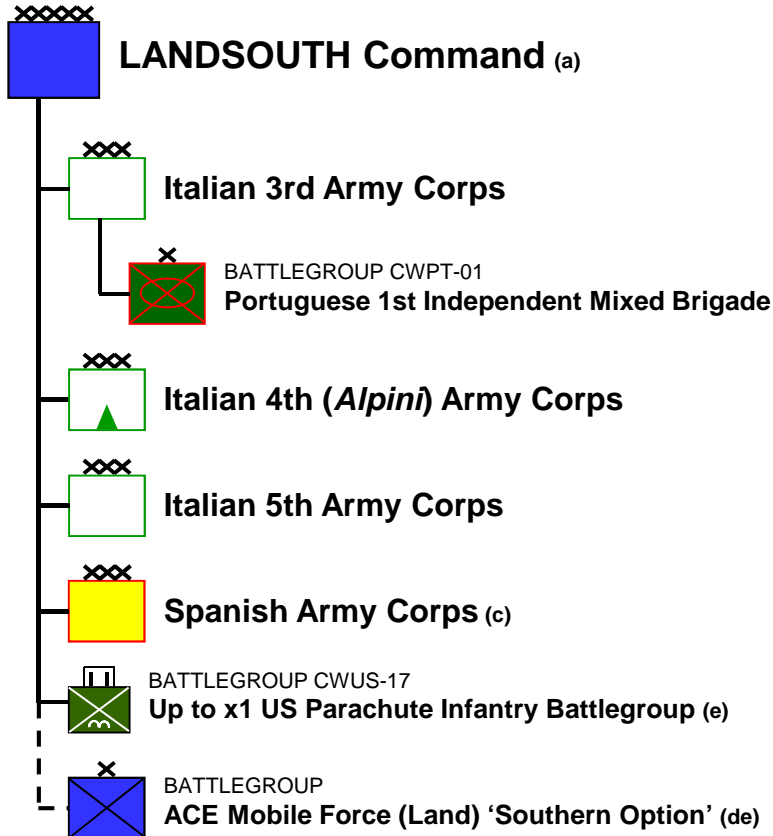


Italian Orders of Battle & TO&Es 1980-1989 v2.0

By R Mark Davies for *Battlefront: First Echelon*



(a) NATO's LANDSOUTH (Allied Land Forces Southern Europe) Command, headquartered at Verona, was responsible for the defence of north-eastern Italy against a Warsaw Pact drive through Yugoslavia or Austria. LANDSOUTH was commanded by an Italian four-star general and was subordinate to the US-led AFSOUTH, headquartered at Naples.

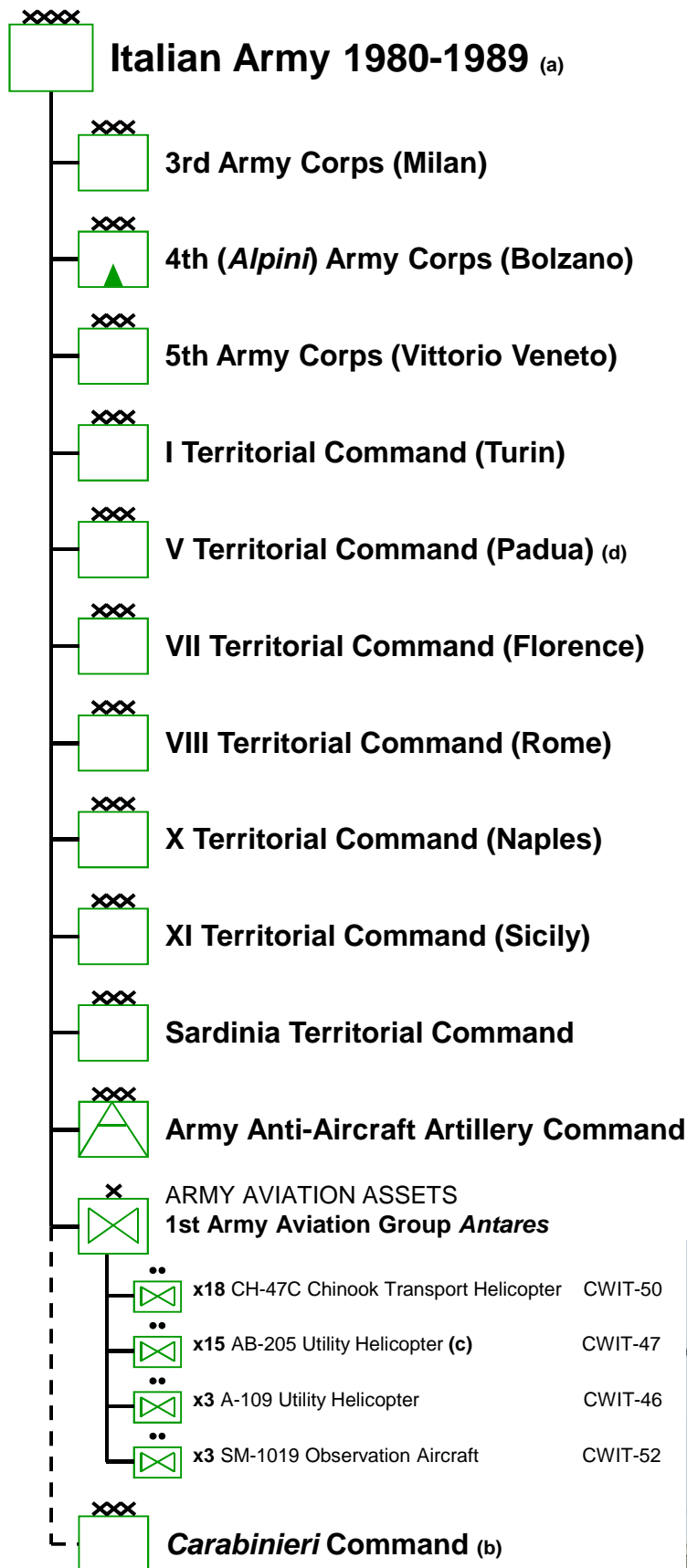
(b) Officially, only the Italian 3rd, 4th & 5th Corps were under LANDSOUTH command, though it is reasonable to presume that Territorial Command forces would also be committed to LANDSOUTH in the event of an invasion of Italy (see the full Italian Army order of battle below).

(c) Following Spain's accession to NATO in 1982, the Spanish Army was formally committed to providing a corps of two divisions plus support to LANDSOUTH. However, there were no permanent structures in place and no exercises were conducted to test this commitment, so the exact composition of the proposed Spanish Corps is unknown. Spain also made an informal commitment to send its sole Armoured Division (the *Brunete* Armoured Division) to West Germany in the event of a war with the Warsaw Pact, so it seems unlikely that this would form part of any Spanish Corps commitment to LANDSOUTH and therefore leaves a Motorised Division, a Mechanised Division and two Mountain Divisions to choose from (see the Spanish TO&Es).

(d) The Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force (Land) (or AMF(L) for short) was a British-led, multi-national rapid-reaction brigade that could in theory be deployed within a matter of days to reinforce a threatened state within the NATO area of interest. The most likely orbat for a deployment by AMF(L) to the 'Southern Flank' is shown here – the 'Northern Flank' option had a very different composition. However, note that there was considerable overlap in the command and logistical structure for each flank option, as well as the supporting Air and Sea components, so it would be very difficult for both flank options to be fully deployed simultaneously. Note also that there was no guarantee that AMF(L) would be deployed to Italy; the most likely option was Turkey. Nonetheless, AMF(L) did hold regular exercises in Italy. Note that each battlegroup would bring organic artillery, aviation and other combat support elements with it.

(e) The US 3-325th Parachute Infantry Battalion was permanently based in Vicenza, Italy. However, it reported to two masters, being simultaneously committed to both LANDSOUTH and AMF(L). AMF(L) 'Southern Option' missions would have taken priority over LANDSOUTH.





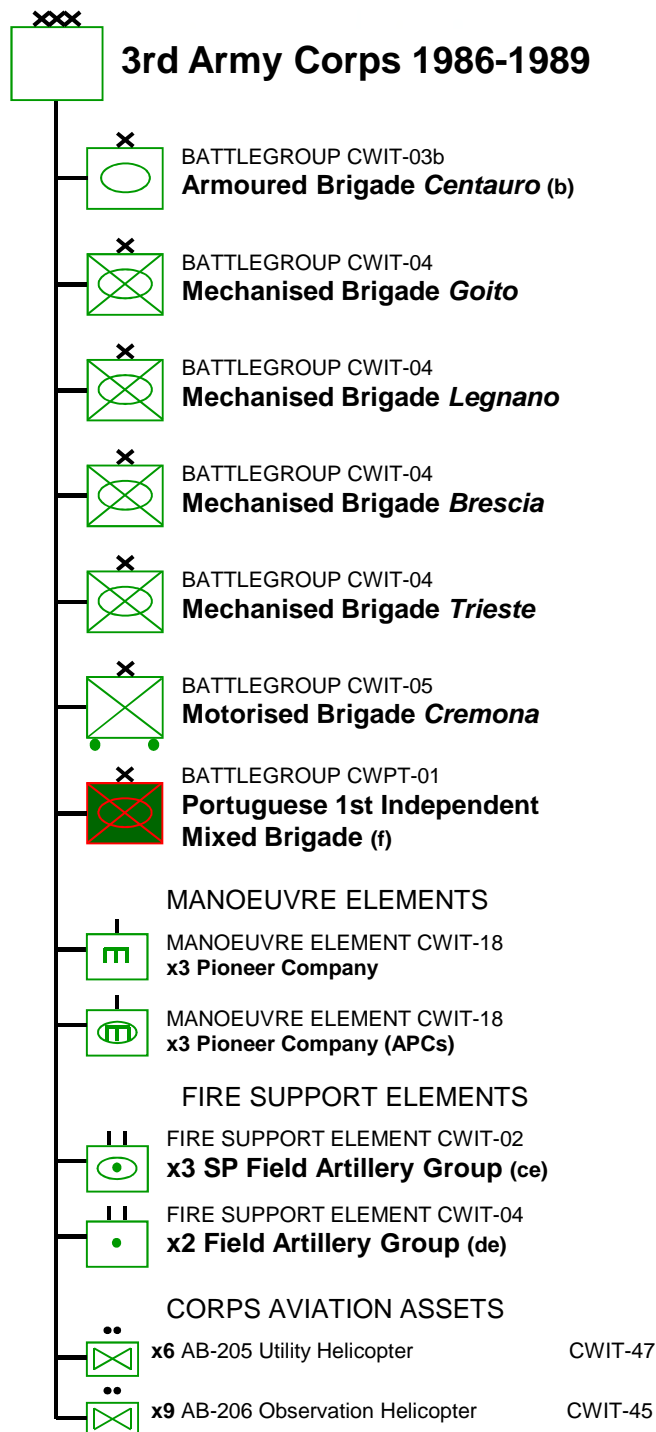
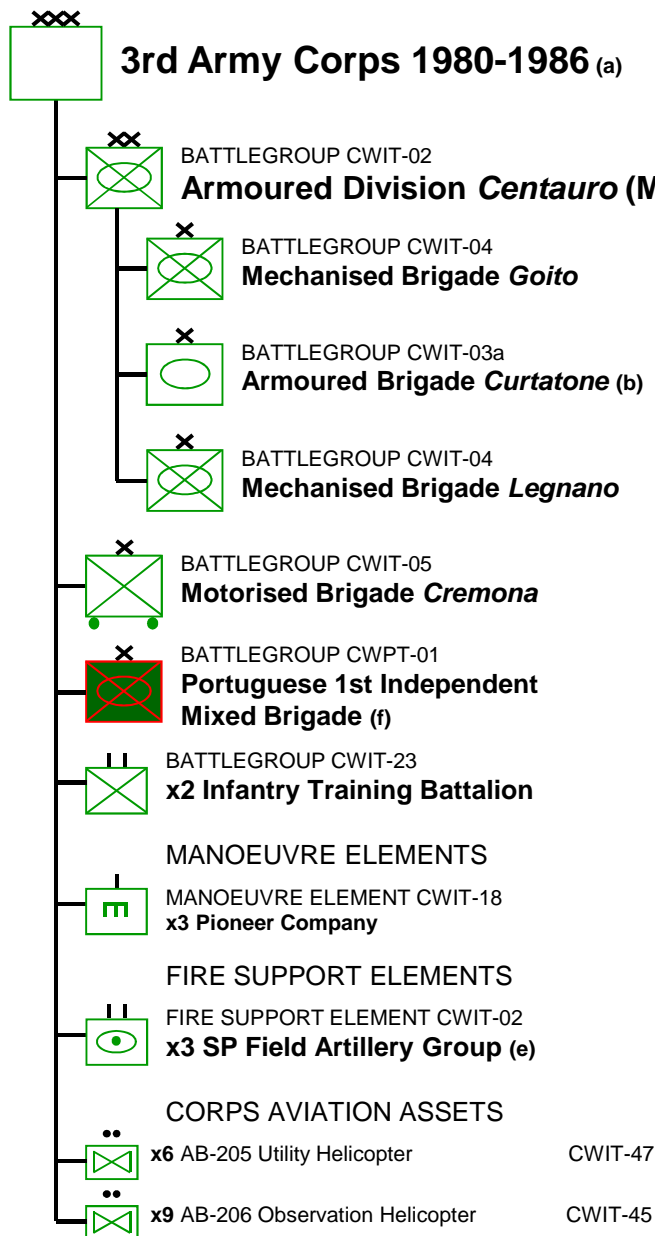
(a) In 1986, a wide-ranging reorganisation saw the disbandment of Divisions, with all Brigades becoming independent and reporting directly to the Corps HQs.

(b) The *Carabinieri* are Italy's paramilitary gendarmerie. In wartime, the *Carabinieri* would mainly have been allocated to rear-area and local defence, though some elements (mainly the armoured and parachute units) served under the regular Army command structure.

(c) One squadron of **x3** AB-205s spent much of the 1980s assigned to UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. From 1988 all these AB-205 (Italian-built UH-1H Iroquois) helicopters were upgraded to the more capable AB-412 model, though only two of the five squadrons had been re-equipped by the end of 1989. From 1988: May therefore replace up to **x6** AB-205 with:
 AB-412 Utility Helicopter CWIT-49

(d) The V Territorial Corps at Padua had no significant combat units assigned in peacetime beyond a few signals and transport units. It would probably have been filled out during wartime with the call-up of reservists.





(a) The 3rd Corps was stationed mainly in the north-west of Italy and was the army's mobile reserve

(b) The *Centauro* Division held the historical title of 'Armoured', though was in fact a Mechanised Division. With the disbandment of the division in 1986, the *Curtatone* Armoured Brigade was renamed *Centauro* in order to keep the famous name in service.

(c) Some sources show x2 SP Field Artillery Regiments, but this is because the Italian Army began disbanding units very rapidly as soon as the political situation started to swing against the communists in late 1989. Consequently some were already disbanded by the end of 1989 and are not listed in these sources.

(d) These Field Artillery Regiments were equipped with FH-70 155mm Howitzers.

(e) The Italian Army actually referred to 155mm artillery as Heavy Artillery. However, to save confusion we've stuck with the US/UK convention of referring to 155mm as Field Artillery and anything heavier as Heavy.

(f) The Portuguese 1st Independent Mixed Brigade was committed to joining LANDSOUTH during mobilisation for war with the Warsaw Pact. It was to come under 3rd Corps.



4th (*Alpini*) Army Corps 1980-1989 ^(a)



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-06
Alpini* Brigade *Cadore



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-06
Alpini* Brigade *Julia



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-06
***Alpini* Brigade *Orobica* ^(b)**



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-06
***Alpini* Brigade *Taurinense* ^(c)**



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-06
Alpini* Brigade *Tridentina



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-11
x1 Armoured Battalion ^(e)



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-12
x1 *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion ^(d)

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWIT-18
x6 Pioneer Company ^(f)



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWIT-10
x1 Parachute Infantry Company

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CWIT-02
Up to x1 SP Field Artillery Group ^(gi)



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CWIT-04
Up to x3 Field Artillery Group ^(hi)

CORPS AVIATION ASSETS



x9 AB-205 Utility Helicopter CWIT-47



x15 AB-206 Observation Helicopter CWIT-45



x3 SM-1019 Observation Aircraft CWIT-52

(a) 4th Corps was mainly stationed in the north-east of Italy and was responsible for defending the Alpine approaches into Italy from Austria and Yugoslavia, and to a lesser extent, Switzerland, thus covering the left flank of the 5th Corps as it conducted a fighting withdrawal into the North Italian Plain.

(b) The *Orobica* Brigade had a highly classified wartime mission: In the event of a Warsaw Pact invasion of Austria, there was a secret agreement that the brigade would advance into Austria along with the West German 23rd Gebirgsjäger Brigade, to assist in the defence of that country.

(c) The *Taurinense* Brigade was the 4th Corps' reserve formation and was stationed in Turin, near the French border. Its primary role was to assist in halting deep penetrations of northern Italy and as a last resort, to assist French Alpine units in preventing a Soviet breakthrough from Italy into France. It was also tasked with providing an *Alpini* Battalion and other support elements (plus some from the *Folgore* Parachute Brigade) to the *Cuneense* Detachment, which was Italy's contribution to AMF(L)'s 'Northern Option'.

(d) This *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion was equipped with M47 tanks throughout the 1980s.

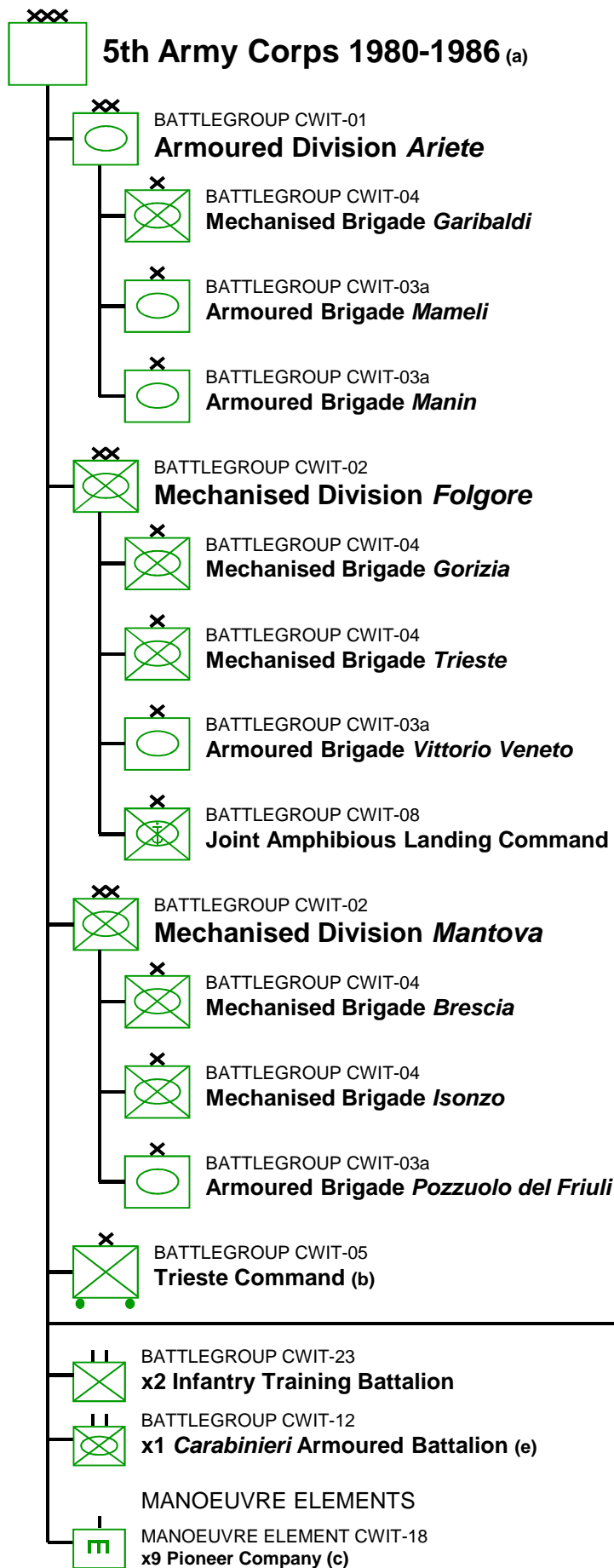
(e) This armoured unit was equipped with Leopard 1A2 tanks and M113 APCs (one source from 1984 says VCC-2 APCs).

(f) Three of these Pioneer Companies were designated as mining companies and did not have Leopard engineering vehicles or APCs. The remaining three Pioneer Companies did have Leopard engineering vehicles, but no APCs.

(g) This SP Artillery Group was disbanded with the 1986 reorganisation.

(h) These Field Artillery Groups (of the 4th Field Artillery Regiment) were equipped with FH-70 155mm Howitzers.

(i) The Italian Army actually referred to 155mm artillery as Heavy Artillery. However, to save confusion we've stuck with the US/UK convention of referring to 155mm as Field Artillery and anything heavier as Heavy.



(a) The 5th Corps was stationed in the north-east of Italy and held the bulk of Italy's land combat power. It's primary role was to defeat an attack by Warsaw Pact (and/or Yugoslav) forces into Italy via Yugoslavia or Austria. In 1986 the Corps was reorganised, with divisional HQs being disbanded and all brigades reporting directly to Corps HQ.

(b) The Trieste Command was created shortly after WW2, with the primary role of defending the disputed city of Trieste against Yugoslavian ambitions. However, tensions with Yugoslavia were reduced with time and as a consequence, the Trieste Command was steadily reduced in strength. Tensions eased even further following the Yugoslav dictator Tito's death in 1980 and the Trieste Command was finally disbanded during the 1986 reorganisations.

(c) Three of these Pioneer Companies were roled as miners/tunnellers and therefore lacked AFVs, including Leopard engineering vehicles. The remaining six companies had Leopard Pioneer tanks and bridgelayers.

(d) The *Aquileia* Missile Brigade also included heavy (nuclear-capable) artillery units.

(e) This *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion was equipped with Leopard tanks throughout the 1980s.



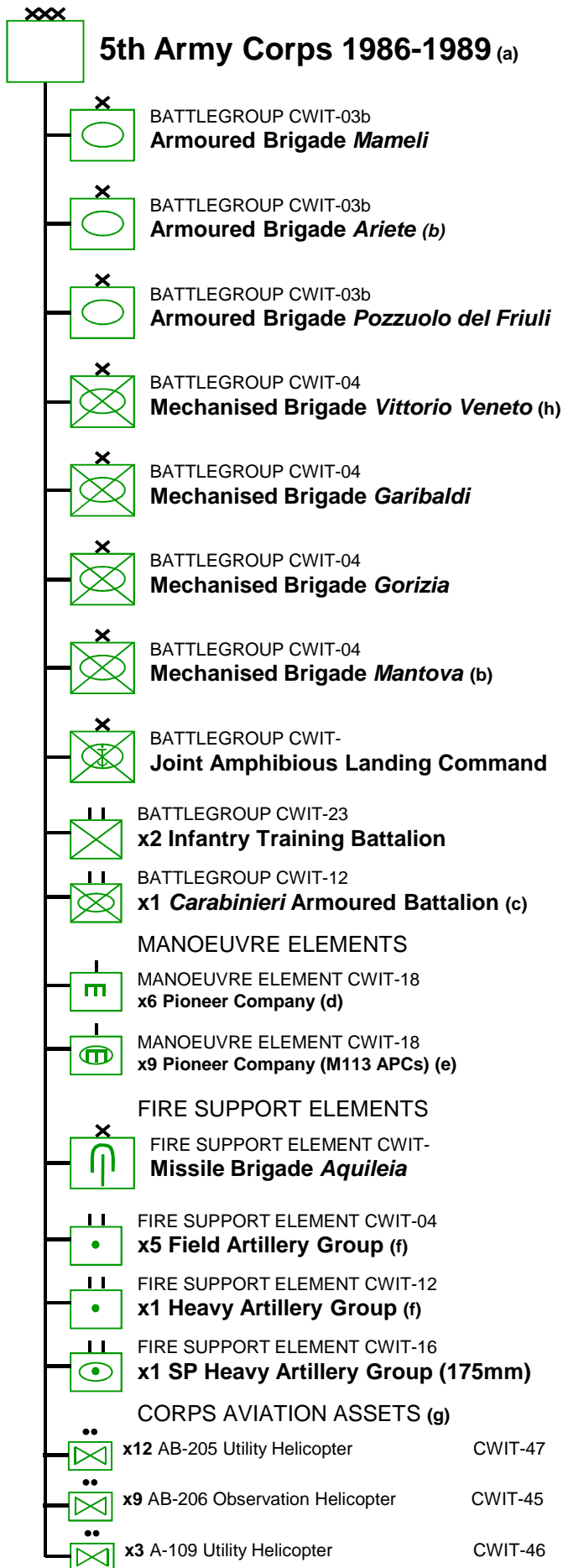
FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS

**FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CWIT-
Missile Brigade *Aquileia* (d)**

CORPS AVIATION ASSETS

x9 AB-205 Utility Helicopter CWIT-47

x9 AB-206 Observation Helicopter CWIT-45



(a) The 5th Corps was stationed in the north-east of Italy and held the bulk of Italy's land combat power. It's primary role was to defeat an attack by Warsaw Pact (and/or Yugoslav) forces into Italy via Yugoslavia or Austria.

(b) With the disbandment of divisions in 1986, the titles of the historically-significant *Ariete* and *Mantova* Divisions were preserved by re-naming the *Manin* Armoured Brigade as *Ariete* and the *Isonzo* Mechanised Brigade as *Mantova*.

(c) This *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion was equipped with Leopard tanks throughout the 1980s.

(d) Three of these Pioneer Companies were roled as miners/tunnellers and therefore lacked AFVs, including Leopard engineering vehicles. The remaining three companies had Leopard Pioneer tanks and bridgelayers.

(e) These Pioneer Companies were equipped with M113 APCs, having previously been the divisional pioneers for the disbanded Armoured and Mechanised Divisions.

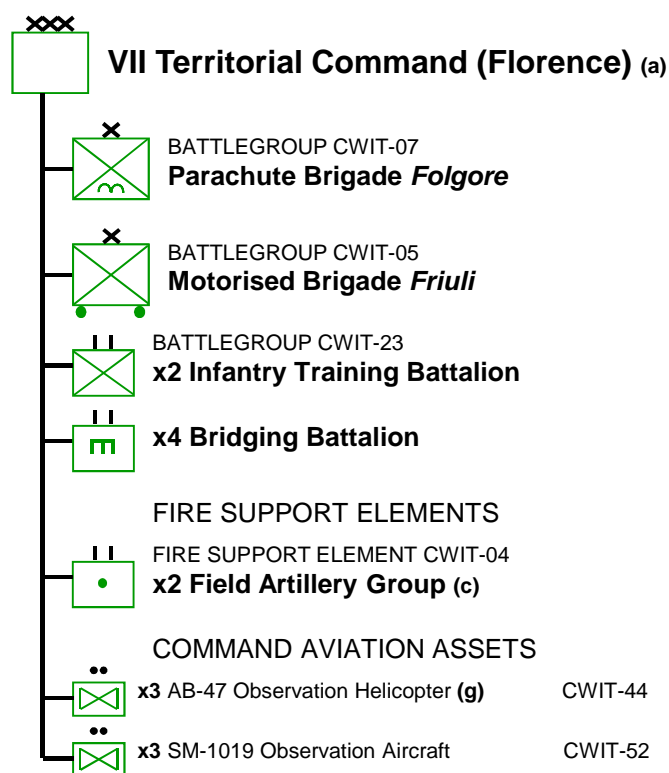
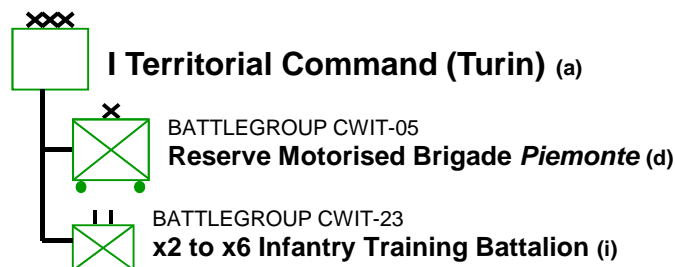
(f) Four of these Artillery Groups was equipped with FH-70 155mm Howitzers, while the fifth was equipped with M114 155m Howitzers. Note that the Italian Army refers to these as Heavy Artillery, though we've adhered to the US/UK convention of referring to 155mm guns as Field Artillery, with 175mm and 203mm being Heavy Artillery.

(g) In the late 1980s, the 5th Corps' Aviation Command was preparing to receive its first squadron of A-129 *Mangusta* Attack Helicopters, the first squadron of which was formed in 1990. Prototype *Mangusta* had been on field trials with 5th Corps since 1986, so in the event of a war in the late 1980s, it's not totally beyond the realms of possibility to add a single flight of attack helicopters:

Up to x6 A-129 *Mangusta* Attack Helicopter CWIT-51

(h) The *Vittorio Veneto* Brigade was changed from Armoured to Mechanised during the 1986 reorganisaions.



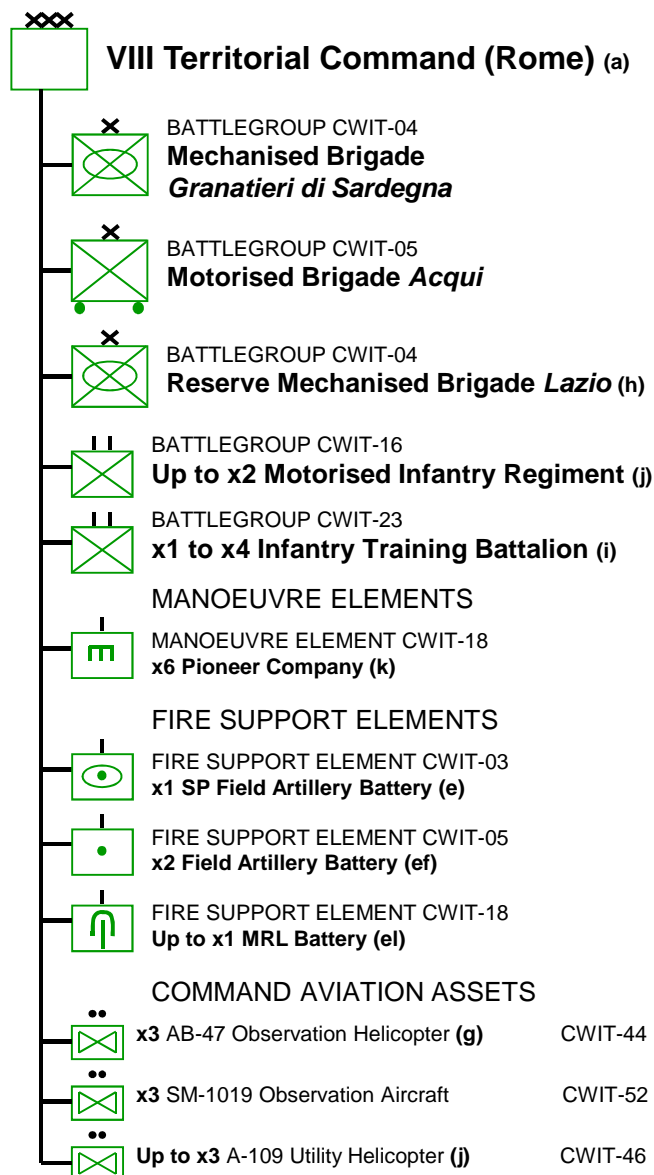


(a) The primary role of Territorial Commands was to coordinate, train, equip and organise new formations that would be created from a mass call-up of reservists (the first tranche of whom would immediately double the size of the army, with the remainder then tripling the peacetime strength of the army). Consequently, many of the Commands shown here look somewhat empty, but given time, these would become new Army Corps, albeit with largely obsolete equipment. Regular army units not assigned to the permanent Army Corps were also usually assigned to Territorial Commands.

(b) The V Territorial Command had no significant combat units in peacetime, beyond a few signals and transport units.

(c) These Field Artillery Groups are equipped with M114 155m Howitzers.

(d) The *Piemonte* Brigade only existed as a small cadre in peacetime and was to be formed on mobilisation from the *Aosta* Alpine Training School, volunteers and called up reservists. As it contains some *Alpini* elements it is sometimes referred to as an *Alpini* Brigade.



(e) These are artillery training units. Some of them would have gone to the *Lazio* Brigade on mobilisation.

(f) One of these Field Batteries was equipped with M114 155mm Howitzers and the other was equipped with FH-70 155mm Howitzers.

(g) May replace AB-47 Light Observation Helicopters with:
AB-406 Light Observation Helicopter CWIT-45

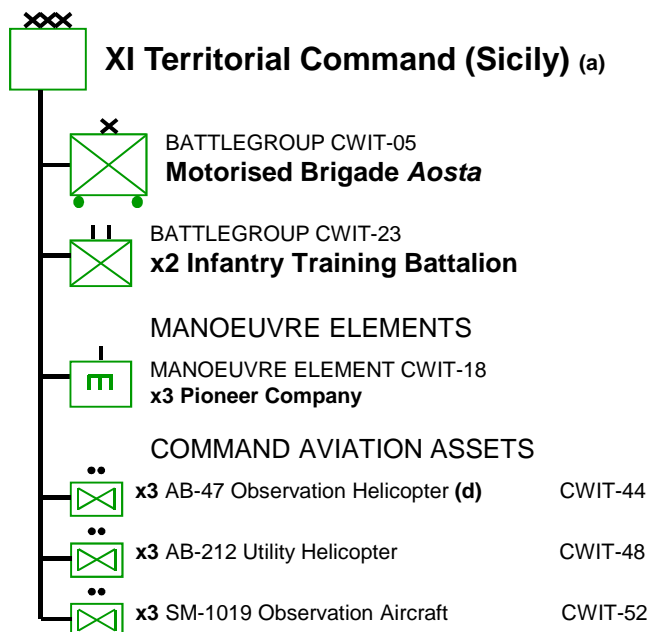
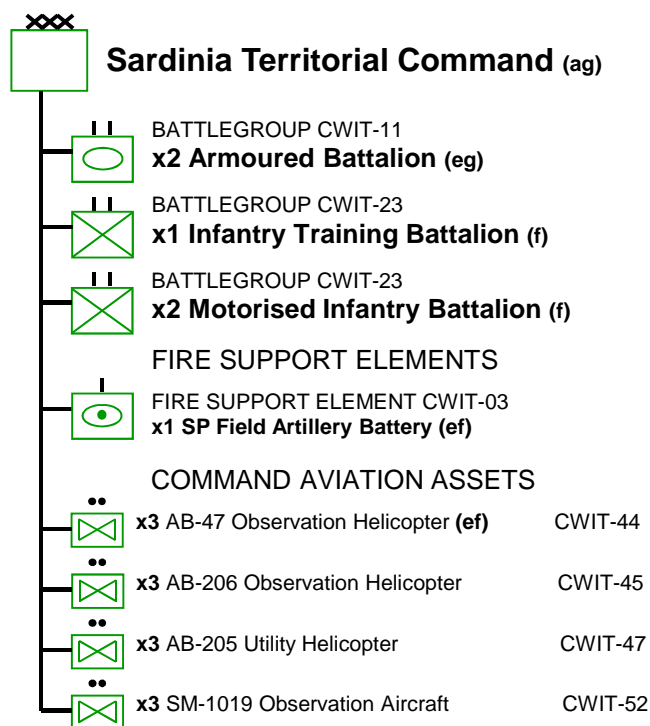
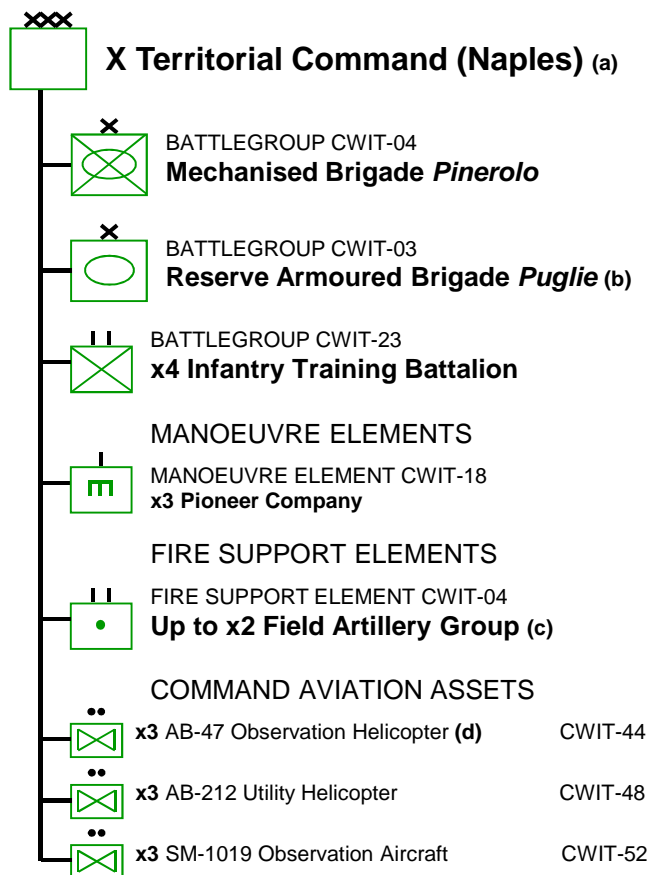
(h) The *Lazio* Brigade only existed as a small cadre in peacetime, but would be formed immediately on mobilisation from a regular armoured unit (Leopard), a regular mechanised unit and various armour, mechanised, artillery and pioneer training units within VIII Territorial Command, as well as called-up reservists.

(i) The number of Training Battalions in the Territorial Commands increased following the 1986 reorganisations, as responsibility for training units mainly passed from the front-line formations to the Territorial Commands (use the higher number from 1986 onward).

(j) These units were formed after the 1986 reorganisations.

(k) These are pioneer training units.

(l) The MRL Training Battery was formed in 1987.



(a) The primary role of Territorial Commands was to coordinate, train, equip and organise new formations that would be created from a mass call-up of reservists (the first tranche of whom would immediately double the size of the army, with the remainder then tripling the peacetime strength of the army). Consequently, many of the Commands shown here look somewhat empty, but given time, these would become new Army Corps, albeit with largely obsolete equipment. Regular army units not assigned to the permanent Army Corps were also usually assigned to Territorial Commands.

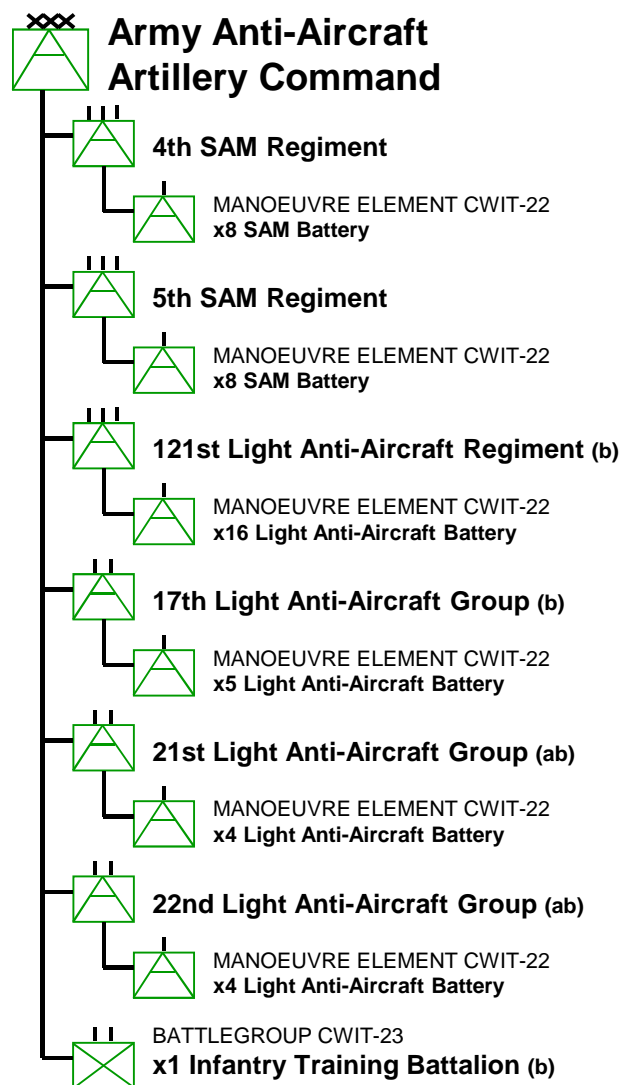
(b) The *Puglie* Armoured Brigade existed only as a small cadre in peacetime, though would be formed immediately upon mobilisation from two armoured training units (equipped with obsolete M47 tanks and M113 APCs) and other elements within X Territorial Command, as well as called-up reservists.

(c) These Field Artillery Groups are equipped with M114 155m Howitzers. Prior to 1986 there was only x1 Field Artillery Group in X Territorial Command, increased to x3 with the 1986 reorganisations. One of these would be assigned to the *Lazio* Armoured Brigade.

(d) May replace AB-47 Light Observation Helicopters with:
AB-406 Light Observation Helicopter CWIT-45

(e) These armoured units had only x1 Armoured Squadron (Leopard) apiece and the infantry component was equipped with M113 APCs. The SP Field Artillery Battery and AB-47 Helicopter Squadron was also under their command. One unit was manned permanently, while the second unit would be formed during mobilisation for war.

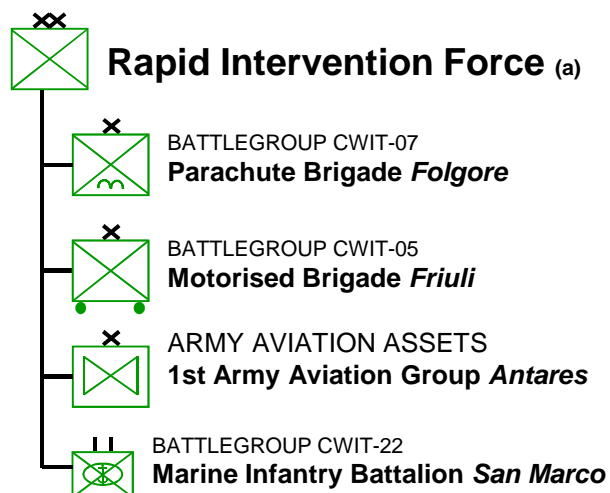
(f) From 1988, most of these assets were combined as a 'heavy' Reserve Motorised Brigade entitled the Motorised Brigade *Sassari*. As the organisation would be radically different to a standard Motorised Brigade, I have not included it in the Motorised Brigade TO&E (BG CWIT-05).



(a) These units only existed as small cadres in peacetime. They would be filled out by reservists during mobilisation for war.

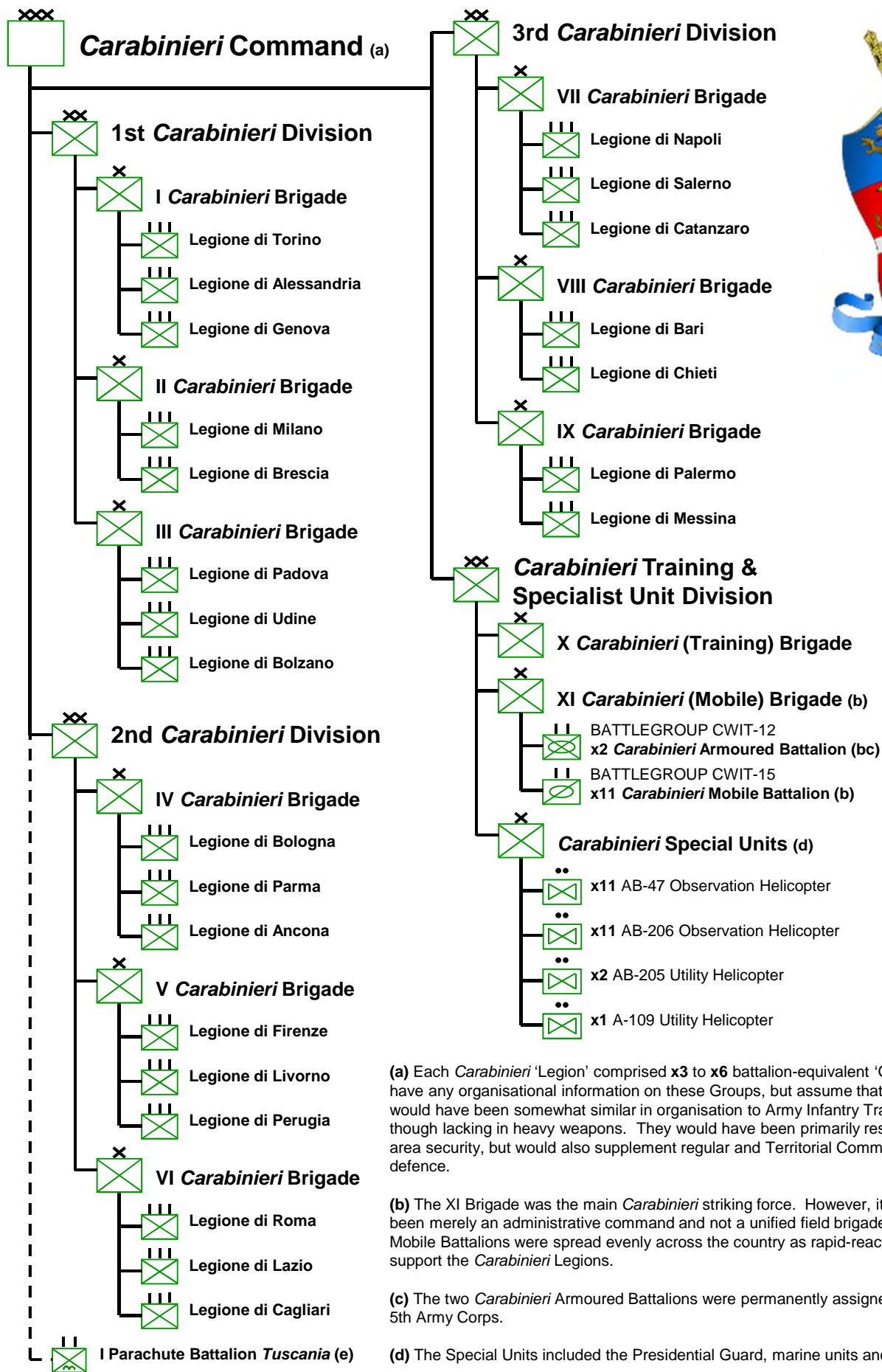
(b) In wartime these units would be broke up into unit attachments to provide close air defence for Battlegroups (the *Alpini* and Parachute Brigades were the only formations with their own organic air defence units).

(c) This infantry training unit would provide close security for the Command's sub-units.



(a) The Italian Rapid Intervention Force was formed in 1986 from the above-named units. Note however, that this was not a permanent grouping – they would only be brought together for training and in the event of the deployment of the Force.





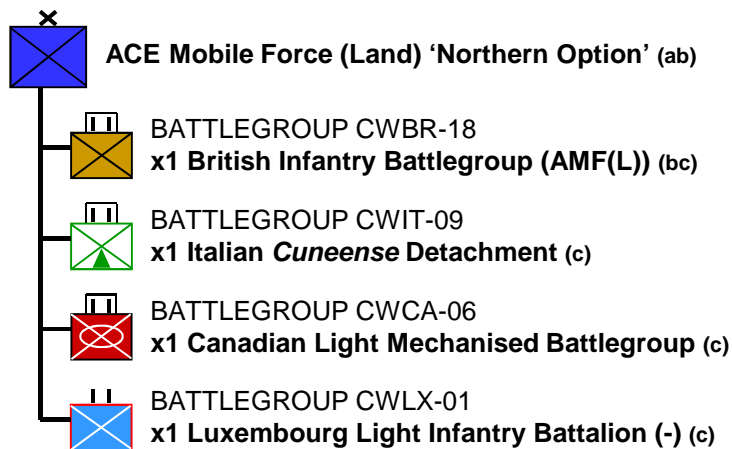
(a) Each *Carabinieri* 'Legion' comprised **x3** to **x6** battalion-equivalent 'Groups'. I don't have any organisational information on these Groups, but assume that in wartime they would have been somewhat similar in organisation to Army Infantry Training Battalions, though lacking in heavy weapons. They would have been primarily responsible for rear-area security, but would also supplement regular and Territorial Command troops in local defence.

(b) The XI Brigade was the main *Carabinieri* striking force. However, it appears to have been merely an administrative command and not a unified field brigade. It seems that the Mobile Battalions were spread evenly across the country as rapid-reaction units to support the *Carabinieri* Legions.

(c) The two *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalions were permanently assigned to the 4th and 5th Army Corps.

(d) The Special Units included the Presidential Guard, marine units and various others.

(e) The Parachute Battalion was permanently assigned to the *Folgore* Parachute Brigade.



(a) The Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force (Land) (or AMF(L) for short) was a multi-national rapid-reaction brigade that could in theory be deployed within a matter of days to reinforce a threatened state within the NATO area of interest. There were also Sea and Air components. In all, fourteen NATO member states supplied forces to AMF, though the main contributors of ground combat units to AMF(L) were the UK, Canada, USA, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg. Logistical limitations meant that only part of this force could be brought to bear in one spot, so each nation was given areas of responsibility. The most likely operational areas for AMF(L) were the 'Southern Flank' (most likely Italy or Turkey) and the 'Northern Flank' (most likely Norway). The most likely orbat for each flank is shown here. Note that there was considerable overlap in the command and logistical structure for each flank, as well as the supporting Air and Sea components, so it would be very difficult for both 'options' to be fully deployed simultaneously.

(b) Command for AMF(L) was exercised by the UK, who supplied the major part of the headquarters element, as well as the combat support arms shown here.

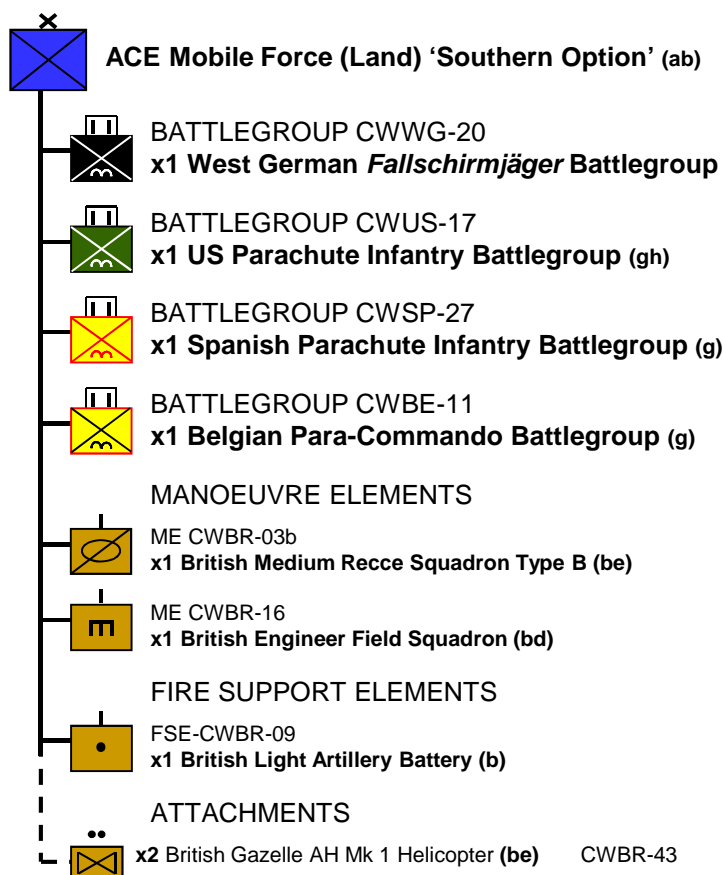
(c) The 'Northern Option' forces all had considerable quantities of Arctic warfare equipment and vehicles stored in Norwegian depots. The Italian Army would provide an *Alpini* Battalion and an antitank company from the *Taurinense* Brigade (4th Corps), along with artillery and other supporting elements from the *Folgore* Parachute Brigade. This combined group was entitled the *Cuneense* Detachment.

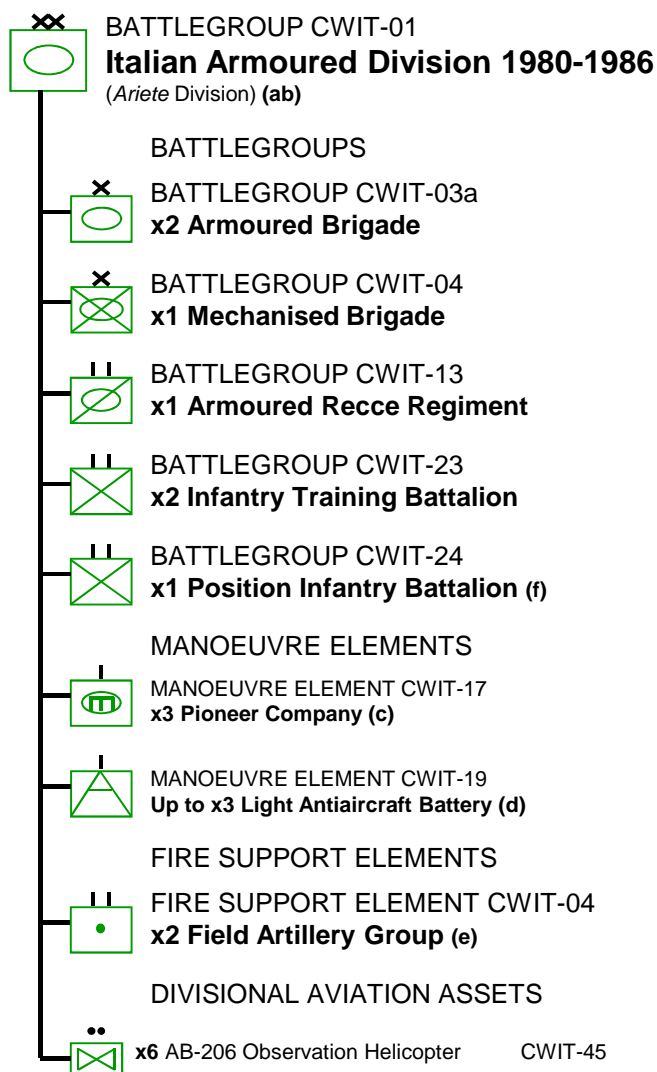
(d) This British Engineer Field Squadron had softskin transport in lieu of APCs.

(e) From 1983: Replace with British Medium Recce Squadron (Tracked UK) (ME CWBR-03d).

(g) While I have good orbat information for the British, Canadian, West German, Italian and Luxembourg contingents, it is not clear what supporting arms the other national contingents would have brought with them. Most contingents certainly included airborne artillery and these would probably become brigade-level assets, alongside the British artillery.

(h) The US 3-325th Parachute Infantry Battalion was permanently based in Vicenza, Italy. However, it reported to two masters, being simultaneously committed to both LANDSOUTH and AMF(L). AMF(L) 'Southern Option' missions would probably have taken priority over LANDSOUTH.





(a) In 1986 the divisions were disbanded, with the Independent Brigade now becoming the basic formation of manoeuvre, with each reporting directly to a Corps HQ (many other NATO armies have since adopted a similar organisational structure).

(b) The *Ariete* Armoured Division, as Italy's only Armoured Division, formed part of 5th Corps, which was the main armoured striking force and was stationed in north-eastern Italy.

(c) *Genio Guastatori* are armoured assault pioneers.

(d) These Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries were not organic to the division. They would be attached to each formation from the centralised Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command.

(e) At the very start of the 1980s, these Field Artillery Regiments were actually self-propelled and equipped with M109s as per FSE CWIT-02. However, they were already in the process of re-equipping to towed FH-70 155mm Howitzers and this process was completed by 1981. This then allowed the Brigades to re-equip with M109s.

(f) Position Infantry Battalions were tasked with defending mountain fortress positions within the formation's area of responsibility.



BATTLEGROUP CWIT-02
Italian Mechanised Division 1980-1986
 (Centauro, Mantova and Folgore Divisions) (ab)



BATTLEGROUPS

BATTLEGROUP CWIT-03a
x1 Armoured Brigade

BATTLEGROUP CWIT-04
x2 Mechanised Brigade

BATTLEGROUP CWIT-08
Up to x1 Joint Amphibious
Landing Command (c)

BATTLEGROUP CWIT-13
x1 Armoured Recce Regiment

BATTLEGROUP CWIT-23
x1 or x2 Infantry Training Battalion (f)

BATTLEGROUP CWIT-24
Up to x1 Position Infantry Battalion (f)

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWIT-17
x3 Guastatori Company (d)

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWIT-19
Up to x3 Light Anti-aircraft Battery (e)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CWIT-04
x2 Field Artillery Group (e)

DIVISIONAL AVIATION ASSETS

x6 AB-206 Observation Helicopter CWIT-45

(a) In 1986 the divisions were disbanded, with the Independent Brigade now becoming the basic formation of manoeuvre, with each reporting directly to a Corps HQ (many other NATO armies have since adopted a similar organisational structure).

(b) The *Centauro* Armoured Division (Mechanised) was assigned to 3rd Corps, while the *Mantova* and *Folgore* Mechanised Divisions belonged to 5th Corps. (N.B. do not confuse the *Folgore* Mechanised Division with the *Folgore* Airborne Brigade – or for that matter, the *Folgore* antitank weapon!).

(c) The Joint Amphibious Landing Command belonged to the *Folgore* Mechanised Division and was primarily organised around the *Lagunari*, who are the Italian Army's own 'Marine Corps'. Equipped with LVTP-7 amphibious landing vehicles and other armoured vehicles, their role was to protect the right flank of 5th Corps in the lagoon areas of Venice and Grado. On paper, this brigade looks very weak, but the 'secret ingredient' is the Italian Navy's *San Marco* Marine Battalion, which is organised and equipped very similarly to the *Lagunari* and can be easily slotted into the brigade as required by the mission (hence 'Joint').

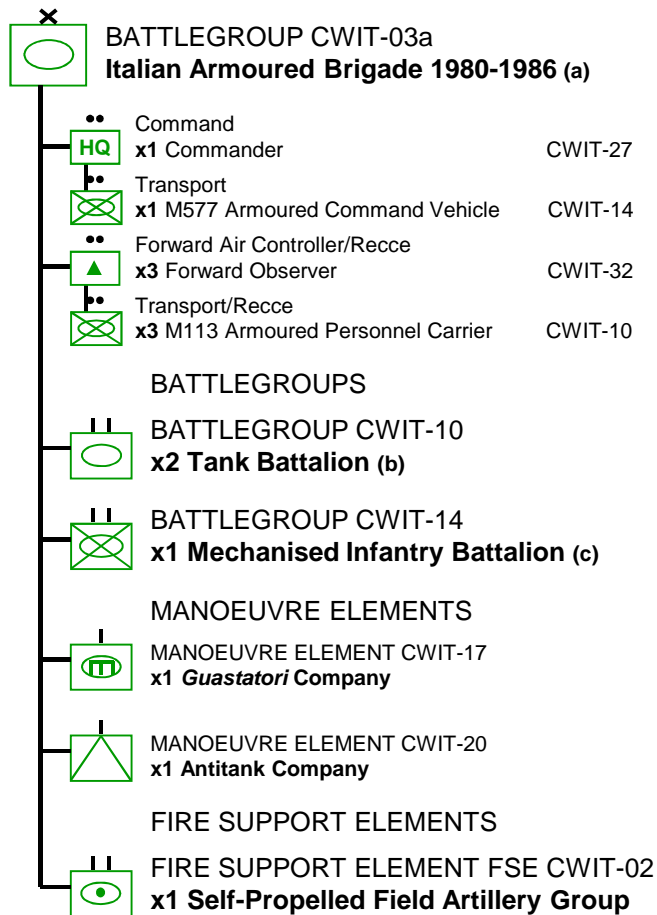
(d) *Genio Guastatori* are armoured assault pioneers.

(e) These Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries were not organic to the division. They would be attached to each formation from the centralised Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command.

(e) At the very start of the 1980s, these Field Artillery Regiments were actually self-propelled and equipped with M109s as per FSE CWIT-02. However, they were already in the process of re-equipping to towed FH-70 155mm Howitzers and this process was completed by 1981. This then allowed the Brigades to re-equip with M109s.

(f) Position Infantry Battalions were tasked with defending mountain fortress positions within the formation's area of responsibility. The *Folgore* Mechanised Division had x1 such battalion (and only x1 Infantry Training Battalion).

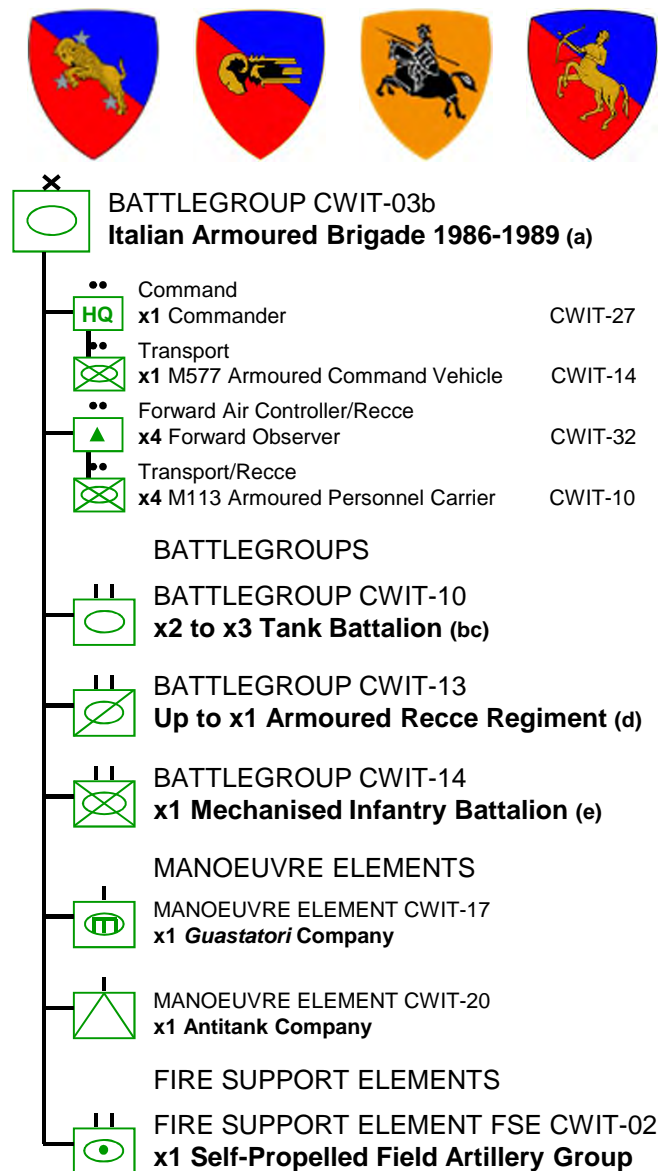




(a) This TO&E shows the organisation of Armoured Brigades prior to the 1986 reorganisation, when divisions were disbanded and all brigades became independent formations.

(b) Reserve Armoured Brigades raised during mobilisation such as the *Puglie* Armoured Brigade would probably have a lower number of tanks. In which case, replace the Tank Battalions with **Armoured Battalions** (BG CWIT-11). They might also have a single SP Artillery Battery (FSE CWIT-03) instead of a full SP Artillery Group.

(c) Note that some Mechanised 'Infantry' Regiments held historical cavalry regimental titles (e.g. the *Genova Cavalleria* which was the Mechanised Regiment assigned to *Pozzuolo del Friuli* Armoured Brigade). This cavalry title was merely historical and does not indicate that they were reconnaissance troops or armour.



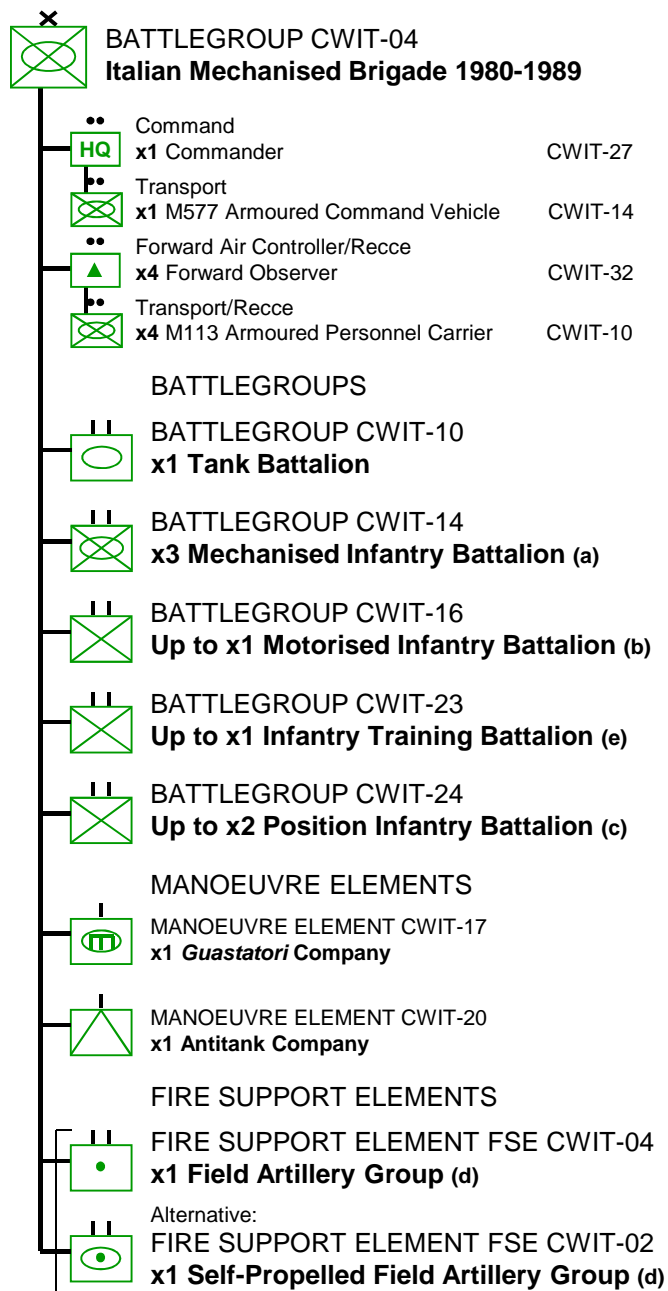
(a) This TO&E shows the organisation of Armoured Brigades prior to the 1986 reorganisation, when divisions were disbanded and all brigades became independent formations.

(b) Reserve Armoured Brigades raised during mobilisation such as the *Puglie* Armoured Brigade would probably have a lower number of tanks. In which case, replace the Tank Battalions with **Armoured Battalions** (BG CWIT-11). They might also have a single SP Artillery Battery (FSE CWIT-03) instead of a full SP Artillery Group.

(c) The *Ariete* Armoured Brigade (5th Corps) had **x3** Tank Battalions. All other Armoured Brigades had **x2** Tank Battalions.

(d) The *Mameli* and *Pozzuolo del Friuli* Armoured Brigades (5th Corps) each had **x1** Armoured Cavalry Regiment in addition to their **x2** Tank Battalions. These were the Italian Army's only formation reconnaissance regiments after the 1986 reorganisation, which meant a net loss of **x2** such regiments.

(e) Note that some Mechanised 'Infantry' Regiments held historical cavalry regimental titles (e.g. the *Genova Cavalleria* which was the Mechanised Regiment assigned to *Pozzuolo del Friuli* Armoured Brigade). This cavalry title was merely historical and does not indicate that they were reconnaissance troops or armour.



(a) Note that some Mechanised 'Infantry' Regiments held historical cavalry regimental titles (e.g. the *Genova Cavalleria* which was the Mechanised Regiment assigned to *Pozzuolo del Friuli* Armoured Brigade). This cavalry title was merely historical and does not indicate that they were reconnaissance troops or armour.

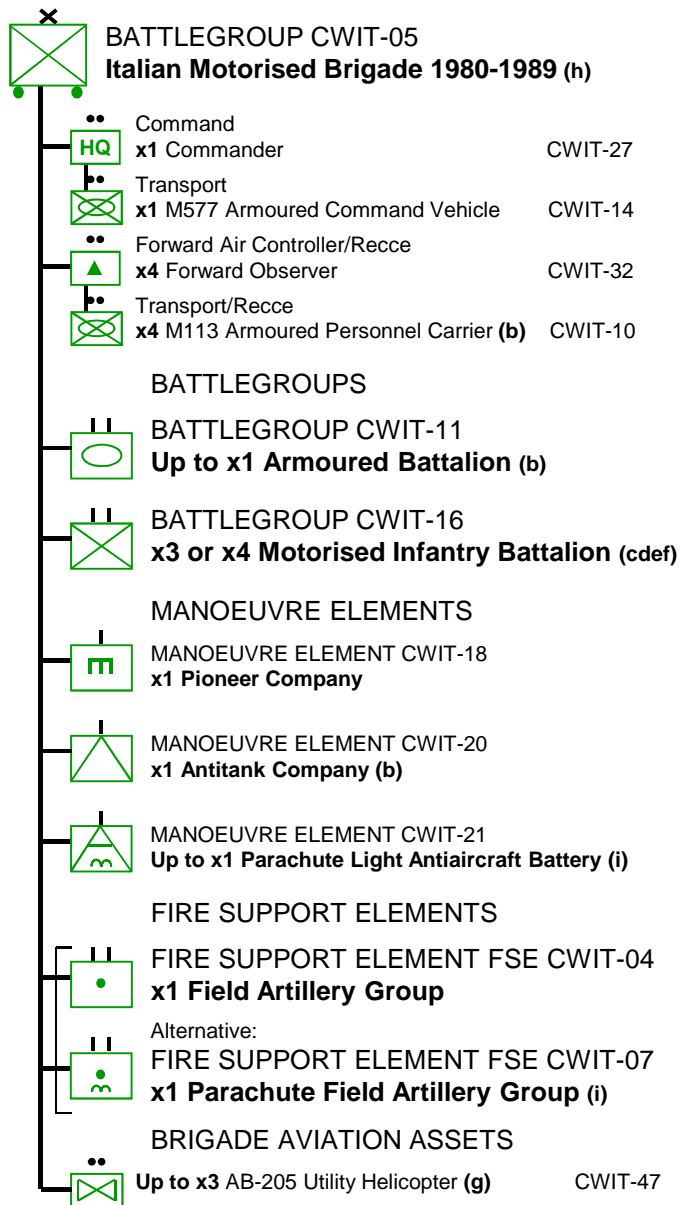
(b) The only Mechanised Brigade to have a Motorised Infantry Battalion assigned to it was the *Vittorio Veneto* Mechanised Brigade (from 1986 onward). This battalion was the remnant of the disbanded Trieste Command.

(c) Position Infantry Battalions were tasked with defending mountain fortress positions within the formation's area of responsibility. The *Gorizia* and *Isonzo* Mechanised Brigades each had **x2** such battalions and the *Vittorio Veneto* Brigade also acquired one during the 1986 reorganisations (this was the Position Infantry Battalion formerly assigned to the disbanded *Ariete* Armoured Division).

(d) At the start of the 1980s, all Mechanised Brigades had a towed **Field Artillery Group** (FSE CWIT-04). However, the replacement of divisional SP Artillery Groups with towed artillery in 1980-81 meant that SP artillery was cascaded down to Mechanised Brigades. Therefore, from 1981 in *Garibaldi*, *Gorizia* and *Goito*, Mechanised Brigades: replace the Field Artillery Group with a **Self-Propelled Field Artillery Group** (FSE CWIT-02). The *Isonzo* Mechanised Brigade (which became the *Mantova* Brigade in 1986) also upgraded sometime around 1984/85 and the *Vittorio Veneto* retained its SP artillery when it converted from an Armoured Brigade to a Mechanised Brigade in 1986.

(e) Training Battalions were only found in the *Granatieri di Sardegna* and *Pinerolo* Brigades.





(a) May replace FAC's M113 APC with:
 AR-59/AR-76 'Campagnola' (no MG) CWIT-24

(b) In the *Piemonte* Reserve Motorised Brigade and Trieste Command: Delete the Armoured Battalion and the Antitank Company.

(c) The *Acqui* Motorised Brigade had **x4** regular Motorised Infantry Battalions. The *Cremona* and *Friuli* Motorised Brigades meanwhile, each had three regular Motorised Battalions and a fourth reserve battalion that would be formed during mobilisation for war.

(d) The Trieste Command had only **x1** regular Motorised Infantry Battalion, plus **x2** reservist battalions that would be raised during mobilisation for war, for **x3** Motorised Battalions in total.

(e) The *Aosta* Motorised Brigade had **x3** regular Motorised Infantry Battalions.

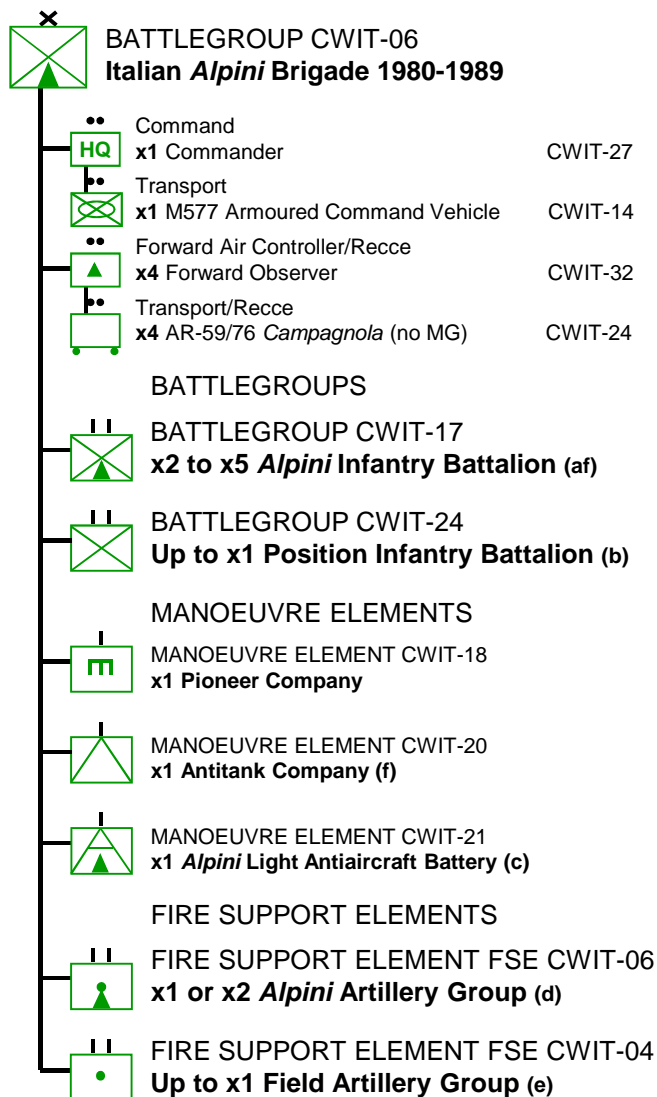
(f) The *Piemonte* Reserve Motorised Brigade would form **x3** Motorised Infantry Battalions during mobilisation for war. This included one battalion raised from the *Aosta Alpini* School.

(g). Only the Trieste Command had an organic Aviation Squadron.

(h) From 1988, virtually the entire Sardinia Territorial Command was reorganised as the new *Sassari* Motorised Brigade. However, the organisation would have been radically different to that shown here – heavier than a standard Motorised Brigade, but weaker than a Mechanised Brigade. See the Sardinia Territorial Command orbat for details.

(i) The Parachute Light AA Battery and Parachute Field Artillery Group were only found in the *Friuli* Motorised Brigade following that formation's incorporation into the new Rapid Intervention Force in 1986.





(a) The *Alpini* Brigades varied quite widely in strength, depending on location and role. The strongest was the *Julia* Brigade, with **x5** *Alpini* Battalions. The *Cadore*, *Orobica* and *Taurinense* Brigades each had **x3** Battalions, while the *Tridentina* Brigade initially had **x2** Battalions, though this was increased to **x3** Battalions following the 1986 reorganisation. One battalion in most brigades was a Training Battalion, but these were organised the same as the regular battalions and were led by elite *Alpini* instructors, so it's doubtful that these would have been any less proficient than the regular battalions.

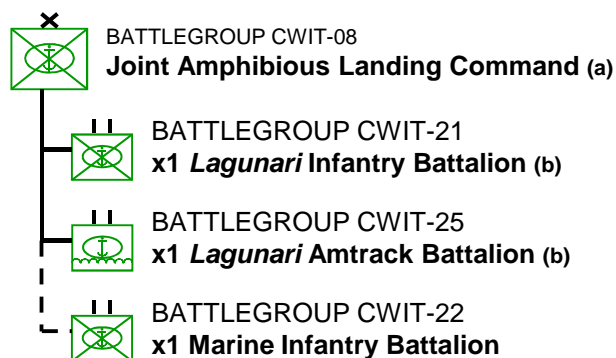
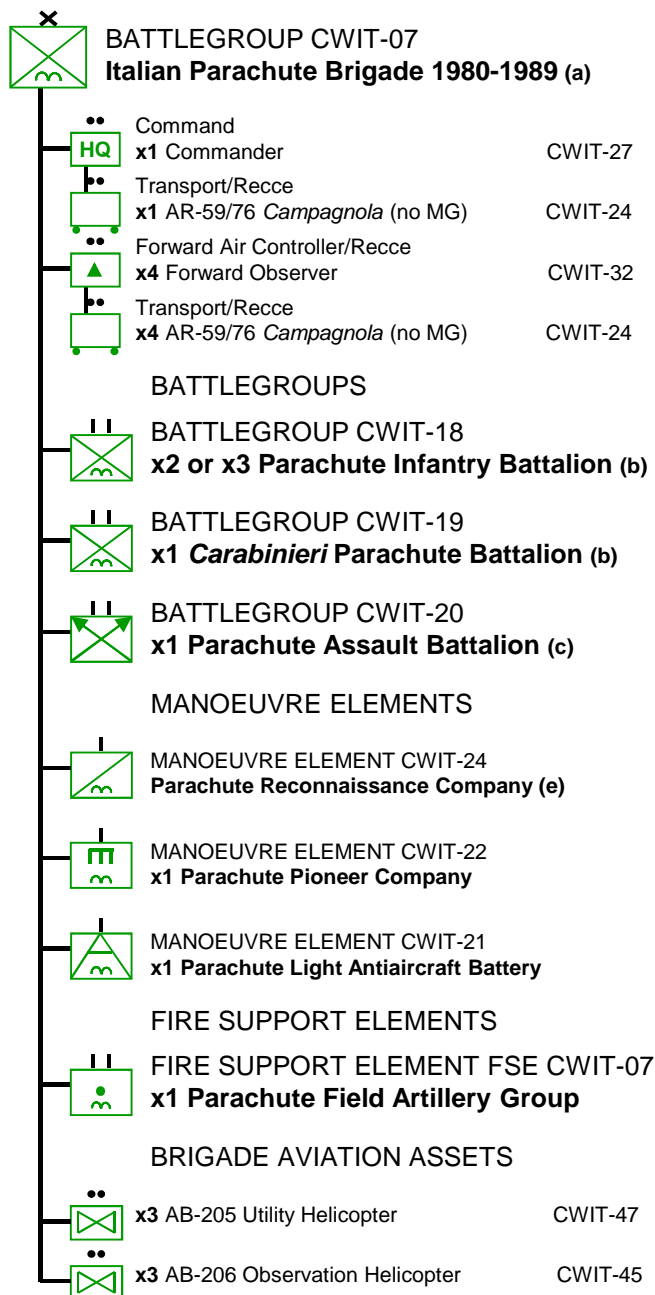
(b) The *Julia* and *Tridentina* Brigades each included a very large *Alpini* Position Infantry Battalion that would have held the fortifications of the 'Alpine Wall'. Each of these battalions had **x2** regular companies and a truly whopping **x14** reserve companies that would have been formed during mobilisation for war.

(c) The *Alpini* Light AA Battery belonged administratively to one of the brigade's two *Alpini* Artillery Groups, though was tactically deployed forward as a Manoeuvre Element or as unit attachments to the brigade's battlegroups.

(d) The *Julia* Brigade's *Alpini* Artillery component was unusually large, having one 105mm *Alpini* Artillery Group with **x5** Batteries and a second such Group with **x3** Batteries, in addition to the 155mm Field Artillery Group.

(e) The Field Artillery Groups were equipped with M114 155mm Howitzers. Some sources suggest that in the early 1980s, they only had **x1** Field Battery (FSE CWIT-05), which was part of the *Alpini* Artillery Group. However, by the mid-1980s there was a full Group of **x3** Field Batteries present in each *Alpini* Brigade. Note that these were actually titled *Alpini* Artillery Groups, but they were essentially identical to standard towed 155mm Field Artillery Groups, so I've used that title for simplicity's sake.

(f) The *Taurinense* Brigade was tasked with providing **x1** *Alpini* Infantry Battalion and the Brigade Anti-tank Company to the *Cuneense* Detachment, which along with elements from the *Folgore* Parachute Brigade (mainly artillery), was Italy's contribution to the AMF(L) 'Northern Option'.



(a) The *Folgore* Parachute Brigade was Italy's only airborne formation. The only other parachute unit on the Italian order of battle was the independent *Alpini* Parachute Company. Combat support elements of the *Folgore* Parachute Brigade (chiefly artillery) were dedicated to the *Cuneense* Detachment, which would be assigned to AMF(L)' 'Northern Option' deployment.

(b) From 1982 the Parachute Training School was designated as a reserve Parachute Infantry Battalion and in wartime would be added to the brigade's order of battle.

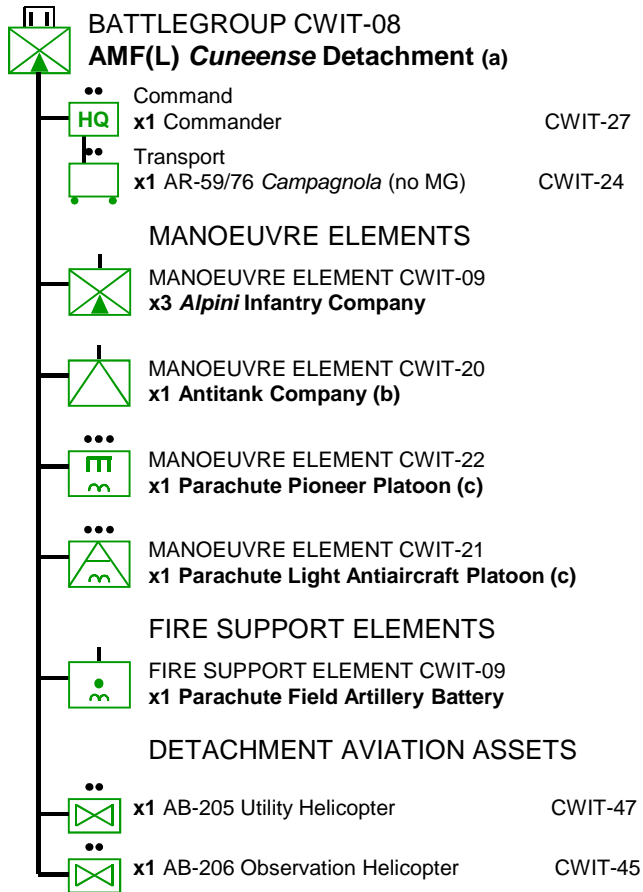
(c) The *Carabinieri* Parachute Battalion was a multi-role, rapidly-deployed paramilitary police unit, which could double as a parachute infantry regiment in wartime.

(d) The 9th Parachute Assault Battalion *Col Moschin* was lightly-equipped, being a light reconnaissance/raiding/special forces unit.

(e) The Reconnaissance Company is not mentioned in all sources and its inclusion might be an error.

(a) The only units permanently assigned to the Joint Amphibious Landing Command were the 1st *Lagunari* Infantry Battalion *Serenissima* and the *Lagunari* Amtrack Battalion *Sile*. Such a small force would not normally warrant a large headquarters and logistical support structure, but this was established in order to allow the Navy's Marine Battalion *San Marco*, as well as naval vessels, to seamlessly operate as part of the Command on an ad hoc basis.

(b) The *Lagunari* are the Italian Army's own 'marine corps', responsible for operating in the lagoons and shallow coastline around Venice and the northern Adriatic. They are organised and equipped in a very similar manner to the Navy's Marine Battalion *San Marco*, which of course aids interoperability as part of a Joint Command.



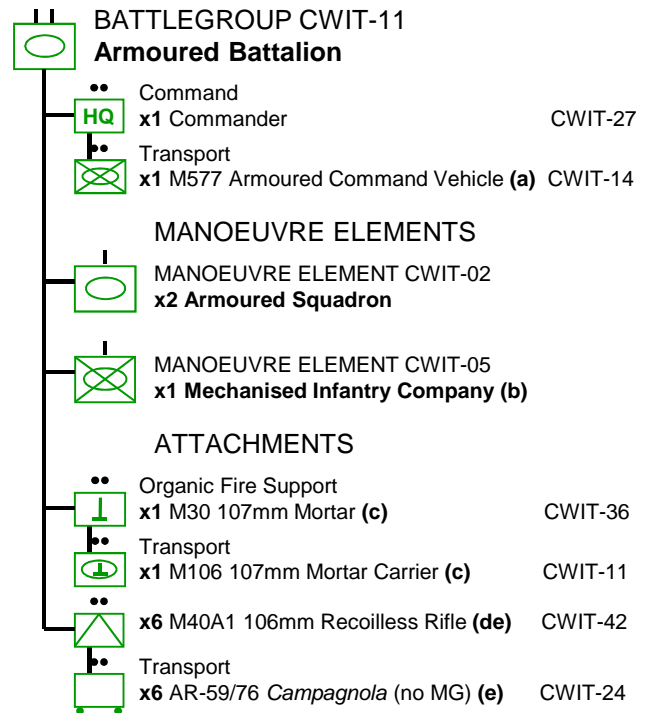
(a) The *Cuneense* Detachment was Italy's contribution to AMF(L) and was assembled from elements of the *Taurinense Alpini* Brigade and *Folgore* Parachute Brigade.

(b) The Antitank Company is *Alpini* and therefore has no AFVs.

(c) The Parachute Light AA and Pioneer Platoons are one-third of the respective Company MEs. Designate one Pioneer/AA unit in each platoon as the Platoon Commander.



(a) Replace all tanks in the *Ariete* Armoured Division (or after the 1986 reorganisation, in the *Mameli*, *Ariete* and *Garibaldi* Armoured Brigades) with:
M60A1 105mm Medium Tank CWIT-02



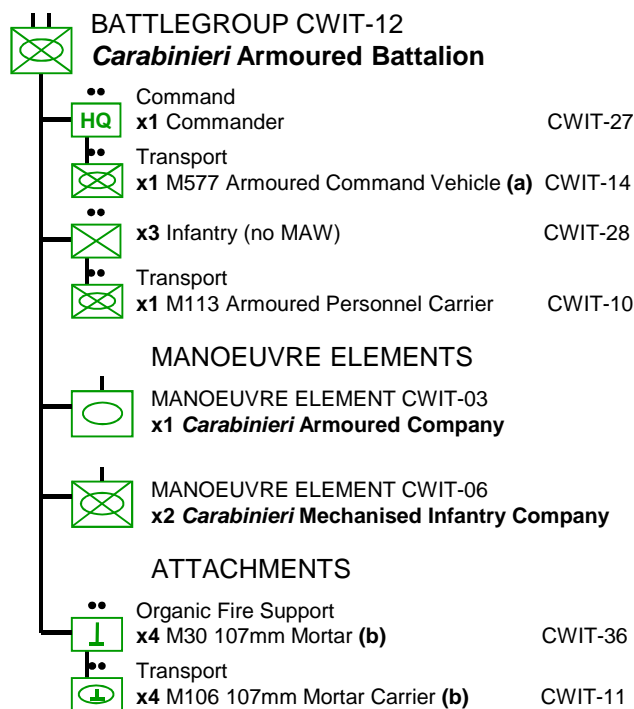
(a) Italy had ample supplies of M113, VCC-1 and VCC-2 APC variants to equip all of its regular and first-line reserve forces throughout the 1980s. However, it held enough obsolete AMX-VCI APCs in storage to equip around x20 Mechanised Infantry Companies. May therefore replace all APCs and armoured heavy weapons carriers in some late-mobilisation reserve units with:
AMX-VCI Armoured Personnel Carrier CWIT-17

(b) The Mechanised Companies of the Armoured Battalions were never equipped with anything better than M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers – they did not receive VCC-1 or VCC-2. They also do not appear to have received Milan ATGMs to replace their recoilless rifles.

(c) Late 1980s: May replace 107mm Mortar and M106 Carrier in some units with:
x1 Brandt 120mm Mortar CWIT-37
x1 M106A1 120mm Mortar Carrier CWIT-15

(d) It does not appear that Armoured Regiments ever received Milan ATGMs.

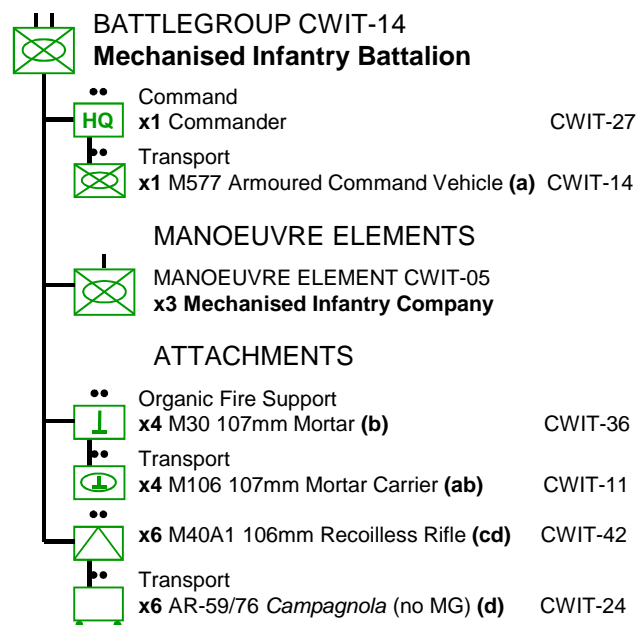
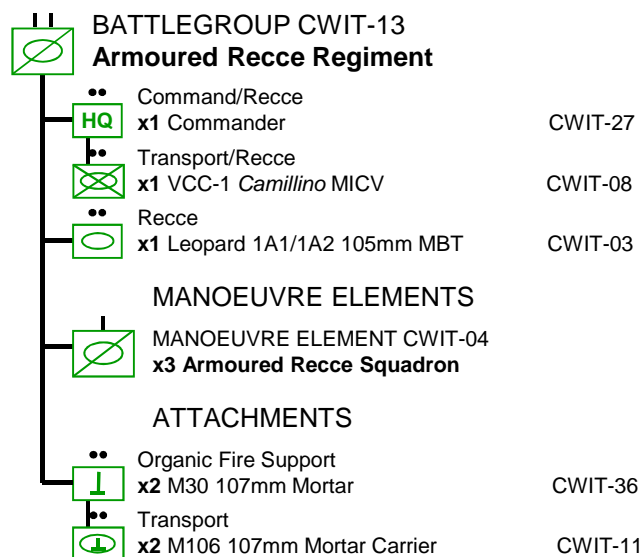
(e) 106mm recoilless rifles may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.



(a) The 7th *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion, which was assigned to 4th Corps, persisted with obsolete equipment – M47 Patton tanks and M113 APCs. However, the 13th *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion, which was assigned to 5th Corps, had distinctly more modern Leopard 1A2 tanks and VCC-2 APCs.

(b) Late 1980s: Replace 107mm Mortar and M106 Carrier in the 13th *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion (5th Corps) with:

- x1 Brandt 120mm Mortar CWIT-37
- x1 M106A1 120mm Mortar Carrier CWIT-15



(a) Italy had ample supplies of M113, VCC-1 and VCC-2 APC variants to equip all of its regular and first-line reserve forces throughout the 1980s. However, it held enough obsolete AMX-VCI APCs in storage to equip around x20 Mechanised Infantry Companies. May therefore replace all APCs and armoured heavy weapons carriers in some late-mobilisation reserve units with:

AMX-VCI Armoured Personnel Carrier CWIT-17

(b) Late 1980s: May replace 107mm Mortar and M106 Carrier in a few units with:

x1 Brandt 120mm Mortar CWIT-37
x1 M106A1 120mm Mortar Carrier CWIT-15

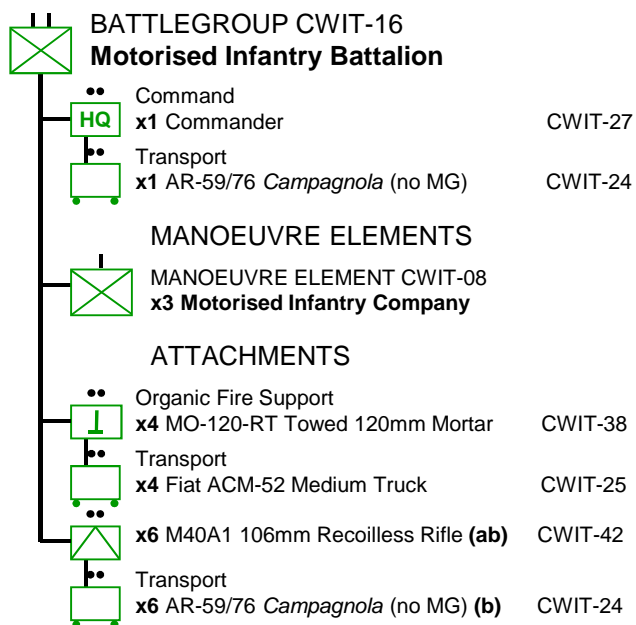
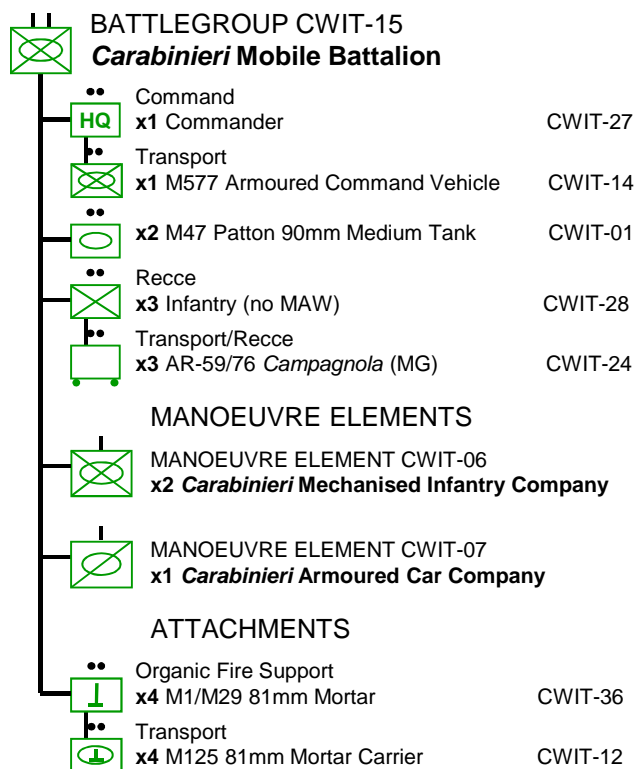
(c) Mid-1980s: Delete x3 of the x6 M40 106mm Recoilless Rifles and add:

x6 Milan ATGM Team (de) CWIT-39
x3 AR-59/76 *Campagnola* (d) CWIT-24

(d) 106mm recoilless rifles or Milan ATGMs may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.

(e) Late 1980s: May upgrade Milan ATGMs with Milan 2 (see card).





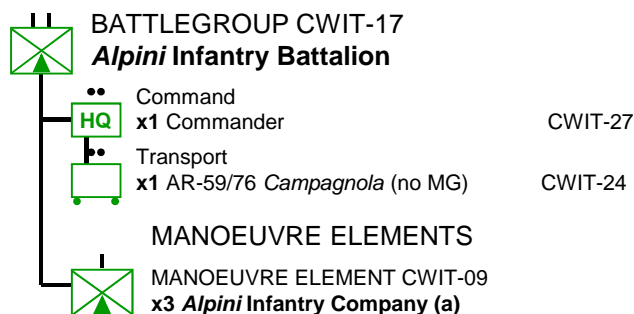
(a) From Mid-1980s: May replace M40 106mm Recoilless Rifles with:

Milan ATGM Team (bc) CWIT-39

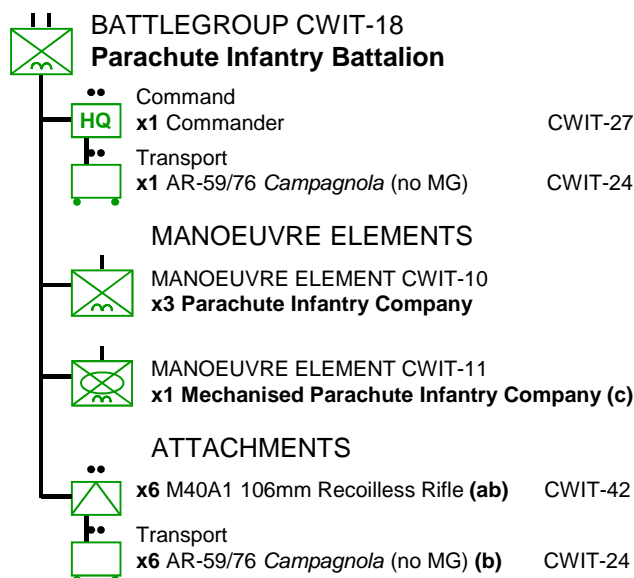
Motorised Infantry Battalions do not appear to have retained some 106mm Recoilless Rifles to create mixed antitank units for fire support. They either completely re-equipped with Milan or did not re-equip at all (only a few reserve units appear to have not re-equipped with Milan).

(b) 106mm recoilless rifles or Milan ATGMs may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.

(c) Late 1980s: May upgrade Milan ATGMs with Milan 2 (see card)



(a) Given the challenging nature of the terrain they had to defend, it might be extremely difficult for *Alpini* sub-units to mutually support each other. Therefore, *Alpini* Infantry Companies were organised as self-contained combat groups, with an equal share of the battalion's heavy weapons. There were therefore no battalion-level support elements.



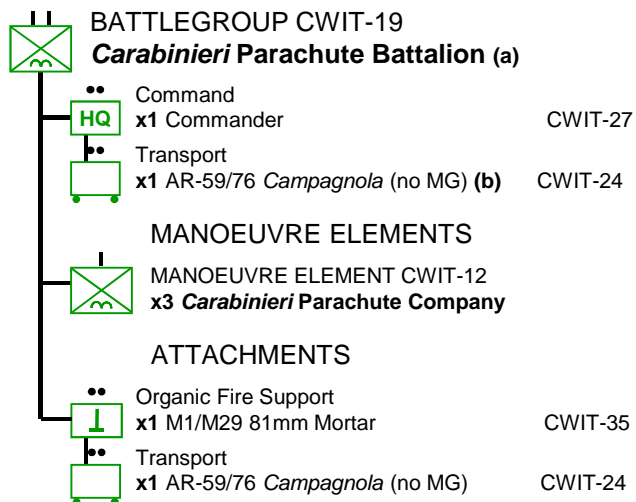
(a) Early 1980s: Replace M40 106mm Recoilless Rifles with: x4 Milan ATGM Team (b) CWIT-39

Mid 1980s: Increase to x8 Milan ATGM Team.

Late 1980s: Increase to x12 Milan ATGM Team and upgrade to Milan 2 (see card).

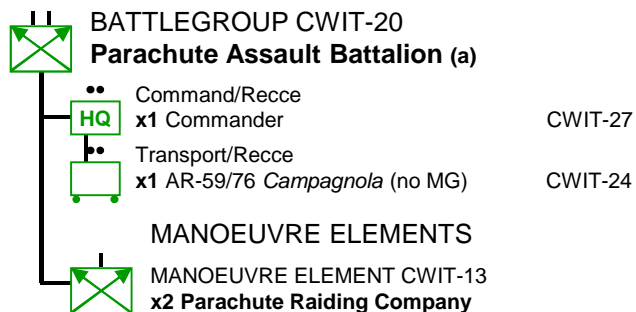
(b) 106mm recoilless rifles or Milan ATGMs may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.

(c) The men of the Mechanised Para Company are parachute trained, so may operate in a conventional paratroop role, as well as their designated mechanised-airmobile role.

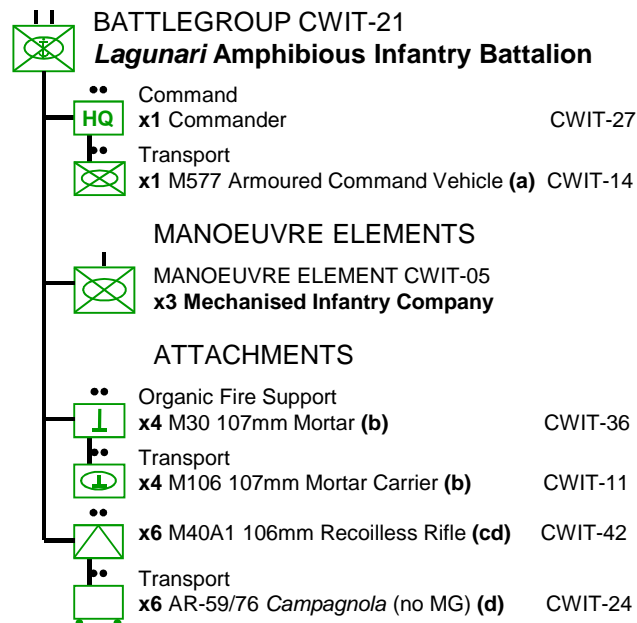


(a) The *Carabinieri Parachute Battalion* was a multi-role, rapidly-deployed paramilitary police unit, which could double as a parachute infantry regiment in wartime. It was also equipped with trucks and AFVs which gave it added flexibility in its role.

(b) Late 1980s: May replace AR-59/76 with:
 VCC-1 *Camillino* MICV CWIT-08



(a) The 9th Parachute Assault Battalion *Col Moschin* was lightly-equipped, being a light reconnaissance/raiding/special forces-type unit.



(a) Late-1980s: Replace M577 with:
 VCC-2 Mechanised Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-09

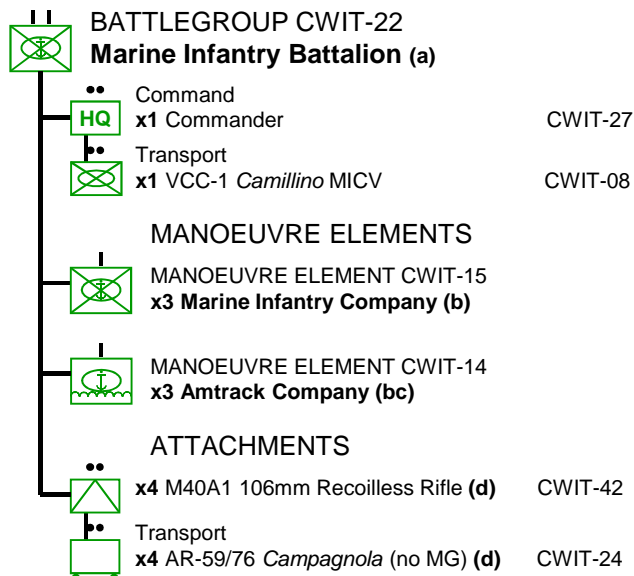
(b) The Amphibious Assault Vehicle Company exists to provide the *Lagunari* (and any other units who need their help) with amphibious transportation.

(c) Mid-1980s: Replace the M40 106mm Recoilless Rifles with:
 Milan ATGM Team **(de)** CWIT-39

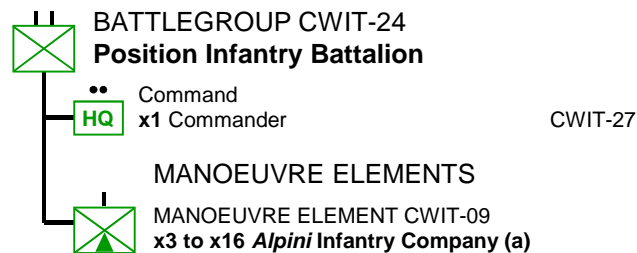
(d) 106mm recoilless rifles or Milan ATGMs may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.

(e) Late 1980s: Replace Milan ATGM with Milan 2 (see card)

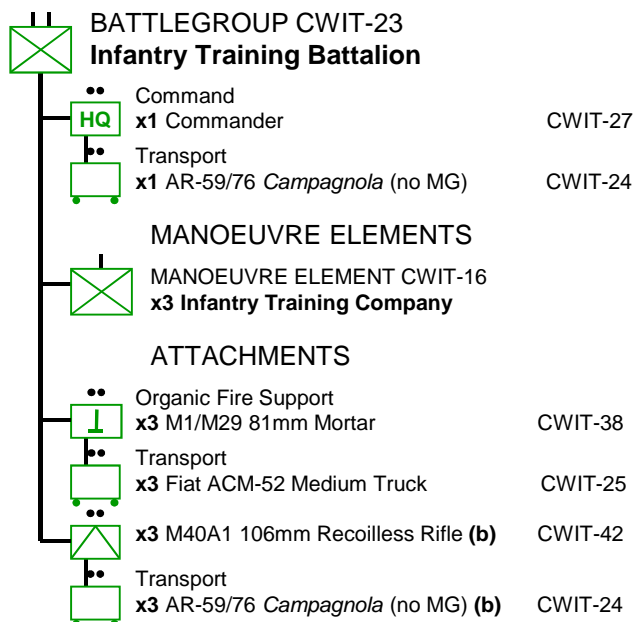




(a) The Marine Infantry Battalion *San Marco* is an independent mechanised, amphibious assault unit, controlled by the Italian Navy (unlike the *Lagunari*, who are controlled by the Army). However, command structures were in place for the *San Marco* Marines to join with the Army's *Lagunari* as part of the Joint Amphibious Landing Command (BG CWIT-08).

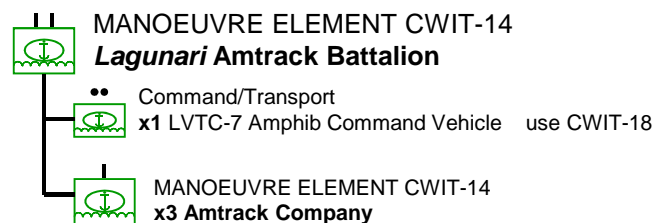


(a) There were five such battalions in the Italian order of battle and they varied enormously in size, depending on the terrain and fortifications that they were intended to defend. They were expected to fight from fixed positions with numerous heavy weapons of all types. The *Alpini* Infantry Company ME (minus the vehicle transport) is probably the closest match, but only gives a rough approximation of how they might have been organised and equipped – each company was probably different and purely organised according to the fortification it had to defend.



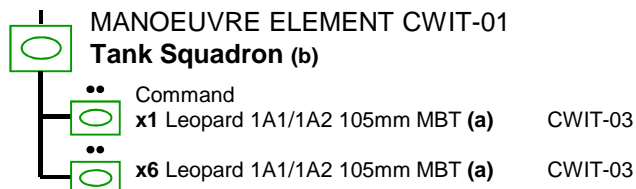
(a) The Infantry Training Battalions were to be mobilised in order to fill out front-line fighting formations, as well as forming the nucleus of new formations to be formed from reservists.

(b) 106mm recoilless rifles may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.



esercitazione di sbarco effettuata dai Lagunari con LVTP-7.

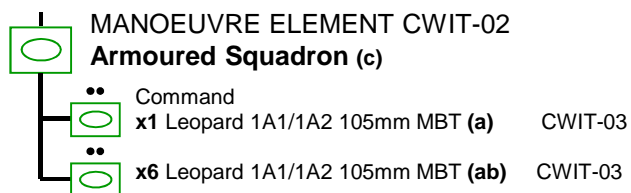




(a) Replace all tanks in the *Ariete* Armoured Division (or after the 1986 reorganisation: the *Mameli*, *Ariete* and *Garibaldi* Brigades) with:

M60A1 105mm Medium Tank CWIT-02

(b) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Manoeuvre Elements, each of **x2** tanks. Designate one tank in each Troop ME as the Troop Commander.

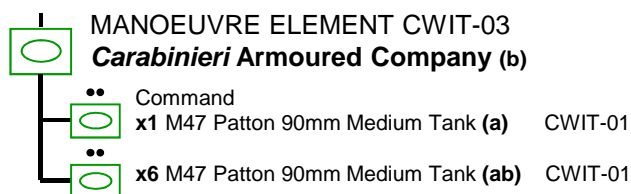


(a) The venerable M47 Patton was still hanging on with 2 or 3 reserve units (as mentioned in the Territorial Commands orbats) as well as with the 7th *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion and the *Carabinieri* Mobile Battalions. There were also sufficient M47s in storage to potentially equip around **x20** more reserve Armoured Squadrons (equivalent to **x10** Armoured Battalions). May therefore replace Leopard in some late-mobilisation reserve units with:

M47 Patton 90mm Medium Tank (b) CWIT-01

(b) If the Armoured Regiment is equipped with M47, the squadron strength must be increased by **x1** tank.

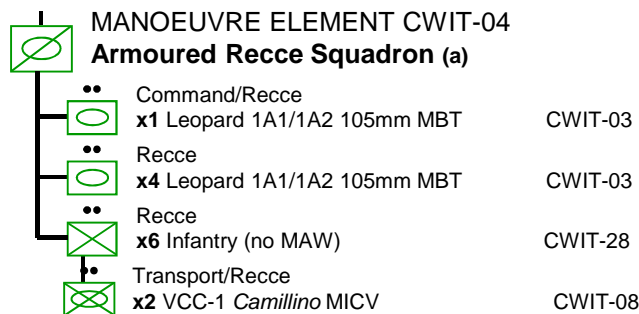
(c) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Manoeuvre Elements, each of **x2** tanks. Designate one tank in each Troop ME as the Troop Commander.



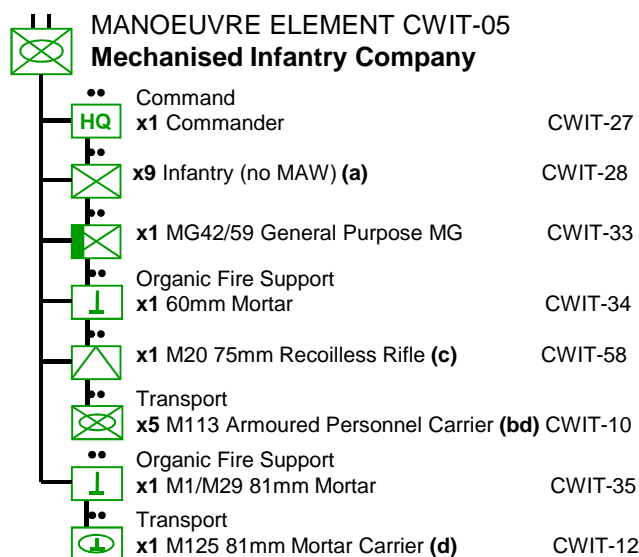
(a) In the 13th *Carabinieri* Armoured Battalion (5th Corps): Replace all M47 Patton tanks with:

Leopard 1A2 105mm Main Battle Tank CWIT-03

(b) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Manoeuvre Elements, each of **x2** tanks. Designate one tank in each Troop ME as the Troop Commander.



(a) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as four troop-sized Manoeuvre Elements, each of **x2** tanks or **x3** Infantry and **x1** VCC-1. Designate one tank or infantry unit in each Troop ME as the Troop Commander.



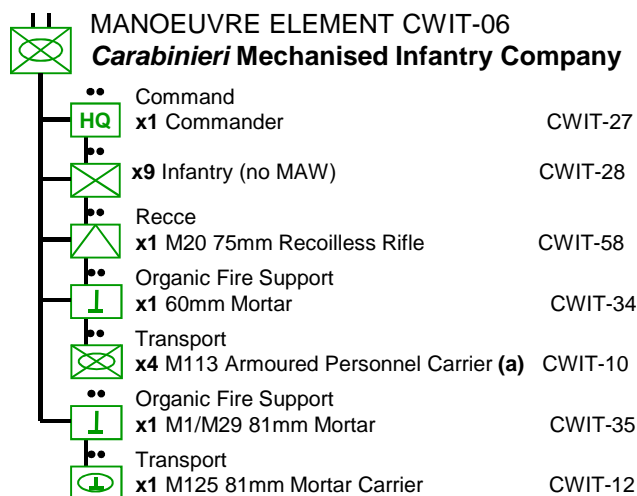
(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(b) May replace M113 APCs with:
VCC-1 *Camillino* Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-08
VCC-2 Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-09

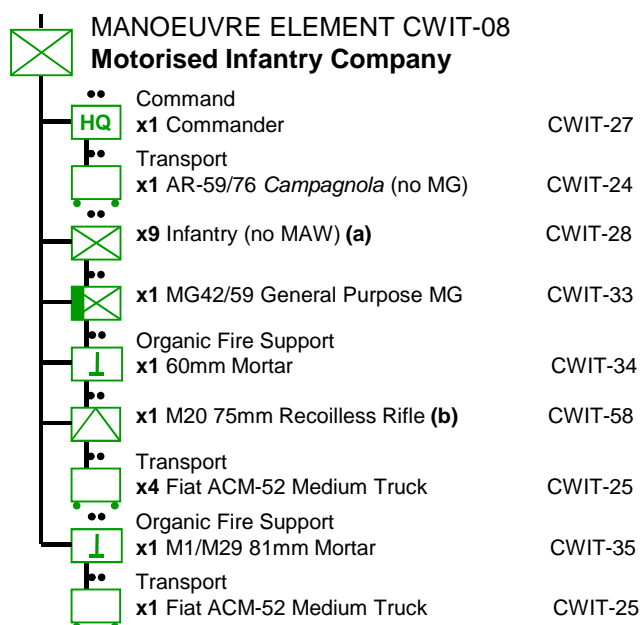
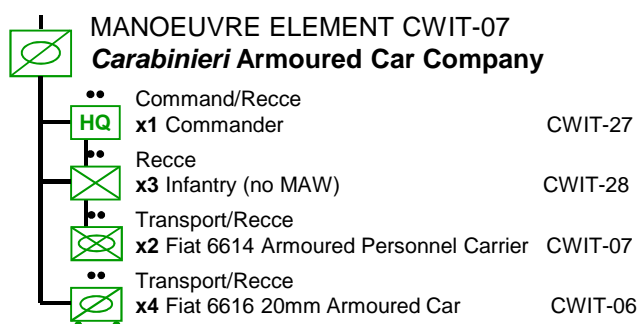
(c) From mid-1980s: Replace all Recoilless Rifles with:
Milan ATGM Team (e) CWIT-39

(d) Italy had ample supplies of M113, VCC-1 and VCC-2 APC variants to equip all of its regular and first-line reserve forces throughout the 1980s. However, it held enough obsolete AMX-VCI APCs in storage to equip around **x20** Mechanised Infantry Companies. May therefore replace all APCs and weapons carriers in some units with:
AMX-VCI Armoured Personnel Carrier CWIT-17

(e) Late 1980s: Upgrade Mila ATGM Teams with Milan 2 ATGM (see card).



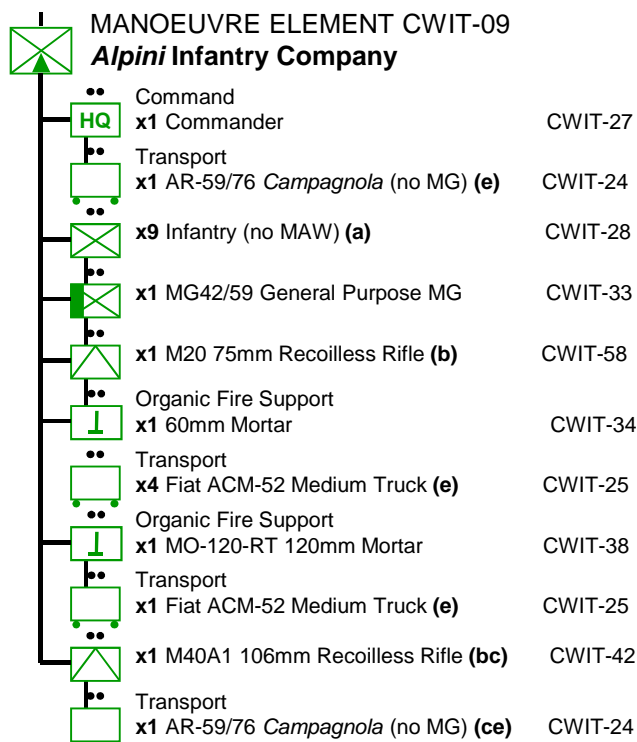
(a) The *Carabinieri* 13th Armoured Battalion (5th Corps) was issued with modern vehicles. Therefore replace M113 APCs with:
 VCC-2 Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-09



(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to x3 Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(b) May replace M20 75mm Recoilless Rifle with:
 M40A1 106mm Recoilless Rifle (c) CWIT-42
 From mid-1980s: May replace all Recoilless Rifles with:
 Milan ATGM Team (c) CWIT-39

(c) Late 1980s: Upgrade Milan ATGMs to Milan 2 ATGM (see card).



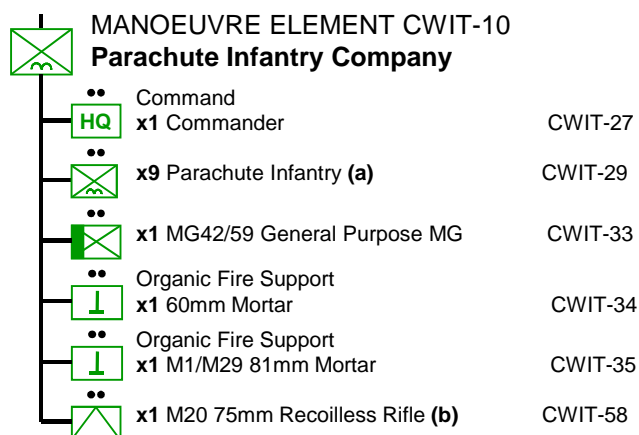
(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(b) From mid-1980s: Replace all Recoilless Rifles and Jeeps with:
x3 Milan ATGM Team **(cd)** CWIT-39
x3 AR-59/76 *Campagnola* (no MG) **(e)** CWIT-24

(c) Recoilless Rifles and Milan ATGMs may be fired from AR-59/76 jeeps when mounted.

(d) Late 1980s: Upgrade Milan ATGMs to Milan 2 (see card).

(e) In Position Infantry Battalions: Remove all motor transport. May also replace Infantry sections with a variety of heavy weapons teams, depending on the fortification.

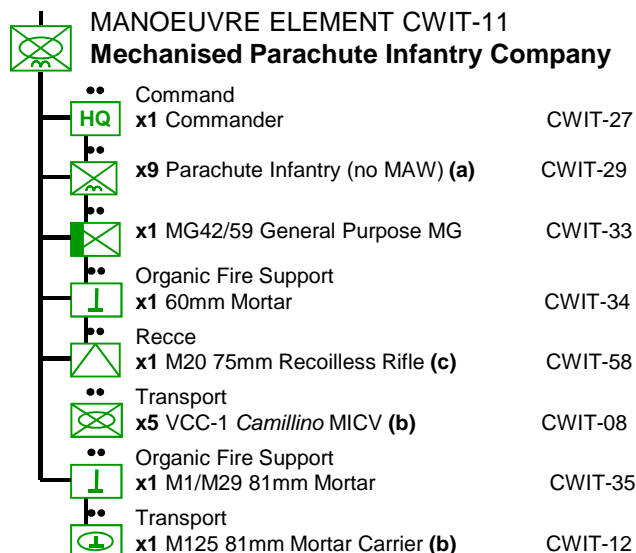


(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(b) Early 1980s: Replace Recoilless Rifle with:
 Milan ATGM Team **(c)** CWIT-39

(c) Late 1980s: Upgrade Milan ATGMs to Milan 2 (see card).

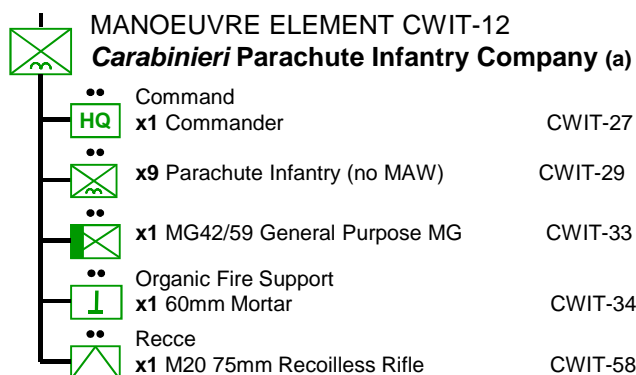




(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(b) May discard transport if the mission is 'pure' light airborne.

(c) Early 1980s: Replace Recoilless Rifle with:
Milan ATGM Team CWIT-39
Late 1980s: Upgrade Milan ATGM Teams to Milan 2 ATGM (see card).



(a) May add softskin or armoured transport, depending on the mission:

x4 Fiat ACM-52 Medium Truck CWIT-25

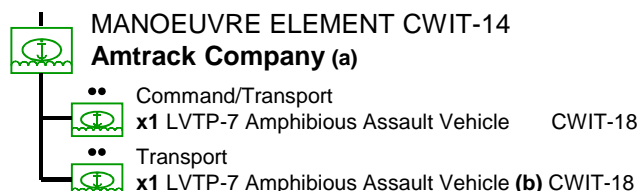
Alternative:

x4 VCC-1 *Camillino* Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-08



(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

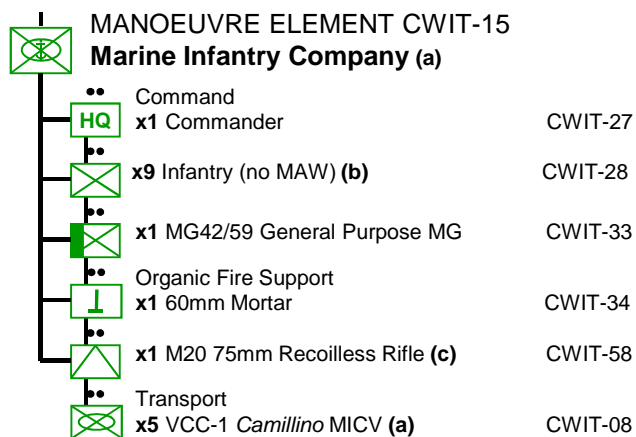
(b) Early 1980s: Replace Recoilless Rifle with:
Milan ATGM Team CWIT-39
Late 1980s: Upgrade Milan ATGM Teams to Milan 2 ATGM (see card).



(a) This ME may be used to transport infantry MEs (typically Navy Marines or Army *Lagunari*).

(b) Marine Amphibious Assault Vehicle Companies were larger: Add **x2** LVTP-7 Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

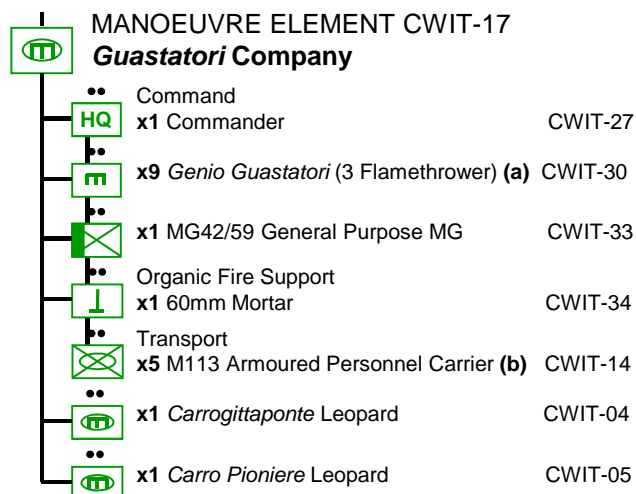
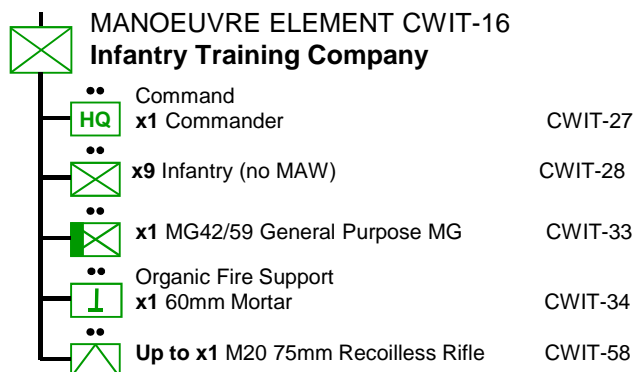




(a) Only two companies in the battalion had VCC-1. The third company would utilise the battalion's LVTP-7 Amphibious Assault Vehicles (see ME CWIT-14). Of course, all three companies could use LVTP-7s, depending on the situation.

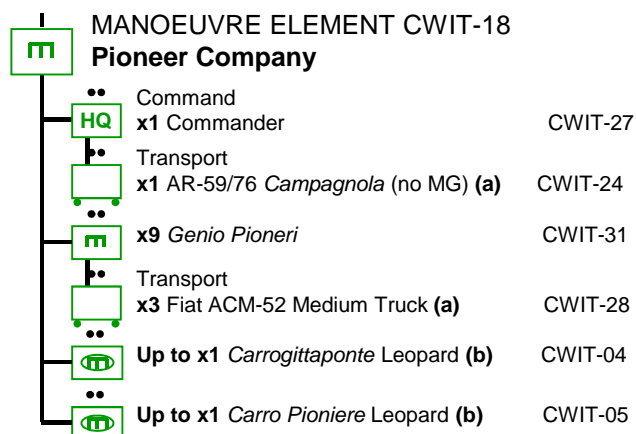
(b) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(c) Early 1980s: Replace Recoilless Rifle with:
 Milan ATGM Team CWIT-39
 Late 1980s: Upgrade Milan ATGM Teams to Milan 2 ATGM (see card).



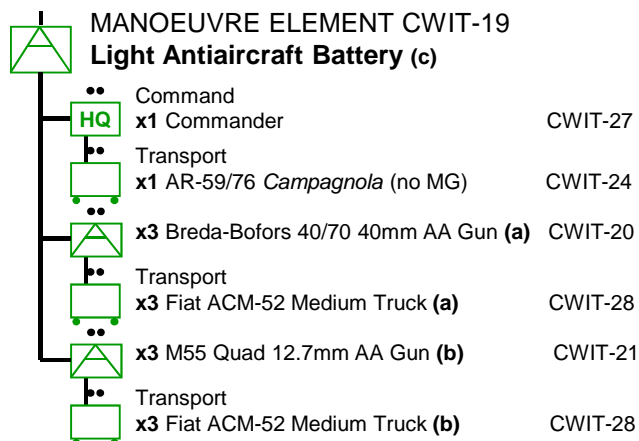
(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the (delayed) introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher. May therefore equip **x1** *Guastatori* unit in the Company with *Folgore* from the mid-1980s onward.

(b) May replace M113 APCs in some units with:
 VCC-1 *Camillino* Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-08
 VCC-2 Infantry Combat Vehicle CWIT-09



(a) May replace softskin transport in some units belonging Armoured or Mechanised formations with:
 M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier CWIT-14

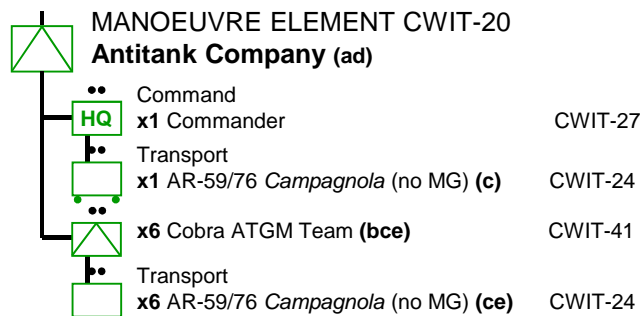
(b) Only one Pioneer Company in three (i.e. one per battalion) may have a Leopard Pioneer Tank or Bridgelayer.



(a) Mid-1980s: Replace x4 Breda-Bofors 40/70 40mm AA Guns and associated transport with:
 x6 Stinger SAM Team CWIT-43
 x6 AR-59/76 *Campagnola* (no MG) CWIT-24

(b) Late 1980s: May replace all M55 Quad 12.7mm AA Guns and associated transport in some units with:
 M113A1 SIDAM Quad 25mm Antiaircraft Vehicle CWIT-16

(c) The Battery may be split up and allocated as direct unit attachments to other MEs.



(a) The Antitank Company may be split up as individual unit attachments to other MEs.

(b) From early 1980s: Replace Cobra ATGM Teams with:
 M220 TOW ATGM Team (cef) CWIT-40

(c) From early 1980s: In Armoured and Mechanised formations, replace all transport with:
 x1 M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier CWIT-14
 x6 VTC M150 TOW ATGM Carrier (ef) CWIT-13

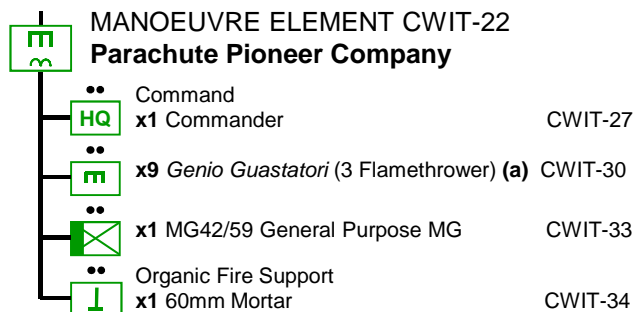
(d) In Antitank Companies belonging to Alpine Brigades, add the following units:
 x6 M40A1 106mm Recoilless Rifle (e) CWIT-42
 x6 AR-59/76 'Campagnola' (no MG) (e) CWIT-24

(e) ATGMs and recoilless rifles may be fired from their transport vehicles when mounted.

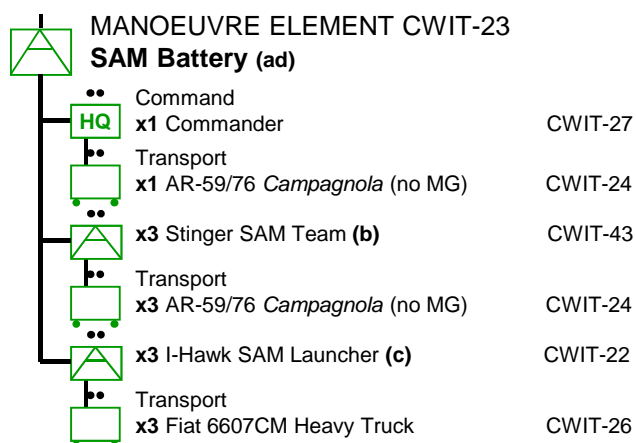
(f) Late 1980s: Upgrade TOW ATGMs to Improved TOW (ITOW) ATGMs (see unit cards).



(a) Mid-1980s: Replace AA Guns with:
 x12 Stinger SAM Team CWIT-43



(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the (delayed) introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher. May therefore equip **x1** *Guastatori* unit in the Company with *Folgore* from the mid-1980s onward.

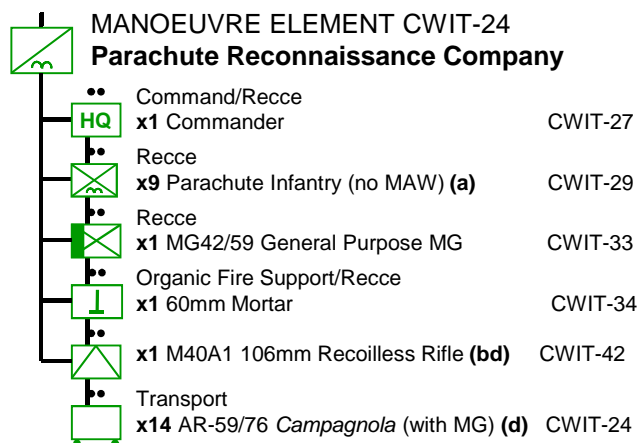


(a) Following the 1986 reorganisation, almost all anti-aircraft assets were grouped centrally under the Army Anti-aircraft Artillery Command at Padua. This command comprised 4th & 5th SAM Regiments (**x8** SAM Batteries each) and 121st Light AA Regiment (**x9** Batteries). The Italian Air Force also had **x20** SAM batteries (equipped with Nike-Hercules SAMs), though these were in fixed sites, defending key locations.

(b) Stingers are only available from mid-1980s.

(c) Late 1980s: May replace I-Hawk in some units with: *Spada* SAM Launcher CWIT-23

(d) The Battery may be split up and allocated as direct unit attachments to other MEs.



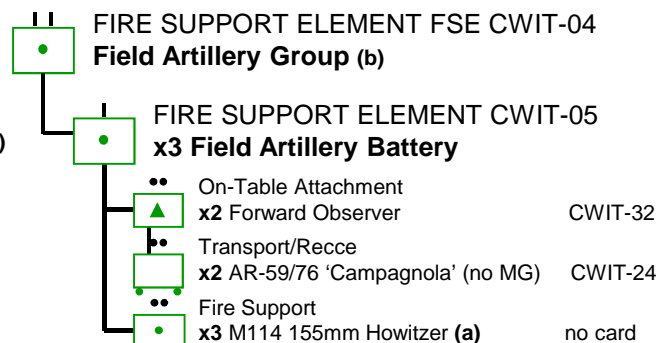
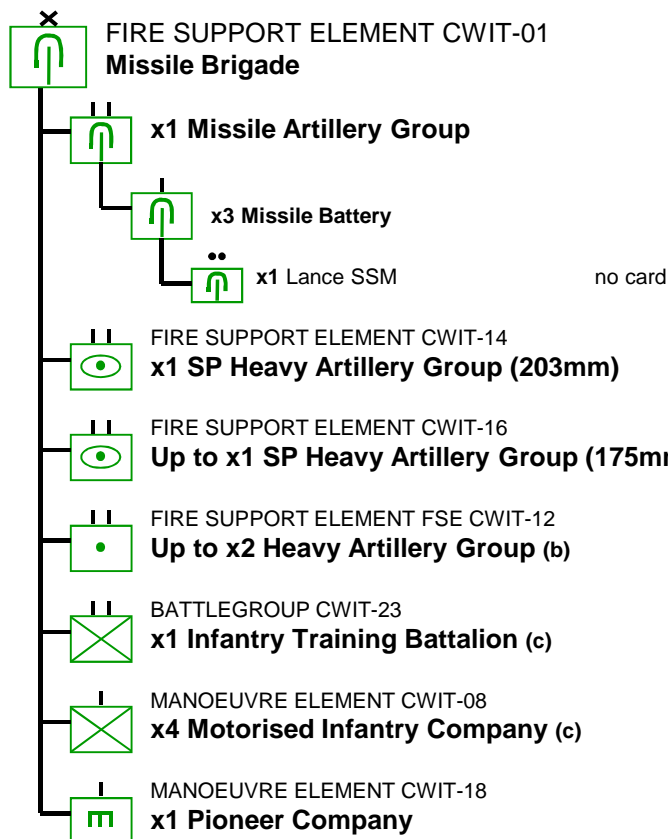
(a) Italian infantry had no MAW until the delayed introduction of the *Folgore* 80mm Antitank Rocket Launcher in 1986. Even then, as a consequence of the slow delivery of *Folgore*, the Italian Army made an emergency purchase of the French APILAS anti-tank rocket system and by 1989 the Italian Army had 800 *Folgore* and 500 APILAS. Late 1980s: May therefore equip up to **x3** Infantry units in the Company with *Folgore* or APILAS (see card).

(b) Early 1980s: Replace Recoilless Rifle with: Milan ATGM Team **(cd)** CWIT-39

(c) Late 1980s: Upgrade to MILAN 2 (see card).

(d) Recoilless Rifles and MILAN may fire from vehicles when mounted.





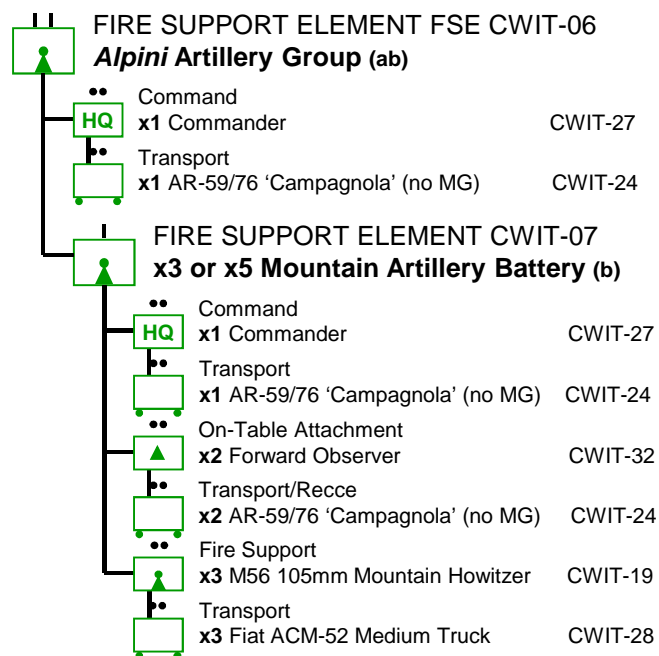
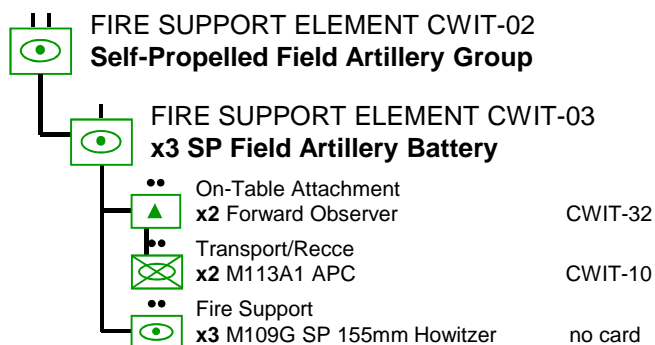
(a) May replace M114 155mm Howitzer in some units with:
FH-70 155mm Howitzer no card

(b) Note that Field Artillery Regiments belonging to Alpine Brigades are officially classed as *Alpini* Artillery, even though they are equipped exactly the same as regular Field Artillery. Note that during the early 1980s, there seems to have only been x1 such battery present in each *Alpini* Brigade, though this was soon expanded to the full Group as shown here.

(a) The 175mm Heavy Regiment was transferred to the 5th Corps Artillery Command in 1986 when it lost its nuclear role.

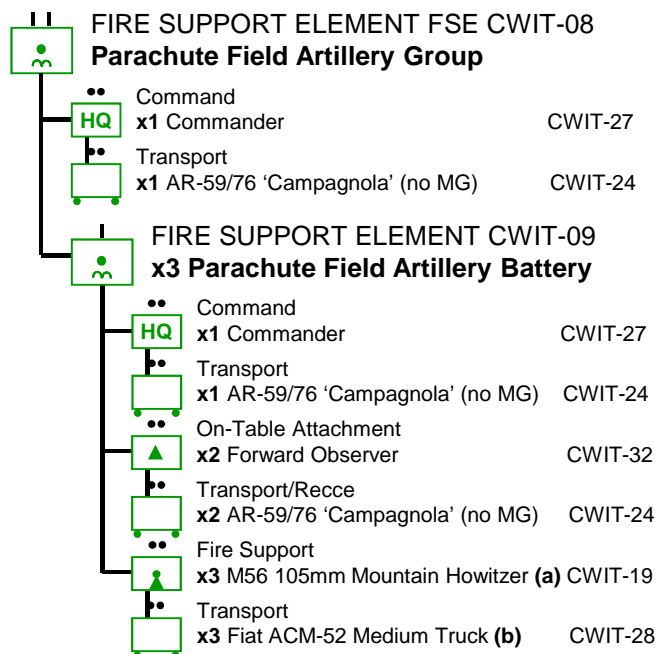
(b) A source from 1984 shows two towed Heavy Artillery Groups present, but only one in 1986. These were in any case, transferred to the 5th Corps Artillery Command during the 1986 reorganisations.

(c) This Infantry Training Battalion's wartime role, along with the four independent Motorised Infantry Companies, was to provide local security for the Lance missiles, their nuclear warheads and the 203mm nuclear artillery ammunition.



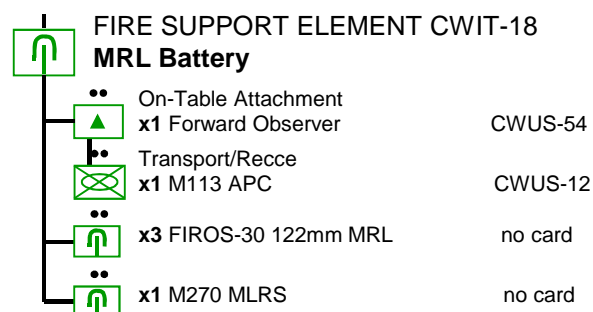
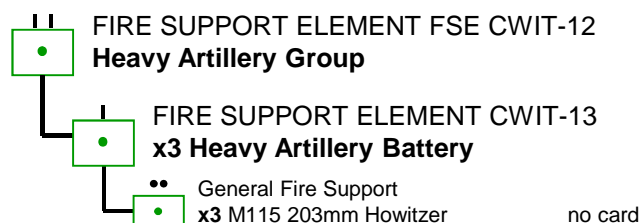
(a) The Mountain Artillery Regiment also had an organic Light AA Battery, but I have listed this as a Manoeuvre Element in the Brigade TO&E.

(b) One of the two *Alpini* Artillery Groups assigned to the *Julia* Brigade had x5 Batteries. All other *Alpini* Artillery Groups had x3 Batteries.



(a) The 185th Parachute Field Artillery Group had both howitzers and mortars, so the equipment could be tailored to the mission. May therefore replace M56 105mm Howitzers with:
 MO-120-RT 120mm Mortar CWIT-38

(b) May replace Fiat ACM-52 trucks with:
 AR-59/76 'Campagnola' (no MG) CWIT-24



Italian Air Force 1980-1989 ^(f)

2nd Wing *Mario d'Agostini* (Treviso-Saint Angelo AFB)

14th Fighter-Bomber Squadron	x9 G-91 R/1 'Gina' (a)	CWIT-54
103rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron	x9 G-91 R/1 'Gina' (ab)	CWIT-54

3rd Wing *Caarlo Emanuele Buscaglia* (Verona-Villafranca AFB)

28th Reconnaissance Squadron	x9 RF-104G Starfighter	CWIT-53
232nd Reconnaissance Squadron	x9 RF-104G Starfighter	CWIT-53

4th Wing *Amedeo d'Aosta* (Grosseto AFB)

9th All-Weather Interceptor Squadron	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
20th All-Weather Interceptor Squadron (c)	x6 TF-104G/F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53

5th Wing *Giuseoppe Cenni* (Rimini-Miramare AFB)

23rd All-Weather Interceptor Squadron	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
102nd Special Fighter-Bomber Squadron (d)	x9 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53

6th Wing *Alfredo Fusco* (Ghedi AFB) (Formed in 1982 with Tornado IDS)

154th Special Fighter-Bomber Squadron (d)	x9 Tornado IDS	CWIT-56
155th Special Fighter-Bomber Squadron (d)	x9 Tornado IDS	CWIT-56

8th Wing *Gino Priolo* (Cervia AFB)

101st Fighter-Bomber Squadron	x9 G-91 Y 'Gina Yankee'	CWIT-55
-------------------------------	-------------------------	---------

9th Wing *Francesco Baracca* (Capua-Grazzanise AFB)

10th All-Weather Interceptor Squadron	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	---------

32nd Wing *Armando Boetto* (Brindisi AFB)

13th Fighter-Bomber Squadron	x9 G-91 Y 'Gina Yankee'	CWIT-55
------------------------------	-------------------------	---------

36th Wing *Helmut Seidl* (Gioia del Colle AFB)

12th All-Weather Interceptor Squadron	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
156th Special Fighter-Bomber Squadron (de)	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53

37th Wing *Cesare Toschi* (Trapani-Birgi AFB)

18th Interceptor/Fighter-Bomber Squadron	x9 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
--	-----------------------	---------

51st Wing *Ferruccio Serafini* (Treviso-Istrani AFB)

22nd All-Weather Interceptor Squadron	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	---------

53rd Wing *Guglielmo Chiarini* (Camerini AFB)

21st All-Weather Interceptor Squadron	x6 F-104S Starfighter	CWIT-53
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	---------

(a) Some sources show the 2nd Wing ('Gruppo') as being equipped with G-91 Y 'Gina Yankees'. However, this does not appear to have been the case, as there is ample evidence of them still having G-91 R/1 in 1989.

(b) Late 1980s: The 103rd Squadron ('Stormo') was withdrawn from front-line service and transferred to the 51st Wing in order to re-equip with the new AMX light ground-attack aircraft, which came into front-line service during the early 1990s.

(c) These were Operational Conversion Units with a mix of single and twin-seat fighters. In wartime they would become front-line fighting units.

(d) 'Special' Fighter-Bomber units were roled to carry 'Special' weapons: i.e. nuclear weapons.

(e) The 156th Squadron converted to Tornado IDS in 1984.

(f) In wartime the bulk of the Italian Air Force would become subordinate to NATO's AIRSOUTH Command and would be reinforced by elements of NATO air forces, most notably the US, Spanish and Portuguese Air Forces, as well as any air assets attached to AMF. The US 16th Air Force in particular, maintained three permanent air bases in Italy and in the late 1980s had a wing of Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles permanently stationed in Italy. It only had a single wing of Spanish-based F16s permanently assigned, though could expect massive reinforcement from US-based units during mobilisation for war.



60th Air Brigade (Foggia-Amendola AFB)

201st Tactical Weapons Training Squadron (ab) **x9** G-91 T 'Gina'

use CWIT-54

204th Tactical Weapons Training Squadron (ab) **x9** G-91 T 'Gina'

use CWIT-54



61st Air Brigade (Lecce-Galatina AFB)

212th Tactical Weapons Training Squadron (a) **x9** MB-339A

CWIT-57

213th Tactical Weapons Training Squadron (a) **x9** MB-339A

CWIT-57



Tri-National Tornado Training Establishment (RAF Cottesmore, UK) (c)

Italian Contingent, TTTE **x6** Tornado IDS

CWIT-56

Other Units

313th Squadron *Frecce Tricolori* (d) **x6** MB-339A

CWIT-57



1st Air Brigade Vezio Mezzetti (Padua) (e)

16th Wing (Treviso)

57th SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

58th SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

80th SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

81st SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card



16th Wing (Treviso)

65th SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

67th SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

72nd SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

79th SAM Squadron

x12 Nike-Hercules SAM

no card

(a) These training units were last-phase fast jet training units, where pilots were trained to use their aircraft as weapons. Their aircraft were fully combat-capable and in wartime would become combat units.

(b) The G-91 T was the twin-seat version of the G-91 R/1. Use the G-91 R/1 card CWIT-54.

(c) This unit was, as the name suggests, a tri-national (British, German and Italian) unit to train aircrew on the Tornado aircraft. In wartime it would either be used to reinforce front-line Tornado units or might be used as a Tornado squadron in its own right.

(d) This was the Italian Air Force's aerobatic team. It would become a combat squadron in wartime.

(e) The Italian Air Force in 1989 listed another **x5** Squadrons'-worth of Spada SAM Launchers CWIT-23) in its inventory. It's possible that these were a third (unidentified) SAM Wing, but I think it more likely that they were in the process of replacing the Nike-Hercules system at that time.



Italian Card List & Model Availability

(Annotations 'QRF' = QRF Models, 'SOG' = Skytrex/Old Glory, 'OG' = Old Glory only, 'PP' = Peter Pig, 'QC' = Quality Castings/Old Glory 15s, 'FoW' = Flames of War, 'RMM' = Roskopf Miniatur Modelle., 'TT' = Totantanz Miniatures, 'MJ' = MJ Figures, 'BPM' = Butler's Printed Models)

CWIT-01 – M47 Patton 90mm Medium Tank	QRF, RMM, BPM
CWIT-02 – M60A1 105mm Medium Tank	QRF, RMM, FoW, BPM
CWIT-03 – Leopard 1A1/1A2 105mm Main Battle Tank	RMM, QRF, AA
CWIT-04 – Carro Pioniere Leopard (Biber) AVLB	RMM
CWIT-05 – Carro Pioniere Leopard Combat Engineer Vehicle	
CWIT-06 – Autoblindo Fiat 6616 20mm Armoured Car	
CWIT-07 – Autoblindo Fiat 6614 Armoured Personnel Carrier	
CWIT-08 – VCC-1 'Camillino' Mechanised Infantry Combat Vehicle	
CWIT-09 – VCC-2 Mechanised Infantry Combat Vehicle	
CWIT-10 – VTC M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carrier	QRF, SOG, PP, RMM, AA, FoW, BPM
CWIT-11 – VTC M106 107mm Mortar Carrier	QRF, RMM, FoW, BPM
CWIT-12 – VTC M125 81mm Mortar Carrier	QRF, RMM, FoW, BPM
CWIT-13 – VTC M150 TOW ATGM Carrier	QRF, SOG, RMM, FoW, BPM
CWIT-14 – VPC M577 Armoured Command Vehicle	QRF, SOG, PP, FoW, BPM
CWIT-15 – VTC M106A1 120mm Mortar Carrier	QRF, RMM, FoW, BPM
CWIT-16 – M113A1 SIDAM Quad 25mm Antiaircraft Vehicle	
CWIT-17 – AMX-VC1 Armoured Personnel Carrier	QRF
CWIT-18 – LVTP-7 Amphibious Assault Vehicle	QRF, FoW, TT, BPM
CWIT-19 – M56 105/14 105mm Mountain Howitzer	QRF, MJ
CWIT-20 – Breda-Bofors 40/70 40mm Antiaircraft Gun	
CWIT-21 – M55 Quad .50 Cal Antiaircraft Gun	FoW
CWIT-22 – I-Hawk SAM Launcher	QC
CWIT-23 – Spada SAM Launcher	
CWIT-24 – Fiat AR-59/AR-76 Light Utility Vehicle	
CWIT-25 – Fiat ACM-52 Medium Truck	
CWIT-26 – Fiat 6607CM Heavy Truck	
CWIT-27 – Commander	
CWIT-28 – Infantry (BM59 Rifle, M12 SMG, MG42/59 & Folgore 80mm MAW)	
CWIT-29 – Paratroops (BM59 Rifle, M12 SMG, MG42/59 & Folgore 80mm MAW)	
CWIT-30 – Genio Guastatori (BM59 Rifle, M12 SMG, MG42/59, T148/B Flamethrower & Folgore 80mm MAW)	
CWIT-31 – Pioneers (BM59 Rifle, M12 SMG & MG42/59)	
CWIT-32 – Forward Observer	
CWIT-33 – MG42/59 Light Machine Gun	
CWIT-34 – M19 60mm Mortar	
CWIT-35 – M1/M29 81mm Mortar	
CWIT-36 – M30 107mm Mortar	
CWIT-37 – Brandt 120mm Mortar	
CWIT-38 – MO-120-RT Towed 120mm Mortar	
CWIT-39 – Milan ATGM Team	QRF
CWIT-40 – M220 TOW ATGM Team	QRF
CWIT-41 – Cobra ATGM Team	RMM
CWIT-42 – M40A1 106mm Recoilless Rifle	QRF, PP
CWIT-43 – Stinger SAM Team	
CWIT-44 – AB-47 (OH-13H Sioux) Light Observation Helicopter	
CWIT-45 – AB-206 (OH-58 Kiowa) Light Observation Helicopter	Pocket Pak
CWIT-46 – A-109A Utility/Light Attack Helicopter	Italeri
CWIT-47 – AB-205 (UH-1D/H Iroquois) Utility Helicopter	QRF, FoW, Revell, Dinky, Heller, RMM, BPM
CWIT-48 – AB-212 (UH-1N Iroquois) Utility Helicopter	Italeri, BPM
CWIT-49 – AB-412 (CH-146 Griffon) Transport Helicopter	Italeri
CWIT-50 – CH-47 Chinook Heavy Transport Helicopter	QRF, OG
CWIT-51 – A-129 'Mangusta' Attack Helicopter	Italeri
CWIT-52 – SM-1019 Air Observation Post	
CWIT-53 – F-104G/S Starfighter Fighter-Bomber	Tamiya, Italeri, Heller, RMM
CWIT-54 – G-91R/1 'Gina' Light Ground-Attack Aircraft	Tamiya, Heller
CWIT-55 – G-91Y 'Gina Yankee' Light Ground-Attack Aircraft	Revell
CWIT-56 – Tornado MRCA All-Weather Interdiction/Strike Aircraft	Italeri, Revell
CWIT-57 – MB-339A Light Ground-Attack Aircraft	Italeri
CWIT-58 – M20 75mm Recoilless Rifle	QRF, PP