

Group of soviet forces Germany Order of battle and equipment Chronology

Unless otherwise stated, this consists largely of quotes from USMLM (US Military Liaison mission) yearly reports. Other sources include Tony Geraghtys 'Beyond the Front Line' and 'The last mission. Any other sources or suggestions will be gratefully received and added. This presently omits any reference to observations of the Pact Airforces in East Germany due to size considerations. I hope to produce a secondary transcript covering this at a later date.

Many may find this layout confusing and difficult to make use of. I agree. Unfortunately the manner of the material (observation and occasional rumour) make it necessary to mention how the observation was made, and how tenuous it was. In this way, I can leave it to the reader on how reliable the information was. In many case, I have cited sites on the web, who appear on these subjects to be reliable sources. Again, the reader must make up his own mind how reliable they are.

To ease finding particular sections, all unit names and numbers ought to be coloured in green, major exercises in red, interesting but indefinable events in blue. Equipment and OOB changes remain in black.

It is worth pointing out here for the uninitiated, what many of the terms in the text refer to. PRA is Permanently restricted area, usually barracks or training areas, and off limits to mission personnel (and presumably anyone who isn't soviet!). TRA is Temporarily restricted area, usually put up to cover exercises or classified troop movements. These were posted in advance, which was sometimes apparently an advantage to the missions..

Sanddune appears to be the USMLM reference to rummaging through rubbish dumps in search of classified documents and material. (Known, I gather, to Brixmis as 'Tamarisk'), though interestingly they appeared to put less priority to it than Brixmis.

Larkspur was overflight imagery taken in the Berlin control zone, similar to that undertaken by the Brixmis Chipmunk flight. According to David Clark

'Larkspur was flown using a Pilatus Porter aircraft. I don't know, but imagine it was flown by army pilots as the US Army had fixed wing assets (eg GUARDRAIL).'

Other areas I would like to clear up are the grid references given in the report. They make no reference to the map used. I am assuming that they are probably East German Military issue maps, but a clarification on this (particularly scale used) would be useful.

Many thanks are due to Vasiliy Fofanov, and to Nils Hinrichsen. Thanks also to David Clark. Any faults therein are mine and not theirs.

Whilst I am at it, I would like to thank the United States Army military liaison mission, without whose fascinating reports all of this would have been impossible (or at least a great deal shorter!). Credit must also go to Brixmis and the FMLM, both of whom provided, and took risks, as the USMLM. Thanks to all you gentlemen, you are not appreciated enough.

Suffice to say, if anyone can clear up any mysteries or inaccuracies contained in this document, please don't hesitate to contact me at Stuart.Galbraith@virgin.net

1964

USMLM report this year states that 'The year saw a reorganization of GSFG armies and accompanying adjustments in troop dispositions.. A new pattern of Soviet vehicle and aircraft numbers made it difficult to determine the exact changes in Order of battle which resulted from the reorganization.' Notes that newly developed equipment such as the 'mule' (?) and the scissors bridge (*Brixmis photos shows what appears to be a TMM KrAZ launched Bridge*) was received in limited amounts for field testing. Further introduction of T62, 122mm Gun howitzer m1963 (D30) reported on a larger scale. Sightings also reported of the scud end tray radar, and BMD20 atomic capable warhead reported.

March

Rocket launcher m1962 'Blunderbuss' photographed in GSFG hands. (This, from a photograph of a recovered dummy warhead, appears to be almost certainly RPG7). Indications received of Frogs in the hands of East German troops. (7)

April

Snapper, swatter and Baby carriage observed in the hands of the EGA. (7)

October

GSFG orbat and equipment changes

Scud A and Frog 4 observed on parade in EGA hands, unit unknown. (7)

1965

June

Soviet T-54's seen undergoing snorkelling training at Leissnitz. (7)

July

Artillery tractor ATS-59 was photographed in East Germany for the first time. (7)

September

Late in the month, the training area of Gross Behnitz was penetrated and the first ground observation of FROG training was made. (7)

Scud B Missile observed in Germany for the first time. (1)

122mm Artillery piece 'The Halle gun', observed for the first time (*My comment, I assume this is a reference to the 122mm D30 Howitzer*). (1)

Exercises this year

USMLM observes vehicles leaving Jueterbog, and conduct an exercise, night crossing of the Elbe at Elster-Gallin. Over 1000 vehicles take part.

1st-3rd April

Joint EGA-GSFG exercises 'centred in the area between Berlin and Helmstedt and apparently was planned as a joint exercise directed against a possible avenue of attack by Nato forces along the Helmstedt autobahn'. Elements of 8 GSFG and 1 EGA Divisions and Airborne Units from the Soviet Union. At least one Division observed by Brixmis was the **19th Motor Rifle Division**. Claims exercises held as harassment as retaliation for holding the 7th April West German Bundestag in West Berlin. (7)

20th September

10th Guards Tank Division observed by Brixmis USMLM and FMLM on exercise in Letzlinger Heide. Assembled near Potsdam, before entering the Altengrabow PRA on night of 20th-21st September and Letzlinger Heide on 21st. Despite security, the division was tracked throughout the exercise. (7)

October

Warsaw pact exercise 'October Storm' takes place at Letzlinger Heide. Little activity enter or leaving the area, leads USMLM to conclude '..that 'October Storm' was more of an exercise in political propaganda than in combat training.' However 'The Soviet Second Guards Army conducted a large scale exercise in the Letzlinger Heide area concurrent with 'October Storm". This exercise was exceptionally well covered by BRIXMIS and FMLM, who had responsibility for

that area under the coordinated tri-Mission operational plan. The collection of technical information continued unabated, in spite of the exercise activity, and excellent photographs were taken of BIG MESH, FLATFACE and SPOON REST radars.' (7)

1966

Exercises this year

Fall

Note of Warsaw pact exercise in Czechoslovakia, called 'Vltava'. Coordinated Tri mission observation of road and rail links to Czech border, codenamed 'La Ronde.' (7)

1967

May

East German Mayday parade in East Berlin revealed 100mm Field Guns (*In the report this is called the M55. Looking at (6) it is called M1955 and it is almost certainly the T12 100mm Antitank gun*) and the Military district Artillery units had received 130mm Field Guns(m46). Units taking part in the parade included **2nd Scud Brigade, 18th Sam Regiment, 9th Tank Division and Military District V Artillery Regiment.** (6) (7)

First sighting of the Frog 7 in the DDR. In late November a number of them were seen on a train at Wildpark near Potsdam. At least one of these units was later seen enter Krampnitz, installation 261. Speculation that all Divisions will receive this weapon, which ultimately proved correct. (7)

July

'The only parachute unit in East Germany, the **EGA 5th Battalion**, was observed jumping near Barth in early July'.

Also in early July, a single T62 was observed on a siding north of Neustrelitz. Speculation that **9th Guards Tank Division** may have been reequipped with this tank. (*My comment. Seems tenuous! However interesting in that it indicates that 9th Guards Tank Division was garrisoned at Neustrelitz, and not in Zeithain as it was at the end of the cold war.*)

(7)

GSFG orbat and equipment changes

Fall

Appearance of Sam3 Goa missile, presumably observed for the first time in East Germany. (7)

Deployment of extensive numbers of Flatface and Squat eye radars around DDR periphery. (7)

Unconfirmed observations of the Wheeled scud carrier (Maz543). (7)

Other events this year

February

USMLM observes new state POL depot at Zirtow, and a new tank range at Goldberg, and reports on training areas near Brandenburg and Gardelegen. (7)

1969

27th January

Complete 3 battery orbat of S60 Antiaircraft Battalion from **1st EGA Motor Rifle Division** is observed, an increase of 1 battery. Notes that one battery HAD been observed with the ZSU57-2 in previous manoeuvres. Flat wheel radar observed with Battalion. (7)

March

T54 and T55 are seen replacing the T34 in the EGA Motor Rifle Divisions. "numbers of the T-54 were observed in the regiments, probably of the 1st MRD, deployed during the "autobahn manoeuvres" of March 1969. On 30 April 1, T-54's were observed in the Brandenburg installation housing the **3rd Motorized Rifle Regiment, 1st MRD**". (7)

July

Major changes in the orbat of Soviet Motor rifle regiments. A probable column of **10th Guards Tank Division** was observed near Krampnitz with "...6 122mm howitzers (M-30) and eighteen 120mm mortars. Typical of numerous other sightings, it is indicated that the mortar company of the motorized rifle battalion has increased firepower to a total of six 120mm mortars and that the tubes of the 120mm mortar battery of the regiment has been replaced by six 122mm howitzers". (7)

August

Observed this month was BM21s introduction into separate MRL battalions in Soviet Motor Rifle Divisions. 'An illustration of this was a column sighting by

USMLM in August containing twelve BM-24, and five BM-21 The unit was a probable element of the 10th Guards Tank Division. ' Further observes that Battalions are of 18 firing Units. (7)

Date Unknown

Soviet Frog launcher Divisional batteries are observed as obtaining a 4th firing unit. Frog7 observed in Use by the **9th EGA Tank Division** and the **8th EGA MRD**, also of 4 Launchers. (7)

Date Unknown

Changes noted to the Antitank battery of the Soviet Motor rifle divisions. "It is probable that the Antitank Battery, Division Artillery, has been replaced by a battalion size unit of four batteries composed of mixed 100mm field gun and SWATTER antitank guided missiles. Formerly held with a strength of six tubes, Allied Military Mission sightings would now indicate a probable weapons density of eighteen 100mm field guns and nine SWATTER". (7)

Date Unknown

Continued introduction of the SPG-9 is observed. USMLM speculates it replaces the 57mm Zis2 Antitank gun in the Antitank Platoon of the Motor Rifle Battalion. Report observes that the latter weapon is rarely seen in GSFG now. (7)

Date Unknown

Continued introduction of the ZSU23/4 into GSFG. Interestingly says that the weapon is only seen in Tank Divisions, and unlike later orbats, appears in groups of 8 weapons. As we see in later Orbats from the 70s and 80s, 4 of these vehicles would be replaced by SAM9, and later Sam13. (7)

Date Unknown

EGA Reconnaissance elements now stronger due to increased delivery of BRDM2.(7)

Date Unknown

Scud B observed in EGA Army hands for the First time. "This unit may constitute an addition to the holdings of the **2d Artillery (SCUD) Brigade, MD V**, the only confirmed SCUD unit in the EGA. This unit currently holds the tracked SCUD-A and SCUD-B. Based on previous sightings of the tracked equipment, it is possible that a total of 12 launchers are now included in the EGA inventory. The possibility also exists that this new equipment was on loan from GSFG for display during the parade." *(My Comment. Someone is very cynical!)* (7)

Date Unknown

ZSU23/4 observed in EGA hands for the first time during the 7th October parade. (7)

1971

February

Mi8C photographed at the soviet airfield of Cochstedt. (7)

28th February

Two military trains carrying T62A were observed at the Wustermark railroad siding. Photography shows an 'anti aircraft machine gun' mounted on the roof of the T62. *(My comment USMLM call this T62A, known by the Soviets apparently as T62 Model 1972.)* (7)

15th March

Tour penetrates Sam 2 support facility at Parchim. Evidence that the East Germans are hardening their Sam facilities with construction of bunkers. (7)

24th March

Detailed photography of IR devices of a T62 obtained. Tank belonged to **7th Guards Tank Division**. (7)

25th March

Soviet chemical warfare training observed at Cottbus, with Soldiers seen fitting and clearing gas masks. Note in report that Chemical training is much emphasised in the Soviet army, troops are 'Frequently seen wearing protective clothing while performing routine tasks such as laying wire or driving trucks.' (7)

2nd April

New BRDM without normal turret observed at Potsdam Wildpark railroad siding. Presumed to have command or electronic functions. *(My comments, almost certainly an early reference to BRDM2U, which was correctly assumed to have command functions for a whole variety of units.)* (7)

28th April

ZSU23/4 and ZSU57/2 observed together on a railway flatcar at Priort siding. This appeared to indicate to USMLM that the ZSU57/2 was not being replaced by ZSU23/4, but was perhaps being used at the same time. *(My Comment, It may be worth further investigation to discover if that prior to introduction of Sam9, the Regimental anti aircraft company had 4 ZSU23/4 and 4 ZSU57/2. At present however, there is no evidence of this.)* (7)

1st May

After penetration of a number of Sam 2 sites on this date (locations sadly not given) 2 locations had Fan song B, 2 Fan song E and 2 with Fan song F, the latter being the first time the new radar system had been seen in East Germany.

(7)

14th June

NZhM-56 Heavy Railway floating bridge seen being constructed at the engineer river crossing site at Prettin on the Elbe. The equipment was first seen in 1965, but this was the first time that it had been seen being assembled. (7)

July

Pipeline construction, see April [other events this year](#). (7)

2nd July

First observation of 'Long Track' radar system in East German hands at Schwerin. Possibly located near Neu Brandenburg. (7)

12th July

First technical quality photography of FLAP WHEEL fire control system for the S60 Anti Aircraft Gun obtained at an East German deployment site at Potsdam/Neu Fahrland. (7)

18th July

Significant Divisional Manoeuvres. **TRA 11-71** is put in place south of Berlin, as a holding area for units moving into the Letzlinger Heide training area. Observation revealed a column of 700 vehicles crossing the Helmstedt Autobahn. As some units were observed later exiting the autobahn near Bernau, it was concluded that elements of **6th Guards Motor Rifle Division**, **20th Guards Army** had taken part. (*My Comments, the TRA list also indicates 71st Guards Artillery Brigade also took part*). Equipment observed taking part (My comments, not necessarily for the first time) included SA4, Frog7 TEL, and a complete battalion of T55s being lifted by Maz 537 transporters from Burg to Dallgow-Doberitz. (7)

10th August

Sam2 training dome erected at Sam training school at Kamenz airfield. (7)

13th August

Fan song F tracking and guidance missile radar sighted at Gross Dobbern SA-2 launch site. Evidence that there is only two 'F' radars in East Germany that are being rotated among East German Sam regiments, presumably for training (7) purposes.

24th August

Long track radar sighted at Wittstock/Biesen radar site. (7)

23rd September

Tour observes a type 60 PMP bridging unit being built at the Sandau crossing site on the Elbe river. Note on amazing rapidity of its construction. This occurred

during TRA 19-71 when **9th Guards Tank Division, Second Guards Army** and **10th Guards Tank Division, 3rd Shock Army** both undertook river crossing operations. (7)

29th September

Hungarian built Fug armoured car confirmed in holdings of East German Border Command. Observed in increasing numbers with Border Command units in the Potsdam area. Note in following years report that it replaces BTR40. (7)

1st November

Apparent confirmation of establishment of Regimental level AA defences, when 8 ZSU23/4 seen being moved by rail. *(My Comment, apparently tenuous, but probably accurate all the same. Sightings like this, as units were almost always moved together, tended to show the equipment in typical groupings, like this regimental level AA battery. It also confirms observations as far back as 1969.)* (7)

9th November

First observation of SA6 equipment in East Germany, when Zil131 transloaders are observed being offloaded at a railway siding at Halle/Schleittau. (my comments, report the following year claims all components of the system were in GSFG by May 1972. (7)

29th November

Presence of SA4 and presence of T62 (and turret numbers) reveal the likely presence of a Tank Division at Saalfeld installation 282, where previously a Motor Rifle Division was believed to be based. (7)

19th December

At the Dallgow-Doeberitz railway siding, 88 Zil-164 trucks were seen in 'Strakes' (My Comment, parked 'piggy back' fashion to create more room) on railway flatbeds. Due to the increased numbers of Zil-130 in GSFG, highly probable these were being returned to the Soviet Union. (7)

Other events this year

23rd February

Photographic coverage of East German army engineer depot at Kirchain. Previously listed only as a training area, it now has numerous scrapers, crane shovels and heavy duty crawler tractors. *(My comments, possible construction of a major barracks?)* (7)

24th February

Existence of an East German Sam support facility at Bernsdorf/Strassgraebchen was confirmed. Photographic evidence also proves that this facility houses the Headquarters of the **14th East German Air force Sam Regiment**. (7)

April

Soviet pipeline units active during early part of the month laying pipeline in the southeast quadrant of East Germany. Pipeline observed to be 4 to 6 inches in diameter and probably intended to carry pol stocks in support of field armies. *(My Comments. Report makes no comment on where the pipeline was laid! Whether there is any connection to the pipeline laid in June and July between Luebben and Jueterbog by **56th Transportation Regiment** (For exercises involving **3rd Shock Army** and **1st Guards Tank Army**) is unknown. In that particular case a branch ran south towards Rochau, interestingly with stocks of pipes being held at Kleinbahren, which served **24th Tactical Air Army**. It would be interesting to know if these pipelines were removed after the exercises, or were semi permanent. Looking at the USMLM reports there appeared to be a number of logistical movements noted during the various exercises this year, perhaps indicating greater emphasis from the Soviets in this area?)* (7)

20th October

Announcement of Soviet conscription for this year. Actual sighting of first 'Pental' trains in sidings (trains to carry in new conscripts from the Soviet Union) was on 16th November at Pasewalk. Note that this year there were fewer trains observed, indicating greater use of aircraft in flying in new conscripts (There being a minimum of 40 flights into Gross Dolln and Grossenhain airfields). Rotation lasted approx 6 weeks. (7)

9th December

'Visit' to SIGINT collection site at Zella Mehlis. Evidence of fluctuation in type and number of equipment at the site, inventory being rather fluid. Over 1971, there was presence at the site of Bar Brick, Swing Box, Squat Eye, Big Ear, Grid Shield, Front Plate, Fold Plate, Sprag Star (!), Discone, 4 large and 7 small parabola, and several unidentified antenna. At the end of the year, there was reported to be new buildings under construction at the west of the site. At the same time, there was a visit to the East German site at Bienstaedt. 9 different antenna noted, Capable of operating in UHF, VHF and HF frequency ranges. Site reported to give the East Germans an important ability to monitor allied radio traffic. (7)

1972

25th January

First Bmp sighting of the year (*My Comment, the report entry notes that the machine was first sighted the previous year*) when 8 belonging to **19th Motor Rifle Division** were seen entering Dallgow Doeberitz training area, and in June 3 in Ohrdruf PRA. (7)

11th March

Observation of a Frog 5 in EGA hands, by a USMLM on a railway siding in Karl Marx Stadt.(7)

10th-17th March

First sighting of T62 in East German hands. See exercise section for this year.(7)

29th March

Observation on this date of Frog7 in EGA hands. A military train carrying 2 Frog resupply, 3 Frog7 TEL, 2 Breadbin was photographed in Wustermark siding.(7)

14 April

39 Vehicle East German column containing 6 Frog Tel and 6 Frog resupply was photographed leaving the west ring (Berlin?) after a probable practice for the May Day parade.(7)

16th June

Sighting of BTR60PA command vehicle (*My Comment, report notes probably fitted with R102 radio*). 2 Vehicles seen on the Cottbus-Finsterwalde railway line in company with 30 other BTR60. Vehicles first seen in Spring 1971, with increasing numbers seen during 1972. Side numbers indicate vehicles belonged to **69th Guards Motor Rifle Regiment, 27th Guards Motor Rifle Division**.(7)

22nd June

MTU55 seen 'with increasing frequency' throughout 1972. On this date, technical quality imagery of one near Halle.(7)

11th August

Observation of a regiment size T62 movement by night through 'night vision device' made possible the identification of the unit as **52nd Guards Tank Regiment of 6th Guard Tank Division**. Equipment included 79 T62, 4 ZSU23/4, 3 ZSU57/2, 2 PT76, 2 MTU, 1 SKP-5, 1 BLG60 and one Bat-m. Unit proceeded to Altengrabow training area.(7)

10th July

First sighting of prototype on test of East German W50 truck. *(My comment, as we shall see, this handsome truck became particularly common in the NVA)*(7)

21st July

First observation of D30 Howitzer being used by the East German Army.6 seen being used on an artillery range near Rostock. Subsequent sighting on the Pritzwalk-Rostock railway proved it to be greater than battalion strength. Markings indicated use by **NVA 16 Artillery Regiment, 8th Motor Rifle Division, Military District V**.(7)

11th September

Probable first sighting of the Sam9 'Gaskin' at Barleben. 6 observed at this time. (7)

28th September

First USMLM sighting of the Zil135 8x8 heavy load carrier on the Dresden Autobahn. This vehicle also formed the chassis for the Frog7.(7)

Other events this year

5th September

Sighting of Pak 200 Zil131 field kitchen trucks at Satzkorn railway siding. Note in report that this replaces Pak170 Zil157 field kitchen trucks.(7)

3rd November

45 vehicle convoy including 30 Maz500 vans, sighted near Wittenberg. Speculation in report that this may be a possible missile support column. (7)

Exercises this year

4th January

During TRA 1-72 **Soviet 10th Guards Tank Division** deploys into Lehnin PRA for field training exercises. At least 2 Tank regiments, motor rifle regiment elements and units of the divisions decontamination units and artillery regiment were identified. Impending deployment predicted and coverage by three missions coordinated. (7)

20th January

During TRA 3-72 **57thGuards Motor Rifle Division** was noted returning to garrison in Zeitz and Baumburg from the exercise location in Weimar. Elements of at least one motor rifle regiment, artillery regiment and communications and logistics elements identified as taking part. (7)

10th-17th March

A large scale 'probable' joint exercise between Soviet and East German units

was observed in south-eastern Germany (Koenigsbrueck PRA). Unusually this was not screened by a TRA. Units involved were **6th Guards Tank Division**, **7th Guards Tank Division** and 'probably **27th Guards Motor Rifle Division**, all belonging to **1st Guards Tank Army**. East German units involved were **11th Tank Regiment** (of **11th Motor Rifle Division, MD III**) and 'probably' elements of **9th Tank Division (Military District V)**. Large numbers of T62s seen near Bernsdorf on March 15th. Among T55s sighted was sighted 'the first T62 in East German hands'. (My Comments, either a misidentification, or possibly an operational trial of the tank for possible future purchase? As we now know, the EGA never had any!) (7)

11th April

Major elements of **19th Motor Rifle Division** observed on route 2 during PRA 7-72. Possibly a logistical exercise, since the logistics elements appear to have had full equipment. Portions of 19th MRR and 83rd MRR (including chemical company, full compliment of rocket launchers, most of the division artillery mortars, d30s for one motor rifle regiment and antiaircraft guns for two regiments were also observed. 19 ARS-12 decontamination vehicles observed, 16 only previously seen with this unit.

25th -25th July

Large scale exercise by elements of **20th Guards Tank Division** observed in Weimar Saalfeld Stadtilm area. T62 Tanks of the Divisions **27th Tank Regiment** took part, along with **66th Guards Motor Rifle Regiment** (my comments, was this organic to this division?) D30s, S60s decontamination and coms equipment also observed.

22nd -23rd September

Large scale exercise by East German units from **Military District V**, in connection with TRA 12-72. 446 vehicle column observed on Prenzlau autobahn.

25th November

Tour observes at Halle tank-infantry training by elements of EGA 11th Motor Rifle Division, involving T55 and BTR60PB personnel carriers. (7)

1973

1st March

Observation of a military type scissors type bridge carried by a civilian plated

Tatra 813 chassis at Nuernburg. No indication of how bridge is to be launched, but considered probably a reload carrier.(7)

23rd April

Zil131 Railway bridge pontoon carrier (first sighting?) replace the Zil157 pontoon carriers, formerly at Annaburg installation 501.(7)

4th July

Frog 7 appears to have almost totally supplanted Frog3,4 and 5. There was only one sighting this year of the latter, on a train near Schlieben apparently used by an East German army unit. Frog 7 has been seen this year with the FROG battalion of **10th Guards Tank Division** and with East German army units.(7)

19th May

Sightings of a possible 20 new MBT or Sp gun being transported on the Gueterglueck - Gommern rail line. *(my Comments. Photographs show a heavily tarped vehicle, but possibly this is a very early sighting of the 2s3 152mm self propelled gun. See August 1974)*(7)

22nd June

First sighting of UAZ469B with the GSFG. Photographed in Potsdam, it undoubtedly was a new arrival as it still had the shipping label still on it!(7)

25th July

Unstated sources *(My comments, Sanddune?)* indicate the Snar2 artillery radar has been replaced by the Snar6 in 'Pork Trough'. Close up photography of one is obtained at Neustrelitz to confirm whether it is true.(7)

20th September

First sighting of Maz543 cargo carrier *(my comments, developed from the Scud TEL)* noted in Berlin on May 30th and again on September 20th. *(My Comments, which along with the Zil135 cargo carrier the previous year, points to serious attempt during this period to upgrade the GSFG logistics capability)* (7)

Other events this year

Increase in Tank holdings in GSFG

In the report this year, there is an observation that with the continuing replacement of T55 with T62, the disposition of the replaced T55 is becoming a serious problem. So great was the concern over the disappearance of equipment, USMLM undertook a study of significant WW2 underground installations in the DDR to see if they were being used for storage of equipment. All appeared to be unused. Part of the solution is the realisation that GSFG divisions are newly forming independent tank battalions with 31 tanks each. Tank divisions also appear to have had their holdings of tanks increased. (7)

VRN numbers

GSFG changes over this month to a new vehicle registration system. Whereas attempts toward understanding of the previous system appeared to meet with limited success, the new one appears to be a lot easier when registered in a indexed with a computer, allowing for more TOE analysis of soviet units.

1974

2nd August

Confirmation of BMP in use in significant numbers with the East German army. 23 on this date seen departing Letzlinger Heide by train. On 14-15 September 51 were seen moving by rail. Evidence indicates that these are in use by the **EGA 9th Panzer Division**.⁽⁷⁾

15th August

A coordinated Tri-Mission operation (Operation Pinocchio) is undertaken to discover the identity of a new type Soviet SP gun seen in the Letzlinger Heide PRA. Photography of the gun is obtained when the unit departed from the PRA by rail, and was revealed to be the M1974 2s3 Self propelled howitzer. (*My Comments, see 19th May 1973*) ⁽⁷⁾

Other events this year

Vehicle registration numbers

Despite changing the VRN (again!) in November, with the new systems in place (including cataloguing through a USAEUR computer) significant discoveries are still being made. Of interest is the fact that GSFG has far more vehicles than originally estimated, which causes a revision of estimated GSFG logistics capabilities. (*my comments, also perhaps a further indication that GSFG had upgraded its logistic capabilities?*)⁽⁷⁾

1975

1976

Date Unknown

"Interest, understandably, was the introduction into GSFG of the new T-72 main battle tank. The acquisition of the T-72 by the **6 GMRD** and **35 MRD** was closely monitored by Tri-Mission assets and high quality technical Photography was expedited to numerous Intelligence agencies". (My Comments. See September 14th for a fuller description)(7)

20th February

Careful observation of **118 Arty Regt, 34 Guards Artillery Division** returning from FTX at Letzlinger Heide, reveals upgrade of a battalion of M46 artillery pieces. Conclusion that the regiment must have been upgraded to a brigade. (7)

15th March

First Photography of Hind A deployed. Aircraft seen at Reinsdorf, and fitted with Swatter ATGM. (7)

25th March

First photograph of the M1975 'Fred' (My Comment. Probably the SNAR10 Artillery Location Radar Vehicle) battlefield surveillance radar taken at Werder. Observed in company of BMP Variant 1975 (PRP 3) suggesting probably link between the two. (7)(5)

7th April

First photography (and observation) of the SA4 TEL in use by the East German Army. (7)

June 28th

Photography of Installation 208 at Dresden revealed at least one battery of **27 Guards Motor Rifle Regiment , 11 Guards Tank Division** is equipped with 122mm SP m1974 (2s1). (7)

10th August

Photographic coverage of SA6 deployment site at Neustrelitz. Confirmation that the unit is subordinate to **16 Guards Tank Division, 2nd Guards Tank Army**. (Unit is presumably **66 Anti Aircraft Regiment**.) (7)

September 14th

First indications of T72 introduced into GSFG, when 30 arrive on Flatcar at Neustrelitz. All vehicles heavily tarped. (My Comment Location would seem to indicate they are destined for **16 Guards Tank Division**, largely garrisoned at Neustrelitz.) (2) (7)

After posting up an early draft of this on the net, David Clark offered me his

perspective on the incident.

"Now we come to the conundrum of 1976/77 and the introduction of T72s into GSFG! As we now know (what price hindsight!) these were T64s. However at that time neither ourselves at HQ BAOR nor HQ USAREUR knew of the existence of T64s. All the material we had seen referred to T72. As I recall it, the big re-equipment thrust was around Easter. We came back off the long weekend to discover 600 new tanks milling around GSFG and the missions throwing a collective wobbler. It wasn't until the November 1977 parade in Moscow that we realised that there were 2 different tanks out there and that "our" T72 was actually the T64."

So it appears certain that these were in fact a first sighting of T64A.

3rd December

First Hind D seen at Parchim and Stendal airfields. (7)

Other events this year

February 27th

First photography of the SA4 site at Aiperstedt. (7)

June 1st

Note of a modified 'Bar Brick' radar observed at the Radar site at Ludwigslust.
(7)

June 19th

Litter recovery reveals the presence of a KGB/UPS signal regiment at Cottbus, installation 281. (7)

Lug SA2 acquisition site reported being hardened. Note of an earlier modification to similar site at Beetz. (7)

1977

03 June

26 New 26 BRDM2 mounting Sagger missiles seen at Belitz with the East German Army (probably **East German 1st Motor Rifle Division**). Proof the EGA received new equipment, and not just outdated Soviet equipment. Observation of **EGA 8th MRD** confirms introduction of MTLB into East German Army (7)(13)

7th October

As a result of Tri-mission coverage of the East German armed forces parade in Berlin, equipment taking part was monitored returning to barracks. Noted that the Scud Brigade/MDV had relocated. (editors note, the report does not say where. As this would appear to be **5 Rocket Brigade 'Bruno Leuschner'**, possibly this may be at the location it was at in 1989, Demen.) (7)(11)(12)

13th October

Observation of railway siding at Gross Ammensleben reveals 2 tarped T64's. Subsequent confirmation that T64 is in service with **47 Guards Tank Division**. Further study of the units location reveals T62s being shipped out, before being lost at Altengrabow PRA. Their ultimate destination was unknown. (7)

19th December

USMLM tour at Bad Salzungen Training area 401, reveals MTLB in use as a tractor unit for T12, for **4th Anti Tank Battalion, 4th Motor Rifle Division**. Also confirms unit is barracked at Bad Salzungen installation 001.(7)

27th December

7 SA8 observed returning from Doeberitz from Jueterbog PRA. First observation of unit out of garrison training since arrival at **35 MRD**. (My Comment, Possibly **200 Anti Aircraft Regiment?**)(7)

1978

Date Unknown

T64 is confirmed being used by **25th Tank Division**, and **21st Motor Rifle Division**. Additionally conversion of all Divisional Air defence regiments from S60 to SA8 Gecko reported to be continuing. (7)

12th January

Larkspur imagery reveals 6 Gaz66 based intercept vehicles (My Comment. Known to the US army as USAEUR as Type 4090) in service with **57th Recon Battalion, 35thMRD**. (7)

14th January

Recovered letter reveals probable conversion of AA regiment in **94th Guards Motor Rifle Division** to SA8. Rail watch on line into Schwerin confirmed that this was the case. (My comment, possibly this was **896 SAM Regiment?**) (2)(7)

17th January

Larkspur reveals presence of 'Sage Gloss' (My Comment. I am guessing another D/F Vehicle, or possibly even a coms vehicle) in service with **113**

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Guards Artillery Regiment, 20th Guards Army. (7)

30th January

Larkspur confirms 'Sage Gloss' (?!!) in service with **299th Artillery, 10th Guards Tank Division.**

17th February

First observation of AT5 Spandrel armed BRDM2 in GSFG. (7)

18th March

Larkspur provides imagery of SA8 Calibrator/ Collimator at Doberitz training area 460. *(My Comment. Probable association here with air defence training at this location?)* (7)

29th March

Larkspur provides photographs of previously unseen BMP variant, M1978 at Doberitz. Appears after research to be the BMP1KSH, a command vehicle for Motor rifle regiments. (5) (7)

29th March

Larkspur shows what is presumably a typical 37 round loadout for T64 in this period. 19 HE, 12AP, 6 HVAPDS. (7)

6th April

First Photography of MRL1977 (BM27 220mm MRL) obtained 'over the wall' at Karl Marx Stadt Installation 241-242. Notes in the report that this weapon first arrived in GSFG 'early 1977'. (possibly the installation reveals it as belonging to **307 Rocket Artillery Brigade**). (7)(17)

30th May

Larkspur shows a modified ZSU23-4 (M?) at Krampnitz. (7)

3rd August

Larkspur confirmation of BRDM 2 Sagger in use by **1st EGA MRD**. (7)

1st and 2nd September

Larkspur confirms Flat Face B, Thin Skin and spoon rest, present at Bernau Army Barracks *(My Comment. Called Panzer241? Presumably a supplementary designation of the installation)*. Indicates imminent conversion of 6 Guards Motor Rifle Division's AAA Regiment to Sam. According to the report, It subsequently received SAM 8. (7)

20th September

Larkspur observes 9 unnumbered 152mm 2s3 on sidings at Satzkorn RR yards (Occupied by **10th Guards Tank Division**). On 24th October 6 more seen at

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Potsdam Army Barracks, Kriegsschule 288, home of **10th GTD's 299 Artillery Regiment**. On 27th October, 11 more sighted. Report concludes 2s3 greater than battery strength in this unit. (7)

June

Conversion of **10th Guards Tank Division** at Potsdam to the T64, and concurrent retrograde of T62. Confirms Larkspur imagery showing retrograde of T62 on **March 9-12th**. (7)

June

T64 Tanks at Hagenow Installation 261 (**283 MRR?**) , Perleberg Installation 241 (**239 MRR?**) , and the Ludwigslust (**240 MRR?**) , Jaennersdorf and Parchim (**18 Tank Battalion?**) training areas confirmed **21st MRD** had reequipped with that tank (*and neatly summarise that divisions barracks and training areas!*) (2)(7)

June

East German Air force receives its first Hind D. 4 D's are delivered to **Hubschraubergeschwader 54**, at Basepohl airbase near Stavenhagen in Neubrandenburg. Another sources puts the arrival of these aircraft in August. USMLM report also notes presence of Hip F. (9)(10)

21 July

4th Anti Tank Battalion, 4th Motor Rifle Division Confirmed (*again!*) at Bad Salzungen installation 001. Additional presence of ZSU 23/4. (7)

Date unknown

Presence of a 'Hind D' at Parchim fitted with AT6 Spiral. Presumably an early reference to Hind 'E' (Mi24V). This variant also spotted at Retzow on **6th**

September.

(7)

17th September

First photographic evidence of 'Spoon Rest D' radar in East German service.

(7)

17-21st September

Observation of exercise reveals SAM9 In service with **East German 7th Tank Division**. (see exercise section). (7)

12th October

Larkspur provides evidence that BMP1976/2 (*which appears to be BRM1K*) in the inventory of **10th Guards Tank Division, 3rd Shock Army**. Report also notes presence of this machine in service with **35th Motor Rifle Division**, and **6th Guards Motor Rifle Division, 20th Guards Army** at a later date. (5) (7)

27th October

'Over the wall' observation of barracks at Prenzlau Installation 242 (probably either **175 or 335 Tank Regiment**) revealing T64 in service with **25th Tank Division**. 2 days later T62s were observed on the rail line to Frankfurt/Oder, presumably being returned to the Soviet union (*and appears to put paid to any 'mobilisation stocks in East Germany' claims, at least in this particular case*)
(7)(15)

21st November

Long Track A being replaced by Long Track D at Soviet radar sites along inner German border.
(7)

22nd November

New East German truck based decontamination vehicle, Tz-74, seen for the first time at Bad Dueben (presumably **Chemical Defence Battalion 3, 'Rudolf Rotkegel'**, the Military region 3 Chemical warfare defence unit).
(7) (16)

26th November

152mm 2s3 sighted at Neustrelitz rail siding. Suggests **16 Guard Tank Division** converting its artillery regiment (**724 Artillery?**) to Self Propelled. (7)

4th December

Larkspur observes 5 Btr60 CMD present at Schonow Training area, Berlin 455. Training area used by **6th Guards Motor Rifle Division**, and BTR variant used by SAM and SPAA Regiments. (7)

14th December

Confirmation 'By other sources' of 2 SA8 batteries, likely assets of **6th Guards Motor Rifle Division**, present at Werneuchen Airfield.(7)

January-December 78

Various intelligence sources suggest that Motor Rifle Battalions in the Berlin Control zone, now have a minimum of 11 BTR60PB in each MR company, instead of the 10 they previously had. Report speculations (citing Sanddune) that it is a carrier for an unknown weapon system. (*Automatic Grenade Launcher? It is possible that this may also be due to the introduction of AT4 spigot. David Isby refers to 2 BTRs forming a weapons platoon which included this weapon, forming in the late 70s in Germany. He possibly is referring to this.*) Similar changes were observed at ;-

68th Guards Motor Rifle Regiment, 27th Guards Motor Rifle Division, 1st Guards Tank Army, garrisoned Halle.

1st Battalion, 64th Motor Rifle Regiment, 35th MRD observed at Doeberitz

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Army Barracks.

19th Motor Rifle Regiment, 35th Motor Rifle Division.

82nd Guards Motor Rifle Regiment, 6th Guards Motor Rifle Division.

(7)(18)

Other Events this Year

05 January

Larkspur imagery reveals what appears to be an underground storage site at Werneuchen airfield. Interestingly, 2 Mi6 'Hook' Helicopters are present and appear to have been carrying heavy loads. (7)

March

Construction of East German Army tunnel at Blankenburg, near the inner German border. Apparently an old tunnel belonging to the SS (and related to the better known DORA complex) the EGA obtained it in 1975, and reopened it in 1980 apparently having made it 4 times larger(!). It now appears that it was for stowage of EGA ammunition stocks, and interestingly now appears to still be in use as late as 2001 by the Bundeswehr for stowage of medical supplies. (7)(14)

24th March

'Sanddune' documents reveal details of GSFG ethnic breakdown. 72% Russian, Byelorussian or Ukrainian decent. 24% made up of other ethnic groups, not including Germans, Jews, Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians which are excluded. Officers Praporshchik and NCOs are predominantly Ukrainian and Russian.

(7)

6th June

Confirmation that Soviet units occasionally exchange Vehicle registration numbers to confuse mission teams. Not only is one soviet unit 'caught in the act' exchanging numbers, but Sand dune documents reveal that all units have their own numbers, and an alternate set.

(7)

22-23rd June

USMLM team 'visits' Haufield Training area 401, which from the D30 Howitzer training boards would appear to be an artillery training range. Interestingly however there are also training boards displayed for the RPK and AK74, the

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earliest reference to them being present in GSFG.

(7)

1978

17-21st September

2 division exercise involving Soviet and East German units. Soviet 16th Guards Tank Division and East German 7 Tank Division take part in exercise from Jueterbog PRA, through Altengrabow PRA and Letzlinger-Heide PRA. Best insights into Soviet-East German Interoperability to date (or lack thereof!). (7)

1979

Date Unknown

2 New attack helicopter regiments formed. One with Hind D at Weimar Nohra, the other with Hind E at Mahlwinkel.(7)

Date Unknown

East German Air force receives 4 more Hind D.

(9)(10)

Date Unknown

Thin Skin radar and SA8 missile container transporters presumed to indicate imminent introduction of SA8 Gecko into **6 GMRD**. (7)

1980

Date Unknown

First BTR70's noted in GSFG this year.

(1)

Date Unknown

New variant of BM-21 seen in service with new formation, the **35th Guards Air Assault Brigade** at Cottbus (*almost certainly the BM-21V, fitted to the Gaz66B light truck*) (1)(5)

1981

Of interest was a report found on the Brixmis website:-

report to the GDR National Defence Council by the commander of the NVA, Colonel-General STRELITZ, on incursions by western missions into Restricted

Areas in 1981; reveals that allied military missions accredited to GSFG entered Restricted Areas illegally on 77 occasions, an increase of 31% over the 1980 figures.

The report states that BRIXMIS was involved 46 times (59%) USMLM 22 times (29%) and FMLM 9 times (12%). He states that facilities belonging to ground and air forces were primarily affected, in particular in the Magdeburg, Frankfurt/Oder and Cottbus districts.

The main incursions recorded concerned:

SAM battalion 311, which was setting up firing positions.

SigInt battalion 61, for which a Command Post was being set up.

Pontoon regiment 5, which was involved in a joint NVA / GSFG exercise on the Elbe

Armoured Regiment 14, where a new type of tank was suspected. [!?]

Artillery regiment 7, where artillery pieces were being converted to SP equipment.

STRELITZ considered it essential that a greater effort should be made to co-ordinate checks on the movements of the western military missions in the GDR.

[Originally Submitted to the Brixmis website by Bob Hamilton]

(22)

29th January

68th Guards Motor Rifle Regiment, 27th Guards Motor Rifle Division

returning to barracks from training observed to be equipped with SA13, having replaced the Regiments previous equipment, SA9.(7)

29th January

8 D30's seen at Prenzlau. First evidence that **175th Tank Regiment, 25th Tank Division's** artillery battery had been reorganised into a battalion.(7)

16th February

94th Guard Motor Rifle Division observed during a Divisional FTX at Havelburg/Sandau seen to have a reconnaissance battalion part equipped with T64. Later observation of this unit on the **26th July** gave the first detail breakdown of this type of unit.(7)

27th February

First technical quality photography of Twin Ear B taken at Niederdodlieben.(7)

6th March

At Satzkorn, all three missions acquired photography of the soviets new 152mm SP howitzer. Assumed to have gone to 34 Guards Artillery Division to replace the 130mm Howitzer.(7)

16th March

At4 Spigot seen in the hands of air assault troops at Cottbus (almost certainly **35th Guards Air Assault Brigade**. However Sanddune mentions that 41Guards

Motor Rifle Regiment had received Airborne training, so possibly this was the designation before It became 35GAAB.).(7)

20th-26th May

Extensive GSFG CPX moving between Letzlinger Heide PRA and Jueterbog PRA. New command variants of BTR70 seen, along with new BTR60 variants, which included one fitted with AGS17 grenade launcher.

20th June

9 Tank Regiment, 9th Panzer Division seen during a rail move into Rathenow PRA to now be equipped with 2s1 122mm Howitzers. The rest of the Division now has T72, SA6, 2s3 152mm Howitzer. USMLM observes that this Division appears to be the trend setter among all the Warsaw pact armies. (7)

23rd June

2 of **25th Tank Divisions Regiments (83 Tank Regiment and 175 Tank Regiment)** were observed in Battalion strength (I assume they mean 18 each, or 2 Battalions worth) at their local training area, equipped with the D30 122mm with newly seen muzzle brake. (see **29th January**) (7)

24th June

Convoy elements of **16th Guards Tank Division** returning to garrison at Neustrelitz lead USMLM to conclude (*My Comments, from VRN and later Sanddune*) that the Divisions MRL Battalion has been subordinated to the Division Artillery Regiment. (7)

21st -25 June

During a FTX near Havelburg/Sandau, **21st Motor Rifle Division** USMLM confirms T64 in the Divisions Recon Battalion. (This looks like a new trend, see 16th February). Divisions **33rd Tank Regiment** seen to have SA13, again a growing trend. (7)

31st July

Study of vehicle registration numbers reveals that **1st Guards Tank Army** has moved its communication elements form Dresden to Meissen.(7)

12 September

New Satcom vehicle 'woodbine' sighted on the south ring Autobahn (presumably Berlin).(7)

13th September

'Technical quality' of T72(M1980-1) obtained on a railway flatcar at Gross Kreuz. (*My comments. I've tried to ascertain if this is near a DDR barracks, but have had no success locating it. Therefore it cannot be ruled out that this machine was being used by Soviet forces. However, a discussion that I had*

with an Ex US army intelligence officer from this period would seem to suggest that T72s were rarely, if ever, used in GSFG.) (7)

22nd September

WSB16 prefabricated Railway Bridge observed being constructed at Storkow. East German and Paramilitary units. (according to the last mission, this location was commonly used by the East German engineers for training, particularly amphibious). First observation of propositioned equipment being used.(7)(4)

22nd September

A military train at Satzkorn delivered 2 batteries of apparently new 122mm SP Howitzers (2s1). Probable conversion of a Tank regiments artillery Battalion to Self Propelled. Unit unknown.(7)

2-3rd October

USMLM tasked with reconnaissance of a 25 Kilometre section of the Werra river between Hildburghausen and Meiningen. For what reason is unstated. (7)

3rd October

After a tip-off, a Soviet General Staff Command train is observed in Halle. (7)

17th December

Detailed Photography of SS21 obtained in the Haufeld training area. Note that this marks the first deployment of SS21 into forward areas.

21st December

During training in the Euper training area, **79 Guards Tank Regiment, 7th Guards Tank Division** was observed to have 9 D30 Howitzer. Note that this is first evidence of this Regiment obtaining an artillery battalion. (7)

29th December

70th Guards Motor Rifle Regiment, 27 Guards Motor Rifle Division has upgraded from SA9 to SA13. Second AAA Battery in the Division to do so.

Date Unknown

East German Air force receives 18 more Hind D. This appears to brings the total up to 26, barring training accidents. It would appear that all these subsequent aircraft were also delivered to **Hubschraubergeschwader 54** at Basepohl airbase. From 1st December, the Unit was apparently called **KHG57**, and had since the previous march, also had the sub name 'Adolf Von Luetzow' (9)(10)

[Other events this year](#)

May 1st

First internal photography obtained of the T64A when Captain McLeod and Sergeant Haw of Brixmis break into a Tank barracks at Parchim (presumably a Tank belonging to **21 Motor Rifle Division, 2nd Guards Tank Army**). Using a prefabricated Key, McLeod photographed the interior of the turret, a T64 simulator, and Soviet training boards inside a barracks. At least one of these images may be in the 1982 USMLM report. Undoubtedly of massive significance at the time in gauging the T64s capabilities. **(1) (7)**

Date Unknown

A 'Tamarisk' (British equivalent of Sanddune) operation on the rubbish dump at Neustrelitz (**16 Guards Tank Division**) by Sergeant Major Ken Connor of Brixmis reveals a notebook. Detailed examination reveals technical information on the composition of the T64 (and the later T80's) armour. It appears likely this allowed the British MOD to develop a new APFSDS round (L23) to defeat it. Also of interest is information on Soviet Mine-plows. *(An Ex Soviet T64 Crewman expressed surprise that such a document existed, such was the classification on armour composition. The function of the notebook, or its ultimate origin is therefore a mystery.)* **(1)(19)(20)(21)**

1982

Date Unknown

Report states that there is continued introduction of 2s1 into Tank Regiments. Tank Regiments originally had no artillery, though reorganised regiments originally received Towed 122mm D30. A photograph notes 2s1 with the **17th Guards Tank Regiment, 79 Guards Tank Division**. **(7)**

Date Unknown

Upgrade of Non divisional artillery in **Military District III** by acquisition of at least one battery of D20. **(7)**

Date Unknown

Collection of East German T34s noted in a reserve depot at Burg. **(7)**

Date Unknown

Confirmation of AT4 Spigot in use by units of the East German army. May have been in service before this time, but only noted in publications previously. **(7)**

Date Unknown

Unidentified unit at Cottbus (almost certainly the **35th Guards Air Assault Brigade**) now wearing Guards Air Assault Brigade tabs, instead of Motor rifle tabs as seen previously. Speculation that there has been a change of status. **(7)**

19 June

East German Airforce **KHG67** receives first Hind D at Brandenburg - Briest. There appears to have been 6 aircraft delivered this month, possibly more were received from **KHG57**. In November the **KHG67** moved to Cottbus. Forward operating bases (to support border units and border operations) were:-
Steinheid
Kreuzebra
Meinigen

Similarly, **KHG 57** had operating bases at :-
Altensalzwedel
Athenstedt / Harz
Groß Moltzahn
(9)(10)

2nd-3rd Week July

Disruptively painted T62 in use by **7 Guards Tank Division**, noted during exercise Main Thrust 82. Disruptive painting before had only been seen upon communications and control vehicles, self propelled artillery and SSM. *(This appears to be similar to that painted to a T62 BDD in Steve Zaloga 'Tank war, Central Front'. It is impossible to tell from the photograph whether these are BDD however).* **(7)(8)**

Exercises this year

The 1982 USMLM report was interesting, in that it gave a complete indication of the exercises that year, even command post exercises. This was due to a number of changes after the arrival of the new commander of GSFG, Army General Zaytsev.

by mid-Jan large-scale driver training exercise.
(200 vehicles) by **56 MT Bde** and Divisions.

2nd week Jan First division-level FTX

Mid Jan departure of Potsdam SP How Bde for service practice

1st week, Feb First **2 GTA** large-scale exercise at Northern Elbe crossing sites

2d week, Feb First major front CPX with army and division player participation; all armies in Front wide CPX play (**8 GA** staggered?)

mid-Feb movement of regimental air defence batteries to Baltic ranges

mid-Mar 2d departure of Potsdam SP How Bde

1st week, April major army FTX within front CPX (TRA 1-82)

mid- Apr End-of-cycle testing within front CPX

15 April airlift phase, semi-annual troop rotation

4th week, Apr Final out-of-garrison movement, winter

Phase.

2d week, May Establishment of harvest support camps.

4th week, May First front CPX/signal field training, summer phase.

by mid Jun large-scale driver training.

2d week, Jun First Division-level FTX, summer phase.

3rd week, Jun 1st departure of Potsdam SP Howitzer Brigade, summer phase.

26 Jun First departure of Harvest support units.

2nd Week July first activity at northern Elbe crossing sites, Summer phase.

2nd-3rd Week July Warsaw Pact exercise Main Thrust 82, including front, army and division participation.

3rd Week July Movement of regimental air defence batteries to Baltic ranges.

Mid August Departure of Potsdam SP How Bde.

Mid August Army FTX within front CPX (TRA 2-82).

4th week, August LOC bridging at Domnitzsch.

Mid October end-of-cycle test within front CPX.

15th October-1st November airlift phase, semi annual troop rotation.

3rd Week October, Final out-of-garrison moment, summer phase.

7th November First return of harvest support units.

Mid December First front CPX/signal field training, winter phase. (7)

Movements of the East German army in the same period were somewhat simpler to trace.

Mid-January first winter FTX/CPX.

Mid Jun Loc Bridging at Domnitzsch.

12-17 September EGA parade practice on East Ring Autobahn.

September mobilization exercise (call-up of civilian trucks, drivers). (7)

Main Thrust 82 included elements of **East German 7 Tank Division**, **Soviet 7 Guards Tank Division** and **Polish 20th Tank Division**. Polish Troops arrived by 14th July. EGA and GSFG units moved into Altengrabow PRA on 19th-21st July and began to return from garrison from the Letzlinger Heide PRA 23rd-24th July. The last Polish train left GDR on 26th July. (7)

1983

February

USMLM notices different numbering of AFVs of what was previously thought to be **14th Guards Motor Rifle Division** garrisoned at Jueterbog PRA. Vehicle

registration numbers (presumably soft skin) were still consistent with **14th Guards MRD**, so it was concluded that it had been converted into a tank division. *(Editors note. 'Beyond the front line' lists **32nd Guards Motor Rifle Division** in this location).* (1)(7)

24th February

Further evidence obtained that **3rd MRR of 1st (DDR) Motor Rifle Division** was converting from D30 122mm gun (Towed) to 122mm 2s1(self propelled). The missions noticed 4 different DDR regiments equipped with 2s1 this year. (7)

12 March 1983

First Photography of 'Dog Ear' air defence radar system. Associated with Unknown air defence regiment of **47 Guards Tank Division, 3rd Shock Army**. *(My comment; Strong possibility that this could have been **1009 Air defence Regiment**)* (7) (3)

20th to 26th March

A major FTX (name unknown) including elements of **20th Guards Army** Units and **25th Tank Division**, which previously was subordinate to **2nd Guards Tank Army**. Concluded that **25TD** had been re-subordinated to **20th GA**. (7)

5th April

USMLM obtains the first ground photography of SMT1983/1 (T80?) (Beyond the front line claims Brixmis noticed more on Rail Transport near Halle) On the 28th April, more SMT1983/1 were noticed being carried by MAZ537s, proving there were at least 10 MAZ per heavy lift regiment. Other sightings of the vehicle at divisional level, proving a doubling of GSFG lift capacity. (7)

Early may

10th Guards Tank Division (3SA) relocates 100km closer to the IGB (to a PRA, Altengrabow and Shoenebeck.), from its previous garrison near Potsdam (Kramnitz/Potsdam). **35th MRD** moves into one of its 2 garrisons. 2 Training regiments (number unknown) take over the garrison where most of the Division was located (Kramnitz PRA). Report Concluded that it locates most of GSFG 40Kms from Berlin, and moved one of **10th GTD's** regiments west of the Elbe. (7)

10th June

Probable Air assault Battalion attached to **20th Guards Army** observed near Dallgow/Doberitz by USMLM. (7)

13th June

Photography obtained of BAT M1983 arriving at Brandenburg by railcar. (7)

22nd June

T62s observed by USMLM in Unknown Independent Tank regiment attached to **2nd Guards Tank Army**. (7)

Spring

Relocation of elements of the **East German Army.1 Chemical defence battalion** moved from its home near burg to a location closer to Berlin in Beelitz. The **1st Tank Regiment from 1 EGA Motor Rifle Division** moved to the same location. USMLM speculates it is moved to accommodate another soviet shift, or a DDR attempt at consolidation. (7)

July

Vehicle registration/side number anomalies noticed in **27Guards Motor Rifle Division** and **20th Guards Motor Rifle Division** . Concluded that they swapped armies, with **20th GMRD** ending up in **1 GTA** and the **27th Guards Motor Rifle Division** ending up in **8th Guards Army**. 'This move makes sense geographically, since each unit is now closer to its respective army headquarters.' (7)

Other OOB changes were;

7th Guards Tank Division re-subordinated from **1 Guards Tank Army** to **3 Shock Army**. (7)

207th Motor Rifle Division re-subordinated from **3rd Shock Army** to **2 Guards Tank Army**. (7)

1984

11-18 February

Possible TOE changes to **10th Guards Tank Division**. (editors note, See exercises 1984). (7)

22 February 1984

T80 was observed untarped by USMLM for the first time. 'Vehicle registration number from the transporter were from the **23 TR, 9 TD** Which established that T-80 had been deployed with units in the **1stGTA**.' (7)

01 March

East German Army Airforce formed. Prior to this time all Helicopters belonged to the East German Airforce. On 30 November 1984, **KHG57** and **KHG67** both handed over to the Army Airforce. (10)

09 April

USMLM tour observed the AKS-74 M1984 rifle with elements of the **9 Tank Division, 1GTA**. This was the first observation of the AKMS-74 M1984 with GSFG.(7)

1st May

22 152mm Field Gun M1976 (2A36) were observed in a compound on Jaennersdorf Training Area 401. This was the first solid evidence of a 24 gun battalion in the **2nd GTAs Arty Brigade**. (7)

17th May

USMLM observed and photographed a new Unit Vehicle Identifier (UVI) on an EGA truck in the vicinity of Retzow592/Anklam501. This suggested the existence of a new reserve manoeuvre Division subordinate to **Military District V**. (7)

Summer 1984

Increasingly, T64B supplants the A model. 'Among the units to receive the T-64 in this period was the **35MRD** garrisoned in Dallgow-Doebritz. USMLM photography of these tanks showed that additional armor had been placed on the side and top of the turret, possibly to protect against top-attack weapons.' *(an obvious reference to reactive armour.)*

Additionally, probable changes in Orbat to T64 Regiments, see **Exercise Yug, 26 Mar - 1 Apr**. (7)

September 1984

Brixmis observes 100 T80s on Flatcars. 'Side numbers of associated vehicles were from two tank regiments of **9 TD**, thus indicating a complete conversion to T-80 in these units.'

Additionally, it was pointed out that:-

'The T64A, deployed **in 2 GTA, 3SA and 20 GA**, had been almost fully exploited. The

missile firing T-64B continued to be deployed on the basis of one company per tank battalion in units holding T-64A.'(editors note, see Major exercises 1984 YUG 84 for further discussion of this) (7)

'T-80 was being introduced into **1GTA**, and **8 GTA**, and although a complete battalion complement had not been observed they appeared to be replacing the T-62 on a one for one basis'. (according to American members of Tanknet, many motor rifle regiments in this area were equipped with T62 around this period) (7)

December 1984

GSFG orbat and equipment changes

'FMLM as a result of a very patient stake-out of
A tactical route obtained the first daylight photography of the
elusive T-80 as it moved north from the Koenigsbrueck PRA. Side
numbers identified the T-80 as coming from the **40 GTR, 11GTD**. This
Maas the first solid association of T-80 with **11 GTD**.' (7)

Date Unknown

Bmp2 fitted with Appliqué armour, perhaps based upon afghan experience.(1)

Date Unknown

Photography of the VASILEK 82m automatic mortar in its GAZ-66
Carrier. The mortar was with elements of the **207th MRD**.(7)

Date Unknown

GSFG Tanks spotted for the first time with attachment points for Explosive
Reactive Armour. Tanks so fitted outside barracks were thought to indicate
possible hostilities. (1)

Date Unknown

Nuclear warfare detection vehicle (K-611) photographed at Magdeburg by
Brixmis. Unstated vehicle it was fitted upon, perhaps MTLB? (1)

Exercises this year

07-15 Jan.

The **47 GTD/3 SA** conducted a major river crossing exercise at the northern
Elbe crossing sites near Sandau (UUC153) supported by other 3 SA elements.
The **47 Tank Division's three tank regiments, the MRR and Arty Regiment**
participated, 3 SA support included the pontoon Bridge Regiment, Signal
Regiment, and Arty Regiment. This was the last USMLM coverage of a full-
scale river crossing on the northern Elbe prior to the imposition of the new PRA
in May which closed off this area. (7)

11-18 Feb.

10 GTD/3 SA conducted its first divisional exercise since relocation to the
Altengrabow PRA from Potsdam. USMLM coverage of the exercise revealed
numerous equipment upgrades and organisational anomalies which indicate a
possible reconfiguration of **61GTR** and **248 GMRR** to a brigade structure. (7)

26 Mar - 1 Apr,

Elements of six GSFG, East German and Polish divisions participated in
Warsaw Pact Exercise YUG [SOUTH] 84. The exercise involved large scale
road, rail and tactical movement from the Jueterbog PRA through the
Altengrabow PRA into the
Letzlinger Heide PRA, culminating in a river crossing. Of special

interest was the short notice mobilization of civilian East German vehicles and personnel to support military units.

'Observations by the NAVREP during Warsaw Pact Exercise YUG 84 corroborated information previously acquired by SAND Dune regarding The distribution of the T-64B. He followed the move of **16 GTR/207 MRD** during the exercise. Each tank battalion within the regiment had 2 companies of T-64A and one company of T-64B, exactly what had been reflected in SANDDUNE documents'. (and is reflected in an interview Vasiliy Fofanov conducted with a ex **Soviet 10th Guards Tank Division** crewman) (7)(20)

28 June - 04 July.

A major TVD level exercise, ZAPAD (WEST) -84, took place in East Germany. The exercise involved Front, Army and Divisional level coms units from GSFG as well as non-GSFG signal units. USMLM tours provided extensive coverage of

the exercise to include the tactical play by elements of **6 Guards Motor Rifle Division, 20th Guards Army** and CPX play by elements of **3 Shock Army**. The cover name of the exercise was revealed first by a Soviet officer at the annual USMLM 4th of July picnic at Potsdam.(7)

1985

January

T80s belonging to **79 Guards Tank Division, 8th Guards Army**, seen to be fitted with studs for mounting reactive armour. First time this has been seen on T80. It is apparent from studying later photos of the year, these T80s were equipped with a number of different configurations of this armour.(7)

January March and September

Major improvement in East German and Soviet heavy lift capability with the introduction of the Maz537 and associated CHMZAP9990 transporter trailer. (My Comment, Trailer first in January, tractor unit first seen in September.) Believed to be used by **56 Motor transport brigade**.(7)

23rd January

Serial numbers and scrapings obtained from glacis of T64A by USMLM. (My comment. The USMLM report describes this as 'exclusively, despite the fact that Brixmis had obtained samples with a hacksaw, apparently as early as 1981')(7)

January 30th

T72 seen with Polish 4th Mechanised Division. (Silesian District.) See 'Exercises' 1985. (7)

19th February

USMLM witnesses a large scale SS21 exercise. Along with other sources, this provides evidence that the SS21s had been formed into a Brigade under **1st Guards Tank Army**. Entirely new type of formation. (7)

June

Photographs acquired of 'Brass neck', a Zil131 box bodied vehicle, associated with Border command MFS/RECS units. (*My comment. No, I don't know what that means either!*) (7)

4th-14th July

During Major exercise (see 'Exercises 1985) first decent photographs of 2s5 taken. Weapon associated with **113 Guards Artillery Brigade, 20th Guards Army**. (7)

Returning from the same exercise, USMLM noted reactive armour studs welded to the turret of T64B's belonging to **35th Motor Rifle Division, 20th Guards Army**. (7)

1st August

At least 23 2s3 and 29 2s1 delivered to Potsdam installation 292, which had been empty since its previously based unit (Probably **10th Guards Tank Division**) had moved to Altengrabow in 1983. Unknown if the equipment is part of a unit subordinate to **34 Guards Artillery Division**, or another formation. (7)

29th August

USMLM notes SA-14 in service, by the rather simple expedient of sighting its presence in a picture of 'Red Star'. (*My comment. If only all intelligence operations were that easy!*)

11th September

First ground imagery of the MTLB based R-330B Jammer (ACV M-1984) in East Germany. Believed association with **East German Military District III**. (7)

15th September, 15th October

Major exercise (see exercises 1985). Elements of **11th Guards Tank Division, 1st Guards Tank Army** took part with their T80s. Reactive Armour noted fitted to the T80s for the first time. (7)

30th - 31st December

At least 33 152mm field guns m1976 delivered to Potsdam installation 292.(My Comment, see 1st August). Guns presumed to represent a new Brigade to **34th Artillery Division**. Guns previously noted (in 1983) in the artillery brigades of **2nd Guards Tank Army** and **8th Guards Army**. (7)

Date unknown

The report also notes the increased numbers of T80s in GSFG. Much photo and Video coverage was gained of environmental containers of a type known to contain T80, being shipped to **8th Guards Army** and **1st Guards Tank Army**. Report notes that all 7 divisions in GSFG's 2 southern armies have been equipped with this tank. 17 of 28 manoeuvre regiments in these divisions have the tank, whilst 5 of the 17 mount reactive armour. Note that since first sighted in March 1983, at least 1200 have been introduced as replacements for T62. (7)

Date unknown

New lowbed trailer acquired by East German border guards. Type unknown.(7)

Other events this Year

Major Nicholson shot and killed attempting a reconnaissance of a Tank training range at Tetchentin, near Ludwigslust. (My Comment, Described by the USMLM report for 1985 as 'Ludwigslust subcaliber range 475', by which I take to mean a tank firing range with the 14mm machinegun fitted in the barrel. A presumed grid reference gives its location as PE675081) Apparent target was probably T80, though the report makes no reference to this.

This was in the 2nd Guards Tank army area, Ludwigslust by 1989 being the home of a regiment of 21st Motor Rifle Division.(240 Motor Rifle regiment) However the report states that the unit occupying the site was the 'Independent Tank Regiment of 2nd Guards Tank Army'. There is no designation for this unit given, and I have found no other reference to its existence. (2) (7)

December 84- January 85

USMLM observes spetsnaz laying cable at Wernigerode near the inner German border.40 Km of cable laid. (My comment. Did this have some special forces function, or were they just being used as available labour? If the latter, does not speak highly of how the Soviets thought of these people.) (7)

22nd February

Soil samples from training areas prove that that GSFG have been 'training in the use of chemical simulants'. (My comment, presumably a typo, that they HAVE been training with the aid of chemical simulants.) Location not given. (7)

12th June

Brixmis acquires imagery of R-416 special purpose radio communications relay system. Replacement for R-405 mercury plate system, it was believed to operated by 6th Signals Brigade, a GSFG General staff subordinate unit. Despite being spotted in June, it took till the Front level exercise in September-October before USMLM could determine what it was. *(My comment, presumably signals intelligence played some part in determining its identity.)* (7)

31st October

Unidentified Material Support Battalion of 35 Motor Rifle Division observed carrying potatoes in the north central area of East Germany. Fuel attendant claimed they all carried 'K' (Kartoffel) , and were carrying home crops to help out with the poor harvest this year. (7)

Exercises this year

30th January - 7th February

Major Pact exercise involving Polish, East German and GSFG forces. Units included **Silesian District** from the Polish Army, **Military District V, East German Army**, and **2nd Guards Tank Army**. These were the same units that took part in exercise Yug-84, which the USMLM report suggests that they all had an interrelated wartime role. *(My Comment, Schleswig Holstein perhaps?)*. Interestingly the same exercise exhibited (on 3rd-4th Feb) a large scale refuelling exercise. First time an exercise of this scale had been seen and 'represented an effort to practice more sophisticated methods of forward resupply by non divisional logistics elements. *(My comment, this sounds very much like a potential front in wartime.)*(7)

End of May - End of June

Largest East German army mobilisation exercise record to date. Several new EGA reserve divisions added to the EGA TOE. Regularly EGA forces seen to use reservists to supplement their regular troops. Mustering points set up, and reservists seen to be integrated into the exercise.(7)

4th - 14th July

This further led on to a major exercise included the East German Army (including reservists and 'Kampfgruppen') and 20th Guards Army. Interestingly this included the **6th Independent Motor Rifle Brigade**. Speculation in the report that this may have meant that this unit was NOT a front level formation, but part of **20th Guards Army**. Also possible mobilisation of Soviet reservists taking part (including women) from GSFG in support of 20th Guards Army. Stated under Helsinki accords that troop levels reached 25,000 men.(7)

15th September-15th October

Major front level command post exercise and Divisional level Field training

exercise. Report comments on its similarity to Zapad 84.(See July 1984) Among units taking part were front level signal battalions, the KGB/UPS signal regiment, and independent radio relay and signal and signal regiments from 1st Guards Tank Army, 3rd Shock Army, 2nd Guards Tank Army and 20th Guards Army. Another (!!) East German mobilisation exercise took place as well (*My Comment, presumably the other units that did not take part in the earlier one*).Elements of 11th Guards Tank Division, 1st Guards Tank Army took part with their T80s. Reactive Armour noted fitted to the T80s for the first time, previously with units with T64B, all boxes had been removed before leaving barracks. Exercise started in Jueterbog PRA, and terminated in the Letzlinger Heide PRA.

1986

Developments this year appeared to be slower, either due to slowdowns in fielding new equipment, or perhaps instructions not to be too aggressive Touring, after the tragic death of Major Nicholson with the USMLM the previous year. The report for this year noted that,

'During the past year, other modifications to the Soviet force structure were noted. These Included;

a) Addition of a third 2S3 battalion to the divisional artillery regiment of motorized rifle divisions only.(All except **90 GMRD**) . (7)

(b) Confirmation that Manoeuvre regiments in **9 TD**, **27 GMRD**, and **79 GTD** have retained their D30 subsequent to the arrival of 2S1. (*Editors note, possible training equipment?*) (7)

C) Identification of Army-level CBR Battalions with Every GSFG army with the exception of **20 GA**. These battalions are of two types: a Chemical Protection Battalion and an Intersection and Reconnaissance (Nuclear Burst Detection) Battalion. (7)

(d) Formation of Bmp-2 and T64B battalions in 35 MRD which reflects an alteration in the previous practice of one BMP-2 or T 64B Company per battalion. (7)

(e) Arrival of two new artillery units in Potsdam: an artillery training regiment and a 152mm Field Gun M-1976 Brigade, probably assigned to the **34 AD**. (7)
Creation of a second Ss21 Brigade in GSFG, assigned to 3SA. (7)

(g) Major revaluation of Soviet radio electronic Combat (REC) units. This detailed analysis resulted in the isolation of

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Army level REC Battalion with four of the five GSFG Armies as well as a significant alteration in previous assessments of front-level REC organizations.' (7)

Additionally the USMLM report for this year stated that within the past year, KMT6 mine plows had been observed fitted to the bow of T80 Tanks (and showed a photograph of one operating at the Naumburg/Freyburg Training Area 401 (PB9275)) Whether this was the first time these plows had been fitted in GSFG or just the first time observed is unknown. (7)

December 1st

East German Airforce **KHG54 'Adolf von Luetzow'** now re-designated **Kampfhubschraubergeschwader 5 'Adolf von Lutzow', or KHG5.**

KHG67 'Ferdinand von Schill' becomes **KHG 3 'Ferdinand von Schill'.**(10)

1987

Date Unknown

Brixmis steals a section of reactive armour from a T80 parked in a railway siding.(!!!)(1)

Date Unknown

First Photography of the SS-23 in the DDR. (7)

Date Unknown

Confirmation of SS21 with Army missile Brigades, as opposed to Divisional level. (Editors note ;According to Steve Zaloga, this was probably a response to the withdrawal of SS23 due to the INF treaty. SS21 replaced both it and the SS-1c Scud B (and presumably SS12 also). However, he places it 'since 1989'.) (1)(5) (7)

1988

Perhaps the most significant change this year was the withdrawal of the SS12 Surface to Surface missile. The USMLM report this year says 'After the signing of the INF Treaty in November 1987, the Soviet Government announced that, as an act of faith,

all Ss-12 missiles would be withdrawn from the GER ahead of schedule (Editors note, it was being replaced by SS23). Capitalizing on Mission access to the GDR, USMLM organized a series of road and rail watches in an effort to provide coverage of the went independent of that provided by the Soviet and East German news media. Results included the 25 February confirmation of 27 departing SS-12 TEL and the first ground level photography of SSL2 associated support vehicle, such as the C2 vehicle, generator vehicle, and SS12 associated crane. (Editors Note; SS-23 conversion was never completed, see below).(7)

However the T80 was still exercising great interest. The long process of upgrading tank holdings throughout GSFG also continued in 1988 with USMLM coverage of T80 fielding in **3 SA** and **2GTA**. (Editors note, though regrettably, formations and numbers are not included). (7)

Date Unknown

Unstated source (but probably Sanddune) reveals 'minimum number of rounds provided annually for major weapon systems'. T80 15-24 rounds, or 8-12 rounds per 2s3.

4 April

near Cottbus (VT5434), a USMLM reconnaissance team sighted 19 T-80 associated environmental containers moving into the GDR by rail. (7)

10th August

observation of a T80(R) on the on the training area at Granzin(Uv6020). Report concludes T80 was now in service with at least elements of **16 Guards Tank Division**, of **2nd Guards Tank army**. Other interesting aspects of this sighting were the fitting of reactive armour studs (was this not noted before on other T80s?) and skirting mounted under the front glacis. (7)

21st December

Variants of 'Silver Box' command vehicles spotted. Imagery of Soviet 'Copper Log' computer vehicle obtained. According to Steve Gibson's book 'The last Mission' the vehicle is a variant of the Silver Box, and was a computerised army level command and control vehicle, that coordinated ground based air defence and communications. It appears to be based upon a MAZ chassis. The very incident where Steve Gibson videos this vehicle in 'The last mission' can be seen in the Brixmis video. (4) (7)

Date Unknown

Brixmis also confirms withdrawal of the SS-23 from Jena and Weissenfels, without a public announcement from the soviets. (1)

Date Unknown

Brixmis gains first ground Photography of the 2A-65 (152-M-1987), a 152mm towed artillery piece at Marienburg. This was presumed to be a direct replacement for the 152mm D20.(Steve Gibson appears to place this event in 1989. Tony Geraghty places it in 1988. **(4)**

Date Unknown

First observation of T80 Snorkelling. **(1)**

1989

18th September

First observation of SA10B in the DDR at Storkow NVA Engineer camp. Hasty revision of Natos air warplans to take this powerful system into account. **(4)**

December 15th

East German Airforce (**KHG5**) takes delivery of its first Hind P (or Hind F in Nato parlance). These appear to have been fitted out similarly to soviet ones, including ESM, GUV Gun pods, KMGU dispensers, and exhaust suppressors. (though whether the latter were fitted in peacetime is unknown).Unit was also operating Mi8TB 'Hip E'. By the following September the unit had 10 Mi-8TB, 20 Mi-24D,12 Mi-24P and an Unarmed Mi8 for Relay.

By the following September, **KHG3** had 16 Mi-8TB and 19 Mi-24D, and an unarmed MI8 for relay.

(9)(10)

Sources

(1) Beyond the Front Line by Tony Geraghty, Harper Collins 1996.

(2) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/2wgt.html>

(3) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/3wgt.html>

- (4) The Last Mission by Steve Gibson, Sutton Publishing 1997.
- (5) Soviet/Russian Armor and Artillery Design Practices: 1945 to the present. Andrew W Hull, David R. Markov and Steve Zaloga, Darlington Productions 1997.
- (6) Handbook on the Soviet Army. Department of the army Pamphlet 30-50-1 31 July 1958
- (7) USMLM yearly reports.
<http://www.history.hqusareur.army.mil/uslmannual.htm>
- (8) Tank War - Central Front, Nato vs. Warsaw pact. Steve Zaloga, Simon McCouaig, Osprey Military 1998.
- (9) World Airpower Journal Volume 37 Summer 1999 'Mi24 Hind Combat Crocodile', page 86.
- (10) <http://home.snafu.de/veith/khgs.htm>
- (11) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/untmbv.html>
- (12) Die Landstreitkräfte der NVA, Wilfried Kopenhagen, 2003
- (13) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/1msd.html>
- (14) http://www.bunkertours.co.uk/trip_report_2001.htm
- (15) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/20wgt.html>
- (16) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/untmbiii.html>
- (17) <http://www.samberg.de/strukturen/unterstwtgt.html>
- (18) Weapons and Tactics of the Soviet Army, David C Isby, Janes 1988 ISBN 0 7106 0352 5
- (19) Conversation with John Gillman, Tanknet thread 'Rifled', Sun 6 Feb 2005
<http://www.tank-net.org/>
- (20) Conversation with Vasiliy Fofanov.
- (21) Tank, Combat, 120mm Gun, Chieftain Marks 5-12 User Handbook. 'Emergency operational round installation', page 4.

(21) Conversation with David Clark 10.2.2005

(22) <http://www.brixmis.co.uk>

This particular OOB has been listed with numerous sources online. (Which probably means most people copied it off the USMLM website!) Whilst I suspect it is accurate for 1989, I've my doubts how accurate it is for earlier years. For instance, some Divisions are displaying 4 motor rifle regiments, which is deeply suspect! It is probably due to OOB changes post 1988 in line with Gorbachovs defensive policy. Additionally, Recon units are not even shown. (possibly these may have been withdrawn by 1989) I've attempted to fit in regiments noted from earlier years, to give a complete list of Regiments that served with Divisions, but bear in mind, its slow work!

2nd Guards Tank Red Banner Army (Fuerstenberg)
21st Motorized Rifle Division (Taganrog Red Banner Order of Suvorov)
(Perleburg)

239th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Perleberg)

240th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Red Banner) (Ludwigslust)

283rd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Berlin Red Banner Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Hagenow)

568th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Parchim)

1054th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Rathenow)

1079th Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Perleberg)

94th Guards Motorized Rifle Division Zvenigorod-Berlin Order of Suvorov
(Schwerin)

204th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Uman'-Berlin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Schwerin)

286th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Brandenburg Red Banner) (Schwerin)

288th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Kishinev Red Banner) (Wismar)

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74th Guards Tank Regiment (Valga Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Schwerin)

199th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Brandenburg Red Banner) (Wismar)

896th Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Demblin Order of A. Nevskiy) (Schwerin)

207th Motorized Rifle Division (Pomeranian Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Stendal)

33rd Motorized Rifle Berlin Regiment (Stendal)

41st Motorized Rifle Berlin Regiment (Gardelegen)

400th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Mahlwinkel)

591st Motorized Rifle Regiment (Rechitsa Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Staate) ??

693rd Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Red Banner) (Stendal)

75th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Demblin-Pomeranian Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Stendal)

16th Guards Tank Division Uman' Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Suvorov Tank (Neustrelitz)

47th Guards Tank Regiment (Uman'-Pomeranian Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Neustrelitz)

65th Guards Tank Regiment (Sevsk-Pomeranian Order of Lenin Twice Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Neustrelitz)

60th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Red Banner Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Ravensbrueck)

723rd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Rathenow)

724th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Warsaw Order of A. Nevskiy) (Neustrelitz)

66th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Lublin Orders of Kutuzov and A. Nevskiy) (Neustrelitz)

Operational and Tactical Units Subordinate to the Army

172nd Separate Helicopter Regiment (Damm)

439th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Damm)

290th Artillery Brigade (Schweinrich)

112th Missile Brigade (Genzroede) ??

458th Missile Brigade (Neustrelitz)

61st Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Staate) ??

118th Logistics Support Brigade (Ravensbrueck)

250th Separate Radio technical Regiment (Stendal)

69th Pontoon Bridge Regiment (Rathenow)

5th Separate Communications Regiment (Ravensbrueck)

3rd Combined-Arms Army (Red Banner) (Magdeburg)

(previously known as 3rd Shock Army)

7th Guards Tank Division (Kiev-Berlin Order of Lenin Twice Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Rosslau)

55th Guards Tank Regiment (Vasil'kov Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Lutherstadt-Wittenberg)

56th Guards Tank Regiment (Vasil'kov-Shepetovka Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Zerbst)

79th Guards Tank Regiment (Bobruysk Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Rosslau)

40th Motorized Rifle Regiment ('Berlin') (Bernburg)

670th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (L'vov Order of the Red Star) (Cochstedt)

287th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (L'vov Order of the Red Star) (Rosslau)

10th Guards Tank Division (Ural-L'vov Order of the October Revolution Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov Voluntary Marshal of the Soviet Union R. A. Malinovskiy) (Altengrabow)

61st Guards Tank Regiment (Sverdlovsk-L'vov Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Altengrabow)

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62nd Guards Tank Regiment (Perm'-Keletsk Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Altengrabow)

63rd Guards Tank Regiment (Chelyabinsk-Petrokovskiy Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Altengrabow)

248th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Unecha Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, B. Khmel'nitskiy, and A. Nevskiy) (Schoenebeck)

744th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Ternopol' Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, B. Khmel'nitskiy, A. Nevskiy, and the Red Star) (Altengrabow)

359th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (L'vov Orders of Kutuzov, A. Nevskiy, and the Red Star) (Altengrabow)

12th Guards Tank Division (Uman' Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Suvorov (Neuruppin))

48th Guards Tank Regiment (Vapnyarka-Warsaw Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Neuruppin)

332nd Guards Tank Regiment (Warsaw Red Banner Order of A. Nevskiy) (Neuruppin)

353rd Guards Tank Regiment (Vapnyarka-Berlin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Neuruppin)

200th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Fastov Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Burg)

117th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Mahlwinkel)

933rd Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Verkhnedneprovsk Red Banner Order of A. Nevskiy) (Burg)

Operational and Tactical Units Subordinate to the Army :-

178th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Borstel)

440th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Borstel)

36th Missile Brigade (Altengrabow)

448th Missile Brigade (Born)

49th Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Plancken)

385th Artillery Brigade (Plancken)

42nd Logistics Support Brigade (Magdeburg)

254th Separate Radio technical Regiment [location not specified]

36th Pontoon Bridge Regiment (Magdeburg)

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105th Separate Communications Regiment (Orders of A. Nevskiy and the Red Star) (Magdeburg)

20th Guards Combined-Arms Red Banner Army (Eberswalde-Finow)

35th Motorized Rifle Krasnograd Red Banner Division (Krampnitz)

62nd Motorized Rifle Regiment (Slonim-Pomeranian Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Potsdam) 1989

64th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Slotsk-Pomeranian Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Potsdam) 1989 (At Doeberitz with BTR in 1978)

19th Motorized Rifle Regiment (with the division in 1978 equipped with BTR))

69th Motorized Rifle Regiment (Proskurovsk Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Wuensdorf) 1989

83rd Motorized Rifle Regiment (Nezhin Order of the Red Star) (Krampnitz) 1989

219th Tank Regiment (Kremenchug-Berlin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Olympiches Dorf) 1989

283rd Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Warsaw Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Elstal) 1989

200th Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Brest Red Banner Order of A. Nevskiy) (Krampnitz) 1989

90th Guards Tank Division (L'vov Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Bernau)

6th Guards Tank Regiment (L'vov Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Bad Freienwalde)

68th Guards Tank Regiment (Zhitomir-Berlin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, B. Khmel'nitskiy, and A. Nevskiy Regiment)(Bernau)

215th Guards Tank Regiment (Kamenets-Podol'sk Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Bernau)

81st Guards Tank Regiment (Petrokovskiy Twice Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Eberswalde-Finow)

GSFG orbat and equipment changes

400th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Transylvanian Red Banner Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Bernau)

288th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Bernau)

**6th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Berlin Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy
Brigade (Berlin-Karlshorst)**

Operational and Tactical Units Subordinate to the Army

337th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Mahlwinkel)

487th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Preslau)

27th Missile Brigade (Jueterbog)

464th Missile Brigade (Fuerstenwalde)

67th Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Elstal)

117th Logistics Support Brigade (Eberswalde-Finow)

387th Artillery Brigade (Altes Lager)

264th Separate Radio technical Regiment (Neudenbritz)

44th Pontoon Bridge Regiment (Frankfurt am Oder)

6th Separate Communications Regiment (Eberswalde)

1st Guards Tank Army (Red Banner) (Dresden)

**20th Guards Motorized Rifle Division (Precarpathian-Berlin Red Banner
Order of Suvorov) (Grimma)**

29th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Lublin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov
and Kutuzov) (Plauen)

67th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Yaroslavl' Red Banner Orders of
Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Grimma)

242nd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Zaleshchiki Red Banner Orders of
Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Wuerzen)

576th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Bobruysk Order of Lenin Red Banner
Order of Suvorov) (Glauchau)

944th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Chernovtsy-Gnieszno Red
Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Leisnig)

358th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Carpathian-Gnieszno Red Banner
Orders of Kutuzov, B. Khmel'nitskiy, and the Red Star) (Leisnig)

2nd Tank Division (Bobruysk-Berlin Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Riesa)

1st Guards Tank Regiment (Chertkovo Twice Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders

GSFG orbat and equipment changes

of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy Marshal of Tank Troops M. Ye. Katukov) (Zeithain)

1321st Motorized Rifle Regiment (Glukhov-Rechitsa Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Jueterbog)

70th Guards Tank Regiment (Proskurovsk-Berlin Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Kutuzov G. I. Kotovskiy) (Zeithain)

302nd Motorized Rifle Regiment (Riesa)

96th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Borna)

11th Guards Tank Carpathian-Berlin Red Banner Order of Suvorov Division (Dresden)

7th Guards Tank Regiment (Novgorod-Berlin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and the Red Star) (Meissen)

40th Guards Tank Regiment (Chertkovo Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, B. Khmel'nitskiy, and the Red Star) (Koenigsbrueck)

44th Guards Tank Regiment (Berdichev Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, B. Khmel'nitskiy, the Red Star, Sukhe-Bator, and Combat Red Banner of the Mongolian Peoples' Republic Sukhe-Bator) (Koenigsbrueck)

249 Guards Motorized Rifle (Chernovtsy Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy Regiment) (Dresden)

841 Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Chernovtsy Red Banner Orders of B. Khmel'nitskiy and the Red Star) (Chemnitz)

1018th Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Yaroslavl' Red Banner Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Meissen)

Operational and Tactical Units Subordinate to the Army

225th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Allstedt)

485th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Brandis)

181st Missile Brigade (Cochstedt)

432nd Missile Brigade (Wuerzen)

308th Artillery Brigade (Zeithain)

53rd Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Altenburg)

41st Logistics Support Brigade (Dresden)

253rd Separate Radiotechnical Regiment (Merseburg)

68th Pontoon Bridge Regiment (Dresden)

3rd Separate Communications Regiment (Dresden)

8th Guards Combined-Arms Army Order of Lenin (Nohra)

27th Guards Motorized Rifle Division (Omsk-Novobugskiy Red Banner Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy) Halle (Part of 1st Guards Tank Army in 1978, still based at Halle)

68th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Poznan Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Halle)

243rd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Berlin Red Banner Order of Kutuzov) (Halle)

244th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Berlin Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Schlotheim)

28th Tank Regiment (Brest Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Halle)

54th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Poznan Red Banner Order of Kutuzov) (Halle)

286th Guards Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Peremyshl' Order of the Red Star) (Halle)

114th Recon Battalion

39th Guards Motorized Rifle Barven'kovo Order of Lenin Twice Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy Division (Ohrdruf)

117th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Poznan Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Meiningen)

120th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Poznan Red Banner Orders of Kutuzov and A. Nevskiy) (Ohrdruf)

172nd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Gniezno Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Gotha)

585th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Rechitsa Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Ohrdruf)

915th Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Ohrdruf)

87th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Poznan Red Banner Order of

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Kutuzov) (Gotha)

57th Guards Motorized Rifle Novobugskiy Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy Division (Naumburg)

170th Guards Motorized Rifle Demblin-Berlin Red Banner Order of Suvrov Regiment (Naumburg)

174th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Pomeranian Red Banner Orders of Suvrov and Kutuzov) (Weissenfels)

241st Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Lodz Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvrov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Leipzig)

51st Guards Tank Regiment (Fastovo Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Zeitz)

128th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Demblin-Pomeranian Red Banner Order of Kutuzov) (Zeitz)

901st Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Naumburg)

79th Guards Tank Division (Zaporozh'ye Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Jena)

17th Guards Tank Regiment (Orlov Order of Lenin Red Banner Order of Suvorov) (Saalfeld)

45th Guards Tank Regiment (Gusyatin Order of Lenin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and B. Khmel'nitskiy) Weimar (Another source puts this as 65 Guards Tank regiment, in the same location, during 1988)

211th Tank Regiment (Kalitskovichskiy Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, and B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Jena)

247th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Lodz Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Weimar)

172nd Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment (Berlin Red Banner) (Rudolstadt)

1075th Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment (Order of B. Khmel'nitskiy) (Weimar)

113th Recon Battalion - Rudolstadt

Operational and Tactical Units Subordinate to the Army

336th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Nohra)
486th Separate Helicopter Regiment (Altes Lager)
11th Missile Brigade (Weissenfels)
449th Missile Brigade (Arnstadt)
18th Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Gotha)
116th Logistics Support Brigade (Altenburg)
390th Artillery Brigade (Ohrdruf)
119th Separate Tank Regiment (Bad Langensalza)
65th Pontoon Bridge Regiment (Merseburg)
194th Separate Radiotechnical Regiment (Weimar)
91st Separate Communications Regiment (Weimar)

Operational and Tactical Units Subordinate to the Group of Soviet forces Germany

157th Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Primerwalde)
164th Missile Brigade (Drachhausen)
175th Missile Brigade (Oschatz)
133rd Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Jueterbog)
202nd Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Magdeburg)
40th Radiotechnical Order of the Red Star Brigade (Wittstock)
45th Radiotechnical Brigade (Merseburg)
1st Combat Engineer Brigade (Brandenburg)
118th Bobruysk-Berlin Red Banner Order of A. Nevskiy Communications Brigade (Wuensdorf)
119th Communications Brigade (Leipzig)
132nd Communications Brigade (Truenbritzen)
34th Artillery Division (Potsdam)
286th Guards Howitzer Artillery Prague Red Banner Order of Kutuzov and B. Khmel'nitskiy Brigade (Potsdam)
288th Heavy Howitzer Artillery Brigade (Warsaw Red Banner Order of Kutuzov) (Chemnitz) [Karl Marx Stadt]
303rd Guards Cannon Artillery Brigade (Kalinkovich Twice Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov) (Altengrabow)
307th Multiple Rocket Artillery Brigade (Chemnitz) [Karl Marx Stadt]
122nd Antitank Artillery Brigade (Koenigsbrueck)
64th Motor Vehicle Brigade (Kummersdorf)
65th Motor Vehicle Brigade (Fuerstenwalde)
27th Pontoon Bridge Regiment (Lutherstadt (Wittenberg)
272nd Separate Communications Regiment (Frankfurt am Oder)

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29th Separate Electronic Warfare Regiment (Schoenwalde)

67th Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Elstal)

163rd Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Leipzig)

252nd Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade (Gera)

**239th Separate Guards Helicopter Belgorod Red Banner Regiment
(Oranienburg)**