Geographic Assessment of the Operational Environment: Warsaw, Poland
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Physical Factors:

**Location:**
Warsaw, Poland. 52.2297° N, 21.0122° E

**Weather and Climate:**
Cfb climate with an average annual temperature of 48.7°F that receives 27.4 inches of precipitation annually.

**Surface Materials:**
Podzolic soils, loose well-drained sands.

**Hydrology:**
Warsaw is bisected by the Vistula River. The Vistula River Valley covers approximately 60% of the Warsaw metropolis.

**Landforms and Surface Structure:**
Dunes, forests, latitudinal flood plains

**Hazard 1: Refugee Influx**
Russian’s invasion of Ukraine triggered a massive influx of refugees flooding into Poland (2+ million) with 10% going to Warsaw. Ease of travel, proximity to Ukraine, and Poland’s NATO status make Warsaw a safe haven for refugees. The growing refugee crisis is putting a strain on Warsaw’s public services.

**Hazard 2: Russian Misinformation**
Because of Poland’s NATO status, Russia conducts cyberattacks instead of military attacks. Russia tries to destabilize the country and cause political unrest to make Warsaw’s population question the NATO’s legitimacy.

**Hazard 3: Flood Threat**
Much of Warsaw is in the Vistula River valley which is prone to flooding. Poland experiences midlatitude cyclones with heavy rainfall in the late spring and summer months.

Cultural Factors:

**Population:**
1,794,532 people with 200,000+ Ukrainian Refugees.

**Cultural Groups:**
Ethnic Polish share attitudes towards diversifying population as a threat to cultural lifestyles.

**Cultural Components & Institutions:**
Primarily Polish and English-speaking city. Heavy majority Roman Catholic.

**Settlement and Landscape:**
Largely urban landscape with increasing population and significant cultural landmarks.

**Economy:**
Shift from manufacturing economy to business oriented in banking and other white-collar jobs.

**Networks:**
Extensive road, rail, and river networks. Widespread communications network

Thesis: When preparing for future humanitarian operations, it is important to plan for both the unique physical and cultural geographical factors of Warsaw, Poland as well as the hazards they contribute to. The city and surrounding area are especially vulnerable to massive influx of refugees caused by nearby crises, foreign influence through misinformation, and localized flooding.