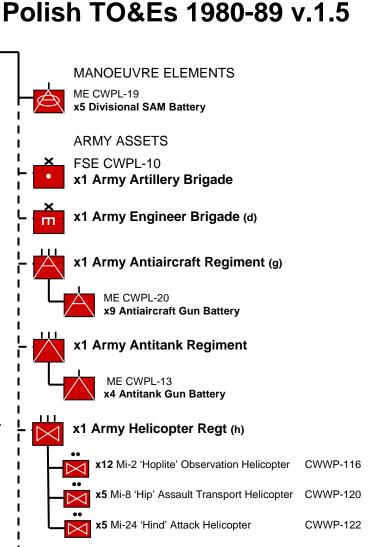
# BATTLEGROUPS BG CWPL-05 x3 Armoured Regiment BG CWPL-06 x1 Mechanised Regiment (Tracked) (b) BG CWPL-15 x1 Reconnaissance Battalion x1 Engineer Battalion (f) FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS FSE CWPL-09 x1 Divisional Artillery Regiment

**BATTLEGROUP CWPL-01** 

- (a) The Polish People's Army formed the Warsaw Pact's 'Northern Group of Forces', which would become the 'Northern Front' in time of war. The Northern Front had three permanently-assigned Polish Armies and all Front Assets were also Polish. There could also be Soviet formations and assets attached from time to time. Poland had five Armoured Divisions. Some sources describe them all as Category A in terms of combat-readiness, though others describe only two divisions (16th & 20th both serving with 2nd Polish Army) as Category A and the other three (5th, 10th & 11th all serving with 3rd Polish Army) as Category B.
- (b) By the mid-1980s there were enough BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles in the Polish Army to replace the TOPAS tracked APCs in eight Mechanised Regiments. It would appear that the five Armoured Divisions each equipped their Mechanised Regiments with BMPs first, along with the three Category A Mechanised Divisions (8th, 12th & 15th) of 2nd Army. By 1989, the Poles appear to have at least partly equipped all Armoured Divisions with BMP-2, which then allowed their old BMP-1s to be cascaded down to the lower-category Mechanised Divisions.
- (c) The Northern Front also had x2 Artillery Brigades, x1 Independent Artillery Regiment, x1 SAM Brigade (equipped with SA-4 'Ganef'), x2 Antiaircraft Regiments, x1 Antitank Regiment and possibly an Assault Transport Helicopter Regiment (h). As with the Soviet TO&Es, there is little point in listing most of these assets here, as they are highly unlikely to feature in a BF game.
- (d) More engineering assets than you can shake a stick at...
- (e) An Army Recce Battalion was officially organised the same as a Divisional Recce Battalion, though there were often unit variations.
- **(f)** The Divisional Engineer Battalion had a single Divisional Sapper Company that could be considered an ME for game purposes (ME CWPL-25), while the rest of the battalion consisted of road-building, bridging, amphibian, position preparation and demolition equipment, which is unlikely to feature very heavily in a game.
- **(g)** One source for 1989 gives an Army SAM Brigade, equipped with **x9** Batteries of SA-4 'Ganef' (as described above, for Front Troops) rather than the Army AA Regiment shown here. Perhaps the AA guns were replaced with SAMs during the 1980s?
- (h) One source from the mid-1980s describes x1 'Light Helicopter Regiment' in each Army, each comprising x30 Mi-2, while at Front level there would be an 'Assault Transport Helicopter Regiment', containing all the Mi-24 & Mi-8, plus some Mi-4.





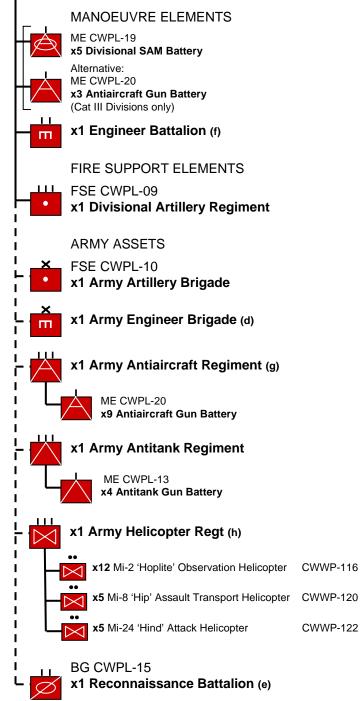
x1 Reconnaissance Battalion (e)

**BG CWPL-15** 

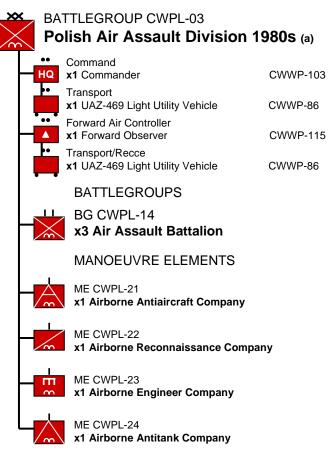


**BATTLEGROUP CWPL-02** 

- (a) The Polish People's Army formed the Warsaw Pact's 'Northern Group of Forces', which would become the 'Northern Front' in time of war. The Northern Front had three permanently-assigned Polish Armies and all Front Assets were also Polish. There could also be Soviet formations and assets attached from time to time. Poland had eight Mechanised Divisions. Three divisions (1st, 3rd & 9th, serving with 1st Army) were designated Category C in terms of combatreadiness, two (2nd & 4th, with 3rd Army) were Category B and the remaining three (8th, 12th & 15th, with 3rd Polish Army) were rated Category A.
- (b) By the mid-1980s there were enough BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles in the Polish Army to replace the TOPAS tracked APCs in eight Mechanised Regiments. It would appear that the five Armoured Divisions each equipped their Mechanised Regiments with BMPs first, along with the three Category A Mechanised Divisions (8th, 12th & 15th) of 2nd Army. By 1989, the Poles appear to have at least partly equipped all Armoured Divisions with BMP-2, which then allowed their old BMP-1s to be cascaded down to the lower-category Mechanised Divisions.
- (c) The Northern Front also had x2 Artillery Brigades, x1 Independent Artillery Regiment, x1 SAM Brigade (equipped with SA-4 'Ganef'), x2 Antiaircraft Regiments, x1 Antitank Regiment and possibly an Assault Transport Helicopter Regiment (h). As with the Soviet TO&Es, there is little point in listing most of these assets here, as they are highly unlikely to feature in a BF game.
- (d) More engineering assets than you can shake a stick at...
- (e) An Army Recce Battalion was officially organised the same as a Divisional Recce Battalion, though there were often unit variations.
- **(f)** The Divisional Engineer Battalion had a single Divisional Sapper Company that could be considered an ME for game purposes (ME CWPL-25), while the rest of the battalion consisted of road-building, bridging, amphibian, position preparation and demolition equipment, which is unlikely to feature very heavily in a game.
- (g) One source for 1989 gives an Army SAM Brigade, equipped with x9 Batteries of SA-4 'Ganef' (as described above, for Front Troops) rather than the Army AA Regiment shown here. Perhaps the AA guns were replaced with SAMs during the 1980s?



(h) One source from the mid-1980s describes x1 'Light Helicopter Regiment' in each Army, each comprising x30 Mi-2, while at Front level there would be an 'Assault Transport Helicopter Regiment', containing all the Mi-24 & Mi-8, plus some Mi-4.



(a) The Polish 6th (Pommeranian) Air Assault Division was a division in name only. In reality it was a brigade-sized formation (as shown here), with only three 'teeth' battalions. During the 1970s the division had been stronger, with organic artillery and an Airborne Assault Gun Battalion, equipped with ASU-85s. However, the division was much-diminished by 1980. Nevertheless, the division was rated very highly by both NATO and Warsaw Pact observers and in common with the Polish 7th Marine Assault Division, maintained a level of training and esprit de corps that was very rare in the Warsaw Pact.



- X X

x3 Marine Infantry Regiment

BG CWPL-11

x1 Marine Armoured Battalion



**BG CWPL-16** 

x1 Marine Reconnaissance Battalion



**BG CWPL-17** 

x1 Marine Engineer Battalion

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



ME CWPL-16

x3 Antiaircraft Company

### FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS

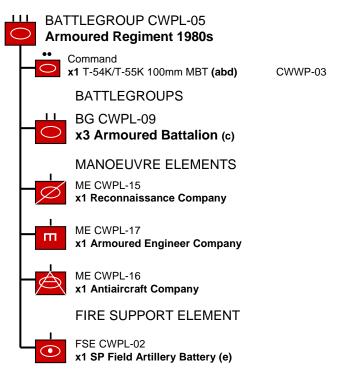


FSE CWPL-05

## x1 Multiple Rocket Launcher Battalion

(a) Like the 6th Air Assault Division, the Polish 7th Marine Assault Division was very weak for a division. Its 'Regiments' were actually very strong battalions, so the division was actually only marginally stronger than an equivalent Soviet Naval Infantry Brigade. However, again like the 6th Air Assault Division, levels of training and morale were very high in the 7th Marine Assault Division.

(b) May replace TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carrier with: TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-42



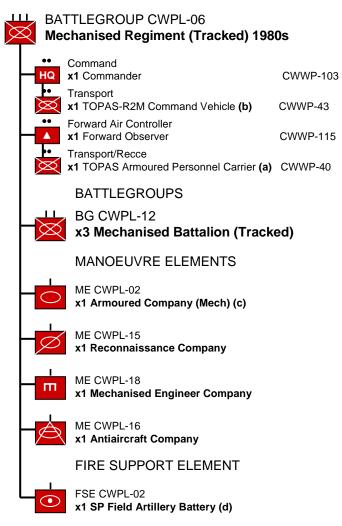
(a) Many sources report that the Poles received only enough T-72 tanks to equip one regiment. However, Poland was manufacturing T-72s under licence (along with Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia), so it would be rather strange if they only managed to equip one regiment. One source however, lists four Armoured Divisions as having T-72 by 1989, which seems more likely. May therefore replace T-54/T-55 with:

T-72 MK 125mm Command Main Battle Tank (d) CWWP-11 From mid-1980s: May replace T-55 tanks with upgraded models: T-55 AMK 'Merida' Command Main Battle Tank (d) CWWP-142

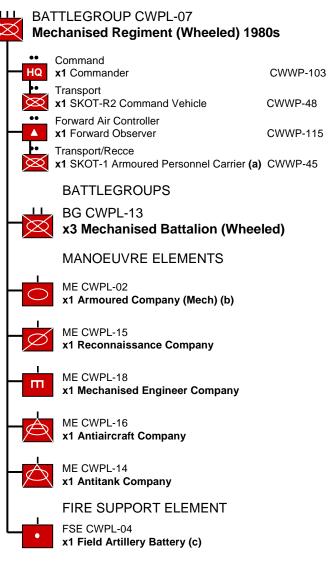
**(b)** Some Category C Mechanised Divisions persisted in using some very obsolete equipment. May therefore replace T-54/T-55 with:

T-34/85 85mm Medium Tank CWWP-02

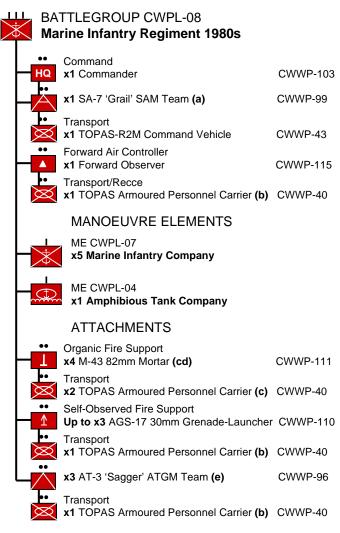
- (c) One source describes Polish Armoured Regiments as having x9 companies, all reporting directly to Regiment HQ, with no intervening Battalion layer of command. I'm not really inclined to believe this, but I mention it here for the purpose of discussion.
- (d) Command tanks (i.e. 'K' variants) do not have AAMGs and may not therefore conduct AA fire.
- **(e)** Category C Divisions did not have a regimental artillery group. However, in Category A & B divisions: May increase artillery strength to **x1** SP Field Artillery Battalion (FSE CWPL-01). Note however, that there were never enough SP guns to go around and some units had to make do with towed D-30 122mm Howitzers (as per FSE CWPL-03 & 04).



- (a) May replace TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carrier with: TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-42
- (b) In regiments equipped with BMP Infantry Combat Vehicles: Replace TOPAS-R2M Command Vehicle with: x1 BMP KSh Command Vehicle CWWP-65
- (c) May increase tank strength to x1 Armoured Battalion (Mech) (BG CWPL-10).
- (d) Category C Divisions did not have a regimental artillery group. However, in Category A & B divisions: May increase artillery strength to x1 SP Field Artillery Battalion (FSE CWPL-01). Note however, that there were never enough SP guns to go around and some units had to make do with towed D-30 122mm Howitzers (as per FSE CWPL-03 & 04).



- (a) May replace SKOT-1 Armoured Personnel Carrier with: SKOT-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-47
- (b) May increase tank strength to x1 Armoured Battalion (Mech) (BG CWPL-10).
- **(c)** Category C Divisions did not have a regimental artillery group. However, in Category A & B divisions: May increase artillery strength to **x1** Field Artillery Battalion (FSE CWPL-03).



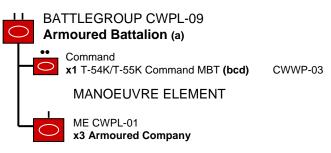
(a) Late 1980s: May replace SA-7 'Grail' SAM with:
SA-16 'Gimlet' SAM Team
CWWP-101
(The Poles build the SA-16 under licence and call it the GROM)

(b) May replace TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carriers with: TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier (c) CWWP-42

**(c)** If converting TOPAS APCs to TOPAS-2AP standard, replace mortar transport with:

TOPAS-2AP Mortar Carrier (d) CWWP-44

- (d) The mortars may be fired from the TOPAS-2AP Mortar Carrier when mounted (x2 per vehicle).
- (e) May replace AT-3 'Sagger' ATGMs with:
  AT-4 'Spigot' ATGM Team CWWP-97



- (a) Polish armoured doctrine was radically different to that practiced by other Warpac nations, emphasising fire and manoeuvre by company, with the emphasis for tactical innovation being placed on the shoulders of company and platoon commanders (more like NATO than Warpac, in fact). Consequently the battalion normally operates as distinct Company MEs, unlike their Warpac equivalents, which operate as a single, large ME.
- (b) In some favoured regiments (see notes for BG CWPL-05), may replace T-54/T-55 tanks with:

T-72 MK Command Main Battle Tank **(d)** CWWP-11
Or from mid-1980s: May replace T-55 tanks with upgraded models:
T-55 AMK 'Merida' Command Main Battle Tank **(d)** CWWP-142

**(c)** Some Category C Mechanised Divisions persisted in using some very obsolete equipment. May therefore replace T-54/T-55 with:

T-34/85 85mm Medium Tank

CWWP-02

(d) Command tanks (i.e. 'K' variants) do not have AAMGs and may not therefore conduct AA fire.



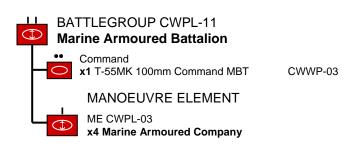
- (a) Polish armoured doctrine was radically different to that practiced by other Warpac nations, emphasising fire and manoeuvre by company, with the emphasis for tactical innovation being placed on the shoulders of company and platoon commanders (more like NATO than Warpac, in fact). Consequently the battalion normally operates as distinct Company MEs, unlike their Warpac equivalents, which operate as a single, large ME.
- **(b)** From mid-1980s: May replace T-55 tanks with upgraded models:

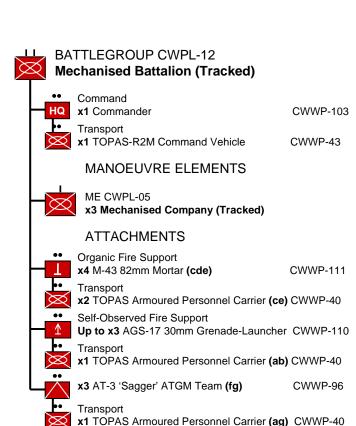
T-55 AMK 'Merida' Command Main Battle Tank (d) CWWP-142

**(c)** Some Category C Mechanised Divisions persisted in using some very obsolete equipment. May therefore replace T-54/T-55 with:

T-34/85 85mm Medium Tank CWWP-02

(d) Command tanks (i.e. 'K' variants) do not have AAMGs and may not therefore conduct AA fire.





(a) May replace TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carriers with: TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier (c) CWWP-42

(b) May replace TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carriers with:

BMP-1 73mm Infantry Combat Vehicle (g) CWWP-34

Or from mid-1980s with:

BMP-2 (Warpac) 30mm Infantry Combat Vehicle CWWP-36

**(c)** If converting TOPAS APCs to TOPAS-2AP standard, replace mortar transport with:

TOPAS-2AP Mortar Carrier (d) CWWP-44 It seems likely that these carriers would have been retained if the battalion converted to BMPs.

- (d) The mortars may be fired from the TOPAS-2AP Mortar Carrier when mounted (x2 per vehicle).
- (e) May replace 82mm mortars and transport with:

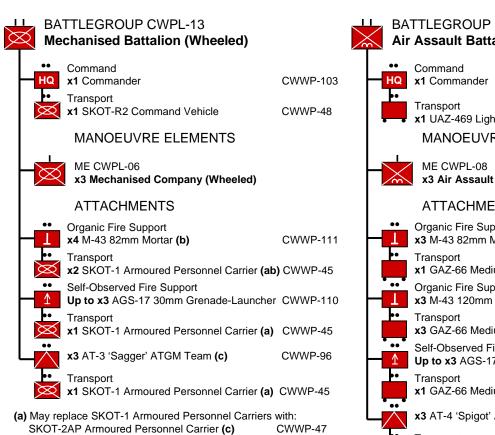
**x4** M-43 120mm Mortar CWWP-113 **x4** GAZ-66 Medium Truck CWWP-114

CWWP-97

(f) May replace AT-3 'Sagger' ATGMs with:

AT-4 'Spigot' ATGM Team

**(g)** If the battalion converts to BMP, delete the ATGMs and their transport, as the BMPs mounted their own ATGMs, rendering an Antitank Platoon superfluous to requirements.

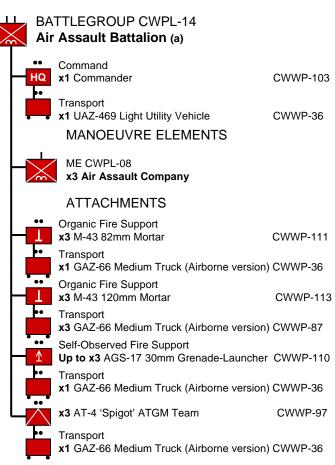


(b) May replace 82mm mortars and transport with:

x4 M-43 120mm Mortar x4 GAZ-66 Medium Truck CWWP-113 CWWP-114

(c) May replace AT-3 'Sagger' ATGMs with: AT-4 'Spigot' ATGM Team

CWWP-97



(a) The main source for this TO&E information also lists battalion Recce, Pioneer and Antiaircraft Platoons. However, I think that he has duplicated support elements that are already listed as divisional support.



- (a) There were a great many variations in recce unit organisation and equipment, so this BG is only a loose outline organisation.
- (b) May replace BRDM-1U Command Scout Car with: BRDM-2 U Command Scout Car CWWP-60 OT-65 VP Command Vehicle use CWWP-56
- (c) May replace BRDM-2 RKh with: OT-65 Ch NBC Recce Vehicle







(a) May replace BRDM-1U Command Scout Car with:
BRDM-2 U Command Scout Car CWWP-60
OT-65 VP Command Vehicle use CWWP-56



(a) From mid-1980s: May replace T-55 tanks with upgraded models:

T-55 AM 'Merida' 100mm Main Battle Tank CWWP-142

**(b)** In some favoured regiments (see notes for BG CWPL-05), may replace T-54/T-55 tanks with:

T-72 M 125mm Main Battle Tank

CWWP-11

(c) Some Category C Mechanised Divisions persisted in using some very obsolete equipment. May therefore replace T-54/T-55 with:

T-34/85 85mm Medium Tank CWWP-02



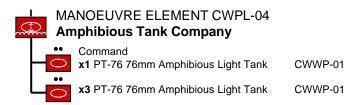
(a) From mid-1980s: May replace T-55 tanks with upgraded

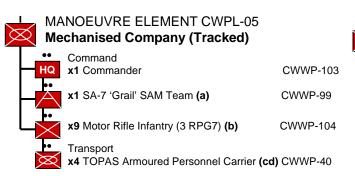
T-55 AM 'Merida' 100mm Main Battle Tank CWWP-142

**(b)** Some Category C Mechanised Divisions persisted in using some very obsolete equipment. May therefore replace T-54/T-55 with:

T-34/85 85mm Medium Tank CWWP-02







(a) Mid-1980s: May replace SA-7 'Grail' SAM with:

SA-16 'Gimlet' SAM Team

CWWP-101

**(b)** RPG-18 LAWs were issued to Polish troops, but they do not appear to have received RPG-22. Some Category C divisions were never issued LAWs at all and were generally issued with obsolete weapons. In this case, replace Motor Rifle Infantry with:

Early Motor Rifle Infantry (3 RPG7) CWWP-105

(c) May replace TOPAS APCs with:

TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-42

Or in Category A divisions with:

BMP-1 73mm Infantry Combat Vehicle CWWP-34

Or from mid-1980s with:

BMP-2 (Warpac) 30mm Infantry Combat Vehicle (e) CWWP-37

(d) Note that when BMP-1 was introduced, whole regiments were converted to BMP en masse rather than piecemeal replacement of vehicles, as there were organisational and tactical changes associated with the new BMP concept. However, when BMP-2 was introduced, they tended to replace BMP-1s piecemeal – a company or a battalion at a time. Therefore, a battalion might have two companies with BMP-1 and one company with BMP-2.



x9 Naval Infantry (3 RPG7) (a)

CWWP-104

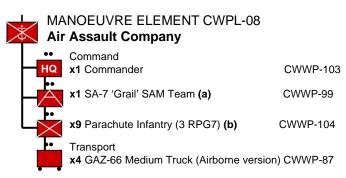
Transport

x4 TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carrier (b) CWWP-40

(a) RPG-18s were issued as LAWs. No RPG-22s.

(b) May replace TOPAS APCs with:

TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-42



(a) Mid-1980s: May replace SA-7 'Grail' SAM with: SA-16 'Gimlet' SAM Team

CWWP-101

(b) RPG-18s were issued as LAWs. No RPG-22s.



SA-16 'Gimlet' SAM Team CWWP-101

**(b)** RPG-18 LAWs were issued to Polish troops, but they do not appear to have received RPG-22. Some Category C divisions were never issued LAWs at all and were generally issued with obsolete weapons. In this case, replace Motor Rifle Infantry with:

Early Motor Rifle Infantry (3 RPG7) CWWP-105

(c) May replace SKOT-1 APCs with:

SKOT-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-47



(a) There were many variations on Warsaw Pact recce unit organisation, so this is only the loosest possible guide. The unit might also carry dismounts in those vehicles capable of carrying troops.

(b) May replace command vehicle with: BRDM-2U Command Scout Car OT-65 VP Command Vehicle

CWWP-60 use CWWP-56

(c) May replace PT-76 Light Tanks with: BMP-1 73mm Infantry Combat Vehicle

CWWP-34

(d) May replace BRDM-1 Scout Car with:
BRDM-2 Reconnaissance Vehicle

OT-65 Scout Car

CWWP-55 CWWP-56

(e) From mid-1980s: May replace T-55 tank with upgraded model:
T-55 AM 'Merida' 100mm Main Battle Tank
CWWP-142

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-10
Scout Car Company (a)
Command/Recce

x1 BRDM-1U Command Scout Car (b) use CWWP-54 Recce

x6 BRDM-1 Scout Car (c)

CWWP-58

(a) There were many variations on Warsaw Pact recce unit organisation, so this is only the loosest possible guide. The unit might also carry dismounts in those vehicles capable of carrying troops.

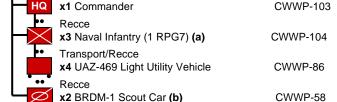
**(b)** May replace command vehicle with: BRDM-2U Command Scout Car

BRDM-2U Command Scout Car CWWP-60
OT-65 VP Command Vehicle use CWWP-56

(c) May replace BRDM-1 Scout Cars with:

BRDM-2 Reconnaissance Vehicle CWWP-55
OT-65 Scout Car CWWP-56

# MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-11 Marine Reconnaissance Company --- Command/Recce



(a) RPG-18s were issued as LAWs. No RPG-22s.

(b) May replace BRDM-1 Scout Cars with:

BRDM-2 Reconnaissance Vehicle
OT-65 Scout Car

CWWP-55
CWWP-56



Command x1 Commander

CWWP-103

x9 Sappers (3 Flame, 3 RPG7)

CWWP-104

CWWP-92

CWWP-77

CWWP-88

Transport x4 TOPAS

ш

x4 TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carrier (a) CWWP-40

x1 MTU-54 AVLB

(a) May replace TOPAS APCs with:

TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier

CWWP-42

## MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-13

Antitank Gun Company
Command
TQ x1 Commander

CWWP-103

Transport x1 UAZ-4

x1 UAZ-469 Light Utility Vehicle CWWP-86

x2 D-44 85mm Antitank Gun (a)

x2 Ural 375 Heavy Truck

Transport

(a) In Army Antitank Regiments, replace D-44 85mm guns with:
MT-12 100mm Antitank Gun CWWP-79

# MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-14 Antitank Company

Command

x1 BRDM-1U Command Scout Car (a) use CWWP-54

x3 BRDM-1/AT-3 'Sagger' Vehicle (b) CWWP-69

(a) May replace BRDM-1U command vehicle with:

BRDM-2U Command Vehicle

OT-65 VP Command Vehicle

use CWWP-56

(b) May replace BRDM-1/AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM vehicle with: BRDM-2/AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM Vehicle CWWP-70



(a) There were many variations on Warsaw Pact recce unit organisation, so this is only the loosest possible guide. The unit might also carry dismounts in those vehicles capable of carrying troops.

(b) May replace command vehicle with:

BRDM-2U Command Scout Car

OT-65 VP Command Vehicle

CWWP-60

use CWWP-56

(c) May replace PT-76 Light Tank with: BMP-1 73mm Infantry Combat Vehicle

CWWP-34

(d) May replace BRDM-1 Scout Cars with:

BRDM-2 Reconnaissance Vehicle

OT-65 Scout Car

CWWP-56

CWWP-56

# MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-16 Antiaircraft Company (a) Command x1 BRDM-2U Command Scout Car CWWP-60 x2 ZSU-23-4 'Shilka' Quad 23mm AA CWWP-17 x2 SA-9 'Gaskin' SAM Vehicle CWWP-23

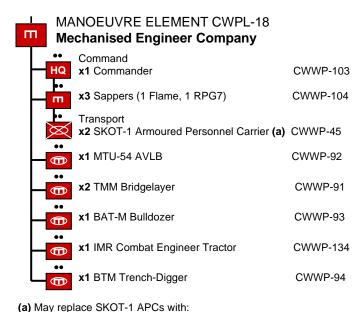
(a) Some Category C units persisted in using obsolete towed AA guns. Replace entire unit with:

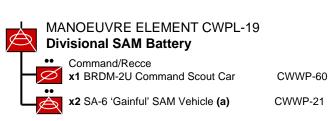
CWWP-103
CWWP-86
CWWP-83
CWWP-87

### MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-17 **Armoured Engineer Company** Command HQ x1 Commander CWWP-103 x3 Sappers (1 Flame, 1 RPG7) **CWWP-104** ш Transport x2 TOPAS Armoured Personnel Carrier (a) CWWP-40 x3 MTU-54 AVLB CWWP-92 **(** •• x2 TMM Bridgelayer CWWP-91 **m** •• x1 BAT-M Bulldozer CWWP-93 **(** •• x1 IMR Combat Engineer Tractor CWWP-134 **m**

(a) May replace TOPAS APCs with:

TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-42

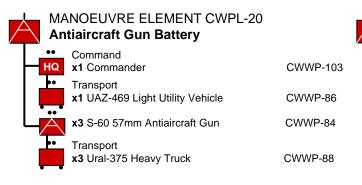




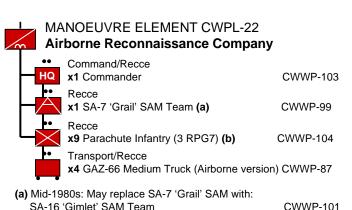
CWWP-47

SKOT-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier

(a) May replace in Category A Mechanised Divisions with: SA-8 'Gecko' SAM Vehicle CWWP-22

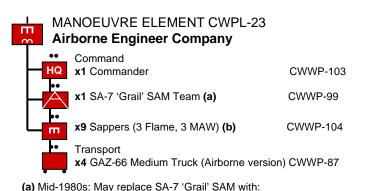


# MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-21 Airborne Antiaircraft Company Command x1 Commander Transport x1 UAZ-469 Light Utility Vehicle CWWP-86 x3 ZU-23-2 Twin 23mm Antiaircraft Gun Transport x3 Ural-375 Heavy Truck CWWP-88



(b) RPG-18s were issued as LAWs. No RPG-22s.

SA-16 'Gimlet' SAM Team



**CWWP-101** 

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CWPL-24
Airborne Antitank Company

Command
x1 Commander
Transport
x1 UAZ-469 Light Utility Vehicle
CWWP-86

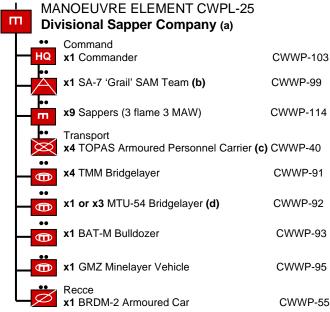
x3 AT-3 'Sagger' ATGM Team (ab)

Transport
x3 UAZ-469 Light Utility Vehicle
CWWP-86

CWWP-97

(a) May replace AT-3 'Sagger' ATGMs with: AT-4 'Spigot' ATGM Team

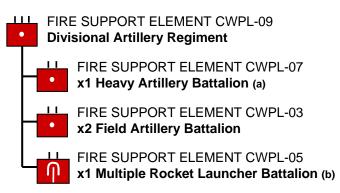
(b) ATGMs may fire from UAZ transports when mounted.



- (a) The Battalion Recce Platoon and Bridging Platoon have been incorporated in the ME above.
- (b) May replace SA-7 'Grail' SAM from mid-1980s with: SA-16 'Gimlet' SAM Team CWWP-101
- (c) From mid-1980s, may replace TOPAS APCs with: TOPAS-2AP Armoured Personnel Carrier CWWP-42
- (d) Armoured Divisions would have the larger number of MTU-54 AVLBs.



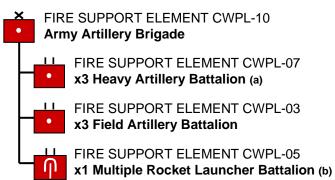
(a) Note that self-propelled artillery pieces were always in short supply in the Wasaw Pact armies – particularly during the earlier half of the 1980s. These units would often therefore persist with towed 122mm howitzers, as per FSE CWPL-03/04.



- (a) In Category C divisions, replace Heavy Artillery Battalion with a third Field Artillery Battalion (FSE CWPL-03).
- (b) In Category C divisions, delete the MRL Battalion.



(a) Might alternatively be older types of 122mm howitzer such as M-38.







### Air Support

In 1987, the Polish Air Force had the following aircraft deployed in the ground-attack role:

MiG-17 – 9x Squadrons Su-17 – 3x Squadrons Su-22 – 6x Squadrons

In the air defence role (which could be pressed into service as ground attack if necessary) they had the following aircraft:

MiG-21 – 33x Squadrons