

Communist Forces In The 'Border War' (Angola & South West Africa) 1980 to 1989



FAPLA, Cuban and SWAPO TO&Es (v.2.2) For 'Modern Battlefield'



By R Mark Davies



Introduction

These TO&Es are intended to allow the '**Battlefront: WWII**' (Fire & Fury Games) player to construct Communist-Bloc forces (FAPLA, SWAPO/PLAN and Cuban) for the 'Border War' of the 1970s and 80s. The TO&Es correspond to the FAPLA playtest unit cards, which may be downloaded and printed from the website (look on the 'Extras' page for 'Prototype PDF Creator', select your list of cards and print them out).

Ever since I first read about the Border War as a teenager (when it was still being fought) I've been fascinated by it and I think it provides the perfect setting for BF:WWII games, as the battles were almost always battalion-sized, with not too much in the way of technology, artillery or air power (though where these were employed they were often decisive factors). I hope that there are some other players out there who feel similarly and press model manufacturers to produce some of the unavailable models!

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Organisational Background To FAPLA

FAPLA ('Forças Armadas Popular Liberação de Angola') was formed in 1976 from the military wing of the Marxist MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola – backed by the USSR) following the defeat of the right-wing FNLA, which left the MPLA as the de facto government of Angola, with UNITA as the sole surviving armed opposition group.

Cuban advisors and Soviet equipment began flooding into Angola from 1975 (with the USSR picking up the bill), with Cubans being present in large numbers in all FAPLA formations. As the war went on and direct confrontations with South African forces became more common and increasingly intense, Cuban senior officers were often placed in command of FAPLA formations. The majority of FAPLA's air forces were re-flagged Cuban/Soviet aircraft, flown by Cuban aircrew. By 1988 there were 45,000 Cubans in FAPLA and a complete Cuban Division (50th Mechanised Division) was also employed from 1987.

Initially, conflict between FAPLA and South African regular forces was limited to attempts to block SADF/SWATF force pursuing SWAPO infiltration teams over the border into Angola. However, as time went on FAPLA and Cuban forces took greater steps to protect SWAPO bases in Angola and to block SADF/SWATF pursuit forces, thus bringing themselves into greater conflict with South Africa. As the war drew on, the SADF also sent powerful forces to directly support and protect UNITA once more (as it had done in the 1970s), in an attempt to dissuade the MPLA government from supporting SWAPO.

However, repeated defeats for Cuban/FAPLA forces resulted in Moscow taking direct control from 1986, with a Soviet General (Shaganovitch) in overall command of offensive operations against UNITA rebels (who were backed by US Special Forces and SADF units). Following a massive flood of new Soviet weapons and materiel in 1986, the war reached its crescendo in the campaigns of 1987-88, which saw large set-piece battles fought between divisional-sized multi-brigade FAPLA/Cuban formations pitched against brigades or battalions of UNITA/SADF/SWATF.

In addition to the large Cuban contingent, North Korea also sent its special forces to provide reconnaissance and sabotage expertise to SWAPO, while the USSR and East Germany provided logistical units and aircrew to FAPLA. Romania also provided aircrew to FAPLA.

The basic organisational building-block in FAPLA was the Brigade (for the Cubans it was the Motor Rifle Regiment, which was much the same thing). The Brigade was essentially a Soviet Motor Rifle Regiment with a much lower scale of heavy and hi-tech equipment. At the top of the tree were the five Mechanised Brigades (and the four to six Cuban Regiments), with the bulk of the best equipment and forming FAPLA's main offensive capability. Then there were seventeen Motorised Infantry Brigades, with less in the way of heavy equipment, but still with good offensive mobility. At the bottom of the heap were the ODP Militia Brigades, with virtually no mobility, hardly any heavy weapons and highly variable strength. There was no 'Divisional' layer of command, though the Army held independent tank, artillery and antiaircraft formations with which to reinforce the brigades.

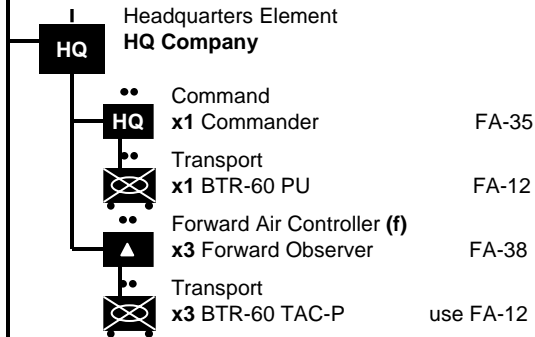
I have picked 1980 as a starting year, as this year marked the formation of the SWATF and an upsurge in 'external' operations by the SADF against SWAPO-PLAN, plus a corresponding increase in operations by FAPLA to counter the SADF.

These TO&Es presented here should give you everything you need to organise and collect a FAPLA, Cuban or SWAPO army for Battlefront: Modern. I will be posting a revised TO&E for the South Africans and new TO&Es for UNITA on the website shortly, plus some scenarios and even a mini-campaign. If you find any of this even remotely interesting, please drop me a line on the forum, or privately to rmarkdavies@hotmail.co.uk

FAPLA Battlegroup FA-01



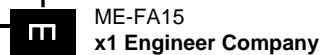
BATTLEGROUP FA-01 FAPLA Mechanised Brigade (a)



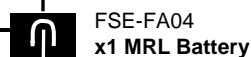
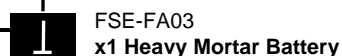
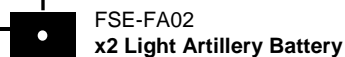
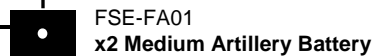
BATTLEGROUPS



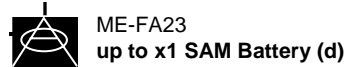
MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS



ARMY ATTACHMENTS



(a) FAPLA had five Mechanised Brigades, comprising the core of its offensive capability. These brigades were essentially cut-down Soviet Motor Rifle Regiments with rather old Soviet equipment (but plenty of it).

(b) Typically one battalion in the brigade had the priority on more modern equipment (BTR-60), while the other two battalions had the older equipment (BTR-152). There were variations, however. A small number of battalions had BTR-50 PK armoured personnel carriers in lieu of BTR-152 and from 1987, one company in a BTR-60 battalion might be replaced with BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles.

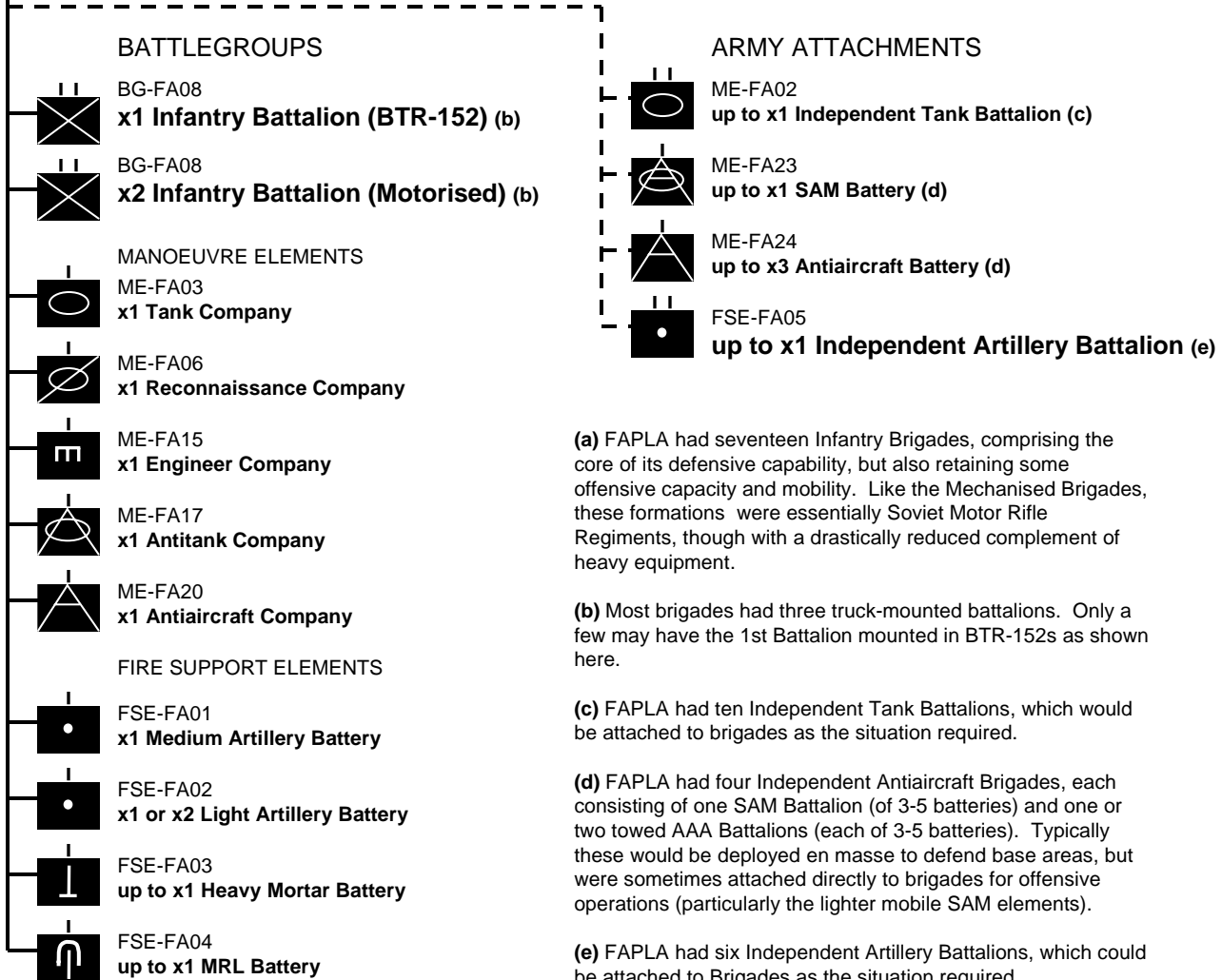
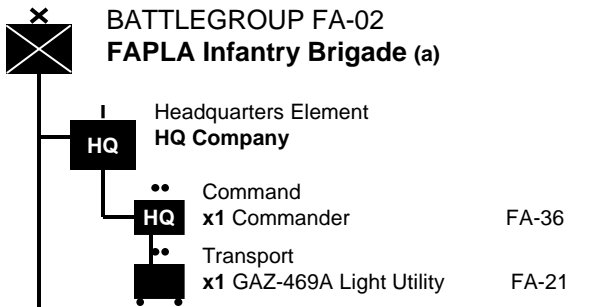
(c) FAPLA had ten Independent Tank Battalions, which would be attached to brigades as the situation required.

(d) FAPLA had four Independent Antiaircraft Brigades, each consisting of one SAM Battalion (of 3-5 batteries) and one or two towed AAA Battalions (each of 3-5 batteries). Typically these would be deployed en masse to defend base areas, but were sometimes attached directly to brigades for offensive operations (particularly the lighter mobile SAM elements).

(e) FAPLA had six Independent Artillery Battalions, which could be attached to Brigades as the situation required.

(f) FACs are only available from 1985 and the introduction of the MiG-23 'Flogger' as a close-support aircraft.

FAPLA Battlegroup FA-02



(a) FAPLA had seventeen Infantry Brigades, comprising the core of its defensive capability, but also retaining some offensive capacity and mobility. Like the Mechanised Brigades, these formations were essentially Soviet Motor Rifle Regiments, though with a drastically reduced complement of heavy equipment.

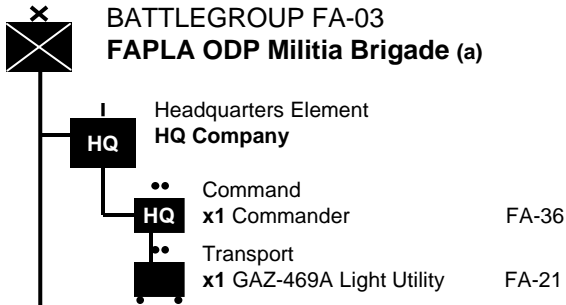
(b) Most brigades had three truck-mounted battalions. Only a few may have the 1st Battalion mounted in BTR-152s as shown here.

(c) FAPLA had ten Independent Tank Battalions, which would be attached to brigades as the situation required.

(d) FAPLA had four Independent Antiaircraft Brigades, each consisting of one SAM Battalion (of 3-5 batteries) and one or two towed AAA Battalions (each of 3-5 batteries). Typically these would be deployed en masse to defend base areas, but were sometimes attached directly to brigades for offensive operations (particularly the lighter mobile SAM elements).

(e) FAPLA had six Independent Artillery Battalions, which could be attached to Brigades as the situation required.

FAPLA Battlegroup FA-03



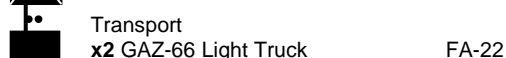
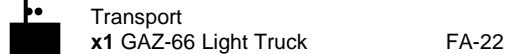
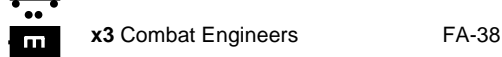
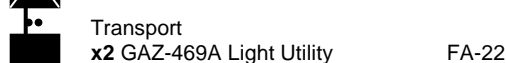
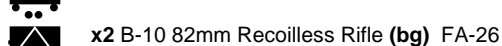
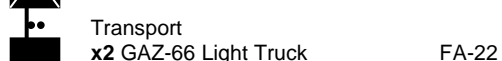
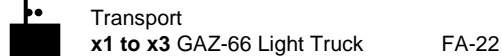
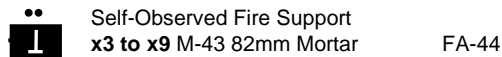
BATTLEGROUPS



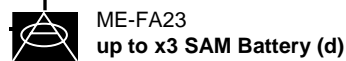
MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



ATTACHMENTS



ARMY ATTACHMENTS



(a) FAPLA had eleven ODP Militia Brigades, which were strictly local defence formations, with mobility and offensive capability being non-existent. They varied between one and three battalions in size and the battalions' companies also had a variable number of platoons, depending on the brigade's proximity to UNITA and the SADF. Consequently, some 'Brigades' in quiet sectors were the size of weak battalions. However, the units faced by UNITA or the SADF were most likely near to full-strength.

(b) May replace with:
B-11 107mm Recoilless Rifle **(g)** FA-27

(c) FAPLA had ten Independent Tank Battalions, which would be attached to brigades as the situation required.

(d) FAPLA had four Independent Antiaircraft Brigades, each consisting of one SAM Battalion (of 3-5 batteries) and one or two towed AAA Battalions (each of 3-5 batteries). Typically these would be deployed en masse to defend base areas and consequently there is a high allocation shown here, as the ODP's role was primarily one of base-area defence.

(e) FAPLA had six Independent Artillery Battalions, which could be attached to Brigades as the situation required.

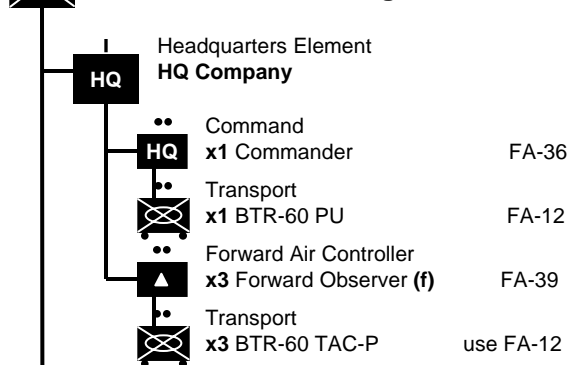
(f) May replace with:
DShK 12.7mm AAMG FA-28
ZPU-2 Twin 14.5mm AAMG FA-30

(g) These weapons may be fired directly from their vehicles when mounted.

FAPLA Battlegroup FA-04



BATTLEGROUP FA-04 Cuban Motor Rifle Regiment (a)



BATTLEGROUPS

BG-FA10
x3 Cuban Motor Rifle Battalion (b)

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS

ME-FA02
x1 Tank Battalion (g)

ME-FA25
Up to x1 Assault Gun Battalion
(only in 50th Mechanised Division)

ME-FA06
x1 Reconnaissance Company (i)

ME-FA15
x1 Engineer Company

ME-FA17
x1 Antitank Company

ME-FA21
x1 Cuban Antiaircraft Company

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS

FSE-FA01
x3 Medium Artillery Battery

FSE-FA04
x1 MRL Battery (bh)

ARMY ATTACHMENTS

ME-FA02
up to x1 Independent Tank Battalion (c)

ME-FA23
up to x1 SAM Battery (d)

ME-FA24
up to x3 Antiaircraft Battery (d)

FSE-FA05
up to x1 Independent Artillery Battalion (e)

(a) Cuba had between four and six Motor Rifle Regiments operating in direct support of FAPLA. Like the FAPLA Mechanised Brigades, these Regiments were essentially cut-down Soviet Motor Rifle Regiments with rather old Soviet equipment (but plenty of it). The Cuban regiments in the 1980s were primarily tasked with defending Cuban/Soviet base areas and were not used as spearhead units for offensive operations against UNITA or the SADF – Fidel Castro had no intention of getting too heavily embroiled in what could so easily have become Cuba's 'Vietnam'. However, they were often used as a 'fire brigade' force against SADF 'External' operations. In 1987, during the SADF's Operations 'Modular' and 'Hooper' near Cuito Cuavavale, the Cuban 50th Mechanised Division (of three Motor Rifle Regiments and a full Tank Regiment) did take to the field as an offensive force, threatening northwest SWA, in an attempt to draw the SADF away from Cuito Cuavavale. The division saw some brief fighting around the Ruacana Hydroelectric Dam complex in 1988. The threat this formation posed to the stability of the first free elections in SWA (soon to become the fledgling Namibia in 1989) allegedly even caused the South Africans to threaten use of its nuclear weapons, should they invade SWA!

(b) All three battalions in the regiment were equipped with BTR-60 Armoured Personnel Carriers. From 1987, one company per battalion might be replaced by its BTR-60s with BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles. However, regiments engaged solely in security duties usually had only enough APCs for one battalion and also lacked the regiment's MRL Battery.

(c) FAPLA had ten Independent Tank Battalions, which could be attached to Cuban regiments as the situation required.

(d) FAPLA had four Independent Antiaircraft Brigades, each consisting of one SAM Battalion (of 3-5 batteries) and one or two towed AAA Battalions (each of 3-5 batteries). Typically these would be deployed en masse to defend base areas, but were sometimes attached directly to Cuban regiments for offensive operations (particularly the lighter mobile SAM elements). The Cuban 50th Mechanised Division also had four integral AA Batteries of S-60 twin 57mm guns.

(e) FAPLA had six Independent Artillery Battalions, which could be attached to Cuban regiments as the situation required.

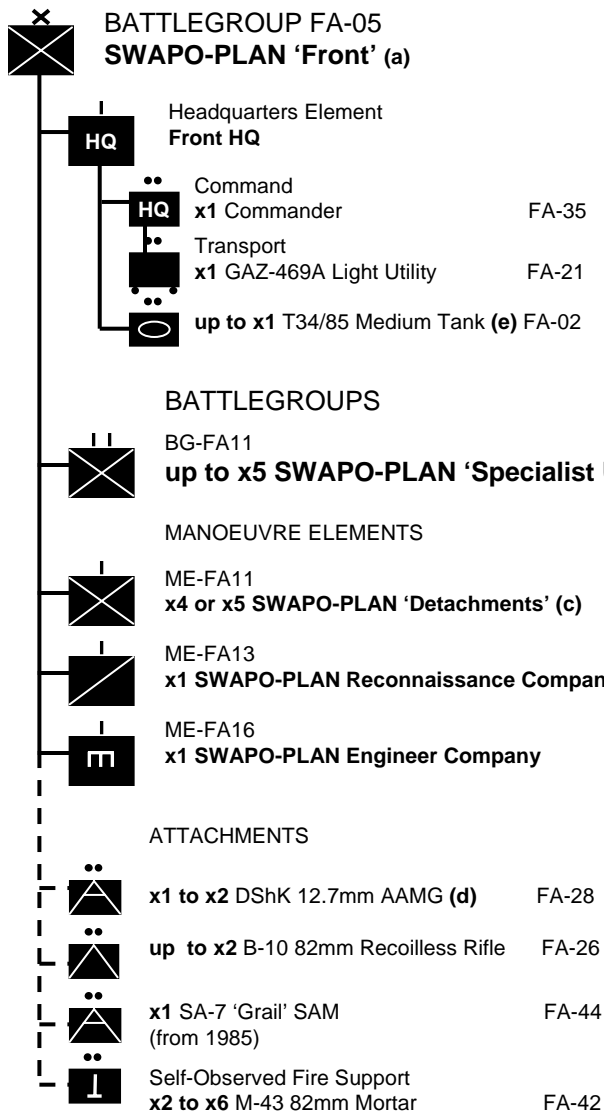
(f) FACs are only available from 1985.

(g) The 50th Mechanised Division had a Tank Regiment of three battalions. However, in practice this operated as separate battalion attachments to the division's three Motor Rifle Regiments.

(h) 50th Mechanised Division had only one MRL Battery to share between three Motor Rifle Regiments.

(i) In 50th Mechanised Division, the Reconnaissance Company was taken from the divisional Reconnaissance Battalion (see BG-13).

FAPLA Battlegroup FA-05



(a) SWAPO-PLAN initially established three 'Fronts' as base units from where to launch attacks into South West Africa (SWA). Despite their confusing titles, they were based along the southern border of Angola. From west to east, these 'Fronts' were: North Western Front, located in Kaokoland and West Owambo. Northern Front, located in Central Owambo. North Eastern Front, located in East Owambo and Kavango. 'Central Front' was created in central Angola, in order to train up three semi-regular SWAPO-PLAN Infantry Brigades along FAPLA lines (see BG-FA06) to defend the three above-mentioned Front HQs from SADF attacks. However, these three 'Brigades' were never used in their intended role and instead were engaged piecemeal against UNITA forces within Angola itself. A fifth 'Front' was later created within Zambia, but wasn't supported by the Zambian government and never came to very much.

(b) As the three SWAPO-PLAN Brigades of Central Front were never used in their intended role, the three Front Headquarters established 'Specialist Units', which were essentially HQ Defence Battalions to defend the Front HQs against SADF 'External' operations.

(c) The SWAPO-PLAN 'Detachments' were the infiltration forces that would launch incursions into SWA. These were the only elements of SWAPO that would penetrate into SWA. The rest of the SWAPO-PLAN Front was simply there to administer and defend these 'Detachments' against the SADF while they trained for the next incursion mission.

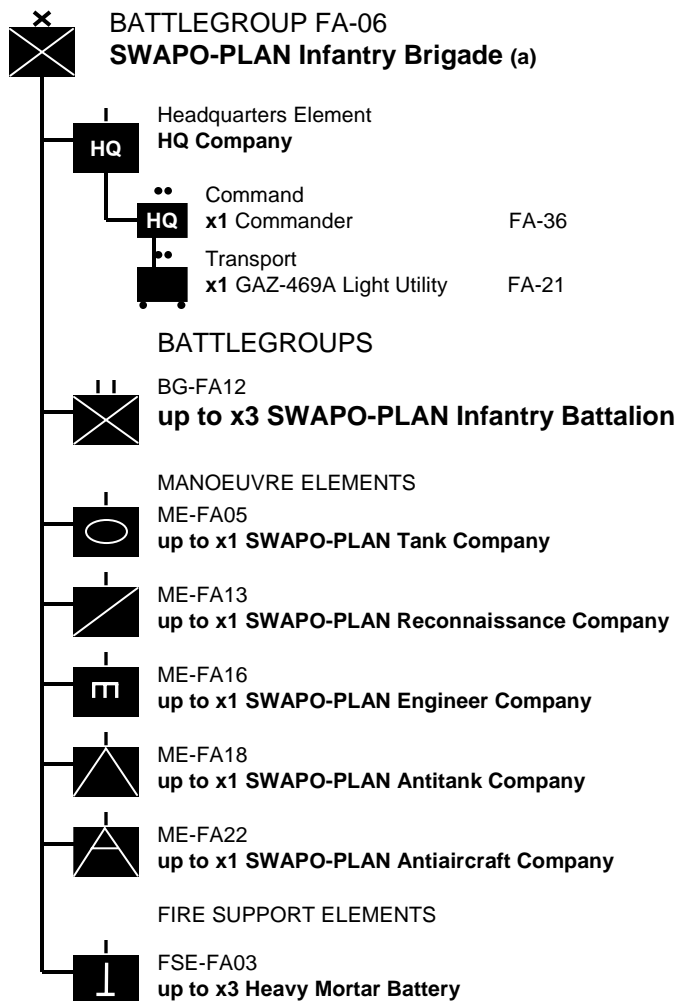
(d) May replace one or both with:

ZPU-1 14.5mm AAMG	FA-29
ZPU-2 Twin 14.5mm AAMG	FA-30
ZPU-4 Quad 14.5mm AAMG	FA-31

(e) May replace with:

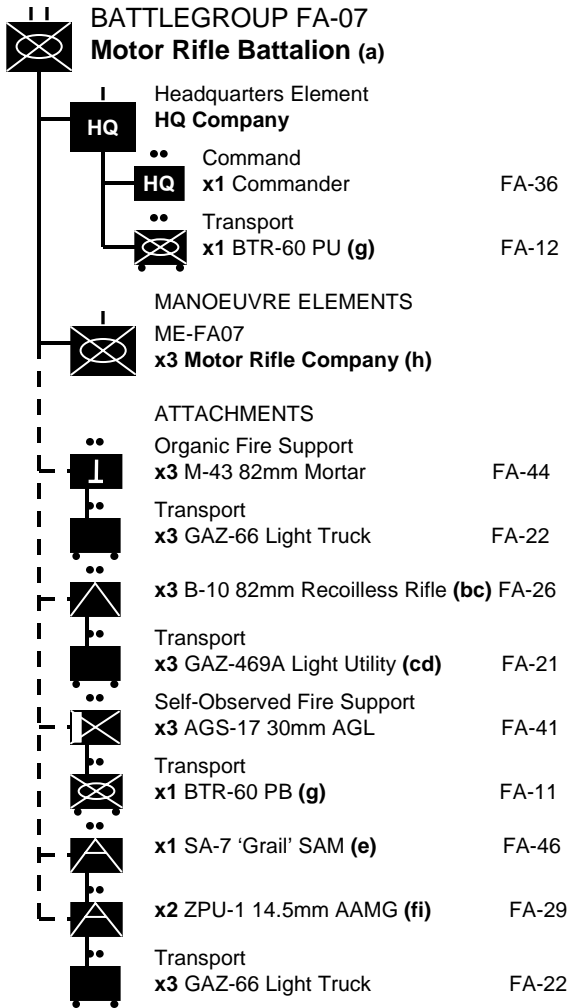
SU-100 Assault Gun	FA-05
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FAPLA Battlegroup FA-06



(a) Three SWAPO-PLAN Infantry Brigades were formed by SWAPO-PLAN Central Front, in central Angola, in order to provide defence forces for the three main SWAPO-PLAN Front HQs along the Angola/SWA border. These brigades were to be organised along regular FAPLA lines and were to be provided with Soviet vehicles, armour and heavy weapons as they became available. However, due to the resurgence of UNITA in the 1980s, the three SWAPO-PLAN Brigades were committed piecemeal as last-ditch reserve forces against UNITA offensives. Consequently, none ever got anywhere near the full 'paper' establishment as shown here and the modern heavy equipment was never forthcoming as it was needed to make up FAPLA losses. As a result of all this, SWAPO was still left without defence forces with which to defend its three main Front HQs and consequently created the 'Specialist Units' (see BG-FA05).

FAPLA Battlegroup FA-07



(a) FAPLA battalions often operated as 'Tactical Groups' – using a battalion as a core, with various attachments from brigade and higher level.

(b) May replace Recoilless Rifles with:
x3 AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM FA-42

(c) Recoilless Rifles may be fired from their GAZ-469A Light Utility Vehicles when mounted.

(d) May replace transport with:
BTR-60 PB Armoured Personnel Carrier (g) FA-11

(e) From 1986: SA-7 'Grail' SAM may be replaced with:
SA-14 'Gremlin' SAM FA-47

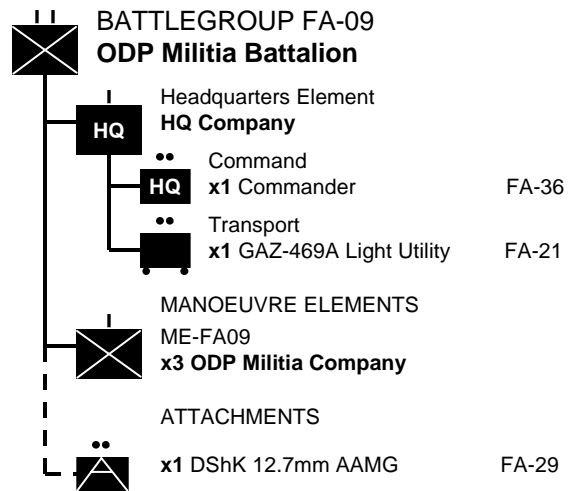
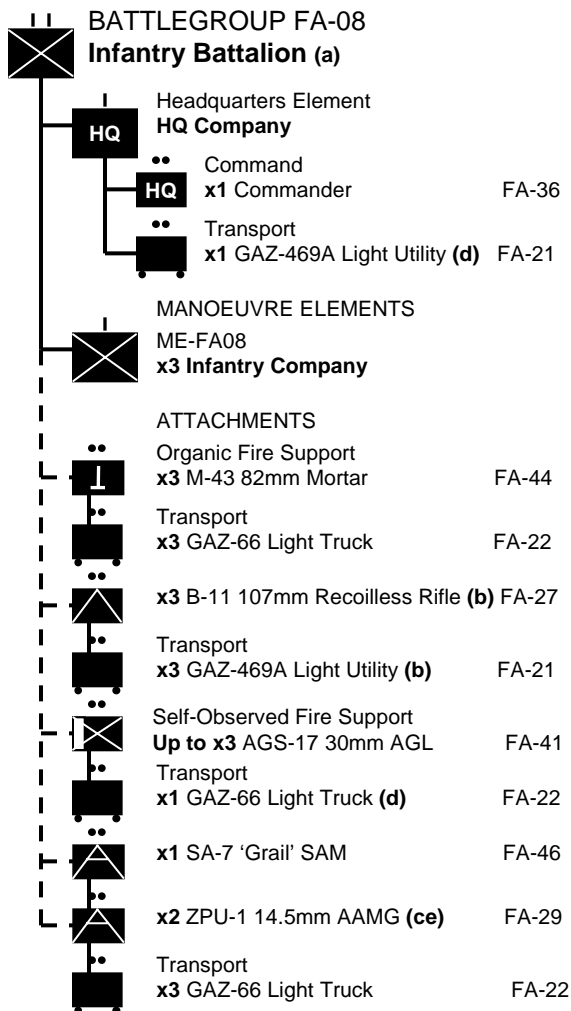
(f) The ZPU-1 was by far the most common light AA weapon, though may be replaced with:
ZPU-2 Twin 14.5mm AAMG (i) FA-30
ZPU-4 Quad 14.5mm AAMG FA-31

(g) In most 2nd & 3rd Battalions, replace all BTR-60s with:
BTR-152 Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-09
 Or in some battalions with:
BTR-50 PK Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-10

(h) In 1st Battalions from 1987: Up to one company per battalion may be equipped with BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles in lieu of BTR-60s.

(i) ZPU-1 and ZPU-2 AAMGs may fire when mounted on their transport.

FAPLA Battlegroups FA-08 to FA-09



(a) FAPLA battalions often operated as 'Tactical Groups' – using a battalion as a core, with various attachments from brigade and higher level.

(b) Recoilless Rifles may be fired from GAZ-469A Light Utility Vehicles when mounted.

(c) The ZPU-1 was by far the most common light AA weapon, though may be replaced with:

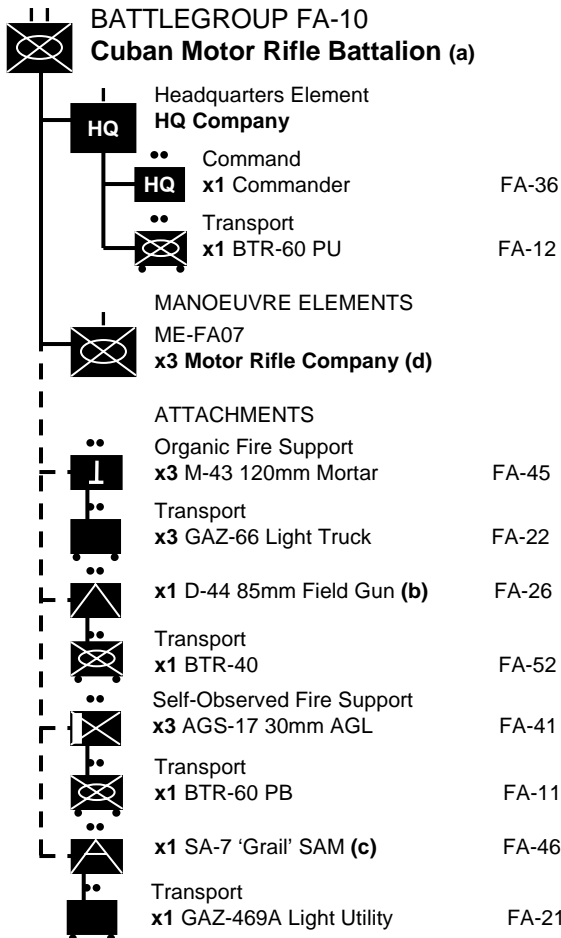
- DShK 12.7mm AAMG **(e)** FA-28
- ZPU-2 Twin 14.5mm AAMG **(e)** FA-30
- ZPU-4 Quad 14.5mm AAMG FA-31

(d) In some 1st Battalions, replace indicated softskin transport with:

- BTR-152 Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-09

(e) DShK, ZPU-1 and ZPU-2 AAMGs may be fired when mounted on their transport.

FAPLA Battlegroups FA-10 to FA-12

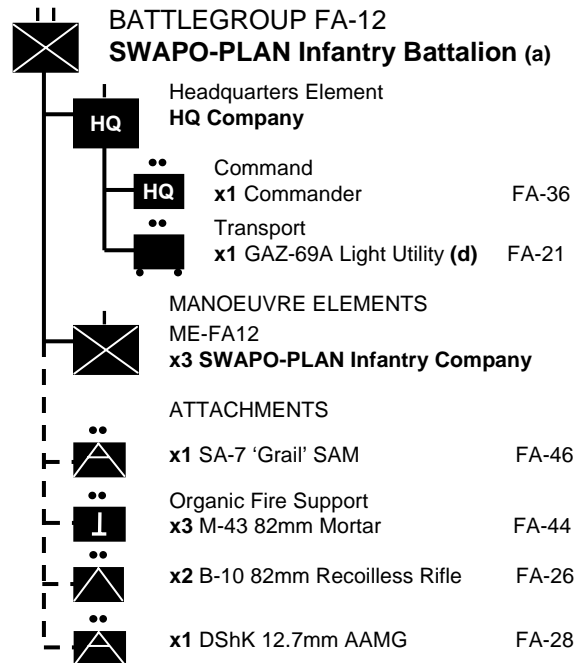
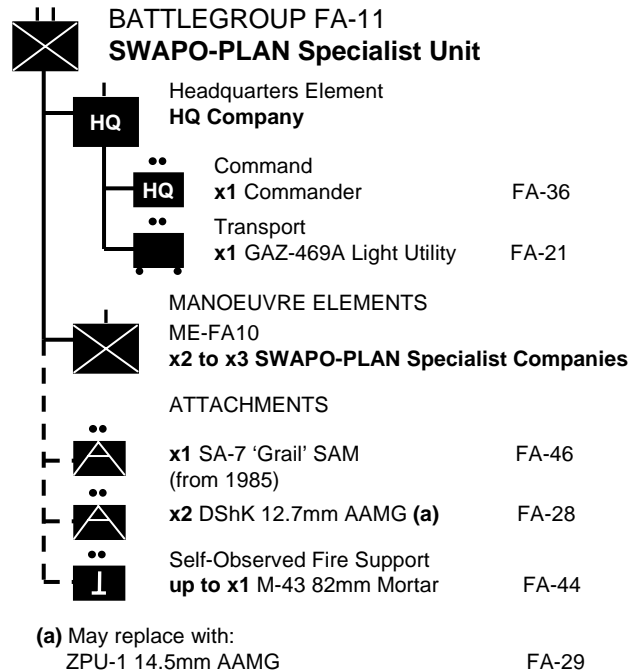


(a) Cuban battalions often operated as 'Tactical Groups' – using a battalion as a core, with various attachments from regiment and higher level. Note that if in static security duties, the battalion might lack its motor transport (see BG-FA04).

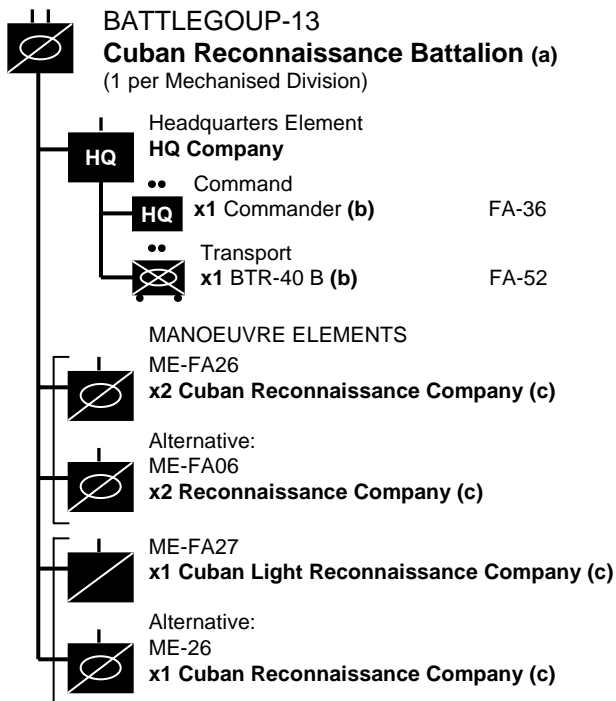
(b) May replace 85mm antitank guns with:
x1 AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM FA-42
 And the transport with:
x1 BTR-60 PB FA-11

(c) From 1986: SA-7 'Grail' SAM may be replaced with:
SA-14 'Gremlin' SAM FA-47

(d) In 1st Battalions from 1987: Up to one company per battalion may be equipped with BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles in lieu of BTR-60s.



FAPLA Battlegroups FA-13 & FA-14

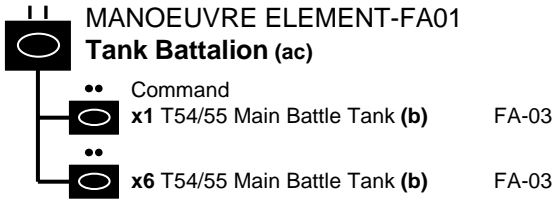


(a) The Cuban 50th Mechanised Division had one such Reconnaissance Battalion. It was usually deployed as individual company attachments to the division's three Motor Rifle Regiments (see BG-FA04). The battalion went through a period of reorganisation at some point during the 1980s, where it converted from an essentially mounted infantry force, to a predominantly armoured car force. This change undoubtedly took place before the battalion first saw action in 1988, but the older organisation is listed here for hypothetical scenarios.

(b) During the reorganisation, replace Commander and transport with:
x1 BRDM-2U Command Vehicle FA-07

(c) During the reorganisation, the two Reconnaissance Companies (mounted infantry type – ME-FA26) were converted to armoured cars (ME-FA06), while the Light Reconnaissance Company (jeep-mounted – ME-FA27) was made heavier with the addition of PT-76 Light Tanks and BTR-40 APCs, bringing its organisation into line with ME-FA26.

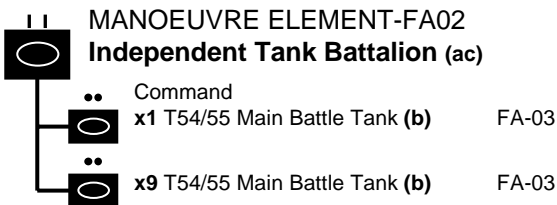
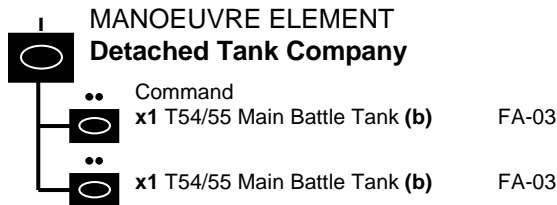
FAPLA Manoeuvre Elements FA-01 to FA-06



(a) As in WW2 the Soviet Tank Battalion organisation and doctrine was a fairly blunt instrument and the companies were very small. Hence the Tank Battalion is an ME rather than a BG.

(b) In Cuban 50th Mechanised Division, may replace T54/55 with:
T-62A Main Battle Tank FA-04

(c) One company may be split off from the battalion as a manoeuvre group, or to form part of a Motor Rifle Battalion Tactical Group:

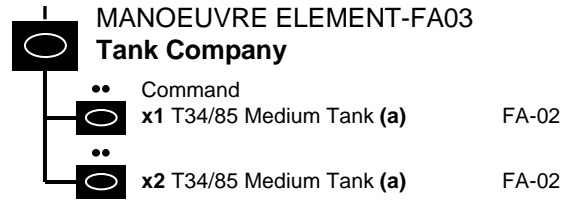
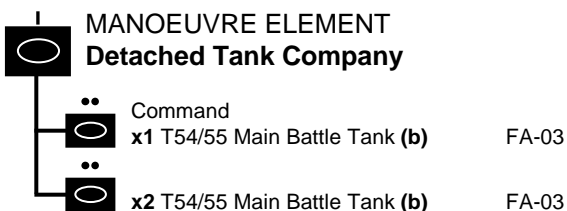


(a) As in WW2 the Soviet Tank Battalion organisation and doctrine was a fairly blunt instrument and the companies were very small. Hence the Tank Battalion is an ME rather than a BG.

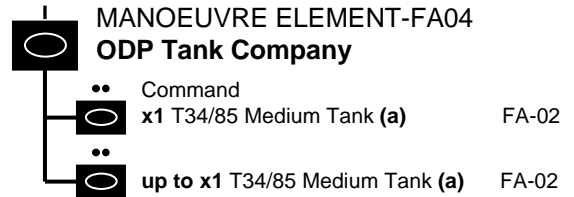
(b) From 1986: May replace T54/55s with:
T62A Main Battle Tank FA-04

By 1988 there were also some FAPLA units equipped with T-72 but these did not see action in the Border War and are not therefore included as an option.

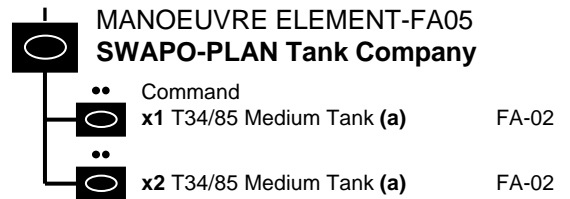
(c) One company may be split off from the battalion as a manoeuvre group, or to form part of a Motor Rifle Battalion Tactical Group:



(a) May replace T34/85s with:
T-54/55 Main Battle Tank FA-03
SU-100 Assault Gun FA-05



(a) May replace T34/85s with:
SU-100 Assault Gun FA-05

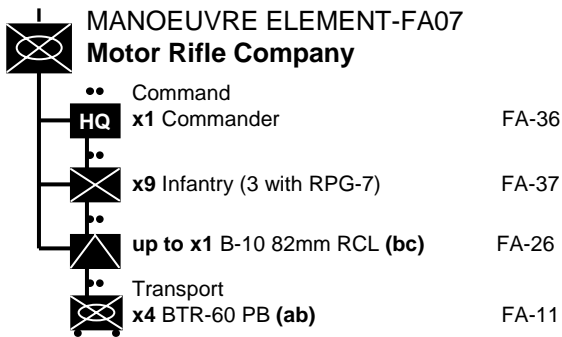


(a) May replace T34/85s with:
SU-100 Assault Gun FA-05



(a) In some FAPLA Infantry Brigades (BG FA-02), the PT-76 Platoon was not issued.

FAPLA Manoeuvre Elements FA-07 to FA-14



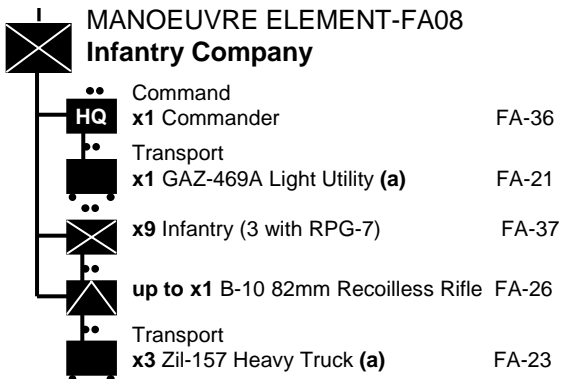
(a) In BTR-152-equipped battalions, replace all BTR-60s with:
BTR-152 Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-09
Alternative:

BTR-50 PK Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-10

(b) In BMP-equipped companies, delete the B10 82mm RCL and replace all BTR-60s with:

BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicle FA-13

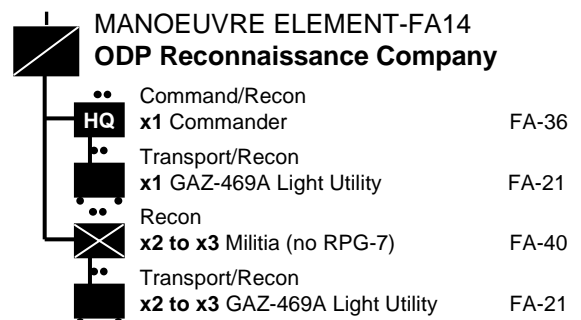
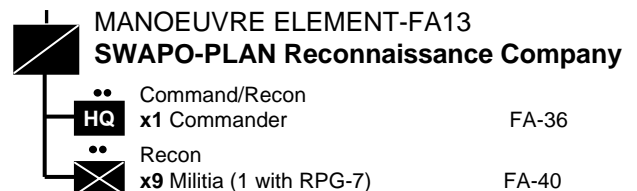
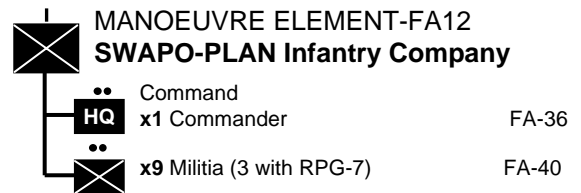
(c) No B10 82mm RCL in Cuban companies.



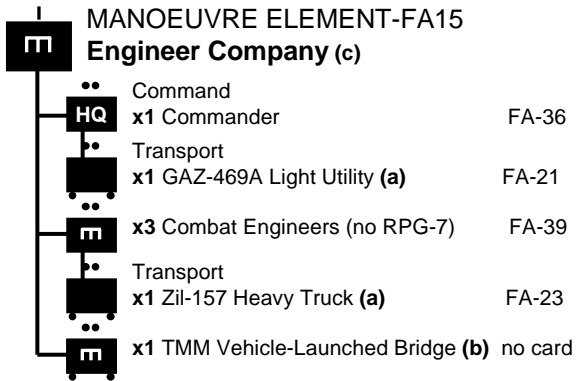
(a) In BTR-152-equipped battalions, replace all transport with:
BTR-152 Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-09



(a) When infiltrating over the SWA border, the Detachment would normally be split into platoon-sized sub-detachments of three or four sections (plus any heavy weapons attached from Front Headquarters), as large groups tended to attract a lot of unwelcome attention from the SADF's 32 Battalion or Koevoet and Romeo-Mike Teams. The Detachments would then reform prior to launching their attack. Each Detachment also had a single-tube 122mm rocket launcher for harassing SADF/SWATF bases, but its tactical value was negligible so is not included here.



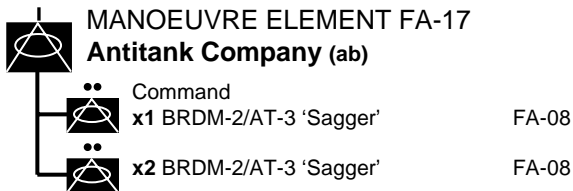
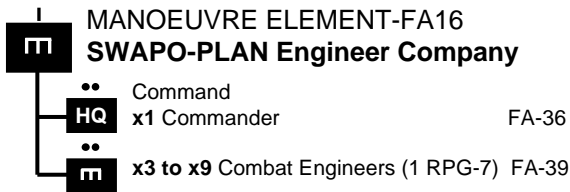
FAPLA Manoeuvre Elements FA-15 to FA-20



(a) In some Cuban units, may replace softskin transport with:
BTR-152 Armoured Personnel Carrier FA-09

(b) FAPLA Infantry Brigades usually lacked the TMM Bridging Platoon.

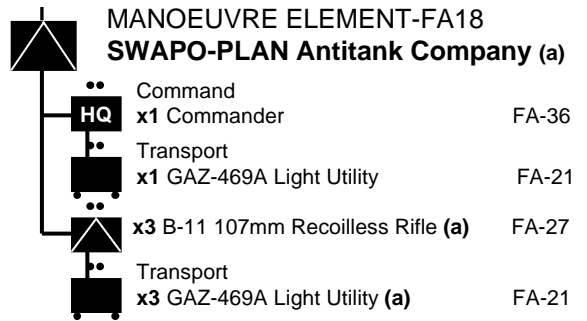
(c) In Cuban units, add the following:
x1 MTU Armoured Vehicle-Launched Bridge no card



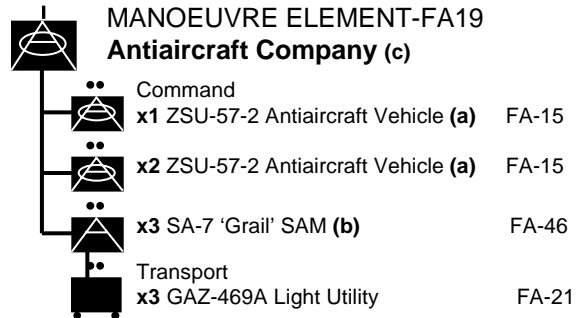
(a) In some FAPLA Infantry Brigades (BG-FA02), may replace the Antitank Company with the following organisation:



(b) The company may alternatively be split into individual section attachments to other MEs within the Battlegroup.



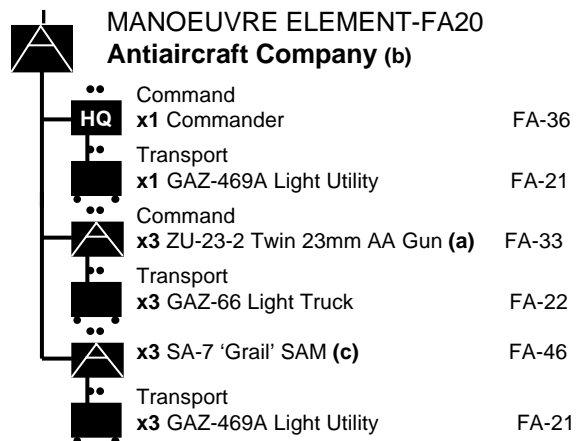
(a) The recoilless rifles may fire from the vehicles when mounted.



(a) May replace ZSU-57-2 with:
ZSU-23-4 FA-16

(b) May replace SA-7 'Grail' SAM with:
SA-14 'Gremlin' SAM FA-47

(c) The company may alternatively be split into three platoons and attached directly to other MEs within the Battlegroup. Each platoon consists of one AA vehicle and one SAM team.



(a) May replace ZU-23-2 with:
M-55 Triple 20mm Antiaircraft Gun FA-32

(b) The company may alternatively be split into three platoons and attached directly to other MEs within the Battlegroup. Each platoon consists of one AA gun and one SAM team.

(c) Late 1980s, may replace with:
SA-14 'Gremlin' SAM FA-47

FAPLA Manoeuvre Elements FA-21 to FA-27

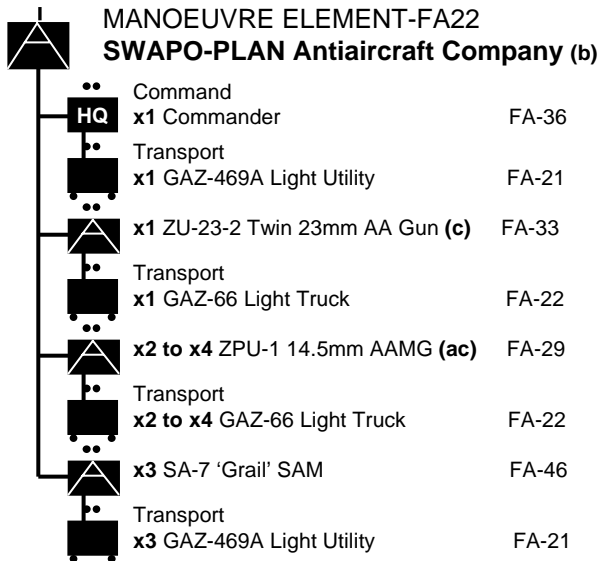


(a) The company may alternatively be split into three platoons and attached directly to other MEs within the Battlegroup.

(b) From 1987: may replace SAM vehicles with:
 x1 SA-13 'Gopher' SAM Vehicle FA-20



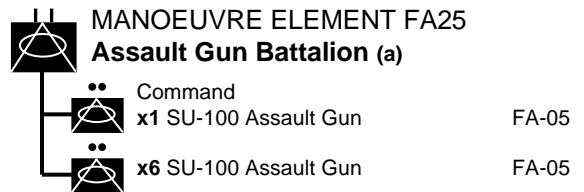
(a) May replace S-60 with:
 M-37 37mm Antiaircraft Gun FA-34



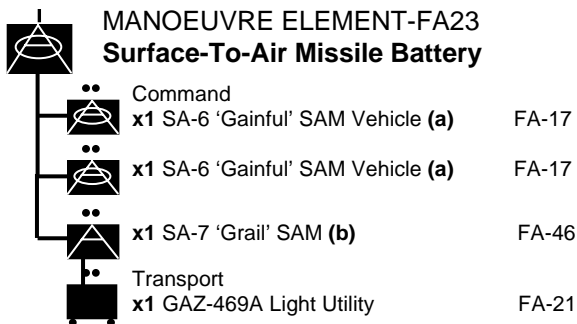
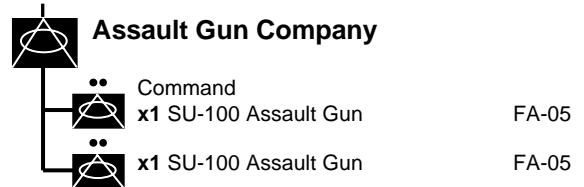
(a) May replace ZPU-1 with:
 ZPU-2 Twin 14.5mm AAMG (c) FA-30
 ZPU-4 Quad 14.5mm AAMG FA-31

(b) The company may alternatively be split up and attached directly to other MEs within the Battlegroup.

(c) ZPU-1 and ZPU-2 AAMGs were often able to fire from the back of their transport vehicles. Some ZU-23-2 AA guns and their transports were also modified to be portee weapons.

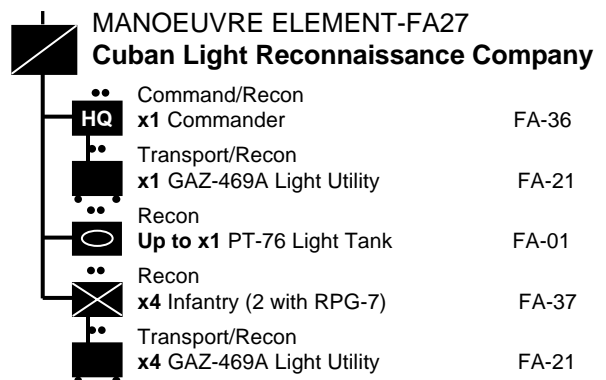


(a) One company may be split off from the battalion as a manoeuvre group, or to form part of a Motor Rifle Battalion Tactical Group:

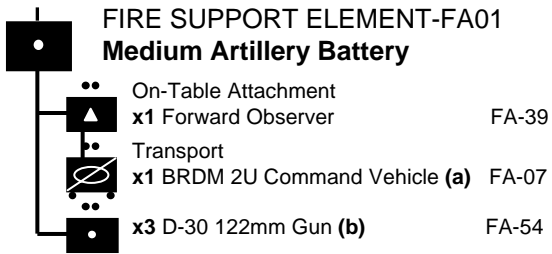


(a) The SAM vehicles may be replaced with:
 SA-8 'Gecko' SAM Vehicle FA-18
 SA-9 'Gaskin' SAM Vehicle FA-19
 SA-13 'Gopher' (from 1987) FA-20

(b) May replace SA-7 SAM team with:
 SA-14 'Gremlin' SAM FA-47

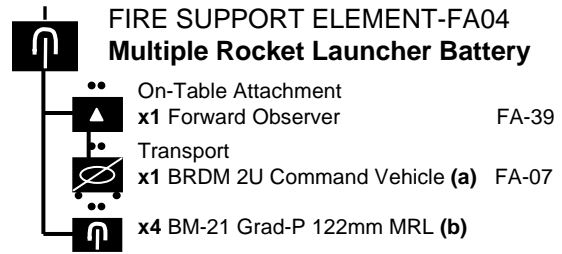


FAPLA Fire Support Elements



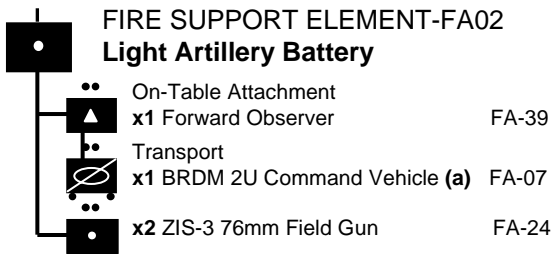
- (a) FO's transport may be replaced by:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| IV-13 (ACRV-1) Artillery Command Vehicle | FA-14 |
| BTR-60 PU Armoured Command Vehicle | FA-12 |
| GAZ-469A Light Utility | FA-21 |

- (b) In some FAPLA Infantry Brigades, may replace D-30 howitzers with:
- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| D-44 85mm Field Gun | FA-25 |
|---------------------|-------|



- (a) FO's transport may be replaced by:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| IV-13 (ACRV-1) Artillery Command Vehicle | FA-14 |
| BTR-60 PU Armoured Command Vehicle | FA-12 |
| GAZ-469A Light Utility | FA-21 |

- (b) Reduce the strength of the MRL Battery of a FAPLA Infantry Brigade (BG-FA02) to **x2** BM-21.

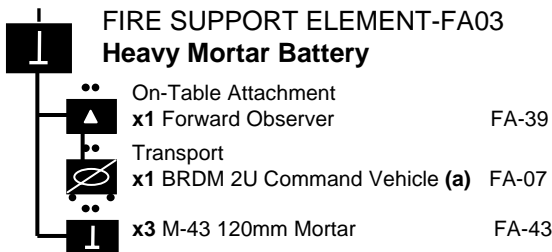


- (a) FO's transport may be replaced by:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| IV-13 (ACRV-1) Artillery Command Vehicle | FA-14 |
| BTR-60 PU Armoured Command Vehicle | FA-12 |
| GAZ-469A Light Utility | FA-21 |



- (a) May replace all M-46 130mm guns with:
- M-31/37 122mm Howitzer
 - M-43 152mm Howitzer
 - BM-24 240mm Multiple Rocket Launcher

- (b) The battalion may be split into three batteries, each of three weapons. The battalion and its constituent batteries is a General Fire Support Element and may only be called in by a Brigade/Regiment Forward Observer as General Support.



- (a) FO's transport may be replaced by:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| IV-13 (ACRV-1) Artillery Command Vehicle | FA-14 |
| BTR-60 PU Armoured Command Vehicle | FA-12 |
| GAZ-469A Light Utility | FA-21 |

FAPLA Card List & Model Availability

Model Manufacturers are annotated as follows: PP = Peter Pig, SOG = Skytrex/Old Glory, QRF = Quick Reaction Force, R = Revell, BH/QC = Battle Honours/Quality Castings, BF = Battlefront Miniatures and ? = No model known in 15mm/1:100th.

FA-01	PT-76 Light Tank	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-02	T34/85 Medium Tank	SOG, QRF, PP, BH/QC, BF
FA-03	T54/55A Main Battle Tank	SOG, QRF, PP, BH/QC
FA-04	T62A Main Battle Tank	QRF, BH/QC
FA-05	SU-100 Assault Gun	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-06	BRDM-2 Armoured Car	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-07	BRDM-2U Command Armoured Car	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-08	BRDM AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM Vehicle	QRF
FA-09	BTR-152 Armoured Personnel Carrier	SOG, QRF, PP
FA-10	BTR-50PK Armoured Personnel Carrier	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-11	BTR-60PB Armoured Personnel Carrier	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-12	BTR-60PU Armoured Command Vehicle	SOG, QRF
FA-13	BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicle	QRF
FA-14	IV-13 Artillery Command/Recce Vehicle (ACRV-1)	SOG, QRF
FA-15	ZSU-57-2 Antiaircraft Vehicle	QRF
FA-16	ZSU-23-4 Antiaircraft Vehicle	QRF, BH/QC
FA-17	SA-6 'Gainful' SAM Vehicle	QRF
FA-18	SA-8 'Gecko' SAM Vehicle	QRF
FA-19	SA-9 'Gaskin' SAM Vehicle	SOG, QRF, BH/QC
FA-20	SA-13 'Gopher' SAM Vehicle	QRF
FA-21	GAZ-469A Light Utility Vehicle	PP, QRF
FA-22	GAZ-66 Light Truck	QRF
FA-23	ZIL-157 Heavy Truck	QRF
FA-24	ZIS-3 76mm Field Gun	BF
FA-25	D-44 85mm Field Gun	QRF
FA-26	B-10 82mm Recoilless Rifle	PP, QRF, BH/QC
FA-27	B-11 107mm Recoilless Rifle	PP, QRF
FA-28	DShK 12.7mm Antiaircraft Machinegun	PP
FA-29	ZPU-1 14.5mm Antiaircraft Machinegun	PP
FA-30	ZPU-2 Twin 14.5mm Antiaircraft Machinegun	?
FA-31	ZPU-4 Quad 14.5mm Antiaircraft Machinegun	PP
FA-32	M-55 Triple 20mm Antiaircraft Gun	?
FA-33	ZU-23-2 Twin 23mm Antiaircraft Gun	QRF
FA-34	M-39 37mm Antiaircraft Gun	QRF, BF
FA-35	S-60 Twin 57mm Antiaircraft Gun	QRF
FA-36	Commander	PP
FA-37	Infantry	PP
FA-38	Combat Engineers	PP
FA-39	Forward Observer/Forward Air Controller	PP
FA-40	Guerrillas/Militia	PP
FA-41	AGS-17 Automatic 30mm Grenade Launcher	?
FA-42	AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM	QRF
FA-43	Brandt 60mm Mortar	?
FA-44	M-43 82mm Mortar	PP
FA-45	M-43 120mm Mortar	PP
FA-46	SA-7 'Grail' SAM	PP, QRF
FA-47	SA-14 'Gremlin' SAM	PP, QRF
FA-48	Mi-8/17 'Hip C/H' Utility Helicopter	QRF
FA-49	Mi-8 'Hip C' Attack Helicopter	QRF
FA-50	Mi-24 'Hind D' Attack Helicopter	QRF, R
FA-51	MiG-23 'Flogger' Fighter-Bomber	?
FA-52	BTR-40 Armoured Personnel Carrier	QRF
FA-53	MiG-15 'Fresco' Fighter-Bomber	Italeri
FA-54	D-30 122mm Field Gun	QRF

FAPLA Unit Qualities

Experienced

Some better-quality Cuban & Soviet Aircrew
Some 1st Battalions in Cuban Motor Rifle Regiments

Trained

FAPLA 1st Battalions & Artillery
Most Cuban Formations
Most Aircrew

Raw

Most FAPLA 2nd & 3rd Battalions
Most FAPLA Tank, SAM, Antiaircraft and Antitank Units
All elements of ODP Militia Brigades
All SWAPO-PLAN Formations

FAPLA Air Support Elements



Total Helicopter Support Available To FAPLA

3x Flights of Alouette III OH/UH (unarmed)
5x Flights of Mi-8 'Hip C' UH (some fitted as AH)
1x Flight of Mi-17 'Hip H' UH
6x Flights of 2x Mi-24 'Hind D' AH (from 1984)
1x Flight of 2x SA-365M Dauphin AH (from 1988)

Ground Attack Aircraft Support Available To FAPLA

Over fifty MiG-23 'Flogger' ground-attack aircraft were supplied to FAPLA from 1985 onwards, almost all of them flown by Cuban pilots. Previously the ground-attack capability consisted of MiG-17 and a few Su-22, with MiG-21 providing fighter cover.

FAPLA managed to gain air superiority over Angola in the late 1980s due to excellent radar coverage by Soviet air defence units and the rapidly-growing SAM umbrella formed by FAPLA's four Independent Antiaircraft Brigades. The SAAF had a paucity of Mirage F1 fighters with which to oppose the Cuban MiG-21s in the air superiority role and had almost no interdiction aircraft (aside from the six Buccaneers of 24 Sqn) with which to aggressively pursue an offensive counter-air and/or SAM-suppression campaign. However, the SAAF did win all of the (rare) air-to-air engagements of the war and their air-ground co-operation was excellent. However, most SAAF tactical air support missions in the late 1980s were flown at night due to the high SAM threat.

The Cuban MiG-23s meanwhile, despite their air superiority, proved very poor in the tactical air support role, mainly due to almost non-existent air-ground communications. This was allied to their habit of attacking from high altitude due to the proven threat posed by UNITA's US-supplied Stinger SAMs.

FAPLA Artillery

FAPLA Call-For-Fire

Observer Type	Organic Fire Support	Direct Fire Support	General Fire Support	Close Air Support
Forward Observer	4 or more	5 or more	8 or more	8 or more
BG Commander	5 or more	6 or more	-	-
ME Commander	5 or more	-	-	-

FAPLA Artillery Ratings

Artillery Unit Type	Template	V	TGsV	Range
ZIS-3 76mm Field Gun	Small	-1	0	210
D-44 85mm Field Gun	Small	-1	0	300
D-30 122mm Howitzer	Large	0	+1	320
D-30 122mm Howitzer (Rocket-Assisted Ammunition)	Large	-1	0	480
M-31/37 122mm Gun	Large	0	+1	320
M-46/54 130mm Gun	Large	0	+1	600
M-43/D-1 152mm Howitzer	Large	+1	+2	160
BM-21 40x122mm Grad-P Multiple Rocket Launcher	2x Large	0	+1	280
BM-24 12x240mm Multiple Rocket Launcher	2x Large	+1	+2	140
M-43 120mm Mortar	Large	0	+1	80

Amendments Incorporated Into v.2.1

Title Page – Text amended.

BG-FA01 – FACs limited to post-1985.

BG-FA02 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

BG-FA03 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. DShK option added. Portee AA option added.

BG-FA04 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. FACs limited to post-1985.

BG-FA05 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. DShK & ZPU-4 options added. SWAPO-PLAN titles corrected.

BG-FA06 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. SWAPO-PLAN titles corrected.

BG-FA07 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. DShK & ZPU-4 options added. Portee AA option added.

BG-FA08 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. DShK option added. Portee AA option added.

BG-FA09 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. References (a) & (d) deleted. AA Platoon added.

BG-FA10 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. Number of 85mm guns increased to x3. BTR-40 added.

BG-FA11 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. SWAPO-PLAN titles corrected. Reference (a) changed. References (c) & (d) deleted. DShK option added.

BG-FA12 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. SWAPO-PLAN titles corrected. References (a) & (d) deleted. AA Platoon added.

ME-FA02 – Reference letters (a), (b) & (c) added. T-72 note added.

ME-FA04 – SU-100 option added.

ME-FA05 – SU-100 option added. SWAPO-PLAN title corrected.

ME-FA08 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

ME-FA09 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

ME-FA10 – Card numbers, GAZ-469A and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA11 – Card numbers and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA12 – Card numbers and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA13 – Card numbers and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA14 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

ME-FA15 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. Reference letter (c) added.

ME-FA16 – Card numbers and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA17 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

ME-FA18 – Card numbers, GAZ-469A and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA19 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

ME-FA20 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended. SA-14 option added.

ME-FA21 – Reference letter amended.

ME-FA22 – Card numbers, GAZ-469A and SWAPO-PLAN title amended.

ME-FA23 – Card numbers amended. SA-7/14 team added.

ME-FA24 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

FSE-FA01 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

FSE-FA02 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

FSE-FA03 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

FSE-FA04 – Card numbers & GAZ-469A amended.

Amendments Incorporated into v.2.2

BG-FA04 – Cuban 50th Mechanised Division references and options added.

BG-FA10 – Antitank gun/Sagger numbers reduced.

BG-FA13 – New Cuban Reconnaissance Battalion BG created

ME-FA01 – Maximum tank numbers reduced and company strength reduced. Cuban T-62 option added.

ME-FA17 – Strength increased.

ME-FA21 – SA-13 option added.

ME-FA25 – New Assault Gun Company ME created.

ME-FA26 – New Cuban Reconnaissance Company ME created.

ME-FA27 – New Cuban Light Reconnaissance Company ME created.