BAKU AZERBAIJAN

Physical Factors

1. Location
   - Site: 92 feet below sea level.
2. Situation: Located on the Absheron peninsula in the Caspian Sea.
3. Weather & Climate
   - Temperature: The warmest month of the year is August, with an average temperature of 26.9 °C | 80.3 °F. At 5.6 °C | 42.1 °F on average, January is the coldest month of the year.
   - Precipitation: 11.5 inches of rainfall annually.
4. Surface Materials
   - Soils: Calcic Xerosols – very dry soil rich in calcium.
   - Soil is loose and dry, and drought will exacerbate this.
5. Vegetation
   - Minimal vegetation because of climate type.
6. Landforms & Surface Structure
   - Terrain: Mountainous.
7. Resources
   - Energy: Natural gas, petroleum, nonferrous metals, bauxite, and iron ore.
   - Water: Kura River main water source.
8. Flooding/Inundation may become an issue with excessive rainfall.

Cultural Factors

Population:
1. Most densely populated city in Azerbaijan (2.15 million).
2. 996 people per square kilometer.
3. Poses significant obstacle in the event of a natural disaster because Baku is the most densely populated metropolitan region in the world below sea level.

Cultural Groups
1. Eclectic cultural legacy, deeply rooted local traditions mesh with wide acceptance of foreign cultures makes for a peaceful coexistence of culture.

Cultural Components and Institutions
1. Two main languages: Azerbaijani and Russian.
2. Simplifies the process of disseminating relief information in the event of a natural disaster.

Settlement and Land Use
1. Baku is a metropolitan divided into three main sectors: Old Town, Boom Town, and Soviet-built town.
2. Old Town is the core of city and is a walled city with cobblestone streets and various historical infrastructure.
3. The dense population combined with the presence of several historical pieces of infrastructure poses an obstacle in the event of a natural disaster as the residents of Baku want to preserve as much of this infrastructure as possible.

Economy
1. Oil and natural gas are Baku's driving economic resources.
2. The towns within Baku are linked via extensive networks of pipelines that transport oil and natural gas to local refineries throughout the city.
3. BTC Pipeline runs from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea (1,760 miles).
4. It is critical to conduct a thorough risk assessment that a natural disaster could have on the economy of Baku and surrounding countries that depend on this pipeline.

Networks
1. Baku is connected by road networks and railways that could be critically affected by a flood in the city.
2. The metro trains are the most used means of travel by the residents of Baku and the flooding in these areas is frequently caused by overflowing sewers.
3. In the event of a flood, the movement of a majority of the populace of Baku would be severely restricted and this needs to be accounted for by military planners responding to a crisis.
4. Military planners should plan to allocate aircraft and light, easily maneuverable rescue boats to assist the affected population.

Cultural Capabilities
1. The mainly peaceful mesh of a wide range of cultural aspects within the city offers a uniquely diverse operating environment for potential military operations within the region.

Hazards

1. Flooding:
   a. Coastal City, and a rise in water levels from the heavy rains could flood the Kura River, flooding the city.
2. Fresh Water Supply:
   a. Increasing population and technology has led to more pollution, which has started to enter the limited fresh water supply.
3. Extensive Winds:
   a. At 40°N, Baku wouldn’t usually be subject to cyclones, but an increase in intrusion has been seen, with not much explanation why.