

# Suggested Modern Russian Ground Forces TO&Es

## Motorized Rifle Brigade 2015

### 3 x Motorized Rifle Battalions

- Recon APC/IFV
- 6 Combat team APC/IFVs
- 3 HMG combat teams APC/IFV
- 1 Combat team ATGM stands APC/IFVs
- 3 Combat team SAM stands APC/IFVs
- 1 Combat team AGS-30 stand APC/IFV
- 2 120mm mortars + trucks

### 0-1 x Tank Battalions

- 8 MBTs

### Antitank Artillery Battalion

- 1 AT Gun + APC
- 2 ATGM vehicles

### Reconnaissance Battalion

- 4 Recon vehicles [omitting a variety of SIGINT/ELINT/ISR platforms here]

### Engineer Battalion

- 1 Engineer (sapper) Stand in APC + route clearance, bridging, obstacle, and survivability vehicles

### Air Defense Missile Battalion

- 3 SA-15 or SA-13

### Air Defense Missile-Artillery Battalion

- 1 2S6
- 1 SA-13

### 1-2 x Self-Propelled Howitzer Battalions

- [see Artillery Support Groups]

### Rocket Artillery Battalion [see Artillery Support Groups]

Motorized Rifle Brigades represent the overwhelming bulk of the Russian Ground Forces' maneuver formations. There are around 40 active brigades of this type, compared to 4 tank brigades (see below).

There's a lot of similarity here with older organizations (and I have tried to pattern this off of the FFT3 organization approach, hence SAMs and ATGMs integrated into infantry stands for example). One significant issue I'm not sure if I treated correctly is that platoons consist of 3 vehicles, and companies of 10. For the motorized infantry, I am using one stand per platoon (therefore three per company), but for tanks I am using two stands per company. A lot of stuff is also off-table; the recon and engineer battalions have a bunch of capability that's either not relevant or wouldn't be represented at FFT3 scale.

### Vehicles:

APCs can be BTR-80 (common), BTR-80A, BTR-82A, or MTLB. IFVs can be BMP-2 (most common) or BMP-3.

Modernized versions of BMP-2 and BMP-3 also exist but it's unclear how widely fielded they are in Russian forces.

Tanks are most likely T-72B3 or sometimes T-90A. T-80 series tanks are being phased out in favor of T-72B3.

Recon vehicles can be BTRs, BMPs, MTLBs, or GAZ Tigr.

ATGM vehicles include 9P149 (most common) and 9P162. AT Guns can be MT-12 or 2A45.

## **Tank Brigade 2015**

### **3 x Tank Battalions**

6 MBTs

### **Motorized Rifle Battalion**

- Recon APC/IFV
- 6 Combat team APC/IFVs
- 1 Combat team ATGM stands APC/IFVs
- 3 Combat team SAM stands APC/IFVs
- 1 Combat team AGS-30 stand APC/IFV
- 2 120mm mortars + trucks

### **Reconnaissance Company**

3 Recon vehicles

### **Engineer Company**

3 Engineer Stands in APCs

### **Air Defense Missile Battalion**

3 SA-15 or SA-13

### **Air Defense Missile-Artillery Battalion**

1 2S6

1 SA-13

### **Self-Propelled Howitzer Battalion**

3 2S19 or 2S3 batteries

### **Rocket Artillery Battalion**

3 BM-21 Grad batteries

There are only four active duty tank brigades (counting 4th Guards Tank Division as a brigade. I have no idea what its actual structure looks like but it converted back from a tank brigade just a couple years ago). None of these brigades are equipped with T- 90A; 4th Guards Tank Division has T-80BV and T-80U but the rest have T-72B of some variety. The motorized rifle battalion of a tank brigade is always equipped with IFVs (BMP-2 most commonly).

## **Building a modern Russian force**

Most Russian Motorized Rifle Brigades are not fully manned, let alone fully trained or manned with contract soldiers (the Russian army consists of a large number of 12 month conscripts). As a result, we have seen Russian brigades acting as force providers for task-organized Battalion Tactical Groups (BTGs) on the border of East Ukraine.

These will generally consist of a Motorized Rifle Battalion, with attachments from elsewhere in the brigade; I would anticipate that at a minimum there would be one company (two stands) of MBTs attached to each BTG, along with appropriate fires, recon, engineer, and air defense elements. Note that some brigades do lack a tank battalion.

Ideally, if fully manned and prepared to do so, a brigade could operate three full BTGs; in the context of a major offensive operation (as opposed to what we've been seeing in East Ukraine) we should expect them to operate as coherent brigade tactical groups. In practice, if they wanted to operate a significant number of brigade tactical groups, the Russians would have to either put conscripts in harm's way (which they appear inclined to avoid) or cannibalize from multiple brigades to mass appropriate combat power composed from units with mainly contract soldiers. For the purpose of a typical battle, I suggest the following guidance:

Battalion tactical groups are formed based from the primary maneuver battalion type of a formation (Motorized Rifle if a Motorized Rifle Brigade, Tank if a Tank Brigade, etc.)

Attachments to tailor the BTGs of a given brigade are mainly drawn from the brigade itself. For example, a tank company, an ATGM company, and a SAM battery might be attached to a given battalion, all from the other battalions within the brigade.

Other special elements can be built around battalions in a brigade. For example, after tank companies have been assigned to support motorized rifle BTGs, the remaining tanks and antitank units might be combined to create an antitank reserve.

Given the scarcity of relatively modern systems like T-90A, BMP-3M, and BTR-82A, I would assume that units with these vehicles would also tend to be at a higher level of readiness, at least relative to those equipped with, say T-72BA and BMP-1. (I don't have anything to back that up, though, it's just a guess.)

Attachments from Combined Arms Army level (subject to expansion)

**Antitank Artillery Company**

1-2 AT Guns (MT-12 [more common] or 2A45) + 1-2 MTLB

**ATGM Company**

2 ATGM vehicles (9P148 [more common], 9P162, or 9P157)

**Attack Helicopter Company**

2 attack helicopters (Mi-28N, Ka-52, or Mi-35M)

**Artillery Support Groups**

Self-Propelled Howitzer Battery [-2 Availability]

1 2S3 battery (rarely: 2S1, though these now seem to be being phased out of service)

**Self-Propelled Howitzer Battery [-1 Availability]**

1 2S19 battery

**Self-Propelled Howitzer Battalion**

3 2S3 batteries (again, rarely: 2S1)

**Self-Propelled Howitzer Battalion [+1 Availability]**

3 2S19 batteries

**Rocket Artillery Battalion [Army Artillery Brigade]**

3 BM-21 Grad or 2 BM-27 Uragan

**Heavy Rocket Artillery Battalion [Army Rocket Artillery Brigade]**

1 BM-30 Smerch

## **Example Russian force 2015 (50% green, 50% regular)**

### **27<sup>th</sup> Motorized Rifle Brigade Tactical Group**

#### **Motorized Rifle Battalion Tactical Group 1**

- 1 Motorized Rifle Battalion, Average Quality
  - Recon BTR80
  - 6 Combat team BTR80
  - 1 Combat team ATGM stands BTR80
  - 3 Combat team SAM stands BTR80
  - 1 Combat team AGS-30 stand BTR80
  - 2 120mm mortars + trucks
- 1 Tank Company, Average Quality
  - 2 T-90A
- Air Defense Missile-Artillery Battery, Average Quality
  - 1 2S6

#### **Motorized Rifle Battalion Tactical Group 2**

- 1 Motorized Rifle Battalion, Fair Quality
  - Recon BTR80
  - 6 Combat team BTR80
  - 1 Combat team ATGM stands BTR80
  - 3 Combat team SAM stands BTR80
  - 1 Combat team AGS-30 stand BTR80
  - 2 120mm mortars + trucks
- 1 Tank Company, Average Quality
  - 2 T-90A
- Air Defense Missile Battery, Average Quality
  - 1 SA-15
- Mobile/Antitank Element
  - 2 Tank Companies, Average Quality
    - 4 T-90A
  - 1 Antitank Company, Average Quality 2 9P149
- 2S19 Artillery Battalion [Availability +1]
  - BM-21 Grad Rocket Artillery Battalion 12 Fire Units

### **Attachments from 20<sup>th</sup> Guards Combined Arms Army:**

#### **Tank Battalion Tactical Group (attached from 6<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade), Average Quality**

- 1 Tank Battalion, Average Quality
  - 6 T-72B3
- 1 Motorized Rifle Company, Average Quality
  - 3 Infantry Stands + 3 BMP-2
- BM-30 Smerch
  - 4 Fire Units
- 2 Mi-28N Attack Helicopters, Average Quality

Note: following mark Bevis suggestion, battalion tactical groups have 90% availability, since elements are taken from full brigades.

This list is for the 90's

## **Russian Armoured Brigade 1995+ (strength typically 70% or less)**

### **Armoured battalion (tank=T80U or T72)**

HQ (tank+BMP1K)

3 companies: 2 tank

1 company:

2 BMP3 infantry groups, 1 BMP3 12.7HMG support platoon

1 BMP2 + support weapons (AGS-17 grenade launcher)

1 BMP2 + SA-16 teams

1 BRDM-3 or MTLB/AT-6 Spiral

1 2S6 AA platoon

2 MTLB+Vasilek or truck+120mm mortars or 2S-17

### **Motor rifle Battalion**

HQ(BMP-1K+truck, jeep)

1 tank company: 2 tanks

3 companies:

2 BMP2 infantry groups, 1 BMP1 12.7HMG support platoon

1 BMP1 + support weapons (AGS-17 grenade launcher)

1 BMP1 + SA-16 teams

1 MTLB + 125mm 2A45 AT gun

1 BMP2 + AT-4 spigot

1 2S6 AA platoon

2 MTLB+Vasilek or truck+120mm mortars

### **Light Assault infantry battalion**

HQ(BTR70/80)

3 companies: total of 6 BTR, 1 BTR+12.7 HMG support + 1 BTR+AT-4 Spigot

1 BTR + SA-16 teams

1 BRDM-3 or MTLB/AT-6 Spiral

2 truck+Vasilek or truck+120mm mortars or 2S-23

1 BTR + support weapons (AGS-17 grenade launcher)

## **Armoured Brigade**

### **Brigade HQ (BTR70, BRDMU)**

#### **if armoured brigade:**

3 armoured battalions

2 motor rifle battalions

1 light infantry battalion

#### **if motor rifle brigade:**

2 armoured battalions

3 motor rifle battalions

1 light infantry battalion

### **AT company**

2 125mm 2A45 AT guns + MTLB or trucks

### **AT company**

2 BRDM3 or MTLB+AT-6 Spiral

### **4 Radio Jammer trucks RDF-ESM**

**Engineer company:**

2 BTR70+engineers 1 GMZ mine clearer, 1 truck+mineploughs

Engineer pool:

1 IMR/BTM-3/MDK-2M/MTU AVLB 2 BAT-M

**2 artillery battalions**

HQ (PRP3, ACRV2,ACRV3)

FAO (ACRV?)

4 152mm 2S-3 or 2S-19

**1 rocket battalion**

HQ(BTR60+jeep)

FAO (BTR60PU?)

4 122mm BM21-36 or 4 220mm BM27

**2 AA companies: total of**

3 SA-13 or SA-15

3 ZSU24-4 or 2S-6

**2 recce companies**

2 BRM-1 or BMP-2 or BMP-3

1 NBC recce BTR70kh or BTR80rkhm4

**recce company**

3 BRDM2

Note: BMP1 or BMP2s of support units have no sagger.

**Notes from Mark Bevis**

All references I've seen show the Ukrainian conscripts are very poor, Green rating in MSH. The militias are better quality generally, being more motivated by defending their home territories, but would be less well equipped. Russian units are probably better than 50% equipped, as they have a bigger stockpile of weapons to replace weapons from.

The Russians have introduced more professional volunteers into their army, so you might rate regular brigades as 50% Green 50% Regular in MSH. Note that each Russian brigade maintains a "rapid-reaction" ready group that can mobilise in 24 hours, typically of oversized battalion group size, drawn from all parts of the brigade. The rest of the brigade then has to take longer to mobilise

Ukrainian tank industry was quite proud of the fact that they made 5 tanks and 50 armoured trucks in last 2 years!

A recent OOB I've seen for the Russian and pro-Russian Ukrainians show them using several independent battalions as well as regular brigades.