-141B, C-130 C-5, C-141B, C-130	Daylight/VFR only. Taxiway narrow for C-5s. Daylight only. Low runway WBC.

Ports

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

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

Key Installations

Zaire has oil fields at **Petrofina**, along the coast, and offshore at the same location. Diamond mines are in the two **Kasai** regions. There is a hydroelectric plant at **Inga** in the **Bas Zaire** region. Industrial facilities are concentrated in **Kinshasa** and **Lubumbashi**. There is a lack of adequate transportation facilities

U.S. Embassy	Communications	Highways	Railroads	Major Ports	Primary Airfields	Pipeline	Oil Field	NBC
Kinshasa	- Barely adequate telecomm - 13 Radio stations - 17 TV stations - 14 Satellite stations	145,050 km	5,254 km	1	5	- Refined products	Yes	None

Strategic and Tactical Lift

The **Atlantic ARG** with its embarked **MEU** which normally operates in the **Mediterranean Sea** would require in excess of six days to reach **Zaire**. The **AAF/ACB** can arrive within 24 hours but these elements do not possess a forcible entry capability.

NEO

- Due to the over 3,000 potential evacuees, and the 217 nautical miles distance from the coast to **Kinshasa**, the most probable evacuation site, **NEO** conducted by a **MEU** under normal conditions in **Zaire** would be very difficult.

Embassy Staff	Evacuees	Inland Objective (nm)	Rating
126	3,166	217 (Kinshasa)	F

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

- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Gray Arms/Technology Transfer
- NBC

