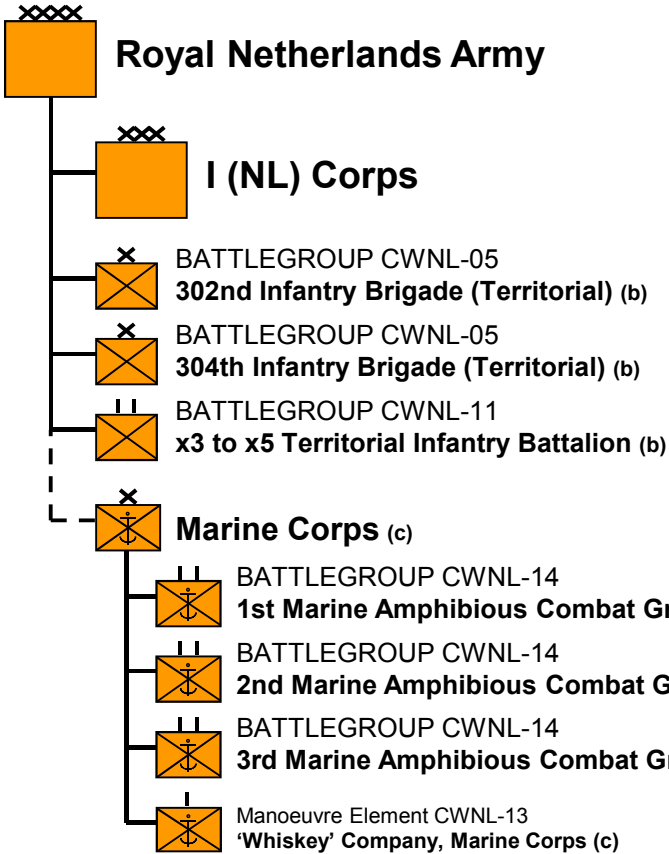


Netherlands TO&Es 1980-1989 v2.0

By R Mark Davies for *Battlefront: Modern*
(Models & Photos by Johan van Ooij)

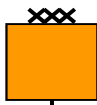


(a) The main fighting strength of the *Koninklijke Landmacht* (Royal Army) of the Netherlands was grouped into I (NL) Corps, which was the Netherlands' primary combat formation and was allocated to the left flank of NATO's British-led Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) in West Germany. On its left was the Danish-German 'Landjut' Corps and on its right was the German I Corps. However, only one regular Mechanised Brigade of 4th Infantry Division and the Corps HQ (plus some corps assets and other elements) were permanently deployed in West Germany. As a consequence, the German 3rd Panzer Division would be allocated in wartime from I (Ge) Corps in order to plug the gap and give time for the Dutch to mobilise. However, the Dutch had a very efficient mobilisation system that could mobilise its reservists and deploy the entire Corps into Germany within a few days. In addition to I (NL) Corps, there were **x2** Territorial Army (volunteer reservist) Infantry Brigades (BG CWNL-05) and a number of independent Territorial Infantry and Engineer Battalions assigned to home defence.

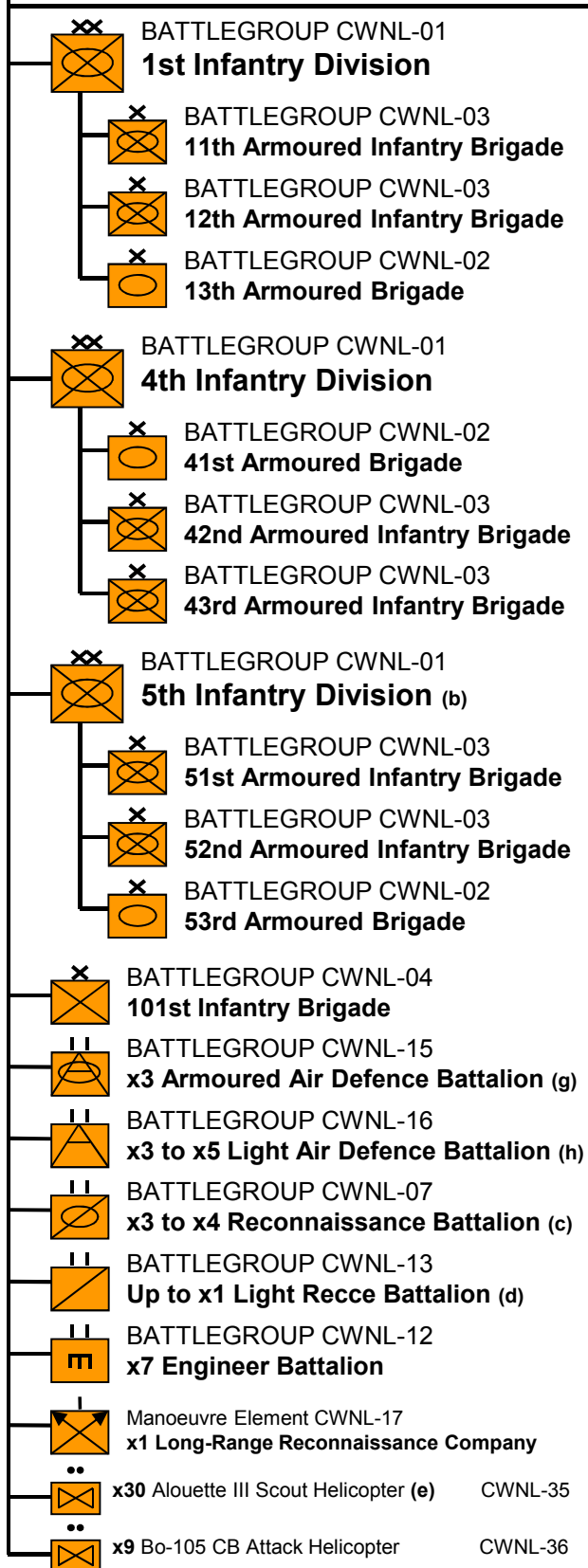
(b) As discussed above, the vast majority of the Royal Netherlands Army was deployed 'up-front' in I (NL) Corps and there would not have been a great deal left for home defence. However, there were a number of independent infantry companies for rear-area security and some wargame sources do refer to independent Territorial Battalions and Brigades, as shown here. I have been unable to confirm the existence of these units with more reliable sources, however.

(c) While the Marine Corps was roughly a brigade in strength, it was not organised, trained or expected to fight as a unified brigade. Instead, the bulk of the Marine Corps was divided into three 'Amphibious Combat Groups' (battalions) and an independent Marine Infantry Company, designated 'Whiskey' Company. There were also other Marine companies assigned to warships, port security and anti-terrorism roles, which fall outside of the scope of these TO&Es.





I (NL) Corps (a)



(a) The main fighting strength of the *Koninklijke Landmacht* (Royal Army) of the Netherlands was grouped into I (NL) Corps, which was the Netherlands' primary combat formation and was allocated to the left flank of NATO's British-led Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) in West Germany. On its left was the Danish-German 'Landjut' Corps and on its right was the German I Corps. However, only one regular Mechanised Brigade of 4th Infantry Division and the Corps HQ (plus some corps assets and other elements) were permanently deployed in West Germany. As a consequence, the German 3rd Panzer Division would be allocated in wartime from I (Ge) Corps in order to plug the gap and give time for the Dutch to mobilise. However, the Dutch had a very efficient mobilisation system that could mobilise its reservists and deploy the entire Corps into Germany within a few days.

(b) The 5th Division, the 101st Infantry Brigade and the 104th Artillery group were all-reservist formations that would be called up in wartime. The 'regular' formations also contained a proportion of reservists – typically one company per battalion (as a general rule of thumb).

(c) Initially there were x3 Reconnaissance Battalions (102nd, 103rd & 104th), with the fourth (105th Recce Battalion) added in 1984. The 102nd and 105th were formed from reservists. Note that the 105th lacked its tanks until 1985.

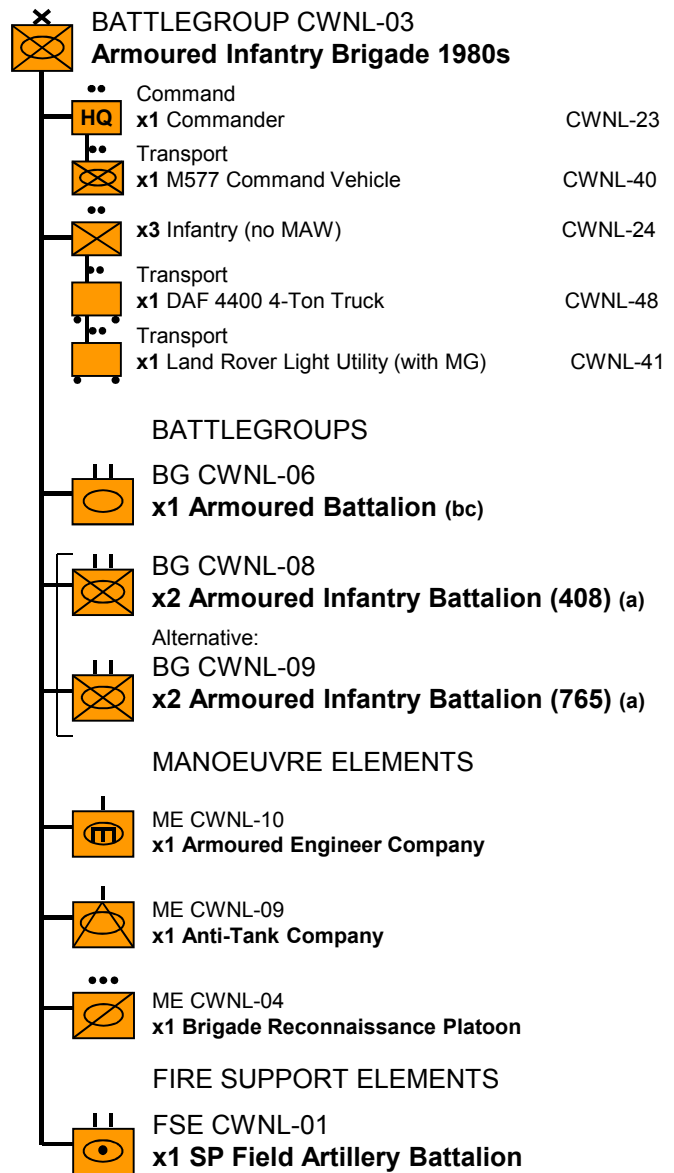
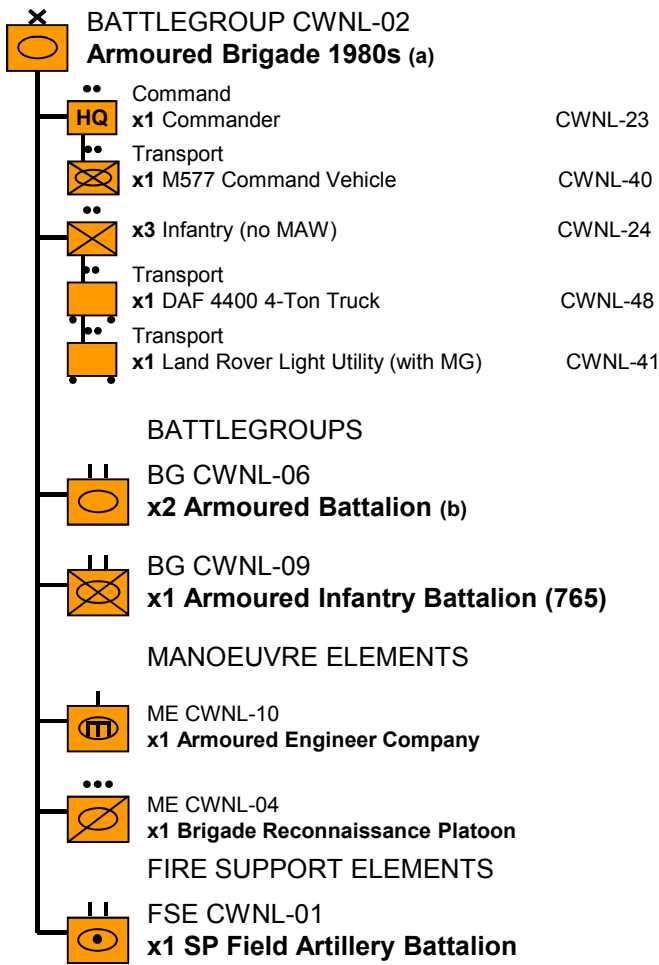
(d) The 53rd Light Reconnaissance Battalion was primarily responsible for rear-area security and counter-Spetznaz/paratroop operations. It was disbanded in 1985, following the activation of the new 105th Reconnaissance Battalion.

(e) Organised as one Squadron of x12 Alouette III and two of x9.

(f) One Heavy Artillery Regiment had only two half-sized batteries and was tasked solely with nuclear missions.

(g) All Air Defence Battalions were administratively grouped within the regimental-sized 101st Air Defence Group. The Armoured Air Defence Battalions (numbered 15th, 25th & 35th) would normally be split into small elements, closely supporting the 'teeth' arms.

(h) All Air Defence Battalions were administratively grouped within the regimental-sized 101st Air Defence Group. The Light Air Defence Battalions (numbered 15th, 25th, 45th, 115th & 125th) would be defending the rear areas. The 15th & 25th Light Air Defence Battalions (not to be confused with the similarly-numbered Armoured AD Bns) were disbanded in 1983.



(a) Note that some sources show a Brigade Anti-Tank Company. However, while this was true for at least one Armoured Brigade in peacetime, they were allocated to the Armoured Infantry Brigades in wartime.

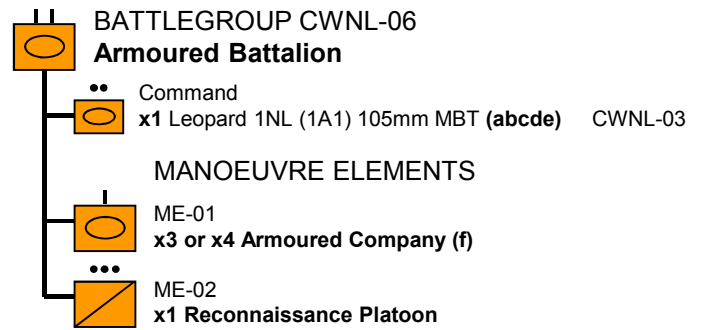
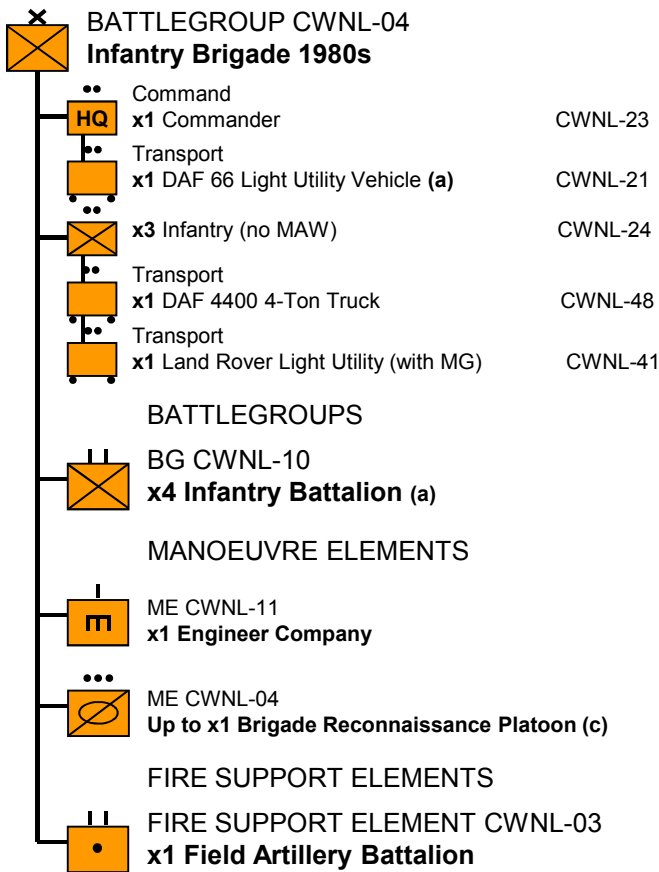
(b) All Armoured Battalions of Armoured Brigades were equipped with Leopard 1NL at the start of the 1980s, being upgraded between 1981 and 1985 with Leopard 1-V. However, from 1985, the tanks of 41st Armoured Brigade were replaced with Leopard 2A4.



(a) The Armoured Infantry Battalions of the 11th, 12th, 42nd and 52nd Armoured Infantry Brigades were equipped with YP-408 APCs. Those of the 43rd and 53rd Armoured Infantry Brigades (as well as those of all three Armoured Brigades) were equipped with YPR-765 AIFVs. In 1987, the YP-408s were finally retired and all Armoured Infantry Battalions were then equipped with the YPR-765 AIFV.

(b) The Armoured Battalions of the 52nd, 42nd and 58th Armoured Infantry Brigades were still equipped with venerable Centurion Mk 5/2 tanks. In 1986 the 42nd Brigade upgraded to Leopard 2A4, while the other two upgraded to Leopard 1-V in 1987.

(c) Most Armoured Battalions started the 1980s equipped with Leopard 1NL tanks and upgraded them to Leopard 1-V standard between 1981 and 1985. However, Leopards of the 43rd and 53rd Armoured Infantry Brigades were upgraded to Leopard 2A4 from 1985 onward.



(a) The Armoured Battalions of the 42nd, 52nd and 58th Brigades were still equipped with venerable Centurion Mk 5/2 tanks for the first half of the decade. Therefore, replace with:
Centurion Mk 5/2 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-02

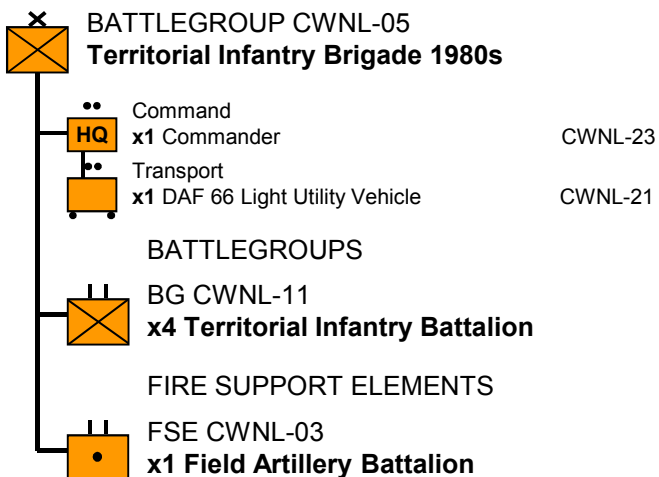
(b) The Armoured Battalions of all other brigades were equipped with Leopard 1NL at the start of the 1980s, being upgraded between 1981 and 1985 with:
Leopard 1-V 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-04

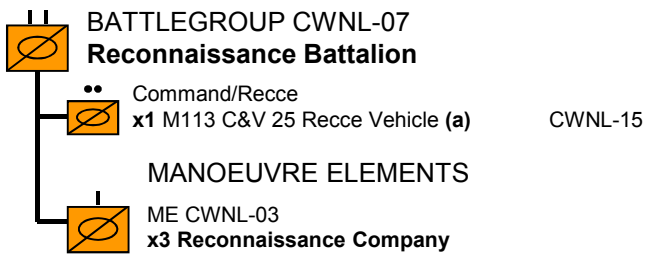
(c) From 1985, replace the Leopards of 41st, 43rd & 53rd Brigades with:
Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-05

(d) In 1986, replace the Centurions of 42nd Brigade with:
Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-05

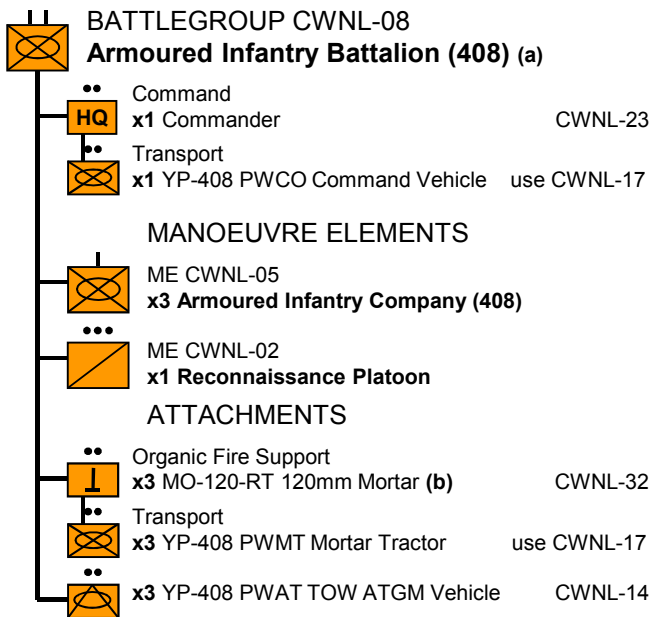
(e) In 1987, replace the Centurions of 52nd & 58th Brigades with:
Leopard 1-V 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-04

(f) All Armoured Battalions had x3 Armoured Companies until 1986, when the battalions of Armoured Infantry Brigades were expanded to x4 Companies after receiving their new tanks (Leopard 1-V or 2A4). However, the 3rd & 4th Companies in these expanded battalions were reduced in strength.



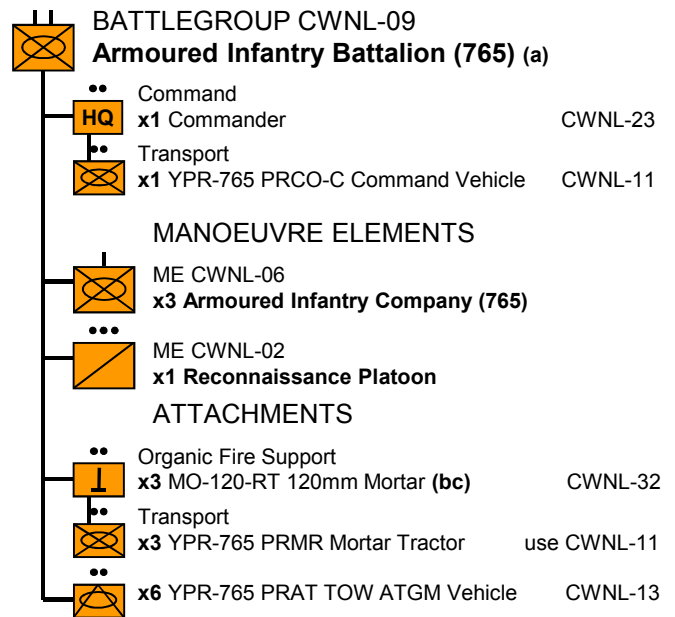


(a) All M113 C&V ('*Commando & Verkennings*') had been converted from .50 Cal to 25mm armament during the late 1970s.



(a) The Armoured Infantry Battalions of the 11th, 12th, 42nd and 52nd Armoured Infantry Brigades were equipped with YP-408 wheeled APCs until 1987, when they were all converted to YPR-765 AIFVs and organised as BG CWNL-09.

(b) Note that this is a towed weapon, not a self-propelled weapon like the West German Panzermörser 120 or American M106.

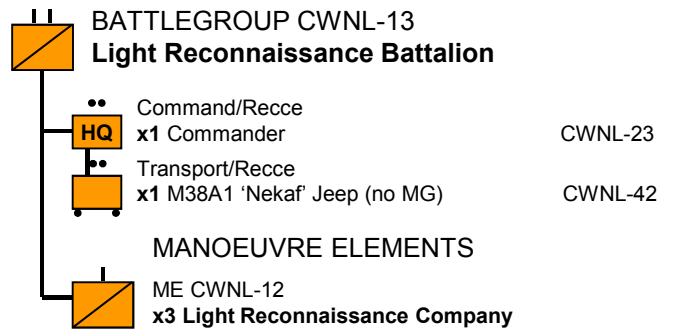
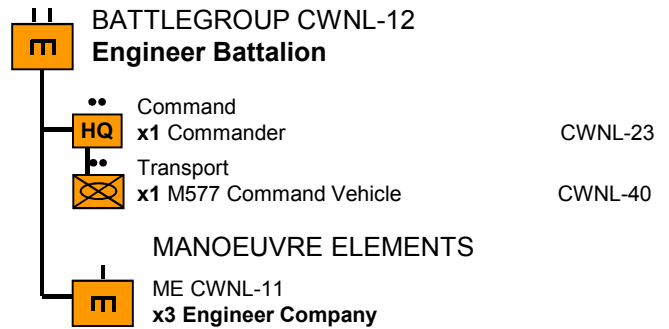
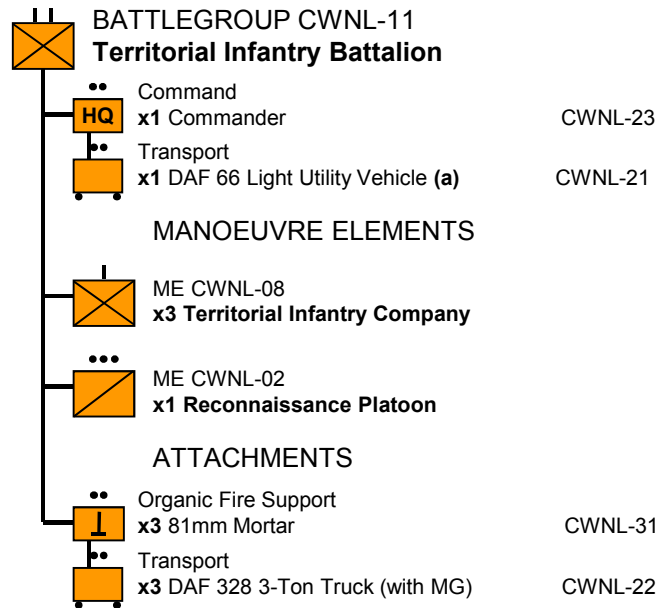
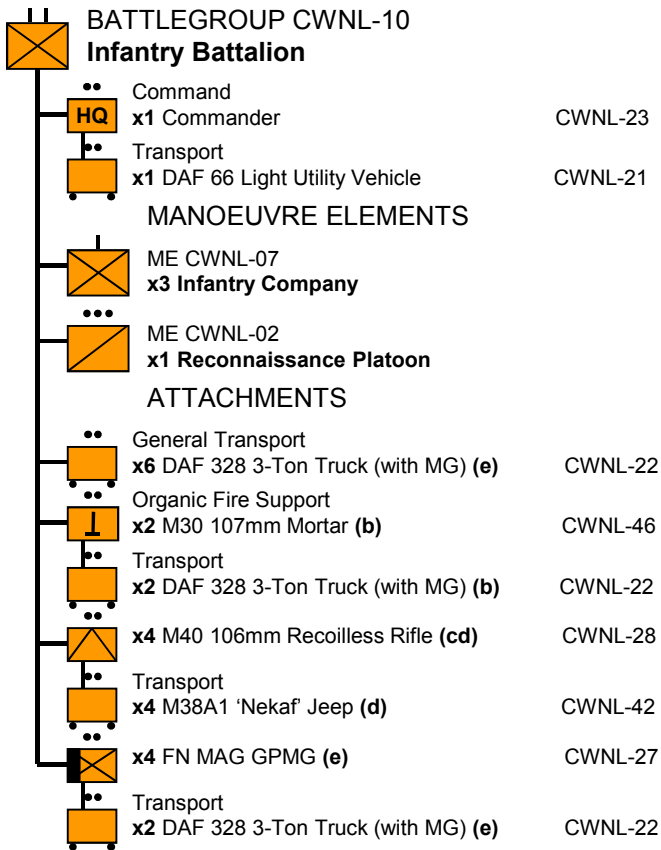


(a) The Armoured Infantry Battalions of the Armoured Brigades and the 43rd and 53rd Armoured Infantry Brigades were equipped with the tracked YPR-765 AIFV as their primary vehicle, having converted to YPR-765 from the venerable AMX-VC1 during the period 1976-1980. The 11th, 12th and 42nd Brigades followed suit in 1987, as did two battalions of the 101st Infantry Brigade in 1988.

(b) Note that this is a towed weapon, not a self-propelled weapon like the West German Panzermörser 120 or American M106.

(c) In the 101st Brigade, replace the 120mm Mortars with: M30 107mm Mortar CWNL-46





(a) In 1988, the 101st Infantry Brigade was massively reorganised, with two battalions becoming armoured and the remaining two 'leg' battalions being massively boosted with softskin transport and heavy weaponry.

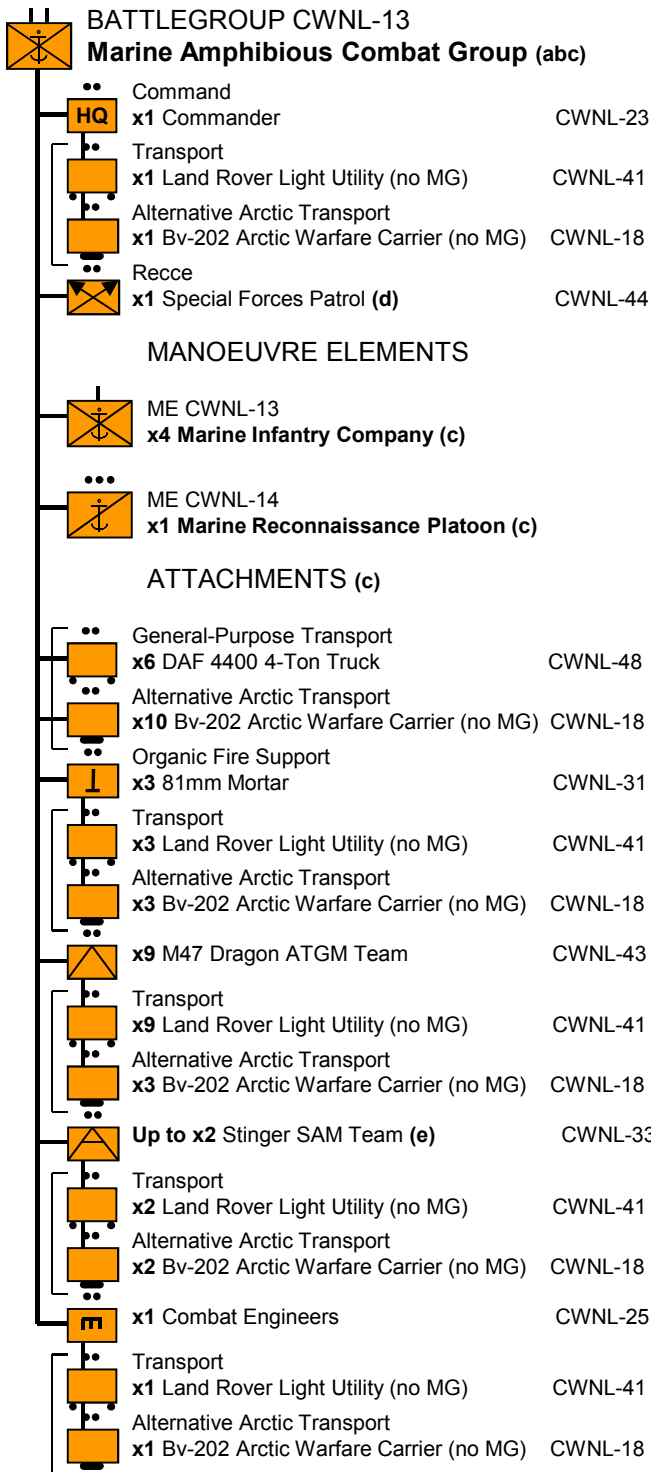
(b) In 1988, expand the Mortar Platoon to:
 x3 M30 107mm Mortar CWNL-46
 x3 DAF 328 3-Ton Truck (with MG) CWNL-22

(c) In 1988, replace the M40 Recoilless Rifles with:
 x6 M220 TOW ATGM Team (d) CWNL-29
 x6 M38A1 'Nekaf' Jeep (d) CWNL-42

(d) M40 Recoilless Rifles and TOW ATGMs may be fired from their Jeeps when mounted.

(e) In 1988, delete the general transport trucks, the FN MAG GPMG Teams and their transport.





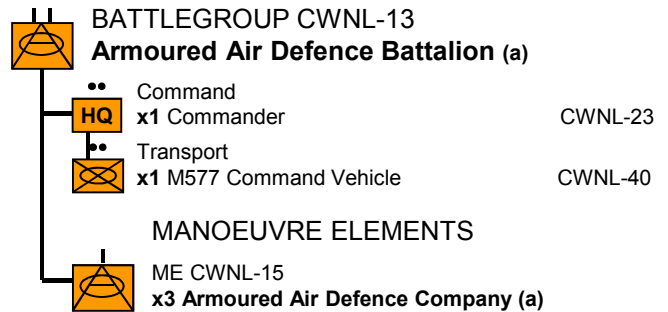
(a) The 1st Marine Amphibious Combat Group was assigned to join the UK 3 Commando Brigade (thus forming the 'UK-NL Landing Force') in any 'Northern Option' assignment. The deployment of this force to Norway was seen as the most likely war-role and was one that both the Netherlands Marines and British Commandos trained for intensively. As a consequence, the 1st Amphibious Combat Group had large stocks of Arctic warfare equipment (including all the Bv-202s) pre-positioned in Norway.

(b) In peacetime, the main portion of the 2nd Marine Amphibious Combat Group was mainly stationed in the Netherlands Antilles. In wartime, it would be relieved by the reservist 3rd Amphibious Combat Group and would become the 'Southern Option' contingent for any operations by the UK-NL Landing Force in temperate or tropical waters.

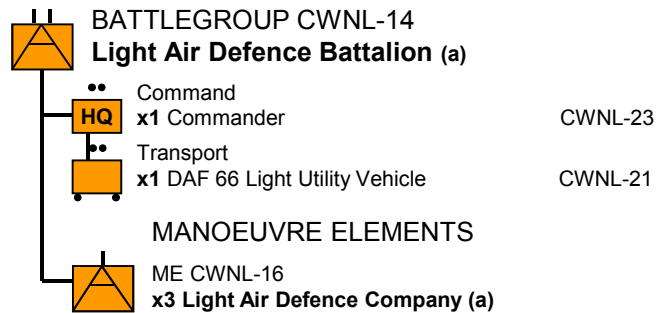
(c) As discussed above, the 3rd Amphibious Combat Group would become the garrison force for the Netherlands Antilles during the build-up to war, thereby relieving the 2nd Amphibious Group in that role. However, the 3rd Combat Group was considerably weaker, having only **x3** Marine Infantry Companies and no Support Company, so no Recce Platoon or combat support attachments. The bulk of the Group was formed from reservists.

(d) The 'Amphibious Section' was the elite special forces element of the Marine Corps, assigned to covert recce, sabotage and maritime counter-terrorism. The Section was normally split into three small 'Amphibious Groups', each of just six men, with each being assigned to a different Marine Amphibious Combat Group. The 1st Group was assigned to the 2nd Combat Group, while the 2nd Group was assigned to the 3rd Combat Group. The 3rd Group meanwhile, was assigned to the 1st Combat Group and was also affiliated to the British SBS, being also known as '7 (NL) SBS'.

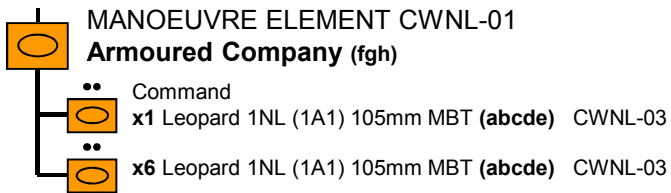
(e) Stinger is only available from 1985 onward.



(a) Tactically the battalion may be broken up, with elements being attached to other BGs as Company or Platoon MEs, or as individual units.



(a) Tactically the battalion may be broken up, with elements being attached to other BGs as Company or Platoon MEs, or as individual units.



(a) The Armoured Battalions of the 42nd, 52nd and 58th Brigades were still equipped with venerable Centurion Mk 5/2 tanks for the first half of the decade. Therefore, replace with:

Centurion Mk 5/2 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-02

(b) The Armoured Battalions of all other brigades were equipped with Leopard 1NL at the start of the 1980s, being upgraded between 1981 and 1985 with:

Leopard 1-V 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-04

(c) From 1985, replace the Leopards of 41st, 43rd & 53rd Brigades with:

Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-05

(d) In 1986, replace the Centurions of 42nd Brigade with:

Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-05

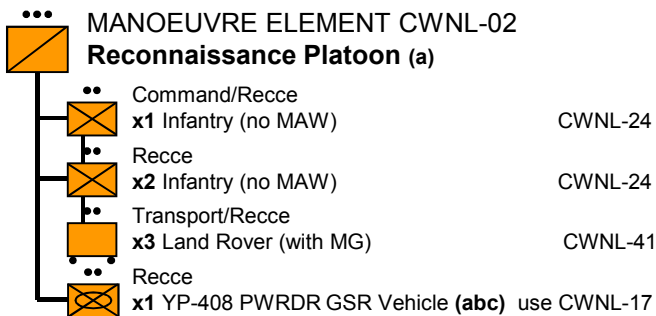
(e) In 1987, replace the Centurions of 52nd & 58th Brigades with:

Leopard 1-V 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-04

(f) With the arrival of the new Leopard 1-V and 2A4 tanks, the Armoured Battalions went through a reorganisation as they received the new equipment. May therefore increase the strength of the Armoured Company to **x8** tanks total. (g)

(g) Where an Armoured Battalion has **x4** Armoured Companies, the 3rd and 4th Companies will be of reduced strength (**x6** tanks total).

(h) May alternatively deploy the company as three or four platoon-sized MEs, each of **x2** tanks. Designate one tank in each platoon as the Platoon Commander.



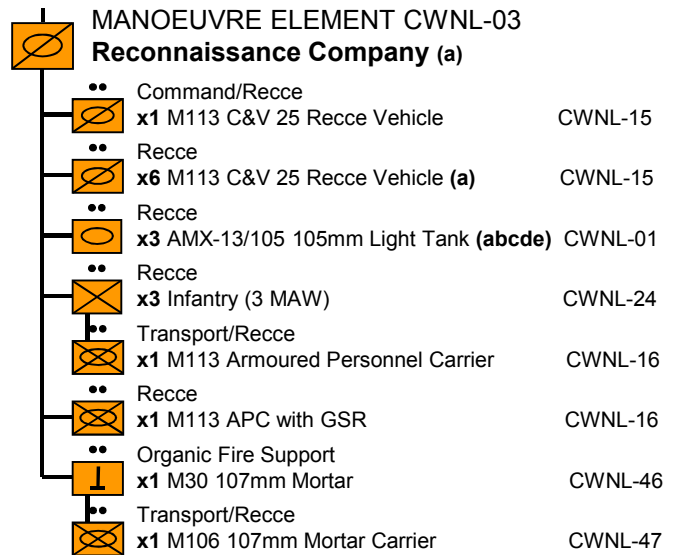
(a) Replace YP-408 GSR vehicle in Armoured Battalions and YPR-765-equipped Armoured Infantry Battalions with:

YPR-765 PRRDR GSR Vehicle CWNL-12

(b) Replace YP-408 GSR vehicle in Infantry Battalions with:

M38A1 'Nekaf' Jeep with GSR use CWNL-42

(c) In Territorial Infantry Battalions, delete the radar recce vehicle.



(a) The Company may alternatively be deployed as **x3** platoon-sized MEs of **x2** M113 C&V 25 and **x1** Tank. Designate one M113 C&V 25 in each platoon as the ME Commander.

(b) Sources differ, though it would appear that at least some units persisted with AMX-13/105 Light Tanks into the early 1980s. There was a plan in the late 70s/early 80s to replace them with YPR-765 PRAT tank-destroyers, though this plan doesn't seem to have been implemented, as the Reconnaissance Regiments were soon employing main battle tanks in this slot. May therefore replace the AMX-13/105 Light Tanks in the early 1980s with:

Leopard 1NL (1A1) 105mm Main Battle Tank (c) CWNL-03

(c) The 102nd and 104th Reconnaissance Battalions had a very slow programme of tank-upgrades, with roughly one company being upgraded every six months from 1985-87. May therefore replace the tanks in these battalions with:

Leopard 1-V 105mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-04

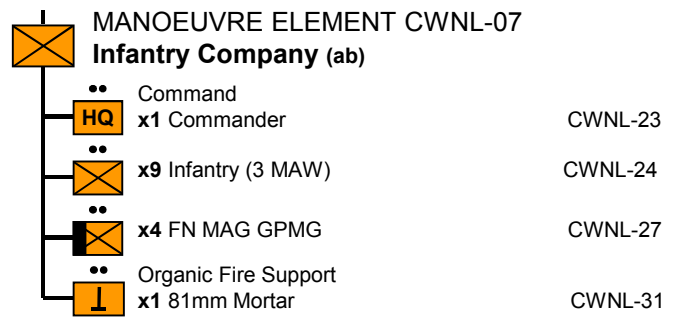
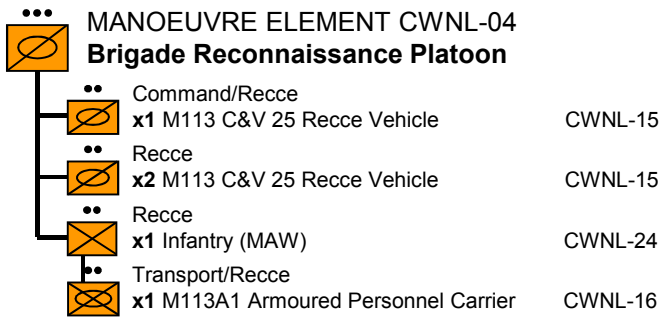
(d) In 1985, replace tanks in 103rd Reconnaissance Battalion with:

Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-05

(e) The 105th Reconnaissance Battalion was activated in 1984 without any tanks at all. However, tanks were finally delivered in 1985, so add:

Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank CWNL-05

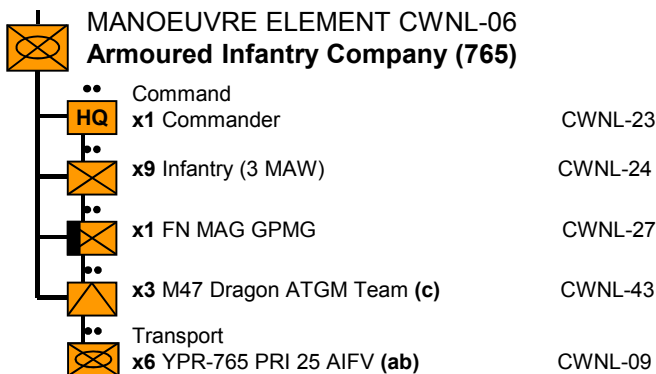
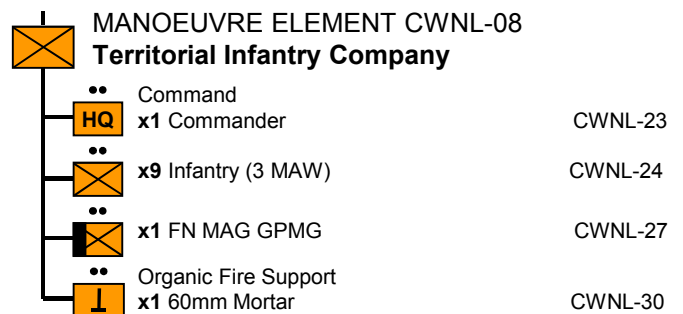
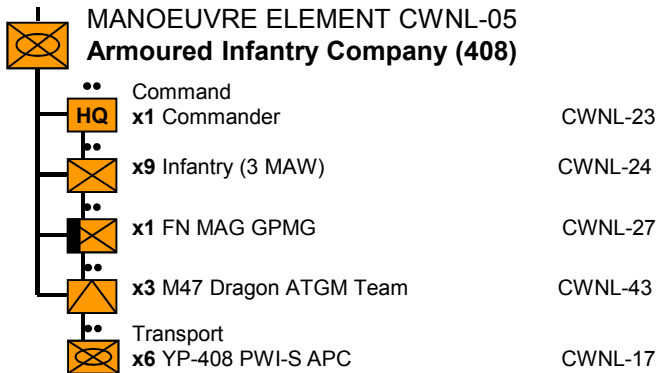




(a) In 1988, these units were massively reorganised, with the following units added:

- x3 FN MAG GPMG CWNL-27
- x2 M40 106mm Recoilless Rifle (b) CWNL-28
- x6 DAF 328 3-Ton Truck (with MG) CWNL-22
- x2 M38A1 'Nekaf' Jeep (b) CWNL-42

(b) M40 Recoilless Rifles may be fired from their Jeeps when mounted.



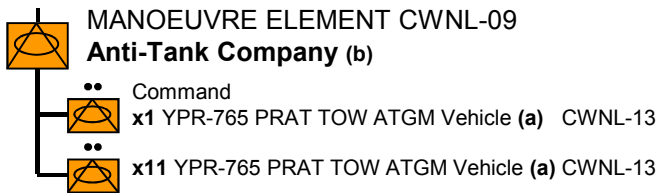
(a) In 101st Infantry Brigade; replace YPR-765 PRI 25 transports with:
YPR-765 PRI .50 AIFV CWNL-10

(b) Some sources describe a 50/50 mix of 25mm & .50 Cal-armed vehicles, though the official TOEs suggest a 100% issue of 25mm in most brigades, with the .50s going to 101st Brigade.

(c) In 101st Brigade; replace M47 Dragon Teams with the following units:

- x2 M40 106mm Recoilless Rifle (d) CWNL-28
- x2 M38A1 'Nekaf' Jeep (d) CWNL-42

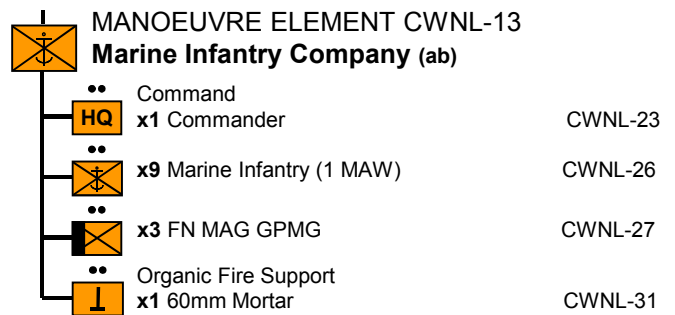
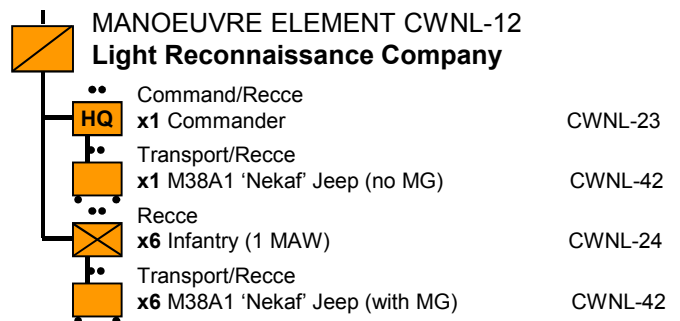
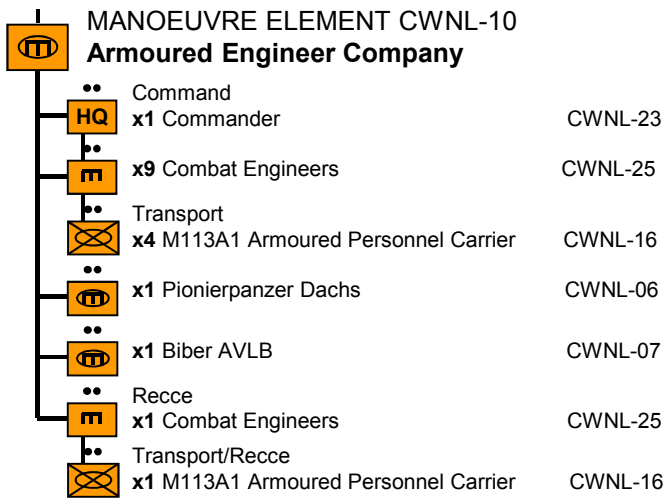
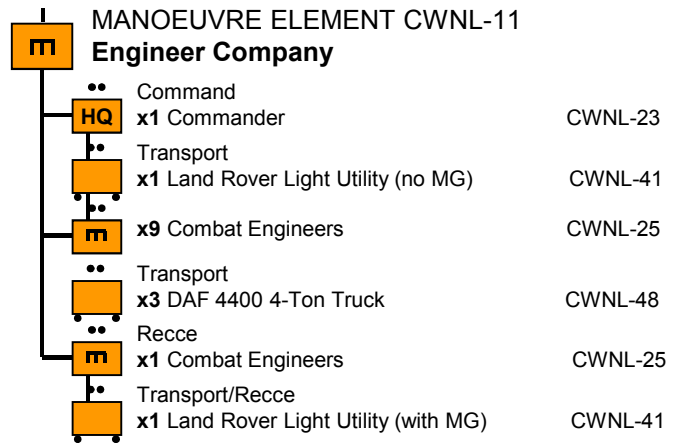
(d) M40 Recoilless Rifles may be fired from their Jeeps when mounted.



(a) Early 1980s: Some units were still equipped with obsolete vehicles. May therefore replace some or all YPR-765 PRAT in the unit with:

- AMX-13/105 105mm Light Tank CWNL-01
- AMX-VTT TOW ATGM Vehicle CWNL-12

(b) May alternatively be deployed as **x6** platoon-sized MEs, each of **x2** vehicles. Designate one vehicle in each platoon as the Platoon Commander.

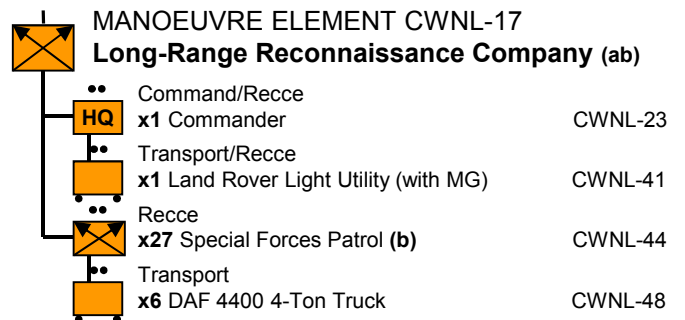


(a) In 'Whiskey Company', add:
 x1 M47 Dragon ATGM Team CWNL-43
 x1 Bv-202 Arctic Warfare Tracked Carrier CWNL-18

(b) In 3rd Amphibious Combat Group, add:
 x1 81mm Mortar CWNL-31

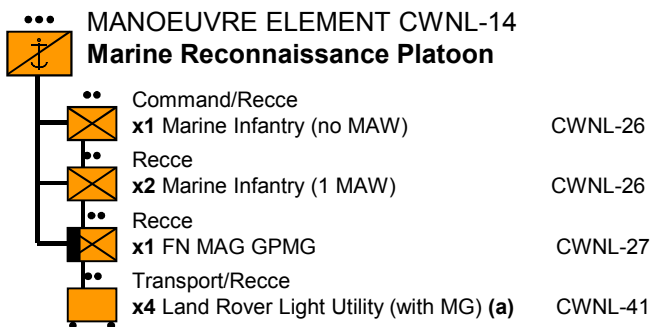
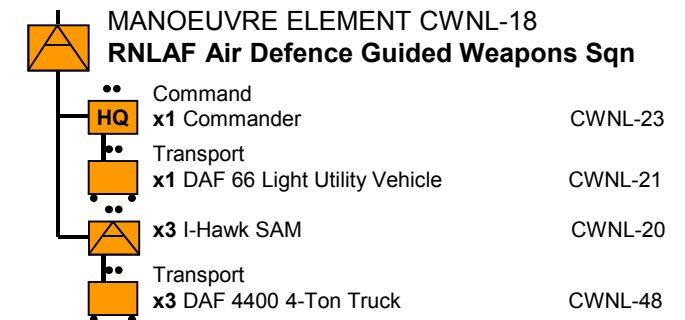


(a) The Company may alternatively be split up as individual unit attachments to other BGs or MEs.

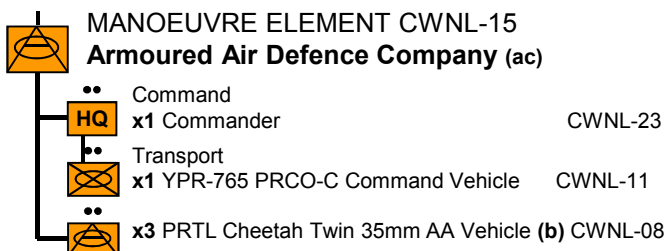


(a) The 104th Observation & Reconnaissance Company was I (NL) Corps' Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRP) element. As such and in common with other similar LRRP units in NATO formations, its main duties in the event of a major war with the Warsaw Pact was to conduct long-range 'stay-behind' reconnaissance and sabotage behind enemy lines, once Warsaw Pact formations had rolled past.

(b) The company may be split into x3 Platoon-Sized MEs, each of x9 4-man Special Forces Patrols. Designate one patrol in each Platoon as the Platoon Commander. Alternatively, the platoons may be split into even smaller MEs as the situation requires.



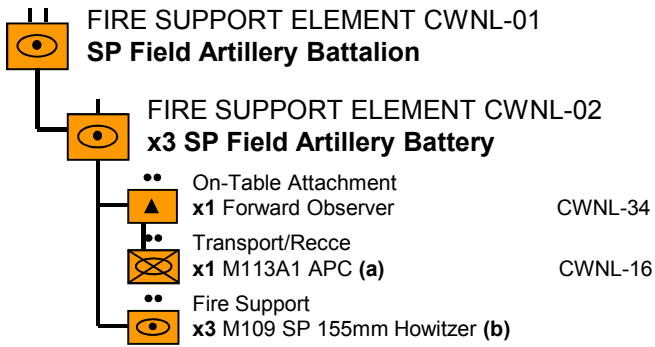
(a) In Norway, may replace all transport with:
x1 Bv-202 Arctic Warfare Tracked Carrier CWNL-36
NB This is insufficient transport to mount the whole unit – the remainder are towed behind the Bv-202 on skis.



(a) Mid-1980s: Add the following:
x3 Stinger SAM Team CWNL-33
x3 Land Rover Light Utility Vehicle (no MG) CWNL-41

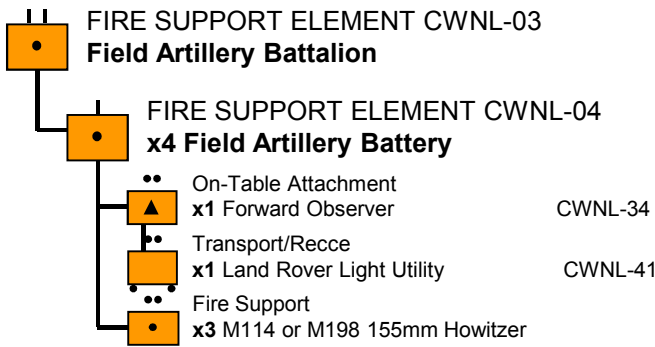
(b) The PRTL Cheetah is a Dutch variant of the West German Flakpanzer Gepard. The only significant visual difference between the two is that the PRTL Cheetah has a maritime-style 'bar' radar antenna instead of the Gepard's distinctive dish antenna. It would be a very easy modelling project to convert Gepards into PRTL Cheetahs.

(c) The Company may alternatively be split up as individual unit attachments to other BGs or MEs.



(a) May replace M113 APC with:
 YPR-765 PRI .50 MICV CWNL-10

(b) Some reservist units (such as those in 5th Infantry Division) persisted in using AMX 105mm Model A self-propelled howitzers well into the 1980s, before these were finally replaced with M109.

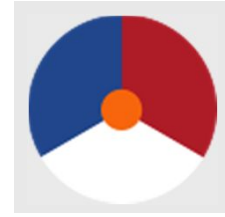


(a) During the early 1980s, some Heavy Artillery Battalions were actually equipped with M107 SP 175mm Howitzers. However, this had reduced to one battalion by 1985 and this last unit was re-equipped with M110A2 SP 203mm Howitzers in 1986.

(b) One Heavy Artillery Regiment had only two half-sized batteries and was tasked solely with nuclear missions.



Royal Netherlands Air Force, 1980s



Note that all RNLAf fast jet squadrons converted to F-16A Fighting Falcon (CWNL-38) during the period 1980-1991. I have therefore noted the year in which they converted to F-16 next to each squadron listing below:

306 Squadron – x9 F-104G Starfighter (1983)	CWNL-39
311 Squadron – x9 F-104G Starfighter (1982)	CWNL-39
312 Squadron – x9 F-104G Starfighter (1985)	CWNL-39
313 Squadron – x9 NF-5A Freedom Fighter (1988)	CWNL-37
314 Squadron – x9 NF-5A Freedom Fighter (1991)	CWNL-37
315 Squadron – x9 NF-5A Freedom Fighter (1987)	CWNL-37
316 Squadron – x9 NF-5A Freedom Fighter (1991)	CWNL-37
322 Squadron – x9 F-104G Starfighter (1980)	CWNL-39
323 Squadron – x9 F-104G Starfighter (1981)	CWNL-39



Each battalion-sized battlegroup should have at least one FAC attached (CWNL-34), mounted in transport of a type appropriate to the unit (e.g. YP-408, M113, YPR-765, Bv-202 or Land Rover). There was no specific FAC vehicle.



Netherlands Card List & Model Availability

(Annotations 'QRF' = QRF Models/LKM Direct, 'SOG' = Skytrex/Old Glory, 'PP' = Peter Pig, 'FoW' = Battlefront/Flames of War. 'RMM' = Roskopf Miniatur Modelle, 'AiM' = Armaments in Miniature, 'AA' = Armies Army)

CWNL-01 – AMX-13/105 105mm Light Tank/Tank Destroyer	QRF, RMM
CWNL-02 – Centurion Mk 5/2 105mm Main Battle Tank	QRF, PP, FoW, RMM
CWNL-03 – Leopard 1NL (1A1) 105mm Main Battle Tank	RMM, AA (coming soon)
CWNL-04 – Leopard 1-V ('Vebeterd' – Improved) 105mm Main Battle Tank	RMM
CWNL-05 – Leopard 2A4 120mm Main Battle Tank	QRF, RMM
CWNL-06 – Pionierpanzer Dachs	
CWNL-07 – Biber AVLB	RMM
CWNL-08 – PRTL Cheetah Twin 35mm Antiaircraft Vehicle	QRF, RMM (Flakpanzer Gepard with 'bar' radar antenna)
CWNL-09 – YPR-765 PRI 25mm Infantry Combat Vehicle	QRF
CWNL-10 – YPR-765 PRI .50 Infantry Combat Vehicle	(with M113 ACAV turret replacing the 25mm cannon turret)
CWNL-11 – YPR-765 PRCO-C Command Vehicle	(with M113 cupola replacing the 25mm cannon turret)
CWNL-12 – AMX-VTT TOW ATGM Vehicle	(AMX-VCI (QRF) with cupola-mounted TOW)
CWNL-13 – YPR-765 PRAT ATGM Vehicle (Improved TOW)	(with M901 ITV turret replacing the 25mm cannon turret)
CWNL-14 – YP-408 PWAT ATGM Vehicle (TOW)	QRF (coming soon)
CWNL-15 – M113 C&V 25mm Reconnaissance Vehicle	
CWNL-16 – M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier	QRF, SOG, PP, RMM, FoW
CWNL-17 – YP-408 PWI-S Armoured Personnel Carrier	QRF (coming soon)
CWNL-18 – Hägglunds Bv-202 Tracked Carrier	QRF (coming soon)
CWNL-19 – Bofors L70 40mm Antiaircraft Gun	
CWNL-20 – I-Hawk SAM Launcher	QC
CWNL-21 – DAF YA-66 Light Utility Vehicle	
CWNL-22 – DAF YA-328 3-Ton Truck (with .50 Cal)	
CWNL-23 – Commander	
CWNL-24 – Infantry (84mm MAW & 66mm LAW)	
CWNL-25 – Combat Engineers (66mm LAW)	
CWNL-26 – Marine Infantry (84mm MAW & 66mm LAW)	
CWNL-27 – FN MAG General Purpose Machine Gun	
CWNL-28 – M40 106mm Recoilless Rifle	
CWNL-29 – M220 TOW ATGM Team	QRF
CWNL-30 – 60mm Mortar	
CWNL-31 – 81mm Mortar	
CWNL-32 – MO-120-RT 120mm Mortar	
CWNL-33 – Stinger SAM Team	
CWNL-34 – Forward Observer	
CWNL-35 – Alouette III Observation Helicopter	Heller, RMM, AiM
CWNL-36 – Bo-105CB Attack Helicopter	Italeri, RMM
CWNL-37 – NF-5A Freedom Fighter	Italeri, Revell
CWNL-38 – F-16A Fighting Falcon	Revell, RMM
CWNL-39 – F-104G Starfighter	Italeri, Revell, Tamiya, RMM
CWNL-40 – M577 Command Vehicle	QRF, SOG, PP, FoW, RMM
CWNL-41 – ¾ Ton Land Rover Light Utility Vehicle	QRF
CWNL-42 – M38A1 'Nekaf' Jeep	FoW
CWNL-43 – M47 Dragon ATGM Team	
CWNL-44 – Special Forces Patrol (LAW)	
CWNL-45 – M55 Quad .50 Cal Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun	FoW
CWNL-46 – M30 107mm Mortar	FoW
CWNL-47 – M106 107mm Mortar Carrier	FoW, QRF
CWNL-48 – DAF YA-4400 4-Ton Truck	

