

Poland 6th Airborne Brigade 1967 - 1989 *Morale: see notes*

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Brigade Headquarters Company: (see notes 1, 2, 3, 4, 7)

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Truck

Security: 1-Infantry Stand in Truck

1-NBC Company (22nd) with:

1-GAZ-69 or (from 1972) UAZ-469RH

1-Recon Company (49th?) with: (to 1976 only?)

2- or 3-Infantry Stand in Jeep (see note 8)

1-Engineering Company (11th) with:

2-Light Engineer Stand in Truck or (from 1984) Combat Engineer Stand in Truck

1-AA Battery (120th) with: (from 1976) (*data deficient, but possibly:*)

2*-ZU-23-2/Jeep plus 2*-S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep, or

3-ZU-23-2/S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep

1-AT Battery (from 1978) (see note 14)

2-9K111 (AT-4 Spigot) in Jeep or Truck plus 2- SPG9-DM in Jeep or Truck, or

4-9K111 (AT-4 Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

3-Parachute Battalions (10th, 16th, 18th), each with: (see notes 5, 6)

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Jeep or Truck

Engineering: 1-Light Engineer Stand in Truck (from 1976)

Recon: 1-Infantry Stand in Jeep (from 1976)

AA Battery, with:

1-S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep (from 1970?) (see note 10)

1-ZU-23-2/Jeep (from 1976) (see note 11)

AT Battery, with: (to 1978) (see note 15)

2*-2P26 (to 1974) or 2P27 (to 1974) or (from 1974 to 1976) 9M14

(AT-3a Sagger A) in Jeep or Truck or (from 1974 to 1976) 9M14

(AT-3a Sagger A)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck or (from 1976 to

1978) 9K111 (AT-4 Spigot) in Jeep or Truck or (from 1976 to 1978)

9K111 (AT-4 Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

2*-B-10 82 mm RR Stand in Jeep (to 1969) or 1-SPG9-DM in Jeep

or Truck or (from 1974 to 1976) 1-9M14 (AT-3a Sagger A)/SPG-

9DM in Jeep or Truck or (from 1976 to 1978) 1-9K111 (AT-4

Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

3-Assault Companies, each with:

2- or 3-Infantry Stand in Truck (see note 8)

1-Mortar Platoon with:

2*-82 mmM wz. 37 in Truck

1-Mortar Battery with:

2*-120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66

1-Self-propelled Artillery Battalion (35th), with: (to 1976)

HQ: 1-ASU-85

3-Assault Gun Companies, each with:

2-ASU-85

1-Anti-Aircraft Battalion (6th), with: (to 1976) (see note 9)

3-PKZM-2/Jeep (to 1969) or ZU-23-2/Jeep

3-PKZM-2/Jeep (to 1969) or ZU-23-2/Jeep or S-2 (SA-7b

Grail)/Jeep or ZU-23-2/S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep

1-Mixed Artillery Battalion, with: (see note 16)

1-FAO (see note 13)

2-WP-8z/GAZ-69 (to 1984) (see note 12)

2*-120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 (to 1984) or (from 1984) 2B9/GAZ-66

2*-120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 or 2B11/GAZ-66 (from 1984)

2*-2B11/GAZ-66 (from 1984)

Notes (general):

NATO-style designations are given to aid the reader in italics, as in 1-S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep.

Items entirely in *italics* (e.g. the FAO) do not add to or deduct from a battalion's morale.

For simplicity, where dates refer to, e.g. "to 1984", and from 1984", these two dates do not overlap. Thus, unless otherwise stated, two items, one in the form of "to 1984" and the other in the form of "from 1984" cannot be both used.

Where entries refer to, e.g. "Light Engineer Stand in Truck or (from 1984) Combat Engineer Stand in Truck", this means replacement with Combat Engineer is optional from 1981; if the entry however reads "120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 (to 1984) or (from 1984) 2B9/GAZ-66", then replacement is mandatory from 1984. Where entries refer to, e.g. "3-PKZM-2/Jeep (to 1969) or ZU-23-2/Jeep", this means three of one or the other are the only two options allowed; a mixture of one or two of each is not allowed (unless indicated otherwise in the list notes).

Where I have been unable to find sufficient data to describe a formation, this is noted as "*(data deficient)*" under the formation's title.

Some platoons are given a strength of 2*. These represent 6 vehicles/weapons systems, and accordingly if just a single one is absent, the platoon should be represented by a single stand. Accordingly, such platoons may be chosen to be represented by a single stand; in a battalion with such reduced strength platoons, all such 2*-strength platoons should be represented as reduced strength units before any other platoons can be represented by less than the normal number of stands. (Note that some small weapons systems are grouped in multiples before being counted as "a system". Thus two S-2 (SA-7b Grail) teams counts as a single "system" for the purpose of these lists, so that a single element of AA: 1-S-2 (SA-7b Grail) in Jeep typically models six vehicles, each carrying 1 S-2 team.

18. Some units are represented by two vehicles are in the form of, e.g.:

2-9K111 (AT-4 Spigot) in Jeep or Truck plus 2- SPG9-DM in Jeep or Truck, or

4-9K111 (AT-4 Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

This represents in the first case, two stands of one weapon system and two stands of the other, so they can be deployed separately, and in the second case, the same weapons deployed together as mixed stands.

In all cases, the rules for Soviet-trained organizations apply (see page 68 of the rules).

Notes (specific items)

1. The Brigade was called a "Division" until 1986, mostly for political purposes, to ensure it received its "fair" share of resources. It was nonetheless clearly just a brigade in practice, and indeed was usually commanded by a mere colonel, and not even a brigade-general. It's true status as a brigade was officially recognized in 1986, as was the similarly-positioned 7th Marine landing "Division" at the same time.

2. The unit was something of an elite formation, although its efficiency seems have dipped in the late 70s, when its members had to spend too much time marching in parades propping up the leadership, and not enough time practicing parachuting, etc. Accordingly moral is 1/2 Veteran, 1/2 Regular until 1976, and from 1976, Regular only.

3. In addition to being carried in vehicles, the Brigade may be para-dropped (without vehicles), or transported by helicopter (Mi-4, Mi-6, and Mi-8, drawn from Army-level assets; jeeps can be carried, but not trucks). There were not enough aircraft to transport the Brigade in one lift, and Soviet gear would have to have been borrowed, which could have been problematic in that they would have likely been too busy transporting their own airborne forces. Trucks and other heavy gear could have to have been airlifted in once the Brigade had seized an airfield.

4. "Jeep" means GAZ-69 or (from 1972) UAZ-469. "Truck" means GAZ-66, Star-66, Star-244, or Star-266.

5. The Brigade's Training Battalion (the 6th) has been omitted from the list as it would not be used except in dire emergency.

6. Until 1976, there was a 4th (reserve) Battalion, the 33rd, equipped as the other three, but not fully-manned in peacetime. This may not be graded Veteran, as it would likely require recruits to bring it up to strength.

7. Infantry stands in this list have RPG-7D by default. From 1978, they may be equipped with 9M115 Metis (*AT-7 Saxhorn*), and in assault companies, must do so, but only one stand per company.

8. Fighting companies has 3 platoons each, but the companies were the usually small WarPac size, and so should be represented by just 2stands. However, if a tabletop force includes no units other than those drawn from this list, a slight relaxation in scale is allowed to field 3 stands per company.

9. For the purposes of attachment (Section 2.3.3 of the rules, 2nd paragraph, page 3) each base or pair of bases of the Anti-Aircraft Battalion may counts as a company.

10. It is not clear what year the SA-7 was used from; some sources imply it was already in use in the late 60s, but if so, this must have been the original 9K32 (*SA-7*) version.

11. Once source indicates ZU-23-2s may not have been received by the battalions until as late as 1979, but if this is true, they must still have been kept at Brigade-level as in the pre-1976 organization, in which would have been handed out to the battalions anyway in an actual conflict.

12. As the WP-8z has a meager 8 barrels, the battalion's 18 launchers are modelled by a maximum of only 2 stands on the table, not 4. Even this may be generous, and a single stand may be better. (The best solution, not covered by the rules, might be two stands, but using the smaller 3" artillery template).

13. The battalion FAO may spot only for the MRLs or for the 120 mm mortars (either wz. 38 or 2B11), but not both. Choose which at deployment (note, the FAO is not necessary to direct fire, as the weapons may still be called on by other elements as per the usual rules).

14. This battery was officially part of the 5th Mixed Artillery battalion. Individual stands or pairs of stands may count as companies for the purposes of attachment (Section 2.3.3 of the rules, 2nd paragraph, page 3). Some sources indicate AT-3 was still used into the 1980s: up to half the AT-4 stands may alternatively be AT-3 stands (presumably as AT-3C).

15. The B-10 82 mm RRs were actually part of company-level support weapons platoon, which also including the battalion's 82 mm mortars, but these were both too few to count as a single MSH stand, so they have here been consolidated at battalion-level. It is not clear if they had already been replaced by the SPG-9 by the starting date of this list. Although AT-3 launchers were officially on the books from possibly as early as 1971, the first practical firings apparently didn't place until 1974, and since the weapon system was useless without frequent practice, it should not be allowed until then. The armoured 2P27 AT-1 vehicle is rather surprisingly attested in two sources in addition to the unarmoured 2P26; the batteries may be armed with either or a mixture of the two.

16. From 1984 the 2*-2B9 stands may be attached to fighting battalion is if they were a standard support company.