South African Forces In The 'Border War' (Angola & South West Africa)

1980 to 1989



SADF & SWATF TO&Es (v.2.0) For 'Modern Battlefront'

By R Mark Davies

Introduction

These TO&Es are intended to allow the 'Battlefront: WWII' (Fire & Fury Games) player to construct South African forces (SADF, SWATF and SWAPOL-COIN) for the 'Border War' of the 1970s and 80s. The TO&Es correspond to the SADF playtest unit cards, which may be downloaded and printed from the www.fireandfury.com website (look on the 'Extras' page for 'Prototype PDF Creator', select your list of cards and print them out).

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

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Organisational Background To South African Forces In South West Africa & Angola

The origins of the 'Border War' as it came to be known, lay in the post-WWI mandate given to South Africa for the administration of what had been German South West Africa. By the 1960s, Great Britain had already dismantled the greater part of her African empire, yet there were no signs of South Africa doing anything similar in SWA. Indeed, the South African policy of *Apartheid* was being applied to SWA and if anything the country was even more oppressed than ever. Inevitably, an indigenous African liberation movement appeared on the scene – the Owambo People's Organisation (OPO). The Owambo were the dominant tribe in SWA and the organisation was quickly opposed by other tribal groupings – mainly the aboriginal Koi-San people or 'Bushmen'. To try to gain some credible veneer on the international stage as a truly national liberation movement, the OPO soon rebranded itself as the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO). However, it remained a purely Owambo organisation at heart, which was to have repercussions in the coming war.

Until the mid-1970s, the South African Defence Force (SADF) did not maintain a large presence in SWA. There were no credible external threats and SWAPO had limited its activities to rabble-rousing and political activism. However, all that was to change in 1974. First, the Soviets invited a SWAPO cadre to come to the USSR and East Germany for training in revolutionary warfare techniques. The USSR realised that with the Suez Canal being closed to western countries, NATO shipping had to navigate past the Cape. The Soviet Navy already had maritime patrol aircraft stationed in other parts of southern Africa, but bringing SWA into the communist bloc would allow the USSR to effectively close the Cape to NATO shipping in the event of war and would provide guerrillas seeking to bring about an independent, communist South Africa. The second major event of 1974 was the military coup in Portugal, which ended the Salazar dictatorship and more critically for South Africa, ended Portuguese colonial rule in Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and Angola.

South Africa was suddenly faced with the distasteful prospect of having communist African countries right on her doorstep, which would inevitably provide support to liberation movements within SWA and South Africa itself. This was thrown into even sharper relief in 1975, when Cuba landed 5,000 troops in Angola to aid the communist MPLA's efforts to seize control of that country. The South African government ordered the SADF to take immediate direct steps to support the western-leaning FNLA faction in Angola and consequently three light mechanised battlegroups were launched into Angola. After an incredible 1,000 mile march and after inflicting defeat after defeat on MPLA and Cuban forces, it was all too little too late to save the FNLA, who were crushed by the MPLA/Cuban alliance. The SADF stayed for a while in Angola, supporting the UNITA faction against the MPLA, but it became clear that a UNITA administration in Angola would be no more preferable than an MPLA one and the SADF was finally withdrawn into SWA.

The most immediate consequence of the 1975/76 war was the shocking realisation that the SADF's weapons and equipment (much of it dating back to Word War II or at best, the 1950s) was vastly inferior even to the dated Soviet equipment employed by the Cubans and FAPLA (the MPLA armed forces). An urgent programme of arms development was initiated; aided enormously by UN sanctions-busting exchanges of military technology with Israel, Iraq and others. This programme was ultimately to lead to the superb G5 & G6 155mm artillery pieces, the Rooikat reconnaissance vehicle, the Rooivalk attack helicopter and most astonishingly, even a successful nuclear weapons programme! However, in the short term, this weapons programme produced the R4 and R5 assault rifles (copies of the Israeli Galil), the superb Casspir mine-protected APC and the revolutionary Ratel infantry combat vehicle (which was developed from a Belgian design, stolen by South African intelligence agents) – all of which were in front-line service within a very short time.

By the end of 1976, SWAPO's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) was firmly established in the MPLA-controlled areas of southern Angola and was training infiltration and sabotage teams for cross-border raids into SWA. By 1977 the raids had become much more than the SWA Police (SWAPOL) could handle on their own and the SADF was deployed along the border en masse for the first time, establishing

Nevertheless, the Wet Season of 1978 saw the worst level of infiltrations by SWAPO-PLAN so far, with policemen and village headmen murdered, civilians kidnapped (including a whole school bus full of children), SADF and SWAPOL bases mortared and roads mined indiscriminately. The Bush became a verdant jungle virtually overnight during the Wet Season and whole regions became inundated with water. Consequently, the infiltrators were able to use the lush vegetation to cover their movements while the mechanised SADF was simultaneously hampered by water and mud. The SADF therefore decided upon a new proactive strategy – that of 'External' operations into Angola, to intercept SWAPO-PLAN forces before the Wet Season and before they reached the border, to hit their base areas, to destroy their infrastructure and if all else failed, to pursue them beyond the border and into Angola, without restraints.

In November 1978, Operation 'Reindeer' was launched into Angola. The first part of the operation was an airborne assault by SADF Paratroops onto the SWAPO-PLAN Front HQ at Cassinga, deep inside Angola, which was to be heavily supported by ground-attack aircraft and which would then be extracted by helicopter. The second part was a conventional ground assault to destroy SWAPO-PLAN's forward operating bases. The operation, though extremely effective militarily, was turned into a political defeat by rapid communist 'spin' on the story, resulting in considerable worldwide condemnation of South Africa's actions. Nevertheless, the following infiltration season was vastly quieter than the previous year and these types of operations had proven their worth to the SADF.

A unit that specialised in 'External' counter-insurgency came into being at this time. Created by the infamous (or legendary, depending on your viewpoint) paratroop leader Jan Breytenbach (who was also responsible for the Cassinga Raid and the creation of the Recce-Commando special forces), it was designated '32 Battalion' and its primary role was one of long-range reconnaissance and interception. Its existence was kept a secret for many years due to its unique composition and role. 32 Battalion was the only Portuguese-speaking unit in the SADF, due to the fact that it was raised from Angolan volunteers. Initially the recruits were mostly former FNLA men, but as time went by 32 Battalion was joined by many more volunteers who came south to escape the MPLA regime. 32 Battalion was also unique in that it wore FAPLA-style camouflage uniforms and used mainly captured Soviet weapons. These features meant that they strongly resembled FAPLA troops, which would give them the element of surprise in any engagement with SWAPO-PLAN or FAPLA units north of the border. They also had a secondary conventional role as a regular infantry battalion, operating in many Externals with conventional SADF forces such as 61 Mechanised Battalion. 32 'Buffalo' Battalion became rightly feared by the communist forces (and once its existence became known, was the subject of much communist 'spin' about South Africa employing mercenaries) and it has often been said that it was the finest military unit on the African continent.

In order to better conduct the 'Externals' into Angola, a highly mechanised, hard-hitting, self-contained mobile force was required. 61 Mechanised Infantry Battalion was created in SWA, utilising the new Ratel infantry combat vehicle as its primary form of mobility. It comprised two companies of infantry mounted in Ratel 20s, plus a Reconnaissance Squadron in Ratel 90s. More Ratel 90s, paired with ATGM teams were used for antitank defence. Air defence was provided by Ystervark self-propelled 20mm guns and captured Soviet SA-7 'Grail' SAMs. Firepower was further augmented by the addition of the brand-new G-5 155mm gun when they became available in the late 80s and later by the self-propelled version (G-6 Rhino). In 1988 they also received the first combat-deployed squadron of Olifant MBTs, to counter the ever-escalating FAPLA tank threat. '61 Mech' was ubiquitous – it was involved in almost every external operation of the 1980s and was the only SADF unit to be publicly praised by the Cuban Army.

In 1979, SWAPOL's counter-insurgency wing (SWAPOL-COIN) began a new tactical concept called Operation *Koevoet* (Crowbar). The *Koevoet* teams, largely formed from experienced native trackers, would be mounted in huge Casspir APCs, which were often modified so as to be bristling with weaponry. These superb vehicles were extremely effective at high-speed cross-country runs, were well-protected against mines and smallarms and their height provided excellent visibility in the largely flat Bush. Once a 'spoor' was detected, half the *Koevoet* team would dismount from the Casspir and track the spoor at a dead run, armed with a rifle, pistol and a spare magazine. The rest of the team would follow in the Casspir, about a half mile distant and would swap over with the runners every half-hour or so, thus maintaining an incredibly fast pursuit of the SWAPO team. When contact was made, the Casspir would charge into the fight, with all guns (often half a dozen MGs, plus .50 cal or 20mm cannon) blazing. The platoon's other three Casspirs would be working within a mile or so of each other and would also then charge into the fight. Using these tactics, *Koevoet* was incredibly successful and time after time, SWAPO-PLAN operations were utterly annihilated by these tactics. Other units (mainly army) also took up these tactics and the most successful of these was 101 Battalion, whose 'Romeo-Mike' (from the Afrikaans *Reaksiemag*, meaning 'Reaction Force') Teams even surpassed *Koevoet*'s record.

By the end of the 1970s, the ever-increasing SADF commitments in SWA were causing domestic problems in South Africa. The SADF was small and relied for much of its combat strength on the reservists of the 'Citizen's Force'. But the constant call-ups for the annual 'Infiltration Season' were becoming tiresome to the South African public and the general perception was (correctly) one of an expanding war. Consequently, a new force of full-time volunteer African auxiliaries was created in SWA. Called the South West African Territorial Force (SWATF), it came to number eight infantry battalions, plus combat support arms, manned by locally-raised black African volunteers and white South African officers. Each battalion had its own tribal affiliations (some of them even being Owambo) and a few were absolutely implacable in their commitment to the war against SWAPO – particularly the Koi-San 'Bushmen', who feared the oppression they might suffer in an Owambo-dominated free Namibia far more than they feared what they were already suffering under *Apartheid* ('Better the devil you know').

As the war drew into the 1980s, Externals became larger and penetrated deeper into Angola. The MPLA government consequently took greater and greater steps to protect SWAPO and its own installations and thus brought itself into greater direct conflict with the SADF. This was in line with South Africa's strategic aims – they hoped that by militarily damaging FAPLA forces in the field, they could persuade the MPLA that it was simply not worth protecting and supporting SWAPO. Following Operation 'Askari' in 1983/84, this policy finally paid off and the MPLA came to the negotiating table. The Luanda Accords were signed, which guaranteed the removal of SADF forces from Angola, in return for the MPLA's withdrawal of military support for SWAPO and the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Commission (JMC) to patrol the border and to stop incursions from either side. However, in the great tradition of communist 'negotiations' the world over, neither the MPLA nor SWAPO had any intention of respecting the deal – the MPLA continued to provide materiel and bases to SWAPO and the FAPLA elements of the JMC actively protected SWAPO-PLAN teams as they approached the border. Consequently the Wet Season of 1984 was the worst ever in terms of SWAPO-PLAN infiltration into SWA and it wasn't long before South Africa withdrew from the JMC and the war resumed.

With the failure of South Africa's policy of direct engagement with the MPLA, the strategy changed. UNITA had not been on friendly terms with South Africa since 1976, but was now drawn into an alliance once more. UNITA had in any case been engaged with SWAPO-PLAN forces for some time, as the three new 'regular' SWAPO Infantry Brigades (raised with the intention of using them to protect SWAPO bases against SADF Externals) had been used to bolster FAPLA forces during offensives against UNITA. Consequently, UNITA and the SADF now had SWAPO as a common enemy and a spirit of 'He who is my enemy's enemy must be my friend' was entered into.

During 1985 and 1986, the SADF provided UNITA forces with artillery, antitank, intelligence, training and air support, which contributed in no small measure to the defeat of those offensives by UNITA. As a result, in 1987 Moscow appointed a Soviet general (Shaganovich) to lead FAPLA forces in a renewed offensive to crush UNITA once and for all, The MPLA had little say in the matter, though the USSR suppressed dissent by boosting its supplies of arms to MPLA, including the latest radar and SAM technology. With the emergence of the new threat in 1987, Operation 'Moduler' was launched by the SADF, which was a direct reinforcement of UNITA by 32 Battalion. Once the full extent of the FAPLA offensive was realised, the SADF contribution was expanded to full brigade strength and the addition of 61 Mech. FAPLA was comprehensively defeated on the Lomba River, with one FAPLA Brigade (47th Mechanised Brigade) being utterly annihilated. In 1988 a further SADF operation (Operation 'Hooper') was launched in support of UNITA and represented the greatest concentration of SADF troops in Angola thus far – the force even including the first employment of Olifant tanks in the war.

Despite these military successes, by 1989 the political winds in South Africa were blowing against the war and free elections were promised in SWA (the South African administration genuinely and naively believe they could win). There were further military actions, including an attack by the Cuban 50th Division in the Ruacana Dam area and a last, desperate surge by SWAPO-PLAN guerrillas in an attempt to directly influence the elections (which only antagonised the UN and they won the election anyway). Nevertheless, by the end of the year Namibia was finally free, the Border War was over and the SADF was withdrawn to South Africa as UN peacekeeping forces took over (and were themselves attacked by SWAPO-PLAN). The Angolan Civil War however, still had some years to run, though South African involvement in it was ended.

The SADF TO&Es

I have picked 1980 as a starting year for these TO&Es, as this year marked the formation of the SWATF & Koevoet, the arrival of 61 Mech and an upsurge in 'external' operations by the SADF against SWAPO-PLAN, plus a corresponding increase in operations by FAPLA to counter the SADF.

These TO&Es presented here should give you everything you need to organise and collect a South African army for Battlefront: Modern. You will also find TO&Es and unit cards for Communist and UNITA forces on this website and soon I will also be posting some scenarios and even a minicampaign. If you find any of this even remotely interesting, please drop me a line on the forum, or privately to rmarkdavies@hotmail.co.uk



HQ	Command x1 Commander	SADF-34
Å	x1 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Team	SADF-40
	Transport x1 Ratel 20 ICV (de)	SADF-07
$-\ddot{\mathbb{X}}$	x3 SADF Infantry (no MAW) (b)	SADF-23
ĭ ∭	Transport x1 Ratel 20 ICV	SADF-07
	Forward Air Controller x1 Forward Observer Transport/Recce	SADF-35
X	x1 Ratel 20 ICV (de)	SADF-07
— —	x3 Assault Pioneers	SADF-31
	Transport x1 Buffel APC	SADF-11
	BATTLEGROUPS BG-SA03 or SA04	

Up to x1 Mech Infantry Battalion Group (a)



BG-SA05

Up to x1 Infantry Battalion Group (a)



BG-SA06

Up to x1 Light Infantry Battalion Group (a)



BG-SA07

Up to x1 Modular Infantry Battalion Group (a)



BG-SA08

Up to x1 SWATF Infantry Battalion Group (a)



BG-SA10

Up to x1 Armoured Car Regiment (a)

- (a) Until the late 1980s and increased clashes with large, divisional-sized formations of FAPLA and Cuban forces, most SADF 'external' operations were limited to reinforced battalion groups (although they might officially have a Brigade HQ in direct control of the operation). However, from 1986, the SADF began going over the border (either defensively in support of UNITA, or offensively against SWAPO-PLAN bases) in brigadesized formations as shown here (or occasionally two brigades). These formations would come under the command of a permanent Brigade Headquarters, though the brigades themselves were not normally permanent - they were formed for specific operations and were dispersed again immediately afterwards. Each brigade would consist of between two and four battalion groups. The core of the brigade was usually a Mechanised Battalion Group (frequently the ubiquitous 61 Mech), accompanied by one or two other battalion groups from various sources and maybe an Armoured Car Regiment to provide recce capability.
- (b) May replace Brigade Defence Platoon with: x3 SADF Infantry (1980s) (1 with RPG) SADF-24
- (c) The main mobile reserve in SWA was 91 Brigade, which comprised 911 Battalion SWATF (see BG-08), a Citizen's Force (i.e. white reservists) Infantry Battalion, a Citizen's Force Mech Battalion, an Artillery Regiment and an Armoured Car Regiment. Although the headquarters and various elements were activated at various times, the brigade was never mobilised en masse, though it would most definitely have been, had FAPLA ever attempted to invade SWA.
- (d) May replace Ratel 20 with: Ratel 60 ICV (e)

SADF-08

(e) From 1988: Replace command and OP vehicles with: Ratel Command/OP ICV SADF-10

BATTLEGROUP SA-02 Parachute Infantry Brigade (a)

— HQ	Command x1 Commander		SADF-34
•	Transport x1 Land Rover 'Firefly' (with MG) (b)	use	SADF-18
	x3 Parachute Infantry (1980s) (1 RPG)	;	SADF-23
<u> • </u>	Transport x3 Land Rover 'Firefly' (with MG) (b)	use	SADF-18
· - <u>A</u>	Forward Air Controller x1 Forward Observer		SADF-35
	Transport/Recce x1 Land Rover 'Firefly' (with MG) (b)	use	SADF-18
	x3 Assault Pioneers		SADF-31
	Transport x3 Land Rover 'Firefly' (with MG) (b)	use	SADF-18
	x1 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Team		SADF-40
	Transport x1 Land Rover 'Firefly' (with MG) (b)	use	SADF-18
	x2 Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM Vehicles (b)	SADF-20

BATTLEGROUPS



BG-SA09 x3 SADF Parachute Battalion

ME-SA11
x1 Para P

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



x1 Para Pathfinder Company (Disbanded 1982)



ME-SA09

x1 Parachute Infantry Company (c)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS



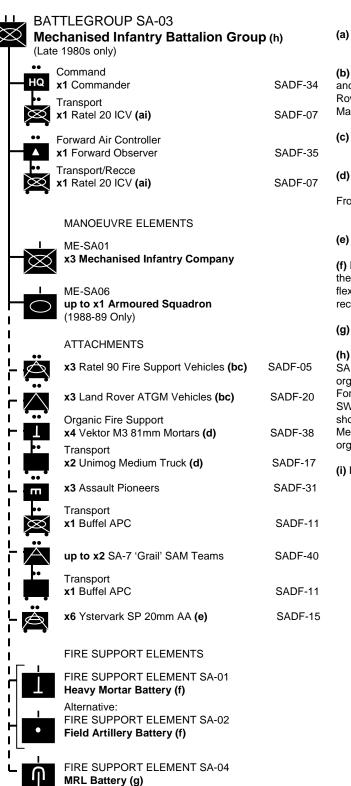
FSE-SA06 x3 Parachute Artillery Battery

- (a) 44 Parachute Brigade was the only such formation in the SADF, having been formed in 1978, when it soon won fame at the controversial Battle of Cassinga. However, even at Cassinga, the brigade was never employed in its intended airborne role as a full brigade. The main battlegroups were 1 Para Battalion ('Parabat'), which was a Permanent Force unit and was permanently employed in SWA and Angola. 2 & 3 Parabats were Citizen's Force reservist formations and would only be mobilised for specific operations and emergencies. However, the Cassinga operation demonstrated that it was often very difficult to get full mobilisation at short notice (at that time it was only possible to scrape up a single reinforced composite battalion group). In 1987, 44 Para Bde also formed a composite counter-insurgency quick reaction force battalion called '14 Parabat', based on the successful Rhodesian 'Fire Force' airborne counter-insurgency concept. However, while 14 Parabat had a permanent Headquarters, it drew its combat arms on rotation from the other elements of the brigade, so represented only a change in tactics and doctrine rather than an increase in strength for the brigade.
- **(b)** The Land Rover 'Firefly' was a lightweight version of Land Rover designed for airborne operations. From mid-1980s, replace with:

Jakkals Light Utility (with MG) use SADF-18

Note that all transport listed is air-droppable from C-130 Hercules or C-160 Transall, but not from C-47 Dakota. It may not be transported by helicopter.

(c) The 1 SWATF Parachute Company was attached for administrative purposes to 44 Para Bde. Tactically however, it remained independent, as a permanent airmobile quick reaction force on the SWA-Angola frontier. During the late 1980s, 1 SWATF Parachute Company was merged with 1 SWA Recce Commandos (Special Forces) and was redesignated 2 SWA Specialist Unit, with a new role of deep, covert reconnaissance.



(a) May replace Ratel 20s with: Ratel 60 ICV

SADF-08

- (b) The Antitank Platoon comprises three sections of mixed Ratel 90s and Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM vehicles. Therefore, each Land Rover must be paired with a Ratel 90 when attaching these units to Manoeuvre Elements.
- (c) From 1987, may replace all antitank assets with: x3 Ratel ZT-3 ATGM Vehicles SADF-06
- (d) From mid-1980s, replace all mortars & transport with:

 x4 Buffel 81 Mortar Vehicles

 From 1988, may replace Buffel 81 Mortar Vehicles with:

 x4 Ratel 81 Mortar Vehicles

 SADF-09
- (e) Ystervarks are only available in the late 1980s.
- (f) Each Field artillery Battery held M5 120mm Mortars in addition to their G2 140mm or G5 155mm Field Guns. This was to allow greater flexibility in their operational deployment. The battalion may therefore receive mortar OR gun support, but not both.
- (g) MRL Battery is only available in late 1980s.
- (h) For the first half of the decade, 61 Mech Battalion was the only SADF Mechanised Battalion in SWA, using its own unique organisation (see BG-04). However, during the mid-1980s, a Citizen's Force reservist Mechanised Battalion was formed as part of the SWATF (from white settlers living in SWA) using the organisation shown here. During the large campaigns of 1987-1989, 63 and 64 Mech Battalions were also formed and deployed to SWA, using this organisation.
- (i) From 1988: Replace Command and OP vehicles with: Ratel Command/OP ICV SADF-10



BATTLEGROUP SA-04

61 Mechanised Infantry Battalion Group (h)

	Command x1 Commander	SADF-34
<u>.</u> ⊠	Transport x1 Ratel 20 ICV (ai)	SADF-07

Forward Air Controllerx1 Forward Observer

x1 Forward Observer SADF-35
Transport/Recce
x1 Ratel 20 ICV (ai) SADF-07

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS

ME-SA01

x2 Mechanised Infantry Company

ME-SA06 up to x1 A

up to x1 Armoured Squadron

(1988-89 Only)

x1 Arm

ME-SA07

x1 Armoured Car Squadron (Ratel) (k)

ATTACHMENTS

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x3 Ratel 90 Fire Support Vehicles (bc) SADF-05

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x3 Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM Vehicles (bc)SADF-20

Organic Fire Support x4 Vektor M3 81mm Mortars (d) SADF-38

Transport

x2 Unimog Medium Truck (d) SADF-17

x3 Assault Pioneers SADF-31

Transport x1 Buffel APC SADF-11

up to x2 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Teams SADF-40

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Transport x1 Buffel APC SADF-11

x6 Ystervark SP 20mm AA (e) SADF-15

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-01 Heavy Mortar Battery (f)

Alternative:

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-02

Field Artillery Battery (f)

Alternative:

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-05
Self-Propelled Field Artillery Battery (fj)

(1987 to 1989 only)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-04
MRL Battery (g)

(a) May replace Ratel 20s with: Ratel 60 ICV

SADF-08

(b) The Antitank Platoon comprises three sections of mixed Ratel 90s and Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM vehicles. Therefore, each Land Rover must be paired with a Ratel 90 when attaching these units to Manoeuvre Elements.

(c) From 1987, may replace all antitank assets with: x3 Ratel ZT-3 ATGM Vehicles SADF-06

(d) From mid-1980s, replace all mortars with:

x4 Buffel 81 Mortar Vehicles SADF-12

From 1988, may replace Buffel 81 Mortar Vehicles with:

x4 Ratel 81 Mortar Vehicles SADF-09

(e) Ystervarks are only available in the late 1980s.

(f) Each Field artillery Battery held M5 120mm Mortars in addition to their G2 140mm or G5 155mm Field Guns. This was to allow greater flexibility in their operational deployment. The battalion may therefore receive mortar OR gun support, but not both.

(g) MRL Battery is only available in late 1980s.

(h) For the first half of the decade, 61 Mech was the only SADF Mechanised Battalion in SWA, using its own unique organisation. It earned a reputation as a hard-fighting formation, leading virtually every 'External' into Angola throughout the decade. Throughout the period it maintained a very close working relationship with the SWATF's 301 Battalion.

(i) From 1988: Replace Command and OP vehicles with: Ratel Command/OP ICV SADF-10

(j) In 1987 61 Mech received the first operational battery of G6 Rhino SP 15mm guns, which were used to great effect in Operations 'Moduler' and 'Hooper'.

(k) 61 Mech's Armoured Car Squadron was a flexible unit that was often used to transport infantry companies attached from other units.



MRL Battery (d)

- (a) Until the late 1980s, the bulk of the External Operations had been undertaken by 61 Mech, 32 Battalion and the Parabats, supported by various elements from the Modular Battalions and the SWATF. However, with the the massive increase in FAPLA numbers during the mid-1980s, further troops were needed on the border and consequently Nos. 1, 4 and 7 South African Infantry Battalions were sent to the region in time for the massive battles of 1987 and 1988.
- **(b)** The Antitank Platoon comprises three sections of mixed Ratel 90s and Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM vehicles. Therefore, each Land Rover must be paired with a Ratel 90 when attaching these units to Manoeuvre Elements.
- (c) Each Field artillery Battery held M5 120mm Mortars in addition to their G2 140mm or G5 155mm Field Guns. This was to allow greater flexibility in their operational deployment. The battalion may therefore receive mortar OR gun support, but not both.
- (d) The MRL Battery is only available in the late 1980s.



HQ	Command x1 Commander	SADF-34
	Transport x1 Buffel APC	SADF-11
<u></u>	Forward Air Controller x1 Forward Observer	SADF-35
×	Transport/Recce x1 Buffel APC	SADF-11

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



ME-SA03 x5 Light Infantry Company

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS
FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-01
Heavy Mortar Battery (e)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-02 Field Artillery Battery (e)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-04

Alternative:

MRL Battery (f)

ATTACHMENTS

x6 Ratel 90 Fire Support Vehicles (bc) (Late 1980s only)	SADF-05
Organic Fire Support x4 Vektor M3 81mm Mortars (d)	SADF-38
Transport x2 Unimog Medium Truck (d)	SADF-17
x3 Assault Pioneers	SADF-31
Transport x1 Buffel APC	SADF-11
up to x2 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Teams	SADF-40
Transport x1 Buffel APC	SADF-11
x6 Ystervark SP 20mm AA (Late 1980s only)	SADF-15
x2 Unimog/ZPU-1 14.5mm AAMG	SADF-16
x2 Land Rover/B-11 107mm RCL	SADF-19

- (a) 32 'Buffalo' Battalion was a Portuguese-speaking, ethnically Angolan formation, raised in South West Africa from the remnants of the South African-backed FNLA. Initially an irregular, 'private army', the unit's worth was soon realised and was formally (though secretly) absorbed into the SADF in 1977. Its main role was one of infiltration into Angola, forming a buffer-zone through which SWAPO guerrillas would have to pass if they wished to enter Southwest Africa. The battalion proved to be masters of counter-insurgency and infiltration and the combined forces of SWAPO, FAPLA, Cuba and the Soviet Union found it almost impossible to operate against it. The battalion had mostly white officers and NCOs, but they would often 'black up' to disguise their identity. To further aid the infiltration aspect of its role, the battalion carried Soviet infantry weapons and wore Portuguese-style camouflage uniforms in in imitation of FAPLA. However, when operating alongside other SADF forces 32 Battalion would wear regular SADF nutria-brown uniforms. Note that when working deep in Angola, the companies of 32 Battalion would not normally have access to the support elements listed here – these would only be available during major operations.
- (b) Note that these Ratel 90s are antitank, not recce units and do not get a spotting bonus. These Ratel were unique in that they were painted in an experimental three-colour vehicle camouflage scheme, which became standard throughout the SADF just after the war's end.
- (c) From 1988: Replace x3 Ratel 90 with: Ratel ZT-3 ATGM Vehicle SADF-06
- (d) Late 1980s: Replace mortars and trucks with: x4 Buffel 81 Mortar Vehicles SADF-12
- (e) Each Field artillery Battery held M5 120mm Mortars in addition to their G2 140mm or G5 155mm Field Guns. This was to allow greater flexibility in their operational deployment. The battalion may therefore receive mortar OR gun support, but not both.
- (f) The MRL Battery is only available in the late 1980s.

BATTLEGROUP SA-07

Command

Modular Infantry Battalion Group (ab)

HQ	x1 Commander	SADF-31
Ø	Transport x1 Buffel APC	SADF-12
··	Forward Air Controller x1 Forward Observer	SADF-32
• Ø	Transport/Recce x1 Buffel APC	SADF-12

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS

ME-SA04

x3 Modular Infantry Company



ME-SA05

x1 SWATF Infantry Company (c)



ME-SA08

x1 Armoured Car Squadron (Eland)

ATTACHMENTS

General-Purpose Transport (d)

x6 Buffel APC SADF-12

General-Purpose Transport (d)

x6 Unimog Medium Truck SADF-17

up to x2 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Teams SADF-40

x3 Combat Engineers SADF-30

Organic Fire Support

x4 Vektor M3 81mm Mortars SADF-38

ATTACHED ELEMENTS, 1 SWA SPECIALIST UNIT

ME-SA14

up to x3 Tracker Platoons (e)

M ur

ME-SA12

up to 3x Motorcycle Platoon (e)

ME-SA13

up to 6x 'Mountie' Platoons (ef)



Alternative:

ME-SA10

up to 2x Reaction Force Platoons (ef)

•••

Alternative:

ME-SA14

up to 6x Tracker Platoons (ef)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-01 Heavy Mortar Battery (g)

Alternative:

•

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-02 Field Artillery Battery (g)

Alternative:

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-03
SWATF Field Artillery Battery (g)

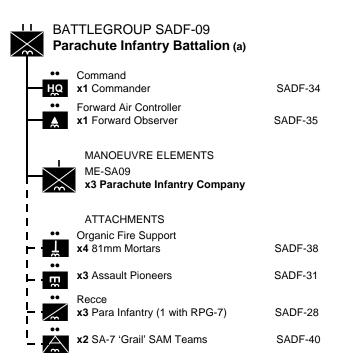
- (a) The five 'Modular' Infantry Battalions (numbered 51 to 55) were the core of the border defence forces deployed along the SWA/Angolan border during the late 1970s and 1980s. They were made up from elements (or 'modules') from a variety of units and would be deployed in company patrol bases along the border. There was usually a company of SWATF attached to each Modular Battalion on rotation to provide 'local knowledge' and various elements of 1 SWA Specialist Unit were also attached to provide tracking and patrolling expertise. Koevoet or Romeo-Mike teams were also frequently stationed in these company bases for mutual protection, but would generally operate independently (there was consequently a feeling of mutual hatred between these disparate units). The Modular Battalions' heavy weapons (often including a wide variety of captured Soviet and obsolete British WW2-era items – not listed here) were usually static, being primarily intended for base defence. Motor transport was limited, with a few Buffels being retained for patrolling and SAAF helicopters often being utilised for inter-base liaison. The companies of a Modular Battalion were generally weak during the quiet Dry Season (maybe 30-50% strength), but would each be brought up to the full strength of five platoons in time for the Wet Season, which was when the Bush would suddenly become jungle and SWAPO-PLAN infiltration teams would stream southwards.
- (b) The Modular Battalions were sometimes called upon to provide weak, mobile battalion groups for 'External' operations into Angola. These groups would normally comprise a small HQ element mounted In Buffels, with the Armoured Car Squadron and a single weak Infantry Company, also mounted in Buffels. Occasionally this force might be boosted by a second company from a neighbouring Modular Battalion.
- **(c)** The SWATF Company would be attached from the local SWATF Infantry Battalion (see BG-08).
- **(d)** There was insufficient transport to allow the battalion to be entirely motorised. It was therefore allocated as required on a mission-by-mission basis.
- **(e)** All elements of 1 SWA Specialist Unit made great use of dogs for tracking purposes. Dogs negate the negative Spotting Modifier for a Rapid Advance.
- (f) Horses seemed to have fallen out of favour in 1 SWA Specialist Unit by 1985. Instead, two Koevoet-style Reaction Force Companies were formed. During the late 1980s, owing to the fluid tactical situation, these units once again reverted to tracking on foot and horseback.
- (g) Artillery would be deployed in Troop (i.e. half-battery) or Section (i.e. a single gun/mortar model) detachments in each of the battalion's company bases. It was therefore virtually impossible for bases to mutually support each other with artillery (or even to support patrols in the field) until the introduction of the superb G5 155mm gun system in the late 1980s, which finally had the range to dominate large swathes of bush and interlock with the artillery of other bases.

	TLEGROUP SA-08 ATF Infantry Battalion Group (a)	
HQ	Command x1 Commander	SADF-34
	Transport x1 Land Rover Light Utility (no MG) (b)	SADF-18
	Forward Air Controller x1 Forward Observer	SADF-35
	Transport/Recce x1 Land Rover Light Utility (no MG) (b)	SADF-18
•	MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS	
	ME-SA05 x2 to x5 SWATF Infantry Company (c)	
	ME-SA09 Up to x1 Marine Infantry Company (701 Battalion only) (d)	
	ME-SA10 Up to x4 Reaction Force Companies (101 Battalion only – from 1984 onwards)	(f)
	ME-SA08 Up to x1 Armoured Car Squadron (Eland (202 Battalion & 701 Battalion only) (de)	d)
! ! ! :: ⊢ ※	ATTACHMENTS General-Purpose Transport (k) x6 Buffel APC	SADF-12
'••' -	General-Purpose Transport (k) x6 Unimog Medium Truck	SADF-17
-	Organic Fire Support x4 Vektor M3 81mm Mortars (h)	SADF-38
¦ 📺	Transport x2 Unimog Medium Truck (h)	SADF-17
	x3 Assault Pioneers	SADF-31
	Transport x1 Unimog Medium Truck (b)	SADF-17
	up to x2 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Teams	SADF-40
	Transport x1 Unimog Medium Truck (b)	SADF-17
-	Up to x2 Unimog/ZPU-1 14.5mm AAMG	SADF-16
-	x3 Land Rover/B-11 107mm RCL (ij)	SADF-19
	x3 Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM Vehicles (i)	SADF-20
I I	FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS	
L .	FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-03 Up to x1 SWATF Field Artillery Battery (d)

- (a) The South West African Territorial Force comprised eight infantry battalions (101, 102, 201, 202, 203, 301, 701 & 911 Battalions) raised from local black volunteers, plus an artillery regiment, an independent battery, an armoured car regiment and an independent armoured car squadron. These battalions were initially raised as ad hoc militia formations, but the SWATF was formalised in 1980 and grew to comprise 70% of the forces deployed against SWAPO-PLAN. There are strong parallels here with the South Lebanese Army. Most of the battalions normally had one rifle company detached, serving with the Modular Battalions (see BG-07).
- (b) May replace Land Rovers and Unimogs with: Buffel APC SADF-11
- (c) 101 and 203 Battalion had an establishment of only two regular rifle companies. 701, 911 and 301 Battalions had a normal establishment of three rifle companies. 102 & 202 Battalions eventually grew to a strength of four rifle companies. 201 Battalion even grew to a strength of five rifle companies. 202 Battalion was unusual in that its four companies each had four platoons rather than the usual three platoons. 201 and 203 Battalions were raised from the famous Koi-San 'Bushmen' and consequently had a dual role as trackers often providing tracking capability for other units.
- (d) 701 Battalion was solely responsible for the 'Caprivi Strip' in northeast SWA. Consequently it also had an SADF Armoured Car Squadron and an independent SWATF Battery of G1 (25pdr) guns permanently attached, as well as a company of Marines, who were essential when Caprivi became inundated in the Wet Season.
- (e) 202 Battalion had an SWATF Armoured Car Squadron on its establishment.
- (f) 101 Battalion adopted the *Koevoet's* successful mechanised tracking and pursuit concept in 1984, with the formation of two Reaction Force (*Reaksiemag* or 'Romeo-Mike') Companies, followed by another two companies in 1985. The battalion also had a Recce Wing, which was involved in long-range reconnaissance deep in Angola and is not really relevant in wargames terms. 201 Battalion also had a Recce Wing.
- (g) The only battalions to have Buffel APCs in each rifle company were 301 Battalion (who always worked closely with 61 Mech) and 911 Battalion. The rest of the SWATF battalions each had a small pool of Buffels to be allocated as required roughly enough to transport a single company at any one time.
- (h) May replace mortars and trucks with: x4 Buffel 81 Mortar Vehicles

SADF-12

- (i) The Antitank Platoon comprises three sections of mixed Land Rover/RCL and Land Rover/ENTAC ATGM vehicles. Therefore, each RCL vehicle must be paired with an ATGM vehicle when attaching these units to Manoeuvre Elements.
- (j) May replace Land Rover/B-11 RCLs with: Eland 90 Armoured Car SADF-03
- **(k)** These transport elements were not present in 301 & 911 Battalions, as their constituent companies had their own organic transport. The other SWATF battalions, in common with the SADF Modular Battalions, had a more static role and there was therefore insufficient transport to allow the battalion to be entirely motorised. It was therefore allocated as required on a mission-by-mission basis.

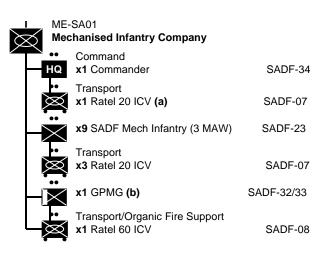


(a) 1 & 2 Para Battalions ('Parabats') were involved (on and off) throughout the conflict, with 3 Para Battalion being raised in 1977. A single company from 1 Para Battalion was stationed at Ondangwa, as a permanent Reaction Force attached to 1 SWA Specialist Unit (see BG-SA02). On operations, the Parabats would usually insert by Puma helicopter, alongside large quantities of fixed- and rotary-wing air support, though they did jump on several occasions (from C-130 Hercules, C-160 Transall or C-47 Dakota). If inserting by helicopter, the para group commander would usually coordinate the assault from a command Alouette III helicopter gunship. At other times, Paras did sometimes get involved in ground operations; riding into action on borrowed transport such as Buffel APCs.

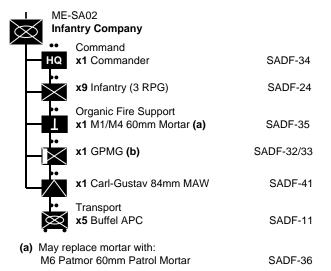


(a) Ordinarily the Armoured Car Regiment would function as independent squadrons, each attached to an infantry battlegroup. Alternatively, the regiment itself might function as a battlegroup, with infantry attached to it.

SADF Manoeuvre Elements 01-04



- (a) From 1988: May replace command vehicle with:
 Ratel Command/OP ICV SADF-10
- **(b)** The GPMG may be tripod-mounted for a sustained fire role (HMG mode SADF-33), or bipod-mounted for added mobility (LMG mode SADF-32). The player must choose before the start of the scenario.



(b) The GPMG may be tripod-mounted for a sustained fire role (HMG mode – SADF-33), or bipod-mounted for added mobility (LMG mode – SADF-32). The player must choose before the start of the scenario.

\checkmark		-SA03 ht Infantry Company	
H	HQ	Command x1 Commander	SADF-34
	\times	x9 Light Infantry (3 with RPG-7)	SADF-26
		Organic Fire Support x1 M1/M4 60mm Mortar (a)	SADF-35
	 ⊠	Transport x4 Buffel APC (bc)	SADF-11
	` <u>X</u>	Recce x2 Trackers	SADF-29
į	<u>ا</u> ج	Transport/Recce x1 Casspir 'K-Car' Pursuit APC	SADF-14

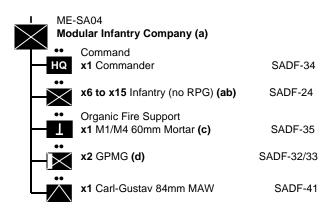
(a) May replace mortar with:

M6 Patmor 60mm Patrol Mortar SADF-36

- (b) Most commonly, the companies of 32 Battalion would patrol on foot, having been inserted by Buffel or helicopter. However, the APCs were there to be used when required especially when on 'Externals' against likely regular FAPLA or Cuban opposition.
- (c) May replace some or all Buffel APCs with:

 Casspir APC

 SADF-13



- (a) Modular Companies were variable in strength, being brought up to full strength annually, in time for the Wet Season infiltrations by SWAPO-PLAN. Companies had no organic transport of their own, but would be allocated transport as necessary by Battalion. Sometimes, a Modular Company could form part of a battlegroup on an External operation, in which case the typical composition would be three platoons (x9 Infantry), plus some support weapons and Buffel APCs from Battalion.
- (b) Late 1980s: One Infantry unit in three may have RPG-7.
- (c) May replace mortar with:

 M6 Patmor 60mm Patrol Mortar SADF-36
- (d) The GPMG may be tripod-mounted for a sustained fire role (HMG mode SADF-33), or bipod-mounted for added mobility (LMG mode SADF-32). The player must choose before the start of the scenario.

SADF Manoeuvre Elements 05-09



- (a) In 202 Battalion: Increase to x12 Infantry (4 with RPG).
- **(b)** In 201 and 203 Battalions, may replace some or all Infantry units in the company with:

Trackers SADF-29

(c) May replace mortar with:

M6 Patmor 60mm Patrol Mortar SADF-36

(d) The GPMG may be tripod-mounted for a sustained fire role (HMG mode – SADF-33), or bipod-mounted for added mobility (LMG mode – SADF-32). The player must choose before the start of the scenario.

(e) In 301 and 911 Battalions, add:

x1 Carl-Gustav 84mm MAW	SADF-41
x5 Buffel APC	SADF-11



- (a) The squadron may alternatively be deployed as three individual Troop-sized maneuver elements, each of x2 Olifant. Designate one tank in each Troop as the Troop Commander.
- **(b)** Although they weren't actually deployed to Southwest Africa, the SADF still possessed a number of Comet Cruiser Tanks in reserve during the 1970s. As part of a hypothetical scenario, the Olifants may therefore be replaced with:

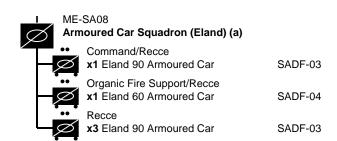
Comet 77mm Cruiser Tank SADF-49

(c) There was at lease one Olifant Mk I in action in 1988. May therefore replace any Olifant with:

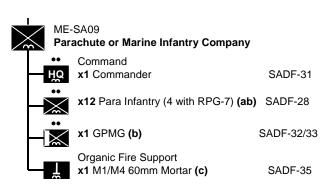
Olifant Mk I 20pdr MBT SADF-01



- (a) The squadron may alternatively be deployed as three individual Troop-sized maneuver elements, each of x2 Ratel 90. Designate one Ratel in each Troop as the Troop Commander.
- **(b)** The squadron was sometimes used in conjunction with an infantry company, who could be comfortably accommodated by the Ratels.



(a) The squadron may alternatively be deployed as individual Troop-sized maneuver elements, each of x1 Eland.

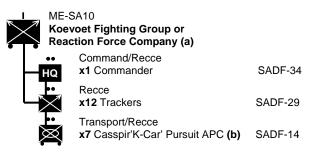


- (a) The South African Marine Corps maintained a single company in South West Africa (with 701 Battalion, SWATF) throughout the war. They were particularly employed during the rainy season, when SWAPO infiltration was at its height (utilising the thick new vegetation) large areas of the border country would be flooded and accessible only to the Marines' light raiding boats. Organisation was as listed for the Paras, though they used the R1 rifle until the late 1980s, so use card SADF-27 until the late 1980s.
- (b) The GPMG may be tripod-mounted for a sustained fire role (HMG mode SADF-33), or bipod-mounted for added mobility (LMG mode SADF-32). The player must choose before the start of the scenario.
- (c) May replace mortar with:

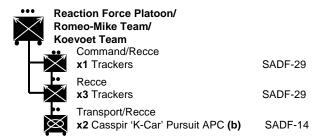
 M6 Patmor 60mm Patrol Mortar

SADF-36

SA Manoeuvre Elements 10-15



(a) The Southwest African Police Counter-Insurgency Unit (SWAPOL COIN) Operation 'Koevoet' ('Crowbar') created the first mechanised tracker team in 1980 and soon found that they had discovered a winning formula – fast-moving trackers on foot, supported closely by rapid, armoured firepower. Successful as they were, there were only three Koevoet 'Units' (i.e. battalion-sized formations, each containing a number of Fighting Groups) covering a border of nearly 2000km. Consequently, the SADF and SWATF took up this successful formula, with similar units being established in the mid-1980s. 101 Battalion SWATF raised first two, then four, Reaction Force Companies in the mid-1980s, as well as a Recce Wing (who were similar in many respects, but more geared toward intelligence-gathering than pursuit). The platoons of the Reaction Force companies of 101 Battalion were known as 'Romeo-Mike' teams (for 'Reaksiemag' - Afkrikaans for 'Reaction Force'). The Fighting Group/Company will normally be deployed as three independently-operating platoon-sized teams:





- (a) For a time, a special fighting group was created from the Pathfinders, utilising three armed Land Rovers, three armed Unimogs (one with a 60mm mortar) and three Toyota Landcruisers (one with a 20mm cannon and two with .50 cal HMGs).
- **(b)** The GPMG may be tripod-mounted for a sustained fire role (HMG mode - SADF-33), or bipod-mounted for added mobility (LMG mode – SADF-32). The player must choose before the start of the scenario.
- (c) May replace mortar with:





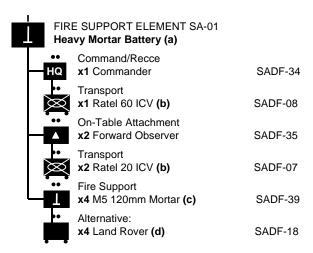
(a) Mounties may dismount. In which case, they will be replaced by:

Trackers SADF-29



M6 Patmor 60mm Patrol Mortar SADF-36

SA Fire Support Elements 01-04

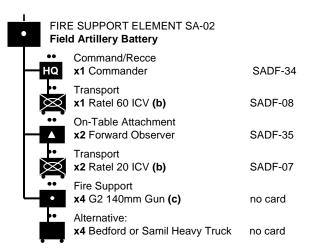


(a) Many SADF field artillery batteries possessed M5 120mm Mortars in addition to their G2 or G5 guns. This was in order to provide mission-based fire support options and thus maximum operational flexibility.

(b) From 1987, may replace Ratels with: Ratel OP/Command ICV

SADF-10

- **(c)** The M5 was no ordinary 120mm Mortar in additional to conventional mortar rounds (range: 6.25km), it possessed a rocket-assisted round, which had a range of over 10km at the expense of explosive yield.
- (d) May replace Land Rover with:
 Unimog Medium Truck SADF-17



(a) Many SADF field artillery batteries possessed M5 120mm Mortars in addition to their 155mm howitzers. This was in order to provide mission-based fire support options and thus maximum operational flexibility. Some units, such as 44 Parachute Brigade, possessed an entire regiment (3 batteries of 120mm mortars).

(b) From 1987, may replace Ratels with: Ratel OP/Command ICV

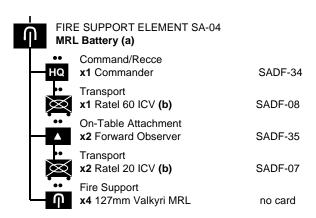
SADF-10

(c) The G2 140mm gun was actually the British 5.5-inch gun of WW2 vintage. Unfortunately its range was woefully inadequate for war in the wide open spaces of the Bush. Following the acquisition of US & Israeli 155mm gun systems via sanctions-busting deals with Israel (designated G3 & G4), an excellent new 155mm artillery system was developed. From 1986 replace G2 guns with:

G5 155mm Gun

	RE SUPPORT ELEMENT SA-03 /ATF Field Artillery Battery	
HQ	Command/Recce x1 Commander	SADF-34
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	Alternative: x1 Land Rover	SADF-18
	On-Table Attachment x2 Forward Observer	SADF-35
	Alternative: x2 Land Rover	SADF-18
	Fire Support x4 G1 88mm Gun (a)	no card
.	Alternative: x4 Unimog Medium Truck	SADF-17

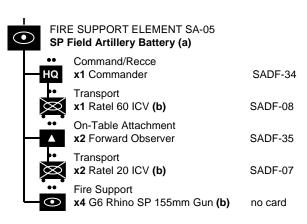
(a) The G1 gun was the British 25pdr of WW2 fame. As with the G2, the G1 was simply not up to the task in South West Africa.
 Nevertheless, one battery of G1s was retained in the Caprivi Strip with 701 Battalion's battlegroup. The rest may be replaced with:
 G2 140mm Gun



(a) Some bases possessed a battery of Valkyri 127mm MRLs. The Valkyri was a South African conversion of the Soviet-built (and subsequently captured) BM-21 MRL, with greatly improved range and explosive yield.

(b) From 1987, may replace Ratels with: Ratel OP/Command ICV SADF-10

SA Fire Support Elements 05-06

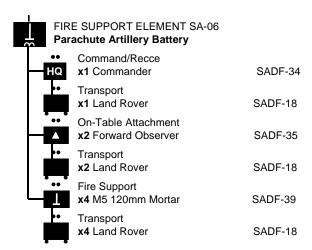


(a) A single battery of pre-production G6s was involved in the 1987-88 'campaign season', with more batteries beginning to appear by 1989.

(b) From 1987, may replace Ratels with: Ratel OP/Command ICV

SADF-10

(c) Like the G5, this superb artillery piece was designed by the infamous Dr Bull, who also designed the British FH-70 and Iraqi Supergun and was allegedly assassinated by Mossad. It had a range of approximately 45km, which is truly colossal and was therefore an ideal weapon for dominating the vast spaces of the bush.



General Artillery Notes

• Bosbok AOPs and Alouette II/III Observation Helicopters may also function as Forward Observers for artillery units.

South African General Notes

Uniforms & Painting

- SADF and SWATF uniforms were typically plain and 'Nutria' coloured. 'Nutria' is a reddish-khaki-brown, which blends very well with the reddish earth of the bush. Insignia, while popular in barrack dress, were designed to be removed and were not normally worn in the Bush. Webbing was manufactured in nutria during the 1980s, though older (and captured) olive-drab webbing items were still very common. Boots were black or red leather, though *Koevoet* green canvas boots were popular trade items. Headgear was usually a 'boonie' hat modelled on the British 1944 pattern, with a narrow brim (this was sometimes folded or cut to resemble a peaked cap). Plastic Israeli-style helmets with nutria-coloured fabric covers came in during the 1980s, which means that when armed with the R4 rifle, South African infantry look very similar in silhouette to IDF infantry, which makes figures rather easier to find. Peter Pig do a very nice series of Israelis in their 'AK-47 Republic' range which would be most suitable in fact, the entire range is very useful, for everything from SADF/SWATF infantry to heavy weapons, armoured cars and softskins. PP's Vietnam War Australians with SLR are also very useful (though not their M60 GPMG packs).
- 32 Light Infantry Battalion was unique in the army, in that it wore FAPLA-style camouflage uniforms. This, along with the wide use of AK-47s within the battalion, was to aid its border patrol role in that it could operate more easily in FAPLA territory. Indeed, white members of the battalion are recorded as 'blacking up' before patrols, to make them pass more easily for FAPLA soldiers at a distance. Similarly, Portuguese-style peaked caps were often worn to increase the visual effect. Peter Pig's 'Hardened Militia' are ideal.
- The Southwest African Police Counter-Insurgency (SWAPOL-COIN) 'Koevoet' teams also initially wore camouflage uniforms, though these were replaced by olive-drab uniforms in the mid-1980s. They wore light-olive green tropical canvas boots instead of the leather worn by the army. However, standard 'uniform' for the Koevoet seems to have been shorts and t-shirt the t-shirt often being printed with a unit logo! Reversible Police-pattern peaked caps were usually worn in camouflage, blue or olive green fabric (often with a neck-flap), with day-glo orange on the reverse as a recognition measure to prevent 'blue-on-blue' incidents (once a contact had begun they would reverse their caps). The Peter Pig figures with cap and G3 are good for 'uniformed' Koevoet or Romeo-Mike.
- Koevoet, Romeo-Mike & Reaction Force teams generally carried very little, if any, webbing often just a pistol holster. This enabled them to follow trails at a run, with their kit following them in the team's Casspir. The army personnel tended to look a little more military than the Koevoet, but still travelled very light. I haven't yet come across any perfect Koevoet figures in shorts and t-shirt.
- The standard SADF paint scheme for all vehicles and equipment was Dark Earth, though the Antitank Platoon of 32 Battalion was painted in an experimental three-colour camouflage scheme towards the end of the war, which became standard throughout the SADF afterwards (though was eventually dropped again during the 90s). Markings were usually limited to white-on-black number-plates and large callsigns on the sides and rear in white (or red for some units such as 61 Mech and 32 Battalion). Some units such as 61 Mech also displayed their unit crests on their vehicles or the South African tricolour flag.



Air Support

- Close Air Support was often available to South African forces, though became less so in the late 1980s, as the USSR rapidly expanded FAPLA's radar and SAM umbrella. It was usually in the form of Impala Mk II light attack jets, armed with twin 30mm cannon, 6x68mm rocket pods (usually about four pods per aircraft, giving 24 rockets) and 120kg bombs. Buccaneer low-level strike aircraft had also been used during the 1970s, as had Canberra bombers. However, during the 1980s Canberras were relegated to high-altitude photo recon and the remaining Buccaneers were reassigned to South Africa's top-secret (and successful) nuclear weapons programme.
- Light air recce support was provided by Alouette III helicopters, as well as the ubiquitous Bosbok a high-wing light OP aircraft. Bosboks often flew recce missions over patrols and were able to call in attacks by artillery, helicopters or CAS. Bosboks were often armed with a machinegun and rockets, with which to mark targets for ground forces or CAS. Alouette III 'K-Car' gunships were armed with 20mm cannon, mounted in the port-side door. Despite the relatively light armament, these gunships were rightly feared by SWAPO-PLAN and FAPLA forces their 20mm cannons were equipped with reflecting-gyro gunsights and were deadly accurate even at long range.
- Tactical transport was provided mainly by squadrons of Puma helicopters (renamed after the war as Oryx), which were sometimes (though
 not always) armed with a door-mounted GPMG. These were supplemented by a single squadron of large Super Frelon helicopters, though it
 was found that these had difficulty operating in the extreme heat of SWA and Angola. Heavier transport capability (particularly for the
 Parabats) was provided by C-47 Dakota, C-130 Hercules and C-160 Transall aircraft.
- Most SAAF tactical aircraft were painted in bands of Dark Earth and Olive Drab and in most cases the SAAF identification markings were removed, in order to deny the enemy the propaganda value of SAAF-marked wreckage, should an aircraft be brought down (this was added to the fact that the South Africans were often denying the extent of their operations over the border in Angola).

SA Unit Quality

Elite

- SWAPOL-COIN 'Koevoet' Teams
- 'Romeo-Mike' Teams of 101 Battalion, SWATF
- 'Recces' (i.e. Reconnaissance Commandos SADF Special Forces)
- 1 Parachute Battalion
- 14 Parachute Battalion Group
- 1 SWATF Parachute Company (later became 2 SWA Specialist Unit)

Veteran

- 2 Parachute Battalion
- 3 Parachute Battalion
- 32 'Buffalo' Light Infantry Battalion Group
- 61 Mechanised Infantry Battalion Group
- 201 Battalion, SWATF
- 301 Battalion, SWATF
- 701 Battalion, SWATF
- Armoured & Armoured Car Squadrons
- 1 SWA Specialist Unit
- SAAF Aircrew

Experienced

- 1 South African Infantry Battalion
- 4 South African Infantry Battalion
- 7 South African Infantry Battalion
- 31 (Bushmen) Infantry Battalion
- 51 Modular Battalion Group
- 52 Modular Battalion Group
- 53 Modular Battalion Group
- 54 Modular Battalion Group
- 55 Modular Battalion Group
- 62 Mechanised Battalion
- 63 Mechanised Battalion
- 101 Battalion, SWATF (elements other than 'Romeo-Mike')
- 102 Battalion, SWATF
- 202 Battalion, SWATF
- 203 Battalion, SWATF
- 911 Battalion, SWATF
- Citizen's Force Elements of SWATF 91 Brigade
- SADF & SWATF Artillery
- SA Marine Corps Company (701 Battalion, SWATF)
- SAAF Regiment Airfield Defence Squadrons

Trained

The Cape Coloured Regiment (Airfield Defence AA Guns)

South African Police Platoons

<u>Raw</u>

South West African Police Protection Unit Platoons

SA Card List

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SADF-01 Semel/Olifant Mk I Main Battle Tank (20pdr Gun)
SADF-02 Olifant Mk Ia Main Battle Tank (105mm Gun)
SADF-03 Eland-90 Armoured Car (90mm Low-Pressure Gun)
SADF-04 Eland-60 Armoured Car (60mm Gun-Mortar)
SADF-05 Ratel-90 Recce/Fire Support Vehicle (90mm Low-Pressure Gun)
SADF-06 Ratel ZT-3 ATGM Vehicle (Swift ATGM)
SADF-07 Ratel-20 MICV (20mm Cannon)
SADF-08 Ratel-60 MICV (60mm Gun-Mortar)
SADF-09 Ratel 81 Mortar Vehicle (81mm Mortar)
SADF-10 Ratel Command/Observation Post Vehicle (.50 HMG)
SADF-11 Buffel Mine-Protected APC (MG)
SADF-12 Buffel-81 Fire Support Vehicle (81mm Mortar)
SADF-13 Casspir Mine-Protected APC (MG)
SADF-14 Casspir 'K-Car' Mine-Protected Pursuit APC (Mixed Weapons)
SADF-15 Ystervark 20mm AA Vehicle
SADF-16 Unimog with ZPU-1 14.5mm AAMG
SADF-17 Unimog 4x4 Medium Truck
SADF-18 Land Rover 4x4 Light Utility Vehicle (MG Option)
SADF-19 Land Rover with B-11 107mm Recoilless Rifle
SADF-20 Land Rover with ENTAC ATGM
SADF-21 All-Terrain Motorcycles
SADF-22 SADF Infantry (1970s)
SADF-23 SADF Mech Infantry (1980s)
SADF-24 SADF Infantry (1980s)
SADF-25 SWATF Light Infantry
SADF-26 SADF Light Infantry (32 Btn)
SADF-27 SADF Parachute Infantry (1970s)
SADF-28 SADF Parachute Infantry (1980s)
SADF-29 Tracker Team
SADF-30 Mounties
SADF-31 Assault Pioneers
SADF-32 FN MAG 7.62mm GPMG (LMG Mode)
SADF-33 FN MAG 7.62mm GPMG (SFMG Mode)
SADF-34 Commander
SADF-35 Forward Observer/FAC
SADF-36 M6 'Patmor' (60mm Patrol Mortar)
SADF-37 Vektor M1/M4 60mm Mortar
SADF-38 Vektor M3 81mm Mortar
SADF-39 M5 120mm Mortar
SADF-40 SA-7 'Grail' SAM Team
SADF-41 Carl-Gustav Team (84mm MAW)
SADF-42 Bosbok Air Observation Post
SADF-43 Alouette II Observation Helicopter
SADF-44 Alouette III Observation Helicopter
SADF-45 Alouette III 'K-Car' Attack Helicopter
SADF-46 Puma/Oryx Utility Helicopter
SADF-47 Impala Mk II Ground Attack Aircraft
SADF-48 Buccaneer S Mk 50 Strike Aircraft
SADF-49 Comet Cruiser Tank (77mm Gun)
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SADF-50 Bulldog Mine-Protected APC (MG)

SADF Call-For-Fire

Observer Type	Organic Fire Support	Direct Fire Support	General Fire Support	Close Air Support
Forward Observer	3 or more	4 or more	6 or more	3 or more
Commander	4 or more	5 or more	7 or more	4 or more
Troops	5 or more	6 or more	8 or more	5 or more

SADF Artillery Ratings

Artillery Unit Type	Template	V	TGsV	Range
G1 88mm Field Gun (25pdr)	Large	-1	0	170
G2 140mm Gun (5.5-inch)	Large	+1	+2	240
G5 155mm Gun	Large	+2	+3	430
G5 155mm Gun (Rocket-Assisted Ammunition)	Large	+1	+2	570
G6 Rhino SP 155mm Gun	Large	+2	+3	430
G6 Rhino SP 155mm Gun (Rocket-Assisted Ammunition)	Large	+1	+2	570
Valkyri SP 40x127mm Multiple Rocket Launcher	2x Large	0	+1	430
M5 120mm Mortar	Large	0	+1	170
M5 120mm Mortar (Rocket-Assisted Ammunition)	Large	-0	0	240