

MODERN SPEARHEAD: Soviet Union Tank & Motor Rifle Divisions for GSFG 1970-1989

[Version 1.00 - 28 July 2006]

This TO&E is provided to specifically cover the Soviet GSFG Divisions. These Divisions were in the frontline and represented the leading elements of any Soviet incursion into Western Europe. In general they often were high on the list to receive new equipment (but weren't necessarily the first) although Soviet equipment policies meant units were often a partial mix of old and new equipment even within the same formation.

In the lists in MSH when published we used the popular 'Western' terms of Category I, II, and III to rate divisions (or A, B, and C as some people use). However the actual Soviet distinction was the level of readiness, not the level (newness if you like) of the equipment. Therefore a so-called Category III Division does not necessarily have worse equipment and less of it than a Cat. I Division - it just may take some time to mobilise, may or may not be short of manpower when it does, and may or may not have a slightly lower morale level due to the quality of reservists in its units. Of course in most cases the old equipment is put into storage as a reserve and often assigned to paper divisions (i.e. the so called Cat. III formations) but those units could still have some fairly new equipment too.

The actual Soviet terms for the categories are:
[categories to be inserted]

Divisions are composed of the following components:

Tank Division

- 3 Tank Regiments
- 1 Motor Rifle Regiment (BMP)
- 1 Artillery Regiment
- 1 Anti-Aircraft Regiment
- 1 Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Helicopter Squadron

Motor Rifle Division

- 1 Tank Regiment
- 1 Motor Rifle Regiment (BMP)
- 2 Motor Rifle Regiments (BTR)
- 1 Artillery Regiment
- 1 Anti-Aircraft Regiment
- 1 Independent Tank Battalion
- 1 Anti-Tank Battalion
- 1 Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Helicopter Squadron

Note that by 1989 one GSFG Motor Rifle Division (207th) had converted its Tank Regiment to Infantry (591st MRR) and so had 4 Motor Rifle Regiments and no Tank Regiment.

Divisional Headquarters

HQ: 1-HQ Infantry Stand in Truck

Tank Regiment

1-Regimental Headquarters:

Regimental HQ & Signals: 1-HQ Stand (in BMP-1KSh, or BTR-50PU, or R-145BM)

ABC Platoon: 1-BRDM-2RKhB or BRDM-3RKhM

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company:

See the separate TO&E for this unit at end of list.

1-Regimental Engineer Company:

1-Engineer Platoon, with:

1- GMZ Minelayer, or 1 Light Engineer Stand in Truck with towed PMZ-4M Minelayer

1-Technical Platoon, with:

1-MTU-20 or 1-MT-55 AVLB¹

1-VLB TMM Scissor Bridge¹

1-PZM or 1-PZM-2 Ditch Digger

2-KMT-6 Mine Ploughs in Truck

1-KMT-5M Mine Roller & *1-BTU Dozer Blade* in Truck

1-Regimental Anti-Aircraft Battery or Missile-Artillery Battalion:

See the separate TO&E for this unit at end of list.

1-Regimental Artillery Battalion (SP), with:⁶

4 or 6-2S1 Gvozdika

or

1-Regimental Artillery Battalion (towed), with:⁶

4 or 6-D-30 122mm Howitzers or M-30 122mm Howitzers and Trucks

3-Tank Battalions, each with:

HQ: 1-HQ MBT¹⁰

1-BTS ARV or 1-BREM-1 ARV⁹

3-Tank Companies, each with:

2 or 3-MBTs¹⁰

1 BMP Motor Rifle Battalion, with:¹¹

HQ: 1-HQ BMP-1 (or BMP-1K, BMP-1KSh, or BTR-50PU)

1-Anti-Aircraft Missile Platoon (1970-85)¹²: 1-BMP-1 Strela-2M (SA-7)¹³ Combat Team

1-Grenade Launcher Platoon (1981+): 1-BMP-1 AGS-17 Combat Team

3 Motor Rifle Companies, each with:

3-BMP-1 Combat Teams

1 Mortar Battery, with:

2-M-120 120-mm Mortars¹⁴ with GAZ-66 Trucks

Motor Rifle Regiment (BMP)

1-Regimental Headquarters:

Regimental HQ & Signals: 1-HQ BMP-1KSh, or BTR-50PU, or R-145BM

ABC Platoon: 1-BRDM-2RKhB or BRDM-3RKhM

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company:

See the separate TO&E for this unit at end of list.

1-Regimental Engineer Company:

1-Engineer Platoon, with:

1- GMZ Minelayer, or 1 Light Engineer Stand in Truck with towed PMZ-4M Minelayer

1-Technical Platoon, with:

1-MTU-20 or 1-MT-55 AVLB¹

1-VLB TMM Scissor Bridge¹

1-PZM or 1-PZM-2 Ditch Digger

2-KMT-6 Mine Ploughs in Truck

1-KMT-5M Mine Roller & *1-BTU Dozer Blade* in Truck

1-Regimental Anti-Aircraft Battery or Missile-Artillery Battalion:

See the separate TO&E for this unit at end of list.

1-Regimental Anti-Tank Battalion, with:

1-Anti-Tank Artillery Battery¹⁷

1-T-12⁴ 100mm ATG with MT-LB

1-ATGW Battery

2-BRDM-2 Malyutka-M (AT-3C) or 2-BRDM-2 Malyutka (AT-3) or 2-BRDM-1 Falanga (AT-2)⁵

1-Regimental Artillery Battalion (towed), with:⁶

4 or 6-D-30 122mm Howitzers or M-30 122mm Howitzers and Trucks

or

1-Regimental Artillery Battalion (SP), with:⁶

4 or 6-2S1 Gvozdika

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1-Tank Battalion, with:

HQ: 1-HQ MBT¹⁰

1-BTS ARV or 1-BREM-1 ARV⁹

3-Tank Companies, each with:

2 or 3-MBTs¹⁰

or

5-Tank Companies, each with:

2-MBTs¹⁰

3-Motor Rifle Battalions (BMP), each with¹¹:

HQ: 1-HQ BMP-1 (or BMP-1K, or BMP-1KSh)

1-Anti-Aircraft Missile Platoon (1970-85)¹²: 1-BMP-1 Strela-2M (SA-7)¹³ Combat Team

1-Grenade Launcher Platoon (1981+): 1-BMP-1 AGS-17 Combat Team

3-Motor Rifle Companies, each with:

3-BMP-1 Combat Teams

1 Mortar Battery, with:

2-M-120 120-mm Mortars¹⁴ with GAZ-66 Trucks

Motor Rifle Regiment (BTR)

1-Regimental Headquarters:

Regimental HQ & Signals: 1-HQ BTR-60PB or BTR-60PU
ABC Platoon: 1-BRDM-2RKhB or BRDM-3RKhM

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company:

See the separate TO&E for this unit at end of list.

1-Regimental Engineer Company:

1-Engineer Platoon, with:

1- GMZ Minelayer, or 1 Light Engineer Stand in Truck with towed PMZ-4M Minelayer

1-Technical Platoon, with:

1-MTU-20 or 1-MT-55 AVL¹

1-VLB TMM Scissor Bridge¹

1-PZM or 1-PZM-2 Ditch Digger

2-KMT-6 Mine Ploughs in Truck

1-KMT-5M Mine Roller & 1-BTU Dozer Blade in Truck

1-Regimental Anti-Aircraft Battery or Missile-Artillery Battalion:

See the separate TO&E for this unit at end of list.

1-Regimental Anti-Tank Battalion, with:

1-Anti-Tank Artillery Battery¹⁷

1-T-12⁴ 100mm ATG with MT-LB

1-ATGW Battery

2-BRDM-2 Malyutka-M (AT-3C) or 2-BRDM-2 Malyutka (AT-3) or 2-BRDM-1 Falanga (AT-2)⁵

1-Regimental Artillery Battalion (towed), with:⁶

4 or 6-D-30 122mm Howitzers or M-30 122mm Howitzers and Trucks

or

1-Regimental Artillery Battalion (SP), with:⁶

4 or 6-2S1 Gvozdika

1-Tank Battalion, with:

HQ: 1-HQ MBT¹⁰

1-BTS ARV or 1-BREM-1 ARV⁹

3-Tank Companies, each with:

2 or 3-MBTs¹⁰

or

5-Tank Companies, each with:

2-MBTs¹⁰

3-Motor Rifle Battalions (BTR), each with:¹⁹

HQ: 1-HQ BTR-60PB or BTR-60PU

1-Anti-Aircraft Missile Platoon (1970-85)¹²: 1-BTR-60PB Strela-2M (SA-7)¹³ Combat Team

1-Grenade Launcher Platoon (1981+): 1-BTR-60PB AGS-17 Combat Team

1-Anti-Tank Platoon (1970-1979): 1-BTR-60PB AT Combat Team (Malyutka AT-3 and SPG-9M)

or

1-Anti-Tank Platoon (1980-1989): 1-BTR-60PB AT Combat Team (Fagot AT-4 and SPG-9M)

3-Motor Rifle Companies, each with:

3-BTR-60PB Combat Teams¹⁶

1 Mortar Battery, with:

2-M-120 120-mm Mortars¹⁴ with GAZ-66 Trucks

Artillery Regiment

1-Regimental Headquarters:

Regimental HQ & Signals: 1-HQ BTR-60PB Stand

3-Artillery Battalions, as follows:⁶

0-2-Artillery Battalions (towed), with:

4 or 6-D-20 152mm Howitzers and Trucks

1 to 3-Artillery Battalions (SP), with:⁶

4 to 6-2S3 Akatsiya

1-Rocket Artillery Battalion, with:

4-BM21 MRL

1-Surface to Surface Missile Battalion, with:⁷

1-9K52 Luna (FROG-7) or 9K79 Tochka (SS21 Scarab) SSM

Anti-Aircraft Regiment

1-Regimental Headquarters:

Regimental HQ & Signals: 1-HQ BTR-60PU or PB

4 Missile Batteries, each with:

1-2K12 Kub (SA-6 Gainful) or 9K33 Osa (SA-8 Gecko)

Independent Tank Battalion

HQ: 1-HQ MBT¹⁰

1-BTS ARV or 1-BREM-1 ARV⁹

3 or 4 or 5-Tank Companies, each with:

2 or 3-MBTs¹⁰

1-Anti-Tank Battalion, with:

1-Anti-Tank Artillery Battery¹⁷

3-T-12⁴ 100mm ATG with MT-LB

1-ATGW Battery

2-BRDM-2 Malyutka-M (AT-3C) or 2-BRDM-2 Malyutka (AT-3) or 2-BRDM-1 Falanga (AT-2)⁵

Reconnaissance Battalion

HQ: 1-HQ BRDM-2 or BRM-1K

1 Armoured Reconnaissance Company, with:

1-BRM-1

1 Mechanised Reconnaissance Company, with:

3-BRDM-2¹⁸

Engineer Battalion

HQ: 1-HQ Engineer Stand in Truck

Maintenance: 1-BTS ARV or 1-BREM-1 ARV

1-Bridging Company, with:

2-TMM Bridge Sections

1-Pontoon Company, with:

4-PMP Pontoon Bridge Sections

1 Ferry Company, with:

1-GSP Tracked Ferry

3-PTS-M or PTS-2 Tracked Amphibious Carriers

1-River Assault Company, with:

2-DL-10 Assault Boats in Truck

1-Sapper Company, with:

2-BTR-60PB Light Engineer⁸ Combat Teams

1-GMZ Tracked Minelayer

1-MTK-1 UR67 or MTK-2 UR-77 Line Charge Mine Clearer

Helicopter Squadron

2-Mi-2 Hoplite

2-Mi-8 Hip

2-Mi-24 Hind

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SUB-UNIT TO&Es

Regimental Reconnaissance Formations

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company (1970-79):

2-Recon BRDM-1 or BRDM-2

or

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company (1973-89):

3-Recon BRDM-1 or BRDM-2

or

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company (1973-79):

1-Recon BMP-1

1-Recon BRDM-1 or BRDM-2

or

1-Regimental Reconnaissance Company (1978-89):

1-Recon BRM-1

1-Recon BRDM-2

Regimental Anti-Aircraft Formations

The Regimental Anti-Aircraft units underwent a few changes over the years - here are the different formations that were used in the Tank and Motor Rifle Regiments, each Regiment had a Battery initially, and after 1982 some Regiments upgraded these to Battalions by reorganising all the Regiment's AA assets:

1-Regimental Anti-Aircraft Battery (1970-89)

1-ZSU-23-4 "Shilka"

1-Strela 1 (BRDM SA-9) or 1-Strela 10M2 (MT-LB SA-13)

1-Regimental Anti-Aircraft Missile-Artillery Battalion (1982-89):²

1-Anti-Aircraft Missile-Artillery Battery

1-2S6M Tunguska³

1- Strela 1 (BRDM SA-9) or Strela 10M2 (MT-LB SA-13)³

or/then

1-Regimental Anti-Aircraft Missile-Artillery Battalion (1985-89):²

HQ: 1-HQ PPRU-1 or 1-HQ PU-12

1-Anti-Aircraft Missile-Artillery Battery

1-2S6M Tunguska³

1-Strela 10M2 (MT-LB SA-13)³

1-Anti-Aircraft Missile Battery

2-BMP-1 Igla (SA-16) or Igla-1 (SA-18) Combat Teams

The first battalion battery above was created in preparation for the consolidation of the MRB's AA Platoons into the Regimental AA formation - however not all units completed this and some Regiments still even had the older Battery organisation with the ZSU-23-4 and Strela-1. Introduction of the Tunguska appears very slow so many units retained ZSU-23-4 up to and beyond 1985. By 1985 probably no more than 3 MRR's in the entire GSFG may have had the new AAMA Battalions and Tunguska's (number in TR's at this time is unknown) but after this date introduction of Tunguska's may have become more rapid regardless of formation of the above Battalions or the retention of the older AA Batteries in Regiments.

Notes:

1. The AVLB Stand represents 1 real (20m) bridging vehicle, the TMM Stand represents 1 real (42m) bridging 'set' (4 truck mounted TMM sections).
2. This formation was very slow to be introduced. By 1990 about 22% of the MR Regiments (2 out of 9) in Tank Divisions had Regimental AAMA Battalions, and about 38% of the MRRs (5 out of 13) in Motor Rifle Divisions had them (that's 7/22 MRRs overall). Numbers for TRs are not known at this time. This means an approximate increase however of about 1 new AAMA Battalion a year from 1982 for the entire GSFG. The introduction of the 2S6M Tunguska seems to be tied into the formation of the new units (i.e. the new AAMA Btn was formed the same time the unit upgraded from ZSU-23-4 to 2S6M).

3. In theory there are a total of 10 or 12 real vehicles of the 2 types in the new larger AA Battery. Therefore that means 3 stands total between the two types may be fielded if desired; a minimum of 1 of each; plus you may field 1 additional stand of either. We recommend that if a third stand is modelled it normally be the Strela 10M2 as there were always 6 of these in the battery in real life (There could be 4 or 6 Tunguska present due to the limited numbers initially available).
4. From 1975-1980 onwards replace T-12 with improved T-12A or MT-12 100mm ATGs and MT-LBw tractors. Prior to 1979 older BS-3 100mm ATG may be substituted for the T-12 (and must be before 1970). From 1988-89 the 100mm Anti-Tank Battery appears to have been gradually begun to be phased out of the MRRs - by 1990 only about 50% of MRRs of both types still had a 100mm Anti-Tank Battery, however some of those Divisions instead had expanded "Divisional Anti-Tank Regiments" - see note 17 below.
5. From 1974 battery can instead have 2-BRDM-2 Konkurs (AT-5).
6. The GSFG gradually converted its Regimental Artillery Battalions to SP from 1970 to 1990 - the first few appeared early in 1970 and the last battalions were *supposedly* converted around 1990. However by 1990 only 4 of 13 Divisions BTR MRRs seem to have definitely had SP Artillery so BTR MRRs should normally have the towed variety. Assuming a steady (linear) level of availability for BMP MRRs & TRs it can be hypothesised that in 1985 for example approximately 75% of Tank & BMP Regiments had SP Battalions. At the same time, from about 1980 while this was happening the Artillery Regiments were also being expanded from 18 Guns to 24 (i.e. 3 x 8 Gun Batteries). As a result SP Regimental Artillery units from 1980 onwards may be 4 or 6 stands... Information on towed units is sketchy and the plan seems to have been to increase establishment as the conversion to SP occurred. However as Regiments converted to SP it would have freed up towed guns for redeployment to other Regiments in the Division - so if a Division has a 6-stand SP Regiment it's other Regiments with towed guns may have 4 or 6 stands as desired.
7. Post 1986 the Soviets began to withdraw these SSM units from Divisions and place them into centralised SSM Brigades within each Army. This removed them from the Divisional establishment.
8. Note these are standard Light Engineers (Sappers) for mine clearing & laying, not Assault/Combat Engineers.
9. This stand represents 1 real life ARV and 1 real life MTO (maintenance/recovery truck).
10. Tank Battalions of MRR's in the 1970's normally have 7-stand Battalions (3 Companies of 2-Stands plus HQ), from 1980 almost all Tank Battalions in MRRs increase to 10 stands (i.e. 3 Companies of 3-Stands plus the HQ), at least a couple increase to 11-stands (they have a 5 Company, 2-Stand organisation) - there appears no specific pattern as to which units had the increased establishment or which version. By 1990 it's believed all Tank Battalions in MRRs were intended to be increased to 11-stand organisation but by 1990 however the numbers stop and then decline again due to arms limitation treaty agreements and in the BTR MRRs only 5/15 Battalions were 10 stands or more (1 of these having the 11 stand organisation, the other 4 10-stands), and the other 10/15 were reduced to 7 stands. Of these 15 Battalions in 1990, 2 were reported as T-64, and 13 were T-80. After 1990 all reduce to 7-Stands. Tank Regiment Tank Battalions

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are assumed to follow a similar increase to the 10-stand Battalion in the 1980's from 7-Stands (i.e. having 3 Companies of either 2 or 3-Stands) and some may use the larger 11-Stand organisation. Most Independent Tank Battalions have a 9-Stand organisation (4 Companies of 2-Stands plus HQ) or the 11-Stand (5-Company of 2) organisation, few are smaller.

In GSFG for 1970-1989 the majority of tanks are initially T-62 and T-55 with increasing numbers of T-64, with the T-62 reducing over time initially and the T-55's being first to go. T-80 appear from their introduction around 1979 onwards in increasing numbers alongside more T-64. By mid-80's most of GSFG is a mix of T-80 and T-64, with a few T-62's lingering on in Independent Tank Battalions. By 1989 it's all T-64's and T-80's. Note that battalions may occasionally have been a mix of two types (e.g. T-64 and T-80 in 1980's) as there appears to be no definitive Soviet program to upgrade whole Battalions or Regiments at once.

11. BMP-2 appears in 1981, initially in small numbers. Battalions can be, and usually are, a mix of BMP-1 and BMP-2 – in these cases companies normally will be a mix of both types. By 1990 in the GSFG the BMP MRR's in 8 of 9 Tank Divisions are 2/3 BMP-2 and 1/3 BMP-1, the last Tank Division's MRR, and all 13 Motor Rifle Division MRR's are 1/3 BMP-2 and 2/3 BMP-1. Prior to 1973 BMP-1 have no HE capability – reduce ICT AI to 5-6". In 1979 BMP-1P enters mass production mounting Konkurs-S (AT-5) or sometimes Fagot (AT-4) – Older models are retro-fitted so that by 1990 most BMP-1's mount Konkurs-S (AT-5) and balance mount (AT-4); the later able to fire Konkurs-S missiles if desired (Smoke Grenade Dischargers are also added on the BMP-1P at this time incidentally). Note that outside the GSFG some second line divisions have reduced establishments in the BMP MRR's – these formations have only 2-BMP-1 Combat Teams per Motor Rifle Company (as they number only 10 BMPs total for the company rather than 12 and lack the Platoon of 6 PKS/PKMS MGs carried by the extra 2 BMPs). GSFG BMP MRRs conform to the 2 stands per company organisation from 1988 onwards when the above MG Platoon is removed. It is believed Warsaw Pact Allies formations also lack the MG Platoon and should have 2-Stand Companies.
12. From 1985 Infantry AA Platoons were reassigned to Regimental AA Battalions as these formed. If the Regiment does not have the third type of AAMA Battalion this platoon remains, if it does have the third type then it's MRB's will not have these integral AAM Platoons (by 1990 about 32% of MRR's had transferred these). Also prior to 1975 these are actually a 3 SAM launcher squad in each company rather than a consolidated platoon - so each of the 9 Infantry Combat Teams could actually have an integral AA rating and the dedicated AA Platoon is removed - however for simplicity (and to limited the number of entries on the Data Card) we have left these represented by a single consolidated stand.

Note some units had these AA Squads possibly as early as 1968 when the Strela-M (SA-7) first appeared. If you wish to model these remove the AA Platoon from the TO&E and give each of the 9 ICT's an AA rating of 0-39" (1968-70) or 1-42" (1971+).

13. AAM Platoon can also be Strela-3 (SA-14) from 1974 or Igla (SA-16) from 1981 as these became available.
14. From 1981 the newer 2B11 120mm Mortar replaces the M-120 (Mod.1943/1955) Mortar. Due to arms reduction treaties from 1988 units with 120mm Mortars are reduced to only 1 stand. Units in the GSFG did not normally use 82mm Mortars or Vasilyek Auto-Mortars during this period. Units outside GSFG generally have 1 Vasilyek Stand and 1 82mm Mortar Stand (in some cases they also have a 2-Stand 120mm Regimental Mortar Battery to supplement their Regimental Artillery and other formations have a Vasilyek Stand and 2 82mm Mortar Stands. Some non-GSFG formations, including Warsaw Pact Allies may just have 2-Stands of 82mm Mortars in the Battalion Mortar Battery.
15. *[redundant note]*
16. From 1979 BTR Combat Teams in MR Companies include the equivalent of 1 9K115 Metis (AT-7) launcher per stand - see the new updated Data Card.
17. In some Divisions by 1989 these guns appear to have been withdrawn and in some cases have possibly gone to an expanded Divisional Anti-Tank Battalion that was increased to "Regiment" status; with 3 Battalions of a company of 3-100mm Stands and a company of 2-ATGW Stands each. It can be inferred from this that they were consolidating the Anti-Tank Assets into a centralised Divisional Formation and the entire Anti-Tank Battalion may have been withdrawn from all the MRRs and consolidated in this new 3-Battalion Regiment at Divisional level.
18. A few rare Divisional Reconnaissance units appear to have 4-BRDM-2 in their Mechanised Company.
19. Majority of BTR MRBs are BTR-60 even as late as 1986. By the later 1980's 2 of 15 MRRs (both in the same MRD) were fully BTR-80 equipped, and 2 of 15 MRRs (again both together in another MRD) were entirely BTR-70 equipped. The remaining 11 (73%) were still effectively BTR-60 equipped, although virtually all these MRRs may have had odd battalions, companies, or even platoons, equipped with newer BTR-70 or BTR-80 vehicles. Prior to 1986 it is possible that no Regiment in the GSFG was yet entirely equipped with either BTR-70 or BTR-80 and instead Regiments and Battalions had small numbers of them in primarily BTR-60PB equipped formations.

Items in *Italics* are for informational purposes only and not normally required to be represented for game purposes except in special circumstances (e.g. engineering assets for a river crossing, etc) or for visual appeal. As per the errata & clarifications these items do not normally add to a unit's morale size, nor detract from it if destroyed.