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*An air centered Cold War disposition 1989*  
***Hot skies in a Cold War!***

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## Introduction

It took a few years of research but this is the result. Not a ready scenario to jump in and start playing, but a starting grid to make your own story. If you want to concentrate on the south, delete things in the north and vice versa because the unit count will be huge...over the 28.000 if you combine it all.

And if you play in Germany you can shut off the radars in the UK for example or delete it. But if you like to strike the UK, all the right units are all there, ready and at the right historic location, with the right unit nomenclature. A much smaller sandbox is more fun!

My goal was to make history visible and see what CMO does when you play this in concert. Not only the aircraft but also the units which are in the background like the Radio Technical troops, or the air defense of the army and a little more

limited the navies.

Many players are involved but I put NATO as one side to keep it simple. I cut-up Eastern army and regular air defense units, because they did not interchange tactical radar information with each other. The same with the Soviet side and the East German side. There was an information interchange on higher levels/command bunkers in the chain of command, but a DDR SAM unit was not in contact with a Soviet one. This situation is simulated by different sides Soviet AD/Fighters, Soviet Army, and the same for East Germany. <sup>i</sup>

One of the biggest source is: [Literatur](#) of all the forces in West- & East Germany. Of course I found this website after months of researching .. Yes all of the SAM locations are peacetime locations, where the unit will depart from to their wartime location in +/- 30 minutes. But these wartime locations are unknown and were probably very close to the peacetime location. So I made every SAM not auto detectable and you have to find them with ESM and recce. This will bring more realism back into the game.

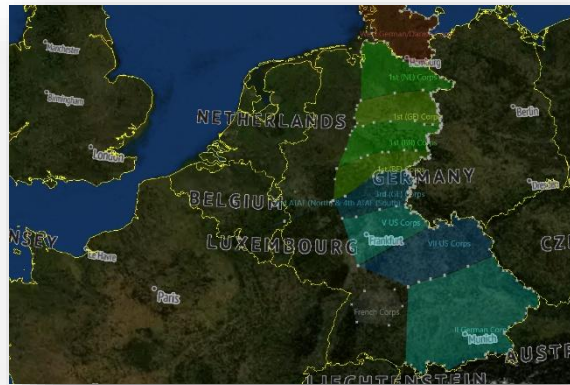
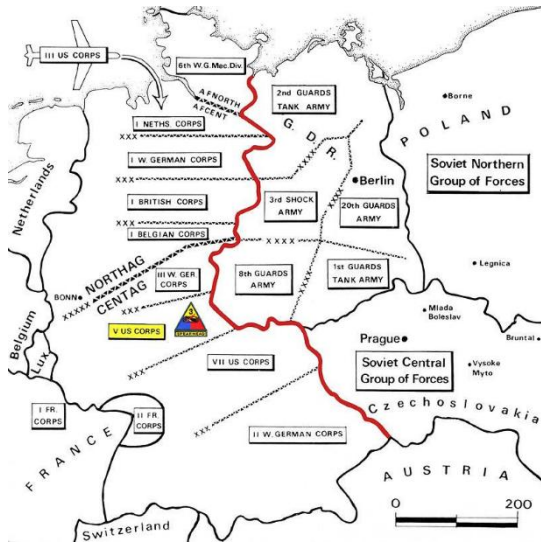
If you like to do more with NATO ground forces these sites are a good start:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CENTAG\\_wartime\\_structure\\_in\\_1989](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CENTAG_wartime_structure_in_1989)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_Army\\_Group\\_\(1989\)\\_order\\_of\\_battle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Army_Group_(1989)_order_of_battle)

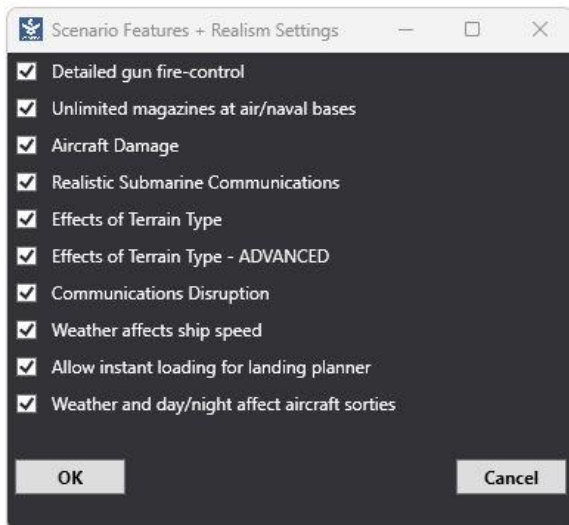
<https://www.orbat.info/history/historical/nato/oob1989.html>

The setup is focused on the **Western Theatre of Military Operations** as assessed then by the CIA:



Rough overview of the ground forces on internet and now in CMO.<sup>ii</sup>

## The setup



All boxes are ticked, but you can adjust this to your liking of course.

No missions are setup, this is your free path to do so and live out your ideas.

Also no Events or Special actions are present. That is your territory!

You can adjust the proficiency to your own liking. I have put the Warsaw Pact Air Forces on cadet level because their training was very limited and initiative was not appreciated. They followed their missiles straight in and did not crank or drag. While NATO flew almost daily at very low altitude (100'-250') and jumped on every jet for an dogfight. Whereas the WP forces assessed 500 feet a very low altitude.

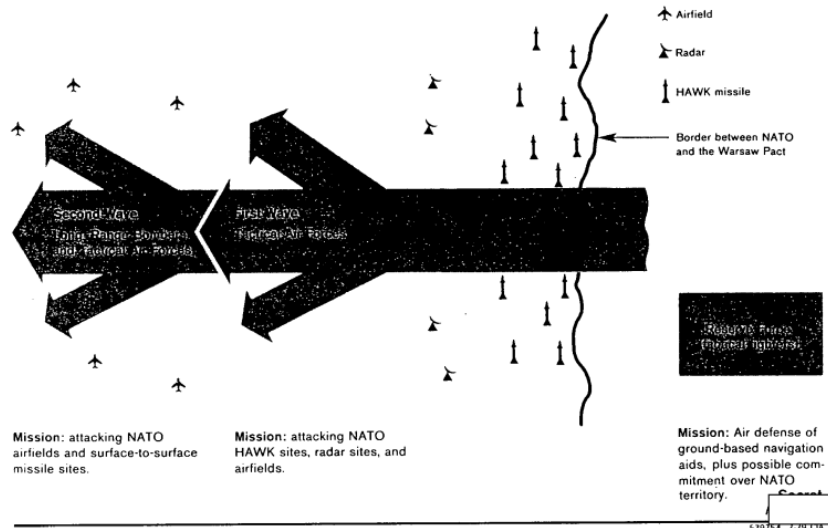
If you want to setup missions for the WP or play it yourself this CIA document is essential!

([https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000969827.pdf](https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000969827.pdf))

I'll will give some teasers:

Warsaw Pact Air Operation Scenario

Figure 1



This operation was to use fewer than 2,000 aircraft over a two-day period. Two assaults, eight hours apart, were to be flown the first day, with a third and concluding assault on the second day.

Example out of a declassified top secret CIA document at the end of 1979.

Table 3

Postulated Allocation of Pact Strike Forces in the TACOS Simulations

NATO Targets	Number of Targets	Pact Aircraft Committed	
		Mission	Total
<b>Initial Strike</b>			
Forward HAWK sites	12	60 strike 12 ECM support	72
<b>Followup Strike</b>			
Rear HAWK sites	4	20 strike 4 ECM support	24
Fixed radar sites	7	70 strike 21 ECM support	91
Operational airfields	7	119 strike 56 ECM support	175
<b>Aircover</b>			358
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>720</b>

Expected first (conventional) strike from the WP air forces in a simulated test run at the CIA for the first day in the US sector. Soviet Regimental air strikes are not easy to counter! The losses are horrific.

## Weather

of time there will likely be cloud cover at or below various altitudes in Central Europe for representative months in the four seasons:

	300-meter ceiling	600-meter ceiling	3,000-meter ceiling
January	57	63	92
April	24	41	86
July	29	37	72
October	42	54	83

Just to give you an idea that Europe is not the Middle East or Nevada... Percentage of time with cloud cover. The weather now in CMO is still crystal clear but it is up to you to change this.

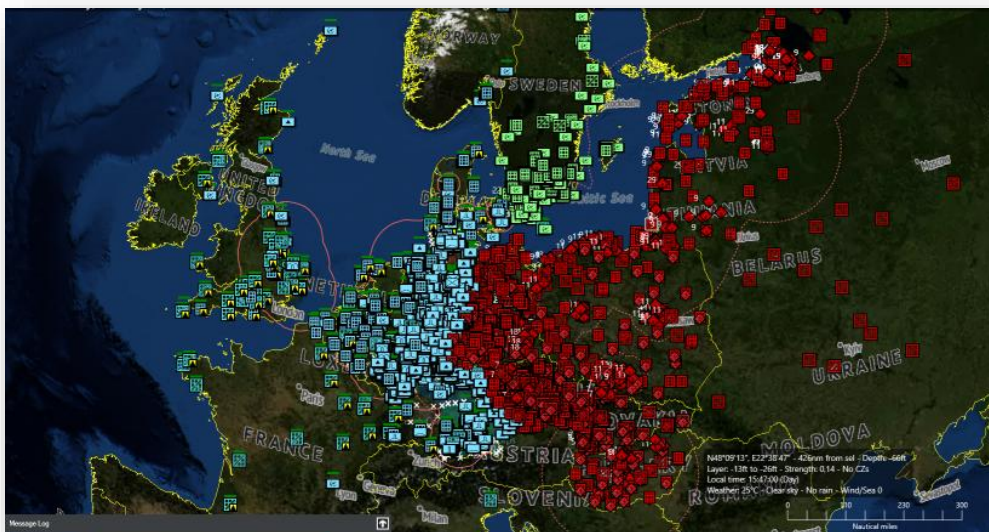
And more in:

[https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000969827.pdf](https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000969827.pdf)

Another one to get read-in, into cold war balance is this one a National Intelligence Estimate of 1985:

[https://generalstaff.org/WW3/PEDIA/Trends\\_WARPAC\\_1985-2000\\_CIA.pdf](https://generalstaff.org/WW3/PEDIA/Trends_WARPAC_1985-2000_CIA.pdf)

## From the Cold War to CMO



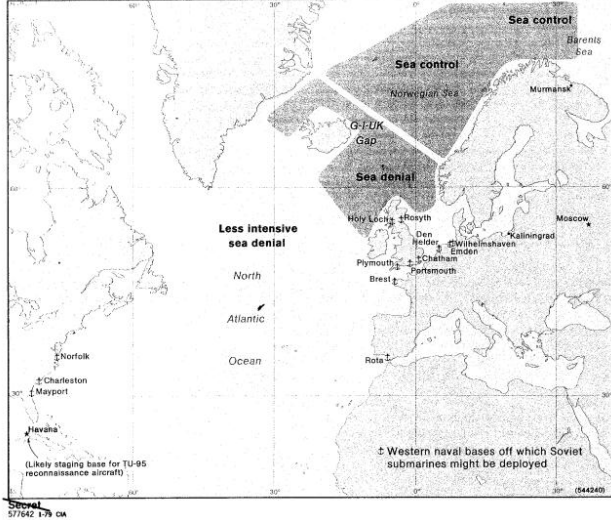
The amount of units is quite a lot 😊 and the USA and Canada and Italy (not visible here) are also at this .INST bingo card.

Again, pick an area/country you want to dig into and delete the rest you don't need. There are around 14000 units for NATO and about 14000 for the Warsaw Pact! I will publish it per country.

Enjoy the setup, and it would be very appreciated if you publish your missions or scenario's on the CMO forum <https://www.matrixgames.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=10233&t=258344> or via Steam if they are derived from this material.

Initial Soviet Operating Areas in the North Atlantic

Figure 22



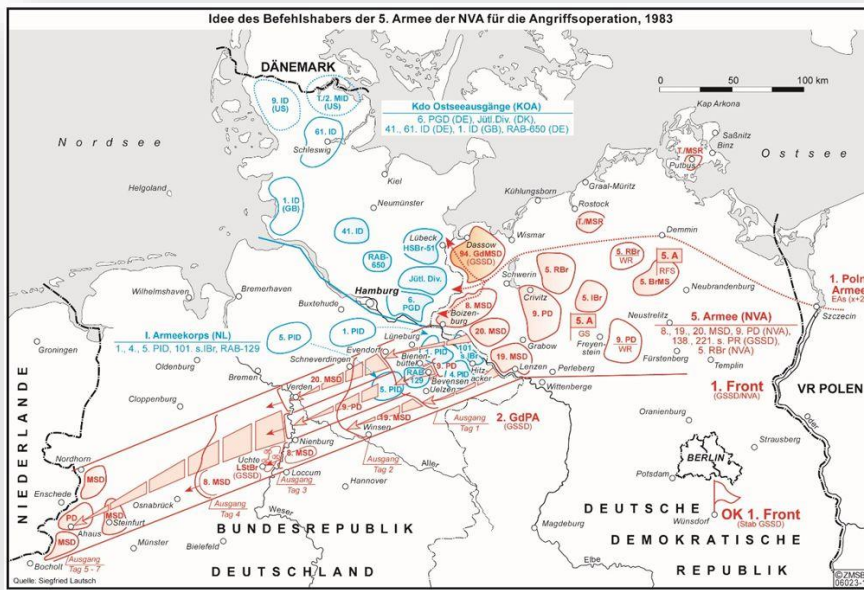
## Scenario ideas

The scenario is air- and air defense centered. So tanks & artillery are not incorporated. And the Navy ships are in the ports. But you can develop it into your story for example if you want to perform Close Air Support missions.

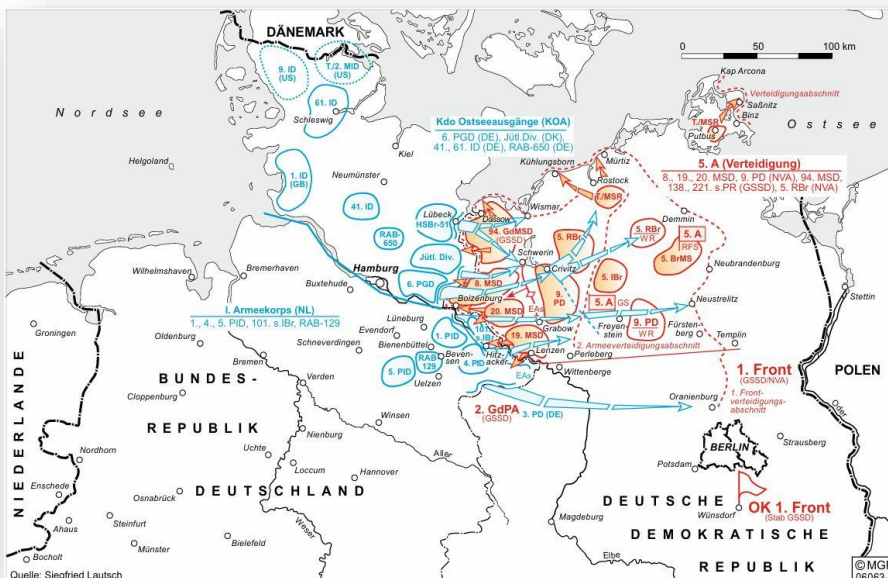
*The Naval forces of the UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, East Germany, Poland and the Soviet Baltic Fleet are incorporated.*

During research I found this detailed attack plan for the Northern East German units into Germany.

### Option nr.1 An attack from the east and to reach the Netherlands in 5-7 days!



*Note that the Soviet ground forces are not depicted in this German focused plan but are also involved of course just as Poland etc.*



**Option nr.2 an attack from NATO as seen from the eyes of East-Germany.**

Source: [https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/134495/Gesamtausgabe%20MPR\\_2\\_11.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/134495/Gesamtausgabe%20MPR_2_11.pdf) (page 22-35)

This is of course not the only option. There are also envisioned WP attack plans in a study by US intelligence services on a military confrontation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO (7 July 1981)<sup>w</sup> With five axis of attack.

Other ideas are:

- A **“REFORGER” (REturn FORces to GERmany)**<sup>1</sup> setup. When tensions arose too high the US & Canada would bring massive forces to strengthen NATO. But also other countries like the UK , the Netherlands, Belgium would move units to hotpots. Quite a logistical challenge. The WP believed the US would reinforce Europe with six divisions and 60 squadrons of combat aircraft in 10 days!<sup>iii</sup> You can read more about it in the following chapters / posts;



- A displacement of WP forces like the SCUDs to their wartime locations, Fighters to highway strips etc. together with recce & ELINT missions to gain intel/ knowledge (before the hostilities begin); And probably the Warsaw Pact will also reinforce?
- Airfield attacks (think about Tornado missions, but also WP forces attacking yours);<sup>2</sup>
- Look at the OpenTopoMap (<https://opentopomap.org/#map=8/52.8840/12.6892>) for example and place bridges to be destroyed to hamper the WP attack close to the front or try to go deeper to attack logistics and follow-on forces.
- Warsaw Pact Regimental airstrikes against the NATO SAM sites to create a penetration funnel;<sup>3</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exercise\\_Reforgers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exercise_Reforgers)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000969827.pdf](https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000969827.pdf)

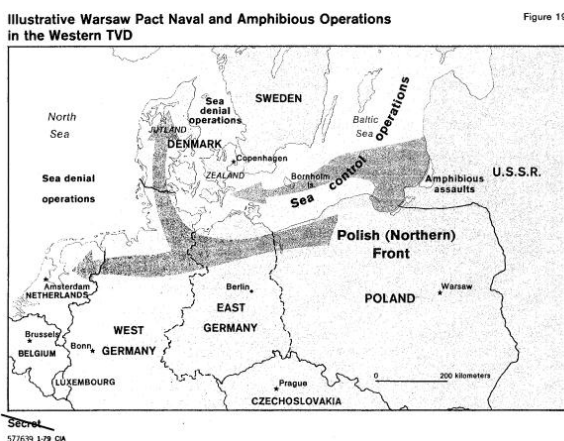
<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC\\_0000969827.pdf](https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000969827.pdf)

- A Poland who does not support an WP attack with their 15 Divisions and aircraft (see <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP86T00302R000100040005-5.pdf>) which were planned in the second echelon to attack Denmark and the Netherlands.
- A France joining NATO? A reality or a Mirage? (pun intended..)



*Will the this Mirage F-1CRT's stay in the shelter in France...or?*

- There was an enormous espionage scandal in 1988 where an American Army guy gave lots of Top Secret stuff to the East Block, including comms crypto and even the US nuclear codes in Germany! This is a nice scenario starter...yeeks!  
See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYunr1KJE8c> or <https://open.spotify.com/episode/550ypmpBbxtcCwSCN5AyyP?si=590d068500a84f30>
- A limited... or the total nuclear option...
- A out-of-the box thought, what does a XB-70 Valkyrie bomber do in 1989?
- A Warsaw Pact amphibious landing in Denmark;

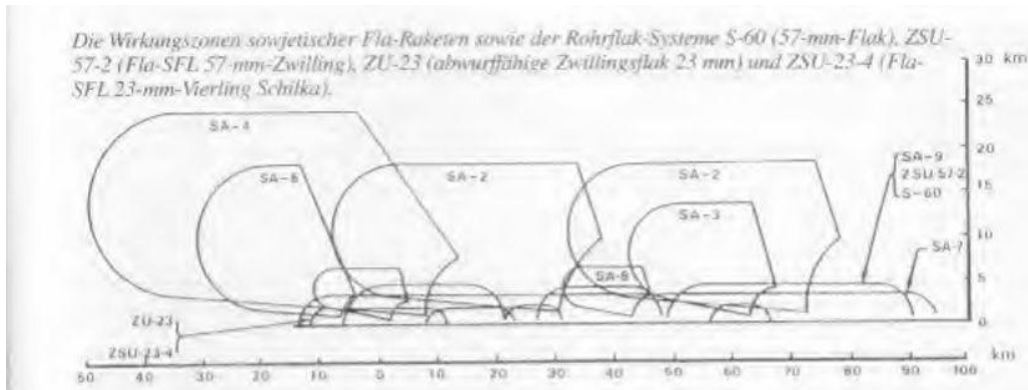


*An amphibious landing on day 2 or 3 as depicted by the CIA. v*

This list of ideas is only a start, you can develop your own story!

## Operational art

Next to scenario idea's and platforms, another angle is operational art. One thing was clear, as an aviator you had to fly low to survive. Every NATO attack aircraft trained for this profile. And in Desert Storm in 1991 they all switched to medium altitude... You can try if Medium altitude is a viable option in 1989..?



Overview of the engagement envelopes of the encountered layered WP air defense.

**I hope you can enjoy these starting blocks. I will make post per country to make it easier to upgrade them or to get comments or suggestions on a particular part.**

For me the research during the years was, as they say:



<sup>i</sup> <https://peters-ada.de/russ-standorte.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.geschichtsforum.de/attachments/vorneverteidigung-jpg.16933/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/5028377/Document-21-Warning-of-War-In-Europe-National.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> [https://16va.be/3.la\\_16VA\\_eng.html](https://16va.be/3.la_16VA_eng.html)

<sup>v</sup> <http://i.imgur.com/GfxsVfc.jpg>