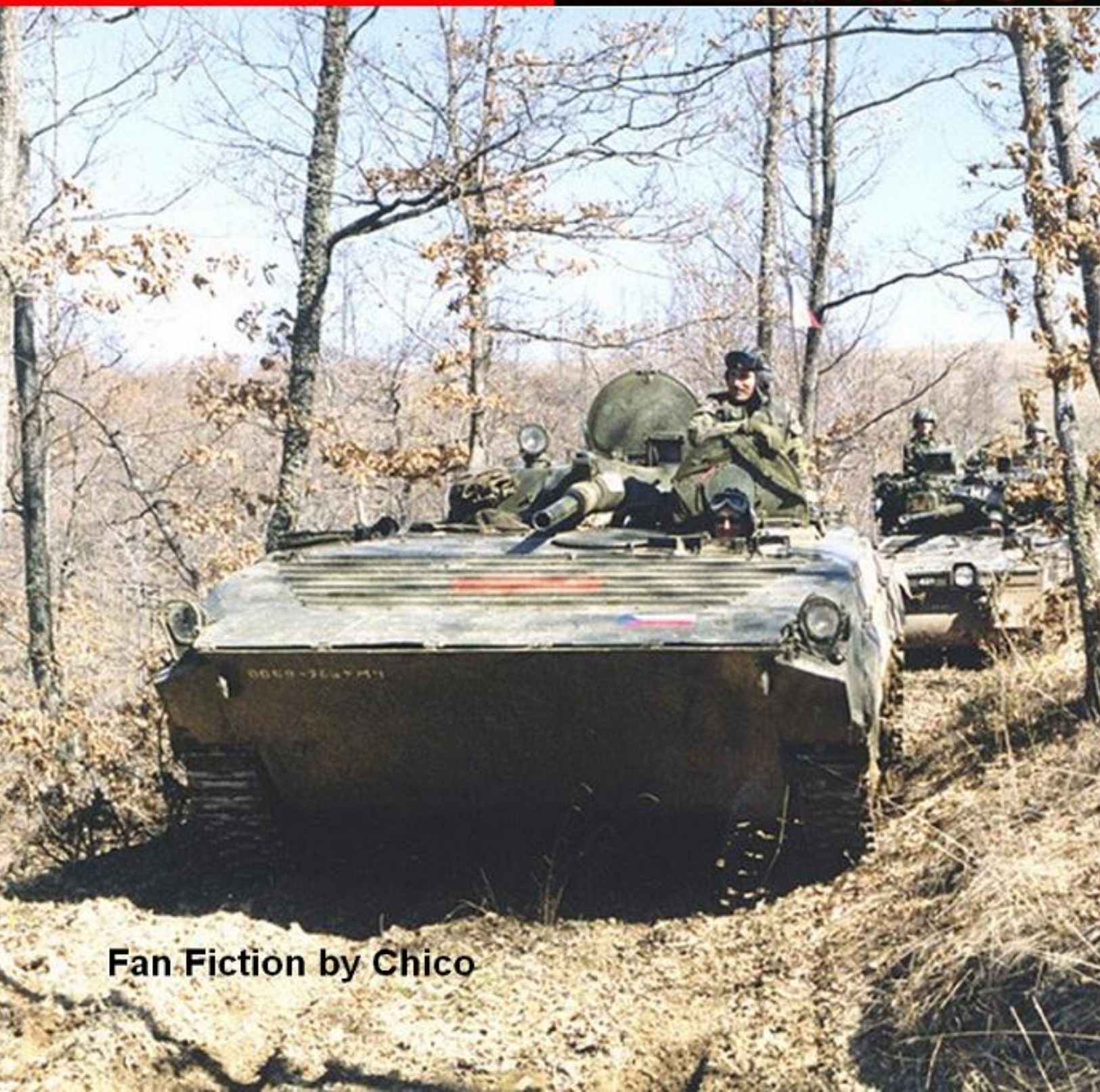


Czechoslovak Vehicle Guide



Fan Fiction by Chico

Twilight:2000

Czechoslovak Vehicle Guide

version 1.1

a fan fiction effort by Chico
vehicle designs by Paul Mulcahy

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SAU-122/2S1 self-propelled howitzers of the 1st Tank Division preparing to deliver supporting fires for a Warsaw Pact spoiling attack into Bavaria, January 1997.

Order of Battle (October, 1996)

This section provides players and referees with an overview of the current position and approximate strength of the Czechoslovak People's Army forces as of July 1, 2000. The order of battle provides a snapshot of the Czechoslovak command system at the beginning of the war. The divisional histories give a brief description of the major units of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces. Referees are encouraged to exercise considerable freedom in manipulating this data to suit the needs of their campaign. All strengths given for manpower have been rounded to the nearest five hundred. Tank strength is for main battle tanks only, and the numbers reflect the current best estimate of operable numbers. Most units have acquired an assortment of other vehicles including lighter armored vehicles, soft-skinned vehicles, civilian vehicles, and a variety of captured equipment.

Soviet 1st Southwestern Front:

311th Heavy Artillery Brigade (Front)
7th Artillery Division
 71st Cannon Artillery Brigade
 75th Heavy Howitzer Artillery Brigade
 313th Cannon Artillery Brigade
 82nd SAM Brigade
 1st Airborne Assault Brigade
 22nd Special Assignment Airborne Brigade
 10th Pontoon Brigade
 31st Mixed Squadron of Command and Reconnaissance
 311th Independent Training Tank Battalion
 313th Independent Training Tank Battalion
 7th Road Engineer Brigade
 32nd Road Engineer Brigade
 6th Guard Battalion

1st Czechoslovak Army

321st Heavy Artillery Brigade (SSM)
 322nd Cannon Artillery Brigade
 216th Antitank Regiment
 171st SAM Regiment
 51st Engineering Brigade
 91st Pontoon Regiment
 11th Helicopter Regiment
 1st Squadron of Command and Reconnaissance
 101st UAV Squadron

1st Tank Division

1st Tank Regiment
 2nd Tank Regiment
 21st Tank Regiment
 3rd Motor Rifle Regiment

1st Artillery Regiment
5th SAM Regiment

2nd Motor Rifle Division

10th Motor Rifle Regiment
11th Motor Rifle Regiment
12th Motor Rifle Regiment
23rd Tank Regiment
8th Artillery Regiment
2nd SAM Regiment

18th Motor Rifle Division

(regimental assignments unknown, except for 29th artillery regiment)

20th Motor Rifle Division

49th Motor Rifle Regiment
65th Motor Rifle Regiment
74th Motor Rifle Regiment
12th Tank Regiment
38th Artillery Regiment
12th SAM Regiment

4th Czechoslovak Army

331st Heavy Artillery Brigade (SSM)
332nd Cannon Artillery Brigade
217th Antitank Regiment
251st SAM Regiment
1st Engineer Brigade
72nd Pontoon Regiment
51st Helicopter Regiment
52nd Squadron of Command and Reconnaissance
104th UAV Squadron

4th Tank Division

7th Tank Regiment
8th Tank Regiment
13th Tank Regiment
9th Motor Rifle Regiment
6th Artillery Regiment
4th SAM Regiment

9th Tank Division

14th Tank Regiment
17th Tank Regiment
18th Tank Regiment
79th Motor Rifle Regiment
362nd Artillery Regiment
9th SAM Regiment

15th Motor Rifle Division

51st Motor Rifle Regiment
62nd Motor Rifle Regiment
68th Motor Rifle Regiment
20th Tank Regiment
36th Artillery Regiment

1st SAM Regiment

19th Motor Rifle Division

57th Motor Rifle Regiment
67th Motor Rifle Regiment
104th Motor Rifle Regiment
11th Tank Regiment
47th Artillery Regiment
11th SAM Regiment

2nd Czechoslovak Army

312th Heavy Artillery Brigade (SSM)
323rd Cannon Artillery Brigade
220th Antitank Regiment
6th Engineer Brigade

13th Tank Division

10th Tank Regiment
15th Tank Regiment
64th Tank Regiment
8th Motor Rifle Regiment
3rd Artillery Regiment
3rd SAM Regiment

14th Tank Division

60th Tank Regiment
103rd Tank Regiment
55th Motor Rifle Regiment
63rd Motor Rifle Regiment
49th Artillery Regiment
10th AAA Regiment

24th Motor Rifle Division

(regimental assignments unknown, except for 56th Artillery Regiment)

26th Motor Rifle Division

(regimental assignments unknown, except for 329th Artillery Regiment)

32nd Motor Rifle Division

(regimental assignments unknown, except for 41st Artillery Regiment)

Soviet 2nd Far Eastern Front:

3rd Motor Rifle Division

4th Motor Rifle Regiment
5th Motor Rifle Regiment
6th Motor Rifle Regiment
33rd Tank Regiment
361st Artillery Regiment
13th SAM Regiment



A BMP-A of the 15th MRD advances on NATO positions in southern East Germany, November 1996



Pipeline troops inspect 4th Czechoslovak Army's main fuel pipeline following a NATO air strike, Northern Bohemia, July 1997.

Unit History and Current Status (July, 2000):

Tank Divisions

1st TANK DIVISION

A prewar Category I tank division stationed west of Praha, the 1st Tank Division was one of the Czechoslovak People Army's premier divisions. It was the spearhead of the Soviet 1st Southwestern Front's spoiling attack into southern Germany in early 1997 and seized the city of Regensburg on the Danube but was unable to expand its bridgehead beyond the city limits. In July it linked up with elements of the Italian V Corps advancing from Austria and took part in the invasion and occupation of southern Germany, once again spearheading the September-October Pact offensive. In 1998 the division became stalled outside Hanau, Germany before executing a scorched-earth withdrawal back to Czechoslovak territory. It has settled into cantonments in the vicinity of its prewar garrisons northwest of the ruins of the capital.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Slany-Rakovnik-Zatec area

Manpower: 2,500

Tanks: 12 T-72, 9 T-55

4th CAVALRY DIVISION

A Category II tank division stationed on the Austrian border, the 4th Tank was filled out with recalled reservists in December 1996 and deployed to the border with East Germany, where it was held in reserve to exploit a Pact breakthrough that never came. During the NATO advance across Poland, it was used as a mobile fire brigade, counterattacking NATO local breakthroughs of 4th Czechoslovak Army's lines. 4th Tank distinguished itself in the fall 1997 Pact offensive that cleared Poland of NATO troops. It lost the last of its tanks defending Praha in 1998 and was converted to horse cavalry in early 1999. It was assigned to the interior of the country; helping to rebuild the area around Brno and keeping the area clear of the bands of marauders from throughout Europe that roam the valley of the Danube and its tributaries.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: vicinity of Brno

Manpower: 3,500

Tanks: none

9th TANK DIVISION

A prewar Category I tank division stationed in the area around Tabor, the 9th Tank led 4th Czechoslovak Army's redeployment to the northwest to counter the rebel East German Army. It entered combat in late November 1997, attacking the East German 4th Motorized Rifle Division in an attempt to relieve elements of the 2nd Polish Army, which was roughly handled by the Germans. It held the southern junction of the Oder River Line (where it turned west with the Czechoslovak border) until Operation Advent Crown broke through the line farther north. Elements of the US III Corps remained in contact, preventing the 9th from penetrating the NATO flank, and the USAF subjected the 9th's assembly areas to vicious air attacks. Nevertheless, the 9th remained



Czechoslovak soldiers occupy Regensburg, Germany, February 1997

intact and effective throughout the remainder of 1997, a constant threat to the German Third Army's southern flank. In 1998 the division was redeployed to southern Germany and stalled outside of Fulda before retreating back to Czechoslovak territory, leaving many of its tanks behind due to lack of fuel. It is located in Pardubice, providing security and engaged in reconstruction.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Pardubice

Manpower: 3,000

Tanks: 4 T-72, 5 T-55, 1 Leopard II

13th TANK DIVISION

A Category III tank division stationed in northwestern Slovakia, the 13th Tank was tasked to provide training for conscripts identified for promotion to sergeant and command of a tank. With the deployment of Czechoslovak units to China in December 1995, the division started a period of rapid training cycles, turning out fresh regiments of soldiers every four months. In the summer of 1997, as the situation in Poland worsened, the 13th Tank was ordered to take its current contingent of trainees and enter the field, holding the northern border of Czechoslovakia. It performed poorly, as its equipment was worn out from years of harsh use and the training of many of its soldiers was far from complete. Many were lost in the onslaught inflicted by the flank security units of the German Third Army, and the division retreated before the Abrams and Leopards – a retreat that spared the division a tactical nuclear strike. The division reformed around the tank production plant at Martin and the surviving instructors incorporated local militias, police and stragglers to rebuild the unit. The Front command has been reluctant to commit it to further action, so the division has been assigned a variety of relief and internal security duties in western Slovakia.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Martin-Zilina area

Manpower: 4,500

Tanks: 13 T-55, 5 T-72

16th TANK DIVISION

A mobilization only division from the Plzen area, the 16th was called up during the desperate late summer of 1997. Due to the losses suffered by the rest of the army, there were few modern tanks available to outfit the division with and no armored personnel carriers or tube artillery, so the division (at only half strength) entered the field with T-34s, heavy mortars and infantry mounted in trucks. Assigned to the heavily battered 4th Czechoslovak Army, the division assumed responsibility for a sector on the East German border to strengthen the Border Guard brigades that were holding that sector of front. When the NATO 1998 offensive started the obsolete tanks of the division were completely ineffective against the modern NATO armor and the division was crushed. The few survivors were reassigned to other units.

17th TANK DIVISION

A mobilization only division from eastern Slovakia, the 17th was raised in the fall of 1997 for internal relief and security duties within Czechoslovakia. It received 50 T-34 tanks, a motley collection of trucks and civilian transportation and a generous allotment of 120mm mortars and was ordered to duty with less than half of its assigned soldiers present. In the spring of 1998 the division was ordered into Austria to replace Soviet units that were moving to the front for the Pact offensive. As the division's vehicles deteriorated, the 2nd Czechoslovak Army commander decided to convert the 17th to a cavalry division, so the unit seized horses from throughout the Army's sector (including many of the famed Lipizzaner stallions). The division remained in Austria on occupation duty when other Pact units moved to counter the combined NATO-Yugoslav offensives in the summer of 1998 and was withdrawn back to the Slovak Republic following the Pact withdrawal from southern Germany. Upon its return, the Czechoslovak high command decided that the unit's men and horses were better used in industry, mining and farming and its weapons could reinforce more experienced units, so the 17th was disbanded.



A column of modernized T-55 tanks of the 24th Motor Rifle Division on occupation duty in Austria, November 1997.

Motor Rifle Divisions

2nd MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A prewar Category I division stationed on the German border in western Bohemia, the 2nd Rifle was one of the breakthrough units of the January 1997 Pact spoiling attack into southern Germany. It reached the Danube and remained in defensive positions throughout the spring, advancing in July as the Italian V Corps drove on Munich. It occupied Nuremburg in August and remained on occupation duty there throughout the first half of 1998. It was 1st Czechoslovak Army's rear guard for the scorched earth retreat from southern Germany following NATO's 1998 summer offensive, taking moderate casualties. The 2nd Rifle now occupies the area around the ruins of Plzen.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: vicinity of Plzen

Manpower: 4,500

Tanks: 4 T-72, 7 T-55, 2 T-84

3rd MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A Category II division stationed in the southeastern Czech republic, the 3rd MRD was brought up to full strength in December 1995 and deployed by rail to Manchuria, where it was used to reinforce the battered Soviet 17th Army. It fought well, earning the commendation of its Soviet commanders. In July 1996, it absorbed the 14th Tank Division's 103rd Tank Regiment, replacing losses it had received in the previous five months of hard fighting. After the fall of China, while the Soviet units of 17th Army were redeployed to occupation duty in Mongolia, the 3rd was released for service at home. Unfortunately, the unit was awaiting a change of trains in Sverdlovsk when the city was destroyed by two 500kt nuclear weapons. There were no survivors from the packed troop trains.

14th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

Originally a Category III tank division stationed in Slovakia, the 14th detached its 103rd Tank Regiment in June 1996 for service in China. A new motor rifle regiment was raised with recruits from northern Moravia, and the division was rebadged as a motor rifle division. The 14th MRD has been in combat since 1997. It took part in the Warsaw Pact offensive into southern East Germany in 1997 and took heavy casualties during the 1998 NATO counteroffensive. It was returned to Moravia in 1999 for rest and refitting (including issue of the last new T-72 tanks produced by the Martin tank works), and has been there ever since. In July 2000, the 14th was moved to the city of Opava and the surrounding countryside.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Opava

Manpower: 2,000

Tanks: 16 T-72

15th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A Category II motor rifle division stationed in southern Bohemia, the 15th Rifle was brought up to full strength in November 1996 with recalled reservists and rushed to the East German front. Upon arrival, it advanced on Dresden, covering elements of the 2nd Polish Army and the Soviet 1st Guards Tank Army before being beaten back with heavy losses by advancing US Army units. In May 1997, the 15th

Rifles absorbed replacements from the interior and launched an attack on the German Third Army's exposed flank as it advanced on Katowice. The division advanced too far for the rest of 4th Czechoslovak Army to support and it was cut off by NATO airmobile troops and pounded by NATO tactical airpower. Once the division's stocks of surface to air missiles were expended, NATO commanders deployed B-52 bombers to carpet bomb the exposed troops. After three days the division commander surrendered to the commander of the US 1st Infantry Division.

18th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A Mobilization Only division from the Praha area, the 18th MRD was hurriedly activated in the spring of 1997 to bring 1st Czechoslovak Army up to strength (replacing the 19th MRD, which had been transferred to 4th Czechoslovak Army). It was rushed to the front in central Germany, where it was roughly handled by Dutch regular troops and NATO airpower. Relieved by other elements of the 1st Czechoslovak Army, one motor rifle regiment was disbanded to restore the other regiments to strength and the division was assigned to a quieter sector of the front. It held a quiet sector of the front during 1998 NATO offensive and detached the remnants of its tank regiment for the Pact counterattack that followed. It has established a cantonment in devastated southwestern Bohemia.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Klatovy-Janovice area

Manpower: 1,500

Tanks: 4 T-55

19th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A prewar Category I division stationed in western Bohemia, the 19th was the first Czechoslovak unit to enter the war in the west when it clashed with Bundeswehr troops outside Karl Marx Stadt in November 1996. It was reassigned from 1st Czechoslovak Army to 4th Czechoslovak Army when the 4th was redeployed from the Austrian border to battle the Germans. It was used as the 4th Army's reserve during the Spring 1997 NATO offensive, and in late May the 4th Army commander, Lieutenant-General Boleslav Myrec, deployed the 19th (with a strength at the time of 6,000 men and 43 tanks) to Katowice, Poland to aid in its defense. On June 1st, as the 4th Army's situation to the west deteriorated, the 4th was recalled to Czechoslovakia. The 19th and the 4th Border Guard Brigade successfully defended Ostrava from NATO flank units, but at great cost in men and material. As the war seesawed across Poland, logistic difficulties prevented it from rebuilding or undertaking any action other than local defense. When the front in Poland moved west, the 19th moved west with it, forming the second line of defense along the border of the former East Germany. During the 1998 NATO offensive, the 4th Border Guard Brigade collapsed, leaving the 19th vulnerable to being cut off by advancing NATO units. The 19th fought its way out of the encirclement and fell back towards Praha, where it strengthened the defenses and held the NATO troops back. Following the NATO withdrawal from Czechoslovak territory, the 19th was withdrawn for disaster relief and internal security duties in the area around Hradec Kralove, absorbing local militia and police units upon its arrival.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Hradec Kralove

Manpower: 4,000

Tanks: 3 T-72, 4 T-55

20th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A prewar Category I division stationed close to the German border in western Bohemia, the 20th MRD has been worn down by years of intense combat. The 20th Rifle was used to bash through the German defenses in southern Germany in the initial spoiling attacks in early 1997 and in the joint Czech-Italian offensive in the summer of 1997. It lost a regiment to NATO tactical nuclear strikes during the fall 1997 NATO retreat and was withdrawn to the area west of Brno for rebuilding. It spent 1998 on occupation duty in Austria and was briefly attached to the 2nd Southwestern Front in Hungary to squash the Yugoslav attack near Lake Balaton, Hungary. In 1999 it was withdrawn from Austria and took up reconstruction and security duties in southern Bohemia.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Tabor

Manpower: 1,500

Tanks: 3 T-72, 5 T-55

24th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A Mobilization Only division from the Bratislava area, the 24th was raised in December 1996 and deployed to the Austrian border. It spent several months there training and organizing, which resulted in its selection to lead the Czechoslovak force advancing on Vienna. It occupied the city after token resistance and linked up with the Italian V Corps by July 1. It remained on occupation duty in Austria, where it suffered light casualties to insurgents and gained a reputation for fairness and good conduct. It was relieved of occupation duty by Soviet units retreating from southern Germany in the summer of 1998. Scattered fighting broke out with Soviet troops as the Czechoslovak commander (never a friend of the USSR) refused to hand over scarce vehicles and supplies. The 24th's subsequent withdrawal back to eastern Slovakia was quick, and the division has made quite a name for itself hunting down Soviet marauders and deserters that attempt to cross the Carpathians into Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak high command considers the division unreliable for offensive operations.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Michalovce

Manpower: 4,500

Tanks: 18 T-55, 2 T-72

26th MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A Mobilization Only division from the Brno area, the 26th was brought to full strength in January 1997 and assigned to 2nd Czechoslovak Army along the Austrian border. Hampered by a lack of modern transport, it played a supporting role in the Pact invasion of Austria and southern Germany in 1997, securing supply lines and rear areas and suffering light casualties from Allied air power and German guerrillas. In the summer of 1998, the 26th was rushed from occupation duty in southern Germany to northwestern Czechoslovakia to counter the NATO offensive, where the soldiers of the 26th acquitted themselves well but suffered heavy casualties. The remaining troops were deployed on internal duties to the northeast of Praha in 1999, battling bandits and marauders and attempting to rebuild the area's battered infrastructure. There is an informal truce in place with the Soviet and NATO troops still battling on the Polish-German border nearby.



A T-72 of the 20th Motor Rifle Division crosses into eastern Bavaria, January 1997 as part of the Pact offensive into southern Germany.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Liberec

Manpower: 1,000

Tanks: 4 T-55

32nd MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION

A Mobilization Only division from the Ostrava area, the 32nd was called up in July 1997. Within two weeks, while still getting organized, the 32nd was ordered to the front to strike the exposed southern flank of retreating NATO forces. NATO reconnaissance aircraft detected the 32nd's advance and the division was destroyed by a tremendous 18-hour barrage of NATO long-range artillery fire and tactical aerial bombing, concluded by a nuclear air-launched cruise missile strike. The few dazed survivors were assigned to other units.

Separate Regiments and Brigades**1st AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE**

A prewar category I formation, the 1st Air Assault Brigade is a premier unit of the Czechoslovak army. The unit was used to seize vital roads and bridges in the Pact offensives in southern Germany. After the nuclear exchange, the unit was stationed in the Plzen area, where it conducted a number of deep penetration raids against the NATO forces in southern Germany. These raids took a heavy toll, and the lack of aircraft has grounded the paratroopers. They were posted to Opava in the fall of 1999 after Krakow declared itself a free city. Although few in number, the Czech paratroopers are one of the most efficient fighting forces left in the Czechoslovak Army.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Opava

Manpower: 100



Troops of the 1st Air Assault Brigade conduct an anti-marauder sweep, northern Moravia, March 2000.

22nd SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT AIRBORNE BRIGADE

A Category I brigade stationed in central Bohemia, the 22nd Airborne was the Czechoslovak People's Army special operations unit. It undertook a series of spectacular raids deep in Germany and Austria throughout 1997 and 1998 in support of the Soviet 1st Southwestern Front's objectives. Some of the 22nd's operations include the assassination of the commander of the German 4th Territorial Army Regional Command immediately before the January 1997 Pact spoiling attack, cratering the runway of the Luftwaffe Ingolstadt air base and dropping two key bridges over the Saale river in June 1998. While the results achieved by the 22nd were significant, so were the casualties, and the 22nd has been unable to replace its losses. To enhance the effectiveness of what remains of the brigade, the army's remaining helicopters (and attendant meager fuel supply) have been assigned to it. It serves as the Czechoslovak Army High Command's reserve, based out of an abandoned Soviet airfield.

Subordination: Soviet 1st Southwestern Front

Current Location: Melnik

Manpower: 75

Aircraft: 2 Mi-24, 3 Mi-17

7th ARTILLERY DIVISION

A prewar Category I division stationed in Pardubice, the 7th was augmented with the Mobilization Only 313th Cannon Artillery Brigade. The division was involved in all the major campaigns of the war, providing long range fire support and interdiction fires. In October 1997 it absorbed the Czechoslovak Army's remaining SS-21, FROG-7 and SS-23 missile assets, retaining the 321st Heavy Artillery Brigade in the division as the headquarters for SSM units. Since the nuclear exchange it has suffered from lack of ammunition for its big guns and many of the highly trained fire support specialists had their lives frittered away as cannon-fodder infantry. The unit is now held in reserve, with duties to help in security and disaster relief in their local area.

Subordination: Soviet 1st Southwestern Front

Current Location: Zatec

Manpower: 700

Systems: 3 SS-23, 4 SS-21, 1 FROG-7, 2 SAU-203, 2 2S4, 8 M-46, 3 Dana

311th HEAVY ARTILLERY BRIGADE (Front)

A Category I brigade stationed in Jince, southwest of Praha. The 1st Southwestern Front's only long-range missile brigade, the 311th was tasked with long-range chemical and nuclear strikes on targets deep in NATO's rear areas. (Nuclear warheads were provided by special KGB teams that controlled use of the warheads). Consequently, it was augmented by troops from the 6th Guard Battalion (which also provided security for Front HQ and the national HQ) to protect the unit's R-400 (SS-23) missiles from NATO special operations forces. The brigade's integral SA-11 battalion and 30-mm anti-aircraft gun battalions warded off NATO fighter-bombers. Nonetheless, the brigade lost half of its TELs prior to the outbreak of tactical nuclear war. NATO located the brigade headquarters in September 1997 and struck it with a 60kt nuclear bomb dropped by a Dutch F-16. The remaining three TELs and troops were absorbed by the 7th Artillery Division.

312th HEAVY ARTILLERY BRIGADE (SSM)

A Mobilization Only unit from the Olomouc area, the 312th was formed in February 1997 to provide 2nd Czechoslovak Army with operational missile support. Equipped with FROG-7 missiles from stores, the reservists of the 312th attacked targets up to 70km in the NATO rear, using conventional high explosive, chemical and tactical nuclear warheads. The 312th's launchers were hunted by German and American special operations forces and NATO tactical aircraft, but a handful survived. In October 1997, the army's remaining SSM units were consolidated into the 7th Artillery Division and the 312th was disbanded.

321st HEAVY ARTILLERY BRIGADE (SSM)

A prewar Category I unit stationed near Plzen, the 321st provided the 1st Czechoslovak Army commander operational-level surface to surface missile support, using SS-21 missiles. The 321st struck critical transportation hubs, NATO headquarters, assembly areas and airfields in support of the Pact attacks into southern Germany in 1997. When the war crossed into the nuclear phase, a Soviet KGB contingent provided nuclear warheads and ultimate control of targeting. In October 1997, Soviet 1st Southwestern Front ordered the army's remaining SSM units to be consolidated into the 7th Artillery Division. The 321st's HQ was kept intact and became the headquarters within the 7th Artillery Division as the SSM command element. The unit retains a handful of missiles, but the KGB detachment and the nuclear warheads have been withdrawn back to the USSR.

Subordination: 7th Artillery Division

Current Location: Zatec

Manpower & Systems: included in 7th Artillery Division above.

322nd CANNON ARTILLERY BRIGADE

A prewar Category I unit stationed outside Plzen, the 322nd provides long-range artillery fire in support of 1st Czechoslovak Army. It has been involved in all of 1st Army's campaigns throughout the war and suffered losses from NATO counterbattery fire and tactical airpower. Damaged and destroyed artillery pieces have been replaced by whatever the brigade commander can acquire, so that by 1999 there was a NATO battery (equipped with captured 105mm and 155mm pieces and a MLRS rocket launcher) and a battalion armed with 120mm mortars.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army
Current Location: Kladno
Manpower: 400

323rd CANNON ARTILLERY BRIGADE

A Mobilization Only unit from the eastern Slovak republic, the Second World War-vintage artillery pieces of this unit provided the long-range fire support for 2nd Czechoslovak Army. It was brought to full strength in November 1996 when 2nd Czechoslovak Army relieved 4th Czechoslovak Army along the Austrian border (so 4th Czechoslovak Army could engage the renegade East German Army). The 323rd performed reasonably well, shelling downtown Vienna in the early days of the Czech-Italian invasion, convincing the Austrian government to flee the city. It was then used for occupation duty in southern Germany, and reinforced 1st Czechoslovak Army's artillery in the spring 1998 offensive. With its prime movers converted from trucks to horses, it moved too slowly to participate in the 1998 Pact counteroffensive, instead providing fire support for Czech units during their scorched-earth withdrawal from southern and central Germany. With the effective withdrawal of the Czechoslovak army from the war in 1999, the 323rd (and the rest of 2nd Czechoslovak Army) was assigned to security and reconstruction tasks in the Slovak republic.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army
Current Location: Poprad
Manpower: 300

331st HEAVY ARTILLERY BRIGADE (SSM)

A Category II unit stationed at Jicin in eastern Moravia, the 332nd was the surface to surface missile brigade assigned to 4th Czechoslovak Army. It was filled out with recently released soldiers and fielded SS-21 missiles to strike Bundeswehr rear areas during the Battle of Germany. It fired off its ready and reserve missiles against NATO bridgeheads across the Oder River during February and March 1997, and only received occasional replacement missiles from the Soviet Union. As a result, it was unable to offer much support to its commander. To divert NATO air and special forces attention from more useful targets, the 4th Army commander transferred all but two of his SS-21 launchers to his penal battalion, which then set up a series of ambushes with the launchers as bait. This succeeded several times and provided additional protection for the 331st's two remaining launchers. In October 1997, all of the Czechoslovak army's remaining SSM units were consolidated in the 7th Artillery Division and the 331st was disbanded.

332nd CANNON ARTILLERY BRIGADE

A Category II unit stationed at Jicin in eastern Moravia, the 332nd provided fire support for all of 4th Czechoslovak Army's major campaigns of the war. The most notable action was the dispatch of a battery of four M-46 130mm guns to augment the defense of Czystochowa during Operation Rampart, the 1997 NATO invasion of Silesia. The 332nd was forced to withdraw before it was able to have a decisive effect on the battle. Throughout the 1997 campaign it lost many guns to NATO airpower and long-range counterbattery fire, particularly from NATO ATACMS missiles and MLRS rockets. The commander of the 4th Czechoslovak Army was determined to keep his heavy fire support assets intact, however, and did so by stripping his divisions (and those of



Troops of the 331st Heavy Artillery Brigade reload their SS-21 launcher vehicle, northern Bohemia, March 1997.

any nearby Soviet or non-Czechoslovakian divisions) of howitzers.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army
Current Location: Olomouc
Manpower: 400

216th ANTITANK REGIMENT

A prewar Category II regiment stationed in northwestern Bohemia, the 216th was brought up to strength in October 1996 in response to the invasion of East Germany. It took part in 1st Czechoslovak Army's attack into Bavaria in January 1997, where it was rushed across the Danube to reinforce the Regensburg bridgehead. Its antitank guns and missile systems suffered from NATO artillery fire throughout the 1997 and 1998 campaign seasons, as the regiment shrank to a weak battalion of experienced and proud tank killers. As tanks are somewhat rare these days, the regiment's anti-tank systems are dug in around its cantonment while its horses are more frequently used to drag plows than guns.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army
Current Location: Teplice
Manpower: 150

217th ANTITANK REGIMENT

A prewar Category II unit stationed south of Praha, the 217th was brought up to full strength with new recruits and recalled reservists in October 1996 and rushed to the Sudetenland. During the Battle of Dresden, it provided flank anti-tank defense for 4th Czechoslovak Army, saving the army from disaster during a midnight attack launched by the US 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment during the height of a blizzard. It took heavy losses in that action, and, reduced to a battalion in size, was withdrawn to form 4th Czechoslovak Army's anti-tank reserve. During Operation Advent Crown a few months later the regiment was overrun south of Legnica, Poland, by elements of German Third Army.

220th ANTITANK REGIMENT

A Mobilization Only unit from the Jihlava area, the 220th was mobilized in May 1997 and stationed on the Austrian border. It took part in the invasion of Austria, seeing little action before the capitulation. It was rushed into Hungary to halt the Yugoslav offensive in the summer of 1998, where its guns proved devastating to the few and obsolete armored vehicles fielded by Yugoslav forces. When Pact forces withdrew from southern Germany the 220th withdrew into Slovakia with the rest of the 2nd Czechoslovak Army, settling

down in the Zvolen area. Upon arrival, it absorbed local internal security troops, local militias and the surviving staff of the nearby Sliac air force base. While nominally loyal, the commander of the 220th is gradually establishing himself as a local warlord.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Zvolen

Manpower: 800

82nd SAM BRIGADE

A Category II brigade stationed in central Bohemia, the 82nd's long-range missiles provided an air defense umbrella for Pact forces in southern Germany, operating a mix of SA-4 and SA-12 missiles protected by light AA guns. The Wild Weasels of NATO's CENTAF quickly destroyed the regiment's SA-4 battalions, and the SA-12s were of limited utility as the stocks of missiles dwindled. The existence of the brigade was of some use to the Soviet 1st Southwestern Front, however, as NATO air planners were forced to divert aircraft from strike duties to suppress the brigade's missiles. Once the war entered the nuclear phase, the brigade's SA-12s were successful in defending the Front HQ from a NATO nuclear-tipped ATACMS missile launched at it. There were no replacement SA-12s, however, so the brigade was reorganized as light infantry and assigned occupation duties in Ingolstadt, Germany. The brigade withdrew in good order from Germany in 1998, returning to central Bohemia, where it became essentially a strong local militia.

Subordination: Soviet 1st Southwestern Front

Current Location: Čáslav

Manpower: 200

171st SAM REGIMENT

A prewar Category I unit stationed near the West German border, the 171st's SA-11 missiles were assigned to protect 1st Czechoslovak Army from NATO airpower. There first major action was covering the seizure of Regensburg, Germany in February 1997, where the regiment downed three NATO aircraft at the cost of almost an entire battalion. Replacement missiles and vehicles trickled in, but never at a rate sufficient to make good the losses the regiment suffered. In August 1997 the Army commander concentrated all remaining anti-aircraft missiles from throughout the 1st Czechoslovak Army in the regiment, augmented by heavy anti-aircraft guns brought out of mobilization stores. The regiment succeeded in protecting the Army headquarters and main logistic base from NATO air attack, although the front-line troops were usually left exposed (at a great cost in lives). As NATO aircraft faded from the skies following the nuclear strikes, the regiment's heavy guns were re-rolled as heavy anti-tank guns, hardening the Army's front line positions. The regiment was removed from 1st Czechoslovak Army's command in the summer of 1998 and rushed to the defense of Praha, where it provided both direct and indirect fire against NATO troops. Following the stabilization of the lines, the regiment was moved northeast of Praha, where it serves as a guard force for 1st Czechoslovak Army headquarters.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Mladá Boleslav

Manpower: 250



A SA-12 battery of the 82nd SAM Brigade moves across the Bavarian countryside, February 1997.

251st SAM REGIMENT

A Category II unit stationed in southern Moravia, the 251st was alerted and brought up to full strength in November 1996 prior to being committed against the Luftwaffe south of Dresden. Its SA-11s took a toll on Luftwaffe close air support aircraft, downing a pair of Alphajets and a BO-105 helicopter in its first two days in action, earning the brigade the designation "Sniper Regiment" from the Warsaw Pact commander. Throughout 1997 this honor ensured that it received priority among non-Soviet units for replacement missiles and vehicles, permitting the unit to remain at a higher strength and level of effectiveness. By the time NATO aircraft disappeared from the skies over Europe, the 251st had downed 38 fixed wing aircraft and 18 helicopters, at the cost of 15 launchers and 35% of the regiment's assigned personnel. In late 1998 the unit converted to light infantry and moved to southeastern Moravia where it undertook anti-marauder operations and tried to rebuild the local infrastructure.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Zlín

Manpower: 300

7th ROAD ENGINEER BRIGADE

A prewar Category III brigade stationed on the border between the Czech and Slovak Republics, the 7th was considered a dumping ground for men unfit for combat units - a cesspool of criminals, incompetents, ethnic minorities and those from families considered politically questionable or dangerous. It was brought up to strength by a cull of the prisons and sweeps of Roma (Gypsy) encampments and assigned to repair road damage behind advancing combat troops. The soldiers of the unit were not equipped with more than a handful of small arms and no heavy weapons for fear of a revolt. The soldiers soon sorted themselves within the brigade, with the 2nd and 4th battalions consisting of hardened or petty criminals and the 1st and 3rd battalions with honest and somewhat reliable soldiers. As NATO airpower devastated the Czech road network, the brigade was withdrawn from duties in southern Germany (where the roads were in better condition after combat than pre-war Czech roads had ever been) and put to work repairing the roads that were needed to carry reinforcements and supplies from the USSR to the front. In August 1997 the soldiers of the 2nd and 4th battalions went on a drunken rampage (after

looting a local brewery). The next morning trucks carrying troops of the 4th Border Guard brigade and SNB internal troops arrived at the battalions' encampments and machine gunned the sleeping criminals. The remaining, hard-working soldiers of the brigade applauded and went to work harder than ever, frequently joined by local civilians eager to restore use of local roads. The status of the brigade's soldiers changed from outcasts to heroes as the restoration work continued throughout 1998 and 1999. As the war wound down, the soldiers of the 7th continued their restoration work, traveling throughout Bohemia and western Moravia.

Subordination: Soviet 1st Southwestern Front

Current Location: Benešov

Manpower: 600

32nd ROAD ENGINEER BRIGADE

A prewar Category III unit, the 32nd shared the reputation and makeup of its sister 7th brigade. The criminal element within the 32nd did not concentrate itself as it did in the 7th, so that the brigade commander eventually was forced to request a battalion of SNB internal troops to maintain order (usually through summary execution). The 32nd took place in the invasion of Austria, where confiscated construction machinery more than made up for the loss of production from executed soldiers. As the war went on, the 32nd was withdrawn from Austria (bringing the heavy equipment with it) and given the mission to repair the roads in eastern Moravia and the Slovak Republic. The brigade has had a higher desertion rate than its sister brigade, mostly due to the poor morale that the battalion of internal troops engenders. As the heavy equipment wears out and fuel becomes increasingly scarce, the brigade's effectiveness is declining rapidly. The brigade commander is planning to use POW labor and heavy-handed local recruitment to meet the requirements he is given by front command.

Subordination: Soviet 1st Southwestern Front

Current Location: Hodonin

Manpower: 450

1st ENGINEER BRIGADE

A Category II unit stationed in western Moravia, the 1st Engineers supported 4th Czechoslovak Army through all the major campaigns of the war. It constructed a major portion of the Czechoslovak sector of the Oder River line in December and January of 1997, and closed several mountain passes over the Tatra mountains to NATO troops during their advance across Poland. After the introduction of tactical nuclear weapons, the brigade was in great demand to dig deep and hard command posts and shelters for 4th Czechoslovak Army's troops. The brigade took heavy losses halting the NATO 1998 offensive, as the soldiers of the brigade fought from the fortifications they had just thrown up in the path of the NATO advance. The remaining specialists, vital assets for the 4th Czechoslovak Army now operate throughout the Army sector in Moravia, engaged in a wide variety of construction, recovery and repair projects.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Prostejov

Manpower: 150

6th ENGINEER BRIGADE

A Category III unit from western Slovakia, the 6th Engineers was brought up to strength with recalled reservists and

students of the Bratislava Polytechnic Institute. It was the most effective unit in 2nd Czechoslovak Army during the invasion of Austria, breaching the hasty obstacles thrown up by the brigade's Austrian counterparts and rapidly repairing the damage inflicted by the fighting on roads, bridge and other objects of importance to the invasion force. Like its sister 32nd Road Engineering Brigade, the 6th benefited from construction equipment seized during the occupation of Austria. The 6th was able to construct effective fortifications with appropriate minefields and obstacles in the summer of 1998 in the Lake Balaton sector, greatly assisting the combined Warsaw Pact force that repulsed the Yugoslav advance through Central Europe. Following the Pact withdrawal from southern Germany, the 6th withdrew from Austria and began a never-ending series of reconstruction tasks throughout the Slovak Republic.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Nitra

Manpower: 400

51st ENGINEER BRIGADE

A Category II unit stationed northwest of Praha, the 51st supported the 1st Czechoslovak Army throughout the war. It was brought up to full strength in December 1996 and deployed to the border with Bavaria. Its troops were in the lead echelons of the Pact spoiling attack in early 1997, clearing obstacles and NATO minefields and playing a key role in the seizure of Regensburg and the establishment and support of the bridgehead over the Danube there. The 51st constructed fortifications all along the Danube River line in the spring of 1997, and in July went over to the offensive again, clearing the way for the joint Pact-Italian invasion of Bavaria. It tried to maintain lines of communications and construct field fortifications during the occupation of Germany, and the brigade was divided into task groups during the scorched earth withdrawal from Germany in August 1998 - one battalion went to reinforce Praha, another prepared the evacuation route while the third supported the retreating troops with obstacles and minefields to slow the advancing NATO troops. Since the withdrawal from Germany it has played a role similar to the engineer brigades in the other two armies, undertaking mobility improvement, construction/reconstruction and repair tasks throughout the 1st Czechoslovak Army sector.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Jince

Manpower: 250

10th PONTOON BRIGADE

A Category II brigade stationed northeast of Praha, the 10th was brought up to strength during the general mobilization that followed German entry into the war. The 10th was a front-level asset, with a role to both support subordinate armies that required supplemental bridging support and to maintain the bridges of the rear area lines of communications. Battalions of the 10th Brigade supported all the major offensives of the war, seeing action in the former East Germany, Bavaria and Austria. During 1997 the brigade became adept at emplacing underwater bridges - erecting them so the road surface was under 6 inches of water, making them difficult to identify from the air. Following the outbreak of nuclear war in the summer of 1997, the 10th was desperately needed to build bridges to replace those that had been reduced to their constituent atoms by NATO nuclear strikes. Faced with a shortage of

bridging equipment, the 10th constructed roadways across anchored barges and enlisted local civilians to cut lumber and salvage materials. The brigade's role in restoring lines of communication ensured that it was not committed to combat during the 1998 offensives and counteroffensives, and the brigade's soldiers rejoiced at the disappearance of NATO airpower which made it possible to work in daylight and cut losses dramatically. With the Czechoslovak army's withdrawal to home territory, the 10th's mission has become to continue to maintain and rebuild bridges damaged during the war. In early 2000 it began an effort to replace pontoon bridges with more traditional bridges in order to reduce the maintenance required in anchoring pontoons and to reopen the waterways for transportation of vital goods.

Subordination: Soviet 1st Southwestern Front

Current Location: Olomouc

Manpower: 200

72nd PONTOON REGIMENT

A prewar Category III unit stationed in central Bohemia, the 72nd was hurriedly mobilized as 4th Czechoslovak Army moved towards the East German border. The brigade threw a half dozen bridges over the Elbe and Niesse rivers to support not only the 4th Czechoslovak Army but also the 2nd Polish Army and Soviet forces fighting the renegade National Volksarmee troops. When the US and western allies entered the war the regiment's bridges were selected for special attention by NATO tactical airpower, with all of them damaged or destroyed within two days and heavy losses among the brigade's troops. The survivors withdrew for rebuilding as the Pact forces retreated before NATO armies, but the regiment never returned to full strength. The regiment spent 1997 maintaining bridges in 4th Czechoslovak Army's rear area, keeping the flow of supplies and reinforcements going. In 1998 the regiment absorbed all bridging and river crossing elements from 4th Czechoslovak Army's subordinate divisions and was tasked with rebuilding bridges destroyed during the nuclear exchange and the thaw that followed the harsh winter of 1997-1998. By 2000 it had rebuilt all the major bridges within its area of responsibility, although usually at greatly reduced capacity. It then began to concentrate on road repair, building a cantonment adequate to feed the remaining troops, and reconstructing smaller river crossings.

Subordination: 4th Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Prerov

Manpower: 125

91st PONTOON REGIMENT

A Category II unit stationed northwest of Praha, the 91st was brought up to full strength in late 1996 with recalled reservists and fresh draftees. It spent 1997 in support of 1st Czechoslovak Army's offensives in southern Germany, constructing a series of bridges across the Danube and Isar, at heavy cost in equipment and personnel. As the war continued and Czechoslovakia's transportation infrastructure was shredded by NATO airpower, the 91st was recalled to Czechoslovakia to maintain the lines of communications and repair or replace bridges damaged by NATO attacks. At first, the regiment was able to make use of newly manufactured replacement equipment or stockpiles of older bridging systems that had been dispersed near major rivers. As the war continued the regiment was forced to improvise when making repairs and limit the capacity of the replacement bridges, as materials have grown scarce. In 2000, the 91st has concentrated on rebuilding the bridges over the Elbe and Vltava rivers in northern Bohemia. It provides a core of experienced engineers, who rely on local recruiting for raw labor for each restoration project. Despite these labor levies, it is one of the Czechoslovak army's most popular units among the local populace, who are grateful for the reconstruction performed by the regiment's soldiers.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Melnik

Manpower: 200

Border Guard Brigades

3rd BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

The 3rd was formed in early 1997 by splitting the 7th Border Guard Brigade in two and bringing both organizations up to strength with members of the Interior Ministry's SNB internal security troops. The unit remained in Czechoslovakia when the 7th deployed into southern Germany, performing rear area security duties. In late 1997 it joined other Border Guard brigades in the Sudetenland facing withdrawing NATO troops. In August of 1998, the brigade was virtually destroyed during the NATO offensive. After the front stabilized, it was withdrawn to Opava, where it remained through 2000. The commander is Captain Miklos Bily.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Opava

Manpower: 300

4th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

This unit, like the other Border Guard brigades, started the war under the command of the Interior Ministry rather than the Ministry of National Defense. Stationed in Znojmo on the Austrian Border, the 4th was brought under military control in March 1997 and deployed to northern Moravia to undertake internal security duties protecting key transportation hubs, radar sites and industrial facilities from NATO raiding forces. In June it entered combat against NATO troops advancing on Ostrava, reinforcing the 19th MRD. As 1998 began, the 4th was stationed along the border with the former East Germany. It was overrun in the NATO 1998 offensive, and survivors were absorbed by the 19th MRD.



A BMP-B crosses the upper Elbe River east of Praha on a bridge repaired by troops of the 91st Pontoon Regiment, April 1999.

5th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

Based in Cheb on the border with West Germany, the 5th was one of the strongest border guard brigades in Czechoslovak service at the outbreak of war. It split in two, forming the 8th Border Guard brigade, and was brought back up to strength with volunteers from the Communist Party Youth league and recalled reservists. While in the process of reorganizing, the 5th was brought under military control and tasked to provide rear area security for the Pact offensive into southern Germany in early 1997. Nonetheless, it was committed to action and performed adequately (mostly due to the limited extent of the Pact penetration into southern Germany.) During the NATO offensive into Poland in summer, 1997, the 5th was recalled back to Czechoslovakia to guard the border with the former East Germany as the 4th Czechoslovak Army spread farther east. It remained northwest of Praha throughout late 1997 and the first half of 1998 before being smashed by the NATO 1998 offensive. The remnants were withdrawn to the interior for reconstruction and internal security duties, stationed in the vicinity of Pardubice

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Pardubice

Manpower: 300

7th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

Based at Susice on the West German border, the 7th was brought under military control at the outbreak of the war. It split in two, forming the 3rd Border Guard Brigade and returning to full strength with recalled reservists and members of the Interior Ministry's SNB internal security forces. It received all new equipment, including a consignment of Alligator armored cars, and was sent into Germany on occupation duties. It hunted German Territorial Army stragglers and NATO paratroopers throughout the spring and summer of 1997. During the winter of 1997-1998, the 7th became the occupation force in Augsburg, Germany. During the Pact spring 1998 offensive, the brigade was struck by several tactical nuclear weapons while advancing on Frankfurt and was destroyed, the survivors being absorbed by other Czechoslovak units.

8th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

The 8th was formed in early 1997 by splitting the 5th Border Guard Brigade in two and bringing both organizations up to strength with volunteers from the Czechoslovak Communist Party's Youth League. It performed internal security tasks in western Bohemia, and in late 1997 was assigned a sector of the border in the Sudetenland. In August 1998 it was hit with the full brunt of the NATO offensive and took heavy casualties. The remnants of the brigade were posted to the interior around the area of Dvorce, with Lieutenant Piotyr Marczak, the highest-ranking officer to survive, in command. When the Soviet 9th TD mutinied a year later, Marczak took the act as inspiration to a greater deed, and defected (with his entire unit) to the US military government, renaming his unit Marczak's Legion.

Subordination: none

Current Location: south of Gluchohlazy, Poland

Manpower: 214

Tanks: none

9th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

Based at Domazlice on the West German border, the 9th was brought under military control in January 1997 and took part in the Pact stalling attack into Bavaria shortly thereafter. It protected the southern flank of 1st Czechoslovak Army and was the first Czechoslovak unit to link up with the advancing Italian V Corps in the summer of 1997. Led by a hard core communist, it remained in southern Germany on occupation duty, where it gained a reputation for brutality and extreme violence. During the scorched earth withdrawal following the 1998 NATO offensive, the 9th was used to maintain discipline by shooting deserters (in addition to being the most prolific looters and destroyers of German property). Upon return to Czechoslovakia, the 9th was recognized for its revolutionary zeal by assignment to serve as a praetorian guard for the Communist Party headquarters bunker complex.

Subordination: Czechoslovak Army High Command

Current Location: Vrchlabi

Manpower: 500

10th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

The 10th Border Guard Brigade was formed at the outbreak of war from students and cadre of the 12th Border Guard Brigade (the Border Guard force's training unit). It was assigned to the 4th Czechoslovak Army to provide rear area and flank security along the border with the former East Germany. The brigade's sector kept stretching east as NATO forces advanced into Poland and 4th Czechoslovak Army tried to maintain the Czechoslovak state's northern border. The 10th performed well in clashes with the US 38th Infantry Division and other NATO flank units. It was withdrawn from the front to perform internal security tasks north of Praha in the fall of 1997 and was spared the full brunt of the NATO 1998 attacks. It held a key position in the defense of Praha and pursued the retreating NATO troops back to the German border. After the restoration of the border, the brigade was withdrawn to western Slovakia, assigned to security and restoration efforts in the Vah river valley northeast of Bratislava, anchored on a chain of small hydroelectric power plants.

Subordination: 2nd Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Trencin/Puchov, Slovakia

Manpower: 450

11th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

Based at Bratislava, the 11th was assigned to the 2nd Czechoslovak Army with responsibility for protecting the Austrian border. During the invasion of Austria, the 11th provided flank security and undertook raids to the west, disrupting columns of fleeing civilians to prevent Austrian units from reaching the front. After the fall of Austria, the unit was tasked to patrol Pact lines of communication between Vienna and the Czech and Hungarian borders to the east. In 1998, the 11th was deployed to the south to defeat Yugoslav forces advancing on Lake Balaton. Following the Pact withdrawal from southern Germany, the 11th was withdrawn from Austria and it was sent to secure the small oilfield near Gbely, the largest operating oilfield in Czechoslovakia and the sole source of petroleum products under government control. The brigade has set up a primitive "teapot" refinery, which turns out small quantities of avgas, asphalt, gasoline, diesel, lubricating oil and furnace oil. Due to the importance of this facility, the brigade has been reinforced with experienced troops from the army, tanks and one of the

Czechoslovak army's remaining helicopters, flown and maintained by pre-war Border Guard pilots and ground crew.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Gbely

Manpower: 800

Tanks: 8 T-72, 6 T-55

Helicopters: 1 W-3 Sokol

12th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

Stationed west of Praha near the West German border, the 12th served as the Border Guard force's peacetime training unit. At the outbreak of war, the 12th's current class of students formed the 10th Border Guard Brigade (led by a portion of the instructors) and entered the field, while the 12th began high-intensity abbreviated training of new conscripts as replacements for losses in other Border Guard units. When the war entered the nuclear phase, the flow of recruits diminished markedly and the 12th became responsible for local area security. In 1998, it deployed from its home station to counter the NATO offensive, performing adequately. With the NATO withdrawal, it became responsible for border security in the western end of the country, not far from its peacetime garrison.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Karlovy Vary

Manpower: 600

15th BORDER GUARD BRIGADE

Based at České Budějovice on the Austrian border, the 15th was brought under military control in January 1997. It split the 4th Border Guard Brigade's sector with the 11th Border Guard Brigade until the invasion of Austria, when it advanced on and occupied Linz. It provided rear area security for the Pact forces in Austria throughout 1997 and early 1998. In September 1998 it was relieved by retreating Soviet units and was withdrawn back to Czechoslovakia. It provides security along the Praha-Brno highway.

Subordination: 1st Czechoslovak Army

Current Location: Jihlava

Manpower: 450



Gunners of the 15th Motor Rifle Division's 36th Artillery Regiment try to repulse an attack by VII US Corps, vicinity of Dresden, Germany, December 1996.



A Czech infantryman and his AGS-17 grenade launcher overlooking a Central European town, date and location unknown.



A M-53-59 self-propelled anti-aircraft gun emplaced near Plzen, November 1998.



Recalled reservists of the 24th Motor Rifle Division by their OT-810 APC before invading Austria, Summer 1997.



A platoon of T-55s of the 4th Tank Division prior to entering combat against the British 2nd Armoured Division as part of the Warsaw Pact counterattack, northeast of Praha, September 1998.



BMPs of the 19th Motor Rifle Division under NATO attack south of Katowice, Poland during Operation Rampart, May 28, 1997.



RM-70 rocket launcher system of the 1st Tank Division in action against NATO counterattack, Regensburg, Germany, January 1997.



BMPs of the 14th Tank Division en route to China, June 1996.

Organization:

The Czechoslovak People's Army was organized along standard Soviet lines. (Use the tables of organization and equipment contained in the *Soviet Vehicle Guide*). It was equipped with some weapons of indigenous design and manufacture – the OT-64, OT-62 and OT-810 APCs (equivalent to the Soviet BTR-70 and BTR-50 and Second World War German SdKfz.251 respectively), the Dana 152mm self-propelled howitzer in lieu of the SAU-152/2S3 Soviet system and the RM-70 mounting for the Soviet BM-21 multiple-launch rocket system, in addition to the products of Czechoslovakia's historically strong small arms industry. Czechoslovakia actually spent more per capita on its military than the USSR, which is reflected by the standard of equipment provided to its army. For example, the Czechoslovak Army's Category I and II motor rifle divisions were equipped with two BMP regiments and one OT-64 regiment – a standard of equipment achieved by only select Red Army Category I motor rifle divisions. In addition, the Czechoslovak Category II and III divisions differed from their Soviet counterparts in having complete equipment sets, although usually of older generation equipment such as BMP-A AIFVs and T-55 tanks. (See the description of readiness categories contained in the Organization chapter in the *Soviet Vehicle Guide*).

Composition of Czechoslovak People's Army units

	Tank Battalions			Motor Rifle Battalions					
	T-72	T-55M	T-34	BMP-B	BMP-A	OT-64	OT-62	OT-810	truck
1 st Tank Division	10			6					
4 th Tank Division		11			6				
9 th Tank Division	10			6					
13 th Tank Division		11			6				
14 th Tank Division		9			5	3			
16 th Tank Division			4						5
17 th Tank Division			1						5
2 nd Motor Rifle Division	6				7	3			

3 rd Motor Rifle Division		7			7	3			
15 th Motor Rifle Division	6				7	3			
18 th Motor Rifle Division		6					1	2	7
19 th Motor Rifle Division	6				7	3			
20 th Motor Rifle Division	6				7	3			
24 th Motor Rifle Division		6					1	2	7
26 th Motor Rifle Division		6					1	2	7
32 nd Motor Rifle Division		6					1	2	7

	Artillery Battalions								
	SAU-203 & 2S4	Dana	SAU-122	D-30	M-30	M-46	ML-20	A-19	M-53
1 st Tank Division		3	4						
4 th Tank Division		2		4					
9 th Tank Division		3	2						
13 th Tank Division		1			6				
14 th Tank Division		1			6				
2 nd Motor Rifle Division		1	1	6					
3 rd Motor Rifle Division		1		6					
15 th Motor Rifle Division		1		6					
18 th Motor Rifle Division					2				3
19 th Motor Rifle Division		1	2	4					
20 th Motor Rifle Division		1	2	4					
24 th Motor Rifle Division					2				3
26 th Motor Rifle Division					1				4
32 nd Motor Rifle Division					1				4
7 th Artillery Division	1	1				4			
313 th Cannon Arty Brigade							1	2	
322 nd Cannon Arty Brigade		2				2			
323 rd Cannon Arty Brigade		2						2	
332 nd Cannon Arty Brigade							1	2	

	Rocket & Missile Battalions					Air Defense Battalions					
	SS-23	FROG-7	SS-21	RM-70	M-51	SA-11	SA-8	SA-6	SA-12	SA-4	Vz.53 AA
1 st Tank Division				2			3				
4 th Tank Division				1		3					
9 th Tank Division				2		3					
13 th Tank Division					1			3			
14 th Tank Division					1			3			
16 th Tank Division					1						1
17 th Tank Division					1						1
2 nd Motor Rifle Division				1		3					
3 rd Motor Rifle Division				1				3			
15 th Motor Rifle Division				1				3			
18 th Motor Rifle Division					1						3
19 th Motor Rifle Division				1				3			
20 th Motor Rifle Division				1		3					
24 th Motor Rifle Division					1						3
26 th Motor Rifle Division					1						3
32 nd Motor Rifle Division					1						3
311 th Heavy Arty Brigade	2					1					1
312 th Heavy Arty Brigade		2									
321 st Heavy Arty Brigade			2								
331 st Heavy Arty Brigade			2								

	SS-23	FROG-7	SS-21	RM-70	M-51	SA-11	SA-8	SA-6	SA-12	SA-4	Vz.53 AA
82 nd SAM Brigade									1	2	1
171 st SAM Regiment						3					
251 st SAM Regiment						3					



Czechoslovak Dana howitzers fire from hasty positions, Bohemia, fall 1997

Equipment Descriptions

The following material supplements the VEHICLES section and other sections of the equipment list, *Soviet Vehicle Guide* and *Heavy Weapons Guide*.

Unarmored Cargo Vehicles

Tatra 805: The Tatra 805 was introduced to replace the Praga A150 in the mountain transport role. It has exceptional high-altitude performance, but was phased out due to a number of unspecified problems. The 805's very high ground clearance contributes to its off-road mobility, particularly in rocky terrain.

Price: \$6,334 (-/R) Tr Mov: 158/64 Com Mov: 40/16 Fuel Cap: 120 Fuel Cons: 54 Fuel Type: G, A Load: 1.5 tons Veh Wt: 2.75 tons Mnt: 2 Crew: 2 + 6 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: Open Config: Std Susp: W(2) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1

Avia TNK: This is a new Czech truck introduced in 1993. The vehicle has a cabover design with a two-man cab. The TNK is designed to fill a number of roles, such as cargo/troop carrier, shelter carrier, and container carrier. For loading, the entire vehicle can be lowered by 200mm. It is possible to carry both NATO and Pact shelters and containers. Standard equipment issued with each vehicle includes a decontamination kit, 3kW generator, WL spotlight, and snow chains.

Price: \$6,500 (-/S) Tr Mov: 142/56 Com Mov: 36/14 Fuel Cap: 195 Fuel Cons: 31 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 2.5 tons Veh Wt: 3.5 tons Mnt: 2 Crew: 2 + 10 Night Vision: Headlights, WL Spot Radiological: Open Config: Std Susp: W(2) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1

Praga V3S: Czechoslovakia first produced this vehicle in the early 1950s. Its replacement was the Zil-131, but large numbers of the V3S were still being used at the time of the war. It is a conventional-layout, 6x6 truck. Two jerry cans may be stowed behind the front bumper, and some also have a winch with a 3.5-ton capacity. There is a hatch with a machinegun mount over the passenger position in the cab; however, no weapon is provided with the vehicle. The rear cargo area has a tarpaulin cover with bows, and other variants include a crane truck, dump truck, workshops, tanker, and tractor-trailer. The chassis is also used to mount a 32-round 130mm MRL or an M53/59 anti-aircraft gun. (Statistics refer to 98hp and 110hp versions)

Price: \$8,600 (R/S) Tr Mov: 130-135/50-55 Com Mov: 32-34/12-13 Fuel Cap: 120 Fuel Cons: 35/40 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 3 tons Veh Wt: 5.4 tons Mnt: 4 Crew: 2+13 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: Open Config: Std Susp: W(3) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1



Praga V3S truck

Tatra 111: For some time, this truck series was the most powerful truck used by the Czechs. Originally produced during the Second World War, they were replaced in service by the TATRA 138. However, at the outbreak of the war, many were still found in civilian roles and were pressed into service in mobilization-only units. The TATRA 111NR has a winch with a capacity of 6 tons. Variants include several tractor trucks, a crane-shovel, several crane trucks, several tankers, and a dump truck.

Price: \$11,733 (-/R) Tr Mov: 125/50 Com Mov: 31/13 Fuel Cap: 135 Fuel Cons: 65 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 8 tons Veh Wt: 8.6 tons Mnt: 6 Crew: 3 + 32 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: Open Config: Std Susp: W(3) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1

Tatra 138: This truck replaced the TATRA 111, and was in turn replaced by the TATRA 148. It is an evolutionary development of the TATRA 111. It is a conventional-layout truck, with a cargo area that has drop sides. Variants include several crane trucks, a tractor truck, a crane/shovel, a couple of dump trucks, and an airfield lighting truck with a large signal light.

Price: \$12,388 (S/C) Tr Mov: 114/46 Com Mov: 29/12 Fuel Cap: 150 Fuel Cons: 65 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 8 tons Veh Wt: 8.75 tons Mnt: 7 Crew: 3 + 32 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: Open Config: Std Susp: W(3) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1

Tatra 148: This is a somewhat old Czech truck, first produced in 1972. It is a basic cargo vehicle with a conventional layout, and variants include the TZ-74

decontamination vehicle, the CAS-32 fire engine, the TATRA 148S series dump trucks, the NT series tractor-trailers, and a variety of hard bodies and tankers.

*Price: \$10,400 (R/S) Tr Mov: 112/44 Com Mov: 28/ 11
Fuel Cap: 200 Fuel Cons: 78 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 9.1 tons Veh Wt: 11.1 tons Mnt: 8 Crew: 3 + 36 Night
Vision: Headlights Radiological: Open Config: Stnd
Susp: W(3) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1*



Tatra 813 heavy truck

Tatra 813: The first vehicles of this type were produced in Czechoslovakia in 1968. The chassis is related to the OT-64 APC, and is an 8x8 truck with good off-road performance. The cab is large, allowing for the seating of 7 persons including the driver. The cab is pressurized and has two hatches in the roof, one of which has a weapon mount. The rear cargo area has drop sides and rear, and is made of steel. The TATRA 813 has a 22-ton winch at the front, and some are mounted with a snowplow. This vehicle is used to move pontoon bridges or scissors bridges, and some are used as the basis for the RM-70 40-round 122mm MRL. There are also versions of this truck that tow semi-tractor trailers (65 tons), dump trucks, and crane trucks. Only non-Soviet Warsaw Pact armies and India use the TATRA 813.

*Price: \$13,700 (R/C) Tr Mov: 130/50 Com Mov: 32/13
Fuel Cap: 520 Fuel Cons: 91 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 8.2 tons Veh Wt: 13.8 tons Mnt: 7 Crew: 7 + 28 Night
Vision: Headlights Radiological: Enclosed (Cab only)
Config: Stnd Susp: W(4) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1*

Tatra T815 4x4: This is the smallest of the T815 family, with 4 wheels and a smaller bed and load capability. It is otherwise similar to the T815 8x8, except that the cab may only hold 4 people comfortably. Variants include cargo/troop carrier, workshop carrier, launcher for reconnaissance drones, fire truck, and a civilian model. Czechoslovakia and India use the T815 4x4.

*Price: \$12,900 (-/S) Tr Mov: 160/ 65 Com Mov: 40/16
Fuel Cap: 230 Fuel Cons: 98 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 5.8 tons Veh Wt: 9.2 tons Mnt: 5 Crew: 4 +20 Night*

*Vision: Headlights Radiological: Enclosed (Cab only)
Config: Stnd Susp: W(2) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1*

Tatra T815 6x6: This is a smaller version of the Kolos listed below, with 6 wheels and a smaller cargo bed and load capability. It is otherwise similar to the T815 8x8. Versions of this vehicle include cargo/troop carrier, tanker, decontamination vehicle, container carrier, bridging carrier, radar or antenna carrier, command post carrier, NBC reconnaissance vehicle, recovery vehicle, and fire truck. The T815 6x6 is also the chassis for the TATRAPan APC. Czechoslovakia and India use the T815 6x6.

*Price: \$14,170 (R/S) Tr Mov: 125/50 Com Mov: 31/13
Fuel Cap: 460 Fuel Cons: 86 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 8 tons Veh Wt: 12.8 tons Mnt: 7 Crew: 4 + 28 Night
Vision: Headlights Radiological: Enclosed (Cab only)
Config: Stnd Susp: W(3) Armor: HF1 HS1 HR1*



Tatra 815 6x6 truck

Tatra T815 8x8 Kolos: This replaced the TATRA 813 in Czech service (though the TATRA 813 is still being used). It is an 8x8 truck with independent suspension for each wheel, and has good off-road performance. The cab is fully enclosed and has room for six people including the driver, and has a roof hatch with a weapon mount. The cab is NBC sealed and has a heater. The cargo area has drop sides and rear, and can be covered by a tarpaulin. There is a winch mounted in the front bumper that has a capacity of 12 tons, and has 85m of cable. The Kolos may be equipped with an arrow-type snowplow or a dozer blade. Variants include a tractor-trailer (may tow 25 tons, or 100 tons on hard roads), pontoon or ribbon bridge carrier, RM-70 122mm MRL carrier, decontamination vehicle, command post carrier, minelayer, radar vehicle, and recovery vehicle. The TATRA T815 is also the chassis for the Dana and Ondova SP howitzers. Czechoslovakia, other non-Soviet Warsaw pact nations, India, Saudi Arabia, and the UN use the Kolos.

Price: \$15,650 (R/S) *Tr Mov:* 120/48 *Com Mov:* 30/12
Fuel Cap: 460 *Fuel Cons:* 97 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A
Load: 10 tons *Veh Wt:* 15.9 tons *Mnt:* 9 *Crew:* 6 + 44
Night Vision: Headlights *Radiological:* Enclosed (Cab only) *Config:* Std *Susp:* W(4) *Armor:* HF1 HS1 HR1

Tatra AV-15 Heavy Recovery Truck: This Czechoslovakian recovery vehicle is based on the TATRA T815 Kolos 8x8 truck. It is equipped with a telescoping boom crane that can lift 12 tons at 3 meters, or 4 tons at 5 meters reach. The AV-15 is equipped with two winches; the front winch has a capacity of 27.5 tons, while the rear winch has a capacity of 29.6 tons, both with 150 meters of cable. The AV-15 has a front-mounted dozer blade to brace the vehicle during winching or heavy lifting operations. There is a third, auxiliary winch with a capacity of 7 tons, also pulling to the rear. This winch has 320 meters of cable. The AV-15 carries tow bars and cables, and may tow a vehicle of 65 tons weight, or half that cross-country. Other equipment normally carried by the AV-15 includes a welding and cutting set and basic, wheeled vehicle, and excavating tools.

Price: \$33,500 (-/R) *Tr Mov:* 155/93 *Com Mov:* 27/16
Fuel Cap: 460 *Fuel Cons:* 77 *Fuel Type:* D, A *Load:* 8 tons *Veh Wt:* 15.8 tons *Mnt:* 5 *Crew:* 6 *Night Vision:* Headlights *Radiological:* Enclosed (Cab only) *Config:* Std *Susp:* W(4) *Armor:* HF1 HS1 HR1

Main Battle Tanks

T-55AM2: This is a modernized T-55. The T-55 was sold to and manufactured in Czechoslovakia from the 1950s by the thousands; by the early 1990s, Czechoslovakia had come up with an upgrade package that basically carried out almost every modification done on Warsaw Pact tanks through the decades. They then offered this upgrade package for export, and modified a large number of their T-55s to this standard.

The upgrades begin with appliqué armor to the turret and hull; for the turret, this is similar to the "horseshoe" armor first fielded by the Soviets in the 1960s, but is also spaced. The added hull armor consists of spaced steel plates for the glacis and lower nose, and side skirts that also incorporate spaced armor; in addition, extra belly protection is provided. The gun is the same 100mm rifled gun, but a thermal sleeve is added to prevent warping under sustained fire. Rubber parts are largely replaced with hard vulcanized rubber, ceramic, or metal to increase protection against napalm-type flammables and Molotov cocktails. A screen is provided for the engine for the same reason. On either side of the rear of the turret is a bank of seven smoke grenade launchers. The engine has

been modified to increase the output to 610 horsepower. The suspension is modified to provide a smoother ride; this also contributes to firing on the move. The tracks have been redesigned to nearly double their life. Finally, a laser rangefinder has been added, and the gun given more stabilization.

Price: \$356,500 (R/S) *Fire Control:* +2 *Stabilization:* Fair *Armament:* 100mm gun, PK, DShK (C) *Ammo:* 34 x 100mm, 3000 x 7.62L, 500 x 12.7B *Tr Mov:* 56/40
Com Mov: 16/10 *Fuel Cap:* 812 + 380 *Fuel Cons:* 350
Fuel Type: D, A *Load:* 400 kg *Veh Wt:* 38.5 tons *Mnt:* 13 *Crew:* 4 *Night Vision:* Act/Pass IR, WL or IR searchlight *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Trtd *Susp:* T(6) *Armor:* TF43Sp TS12Sp TR11 HF54Sp HS10Sp HR8

T-72M3CZ: The T-72M1CZ is a Czechoslovak copy of the Soviet T-72. The Czechs, as they tend to do, further upgraded the T-72, producing the T-72M3CZ. The T-72M3CZ adds a thermal imager for the commander and gunner; the driver retains a passive IR viewer. The laser rangefinder is supplemented with a computerized gunnery system. The T-72M3CZ also has an inertial land navigation capability and an automatic fire extinguishing system.

Price: \$503,000 (-/R) *Fire Control:* +3 *Stabilization:* Fair *Armament:* 125mm gun, PK, NSV(C) *Ammo:* 37 x 125mm, 2000 x 7.62mmL, 720 x 12.7mmB *Tr Mov:* 117/82
Com Mov: 25/ 20 *Fuel Cap:* 1000 + 400 *Fuel Cons:* 362 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A *Load:* 500 kg *Veh Wt:* 46 tons *Mnt:* 15 *Crew:* 3 *Night Vision:* WL/IR Searchlight, Thermal Imaging, Passive IR *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Trtd *Susp:* T(6) *Armor:* TF103 TS24 TR19 HF129Cp HS17Sp HR 12

Self Propelled Artillery

Dana (Vzor 77): The Dana is an extensively modified Tatra T-815 Kolos truck chassis with a turret in the center mounting a 152mm howitzer. Aside from the turret, the most extensive modification is the fully armored body and the engine that has been moved to the rear of the vehicle. The turret may be traversed 112.5 degrees to the right and left of center. There is a modification of this vehicle with a longer barreled howitzer (the Ondava), as well as a version with the turret mounted on the chassis of a T-72 tank. The cab of the Dana has roof hatches for the driver and commander. The turret is divided into two compartments due the combination of small turret and large gun, and each of these compartments has a door on the side of the turret and a roof hatch. In addition, on the right compartment of the turret (the smaller one), there is a small cupola mounting a heavy machinegun. This vehicle is in service with

Czechoslovakia, Libya, and (in relatively small numbers) Poland. An overload of 60 howitzer rounds may be carried, but Travel Move and Combat Move is reduced by 10%. The Ondova is a Dana with a longer 53-caliber barrel, allowing for extended range. It is otherwise the same as the Dana. It is very rare.

Price: \$243,750/\$283,400 (-/R) *Fire Control:* +1 *Stabilization:* Basic *Armament:* 152mm L/37 Howitzer, NSV (C) / 152mm L/53 Howitzer, NSV (C) *Ammo:* 40 x 152mm, 300 x 12.7mmB *Tr Mov:* 120/73 *Com Mov:* 29/17 *Fuel Cap:* 690 *Fuel Cons:* 126 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A *Load:* 500 kg *Veh Wt:* 28.1/28.9 tons *Mnt:* 8 *Crew:* 5 *Night Vision:* Active/Passive IR *Radiological:* Enclosed *Config:* Trtd *Susp:* W(4) *Armor:* TF6 TS6 TR6 HF6 HS5 HR4

Ondova T-72M1: This is the turret of the Ondova replacing the normal turret of a T-72M1 tank. This modification was done to meet a need for a new Indian tracked self-propelled howitzer. The advantage of the tracked chassis is greater cross-country mobility; however, the tracked chassis is heavier and mechanically more complex than the wheeled chassis. The Ondova T-72M1 has a 5kW auxiliary power unit to operate the mechanisms and radios while the engine is shut down. The howitzer is equipped with an autoloader that doubles the normal rate of fire. The hoped-for sale to India did not occur; however, the Czechs are actively shopping the design around to other countries. When the War began in earnest, the Ondova T-72M1 was placed into service with the Czech military in small numbers, until the plant was shut down by allied bombing in 1997.

Price: \$313,500 (-/R) *Fire Control:* +1 *Stabilization:* Basic *Armament:* 152mm L/53 Howitzer, NSV (C) *Ammo:* 40 x 152mm, 300 x 12.7mmB *Tr Mov:* 142/100 *Com Mov:* 30/20 *Fuel Cap:* 1000 + 400 *Fuel Cons:* 289 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A *Load:* 750 kg *Veh Wt:* 38 tons *Mnt:* 16 *Crew:* 4 *Night Vision:* Active/Passive IR *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Trtd *Susp:* T(6) *Armor:* TF6 TS6 TR6 HF100 HS14 HR8



Ondava Self-propelled 152mm howitzer

RM-70: This is a Czech multiple rocket launcher, using the same launcher as the Soviet BM-21 MRL on a Tatra T-815 Kolos heavy truck, and also carrying an extra pack of rockets in the cargo bed. The MRL has typical, but not advanced, fire control systems, and is equipped with front-mounted winch with a capacity of 12 tons and 85 meters of cable. The cab has an integral NBC filter system that the crew may plug their vehicular protective masks into. Some of these vehicles are fitted with a front-mounted dozer blade. The cargo area is largely taken up by the MRL and extra rocket pack, but there is a small space between the cab and extra rocket pack for crew equipment. Former East German RM-21 systems were used by Germany during the war.

Price: \$91,000 (R/S) *Fire Control:* none *Stabilization:* none *Armament:* 40-round 122mm Rocket Launcher *Ammo:* 80x122mm Rockets *Tr Mov:* 105/65 *Com Mov:* 20/10 *Fuel Cap:* 460 *Fuel Cons:* 99 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A *Load:* 800 kg *Veh Wt:* 25.3 tons *Mnt:* 12 *Crew:* 6 *Night Vision:* Headlights *Radiological:* Enclosed (Cab Only) *Config:* Stnd *Susp:* W(4) *Armor:* HF2 HS2 HR2

PRAM-S Mortar Carrier: This is a Czech vehicle based upon a BMP-2 chassis. The turret of the BMP-2 is removed and the roof has been raised. The chassis has been lengthened, and now has seven road wheels. The mortar is mounted in the forward part of the vehicle behind the driver position and engine compartment. The commander is seated to the right of the mortar with a hatch overhead. To the rear of the commander's hatch is a mount, which normally has an NSV machinegun. In the rear of the vehicle is a door through which ammunition can be relayed to a conveyor. The mortar can be laid and fired with complete armor protection. Only 20 of these vehicles were built by the November nuclear strikes so they are very rare.

Price: \$101,500 (-/-) *Fire Control:* none *Stabilization:* none *Armament:* 120mm breech-loading mortar, NSV (C) *Ammo:* 80 x 120mm, 500 x 12.7mmB *Tr Mov:* 125/88 *Com Mov:* 25/20/3 *Fuel Cap:* 462 *Fuel Cons:* 110 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A *Load:* 400 kg *Veh Wt:* 17 tons *Mnt:* 7 *Crew:* 4 *Night Vision:* Active/Passive IR *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Stnd *Susp:* T(3) *Armor:* HF8 HS4 HR4



PRAM-S mortar carrier

M-53/59: This older Czech self-propelled antiaircraft gun is mounted on an armored and much-modified Praga V3S truck (see Unarmored Cargo Vehicles). The guns are fed from vertical magazines holding 50 rounds for each gun. The entire gun platform can be removed and deployed away from the carrier vehicle, but this was not normally done unless the vehicle was damaged beyond moving. The M-53-59 is a clear weather system, as no radar or night vision equipment is provided. Czech reserve forces, Yugoslavia, and Libya use this vehicle.

Price: \$50,000 (-/R) **Fire Control:** +1 **Stabilization:** Basic **Armament:** two 30mm M-53 Autocannons **Ammo:** 800 x 30mm **Tr Mov:** 125/50 **Com Mov:** 31/13 **Fuel Cap:** 120 **Fuel Cons:** 32 **Fuel Type:** D, A **Load:** 1 ton **Veh Wt:** 10.3 tons **Mnt:** 3 **Crew:** 5 **Night Vision:** Headlights **Radiological:** Enclosed (Open for Gun Crew) **Config:** Trtd **Susp:** W(3) **Armor:** TF1 TS1 TR1 HF3 HS2 HR2

BVP-1 Strop: As Czechoslovakia's M-53/59 self-propelled antiaircraft guns based on an armored truck chassis were getting old and the truck chassis were not very mobile off-road, Czechoslovakia decided to start, in the mid-1980s, to remove the antiaircraft guns from the M-53/59s and placing them on the chassis of BVP-1 infantry fighting vehicles, which were being phased out in favor of BVP-2s. A new commander's hatch is installed to the front right of the turret, which is further to the rear than on a BVP-1. The turret is a two-man version, but it has no hatches, and the crew enters through the rear doors. In addition to Czechoslovakia, this vehicle has also been seen in the hands of Angolan and Cuban soldiers.

Price: \$798,000 (-/R) **Fire Control:** +2 **Stabilization:** fair **Armament:** two 30mm M-53 Autocannons **Ammo:** 1000 x 30mm **Tr Mov:** 125/90 **Com Mov:** 32/22/3 **Fuel Cap:** 460 **Fuel Cons:** 111 **Fuel Type:** D, A **Load:** 400 kg **Veh Wt:** 14.7 tons **Mnt:** 6 **Crew:** 4 **Night Vision:** Active/Passive IR **Radiological:** Shielded **Config:** Trtd **Susp:** T(2) **Armor:** TF3 TS3 TR2 HF8 HS4 HR4

Snezka: The Snezka is an advanced fire direction vehicle to spot and designate targets for artillery. The Snezka features a sensor pack on a lifting arm, containing a laser designator, a laser warning detector, counterbattery radar, ground surveillance radar, thermal imager, a TV camera, and a wind velocity indicator. The TV camera has a range of 5000 meters during the day and 1000 meters at night. The laser rangefinder/designator has a range of 20 km. The Snezka is also fitted with an inertial land navigation set and computers for determining position, direction, and fire solutions. The chassis of this system is the BMP-2. This vehicle was introduced just after the war started, and few actually made it into production (perhaps 40 or so).

Price: \$194,500 (-/R) **Fire Control:** none **Stabilization:** none **Armament:** NSV (C) **Ammo:** 750 x 12.7mm **Tr Mov:** 108/75 **Com Mov:** 25/15/2 **Fuel Cap:** 462 **Fuel Cons:** 93 **Fuel Type:** D, G, AvG, A **Load:** 700 kg **Veh Wt:** 17.4 tons **Mnt:** 14 **Crew:** 4 **Night Vision:** Radar, Thermal Imaging, Image Intensification **Radiological:** Shielded **Config:** CiH **Susp:** T(2) **Armor:** HF8 HS4 HR4 TF2 TS2 TR2

Armored Personnel Carriers

OT-62: This vehicle was conceived by Czechoslovakia and Poland as an upgraded version of the BTR-50PK, entering service in 1964 with Czechoslovakia and 1966 with Poland. The improvements over the BTR-50 include an NBC system, higher speeds, a fully enclosed weapon station, and doors in the sides of the passenger compartment. There are at least 8 variants, including several APCs with different armament, a recovery vehicle, an ambulance, and several command versions. They are still in service with the Czechs and Polish, as well as Bulgaria, Iraq, India, and several African nations. In addition, Israel captured almost 100 of them during several past wars and equipped some of their reserve units with OT-62s. The T-21 is a Czech/Polish version of the Soviet B-10 recoilless rifle.

OT-62B: **Price:** \$65,500 (R/S) **Fire Control:** none **Stabilization:** none **Armament:** PK, T-21 Recoilless Rifle **Ammo:** 1250x7.62mmL, 12x82mm **Tr Mov:** 130/90/22 **Com Mov:** 30/20/5 **Fuel Cap:** 417 **Fuel Cons:** 88 **Fuel Type:** D, A **Load:** 1 ton **Veh Wt:** 15 tons **Mnt:** 9 **Crew:** 2+18 **Night Vision:** Active IR **Radiological:** enclosed **Config:** Stnd **Susp:** T(3) **Armor:** HF3 HS2 HR2

OT-62C: **Price:** \$70,500 (R/S) **Fire Control:** +1 **Stabilization:** basic **Armament:** KPV, PK **Ammo:** 500x14.5mm, 2000x7.62mmL **Tr Mov:** 120/84/20 **Com Mov:** 25/20/4 **Fuel Cap:** 520 **Fuel Cons:** 88 **Fuel Type:**

D, A Load: 400 kg Veh Wt: 16.4 tons Mnt: 9 Crew: 3+12 Night Vision: Active IR Radiological: enclosed Config: CiH Susp: T(3) Armor: TF2 TS2 TR2 HF3 HS2 HR2

TATRAPan Armored All-Terrain Vehicle: This Czech vehicle is based upon the chassis of the TATRA T-815 VP 21 265 truck (8-ton). The vehicle has had sales in the Middle East. The basic truck has welded steel armor, including a heavily armored cab. The windows have armored shutters, and the vehicle has an NBC system. There is a ring mount over the commander's position, and another ring mount in the middle of the roof of the cargo hold. Two other hatches are provided on the roof of the cargo area, and there is a hatch in the rear with a firing port, as well as hatches on either side between the second and third wheels, both with firing ports. The Czechs began to use the TATRAPan en masse as they were easy to build or modify from existing trucks.

Price: \$39,000 (R/S) Fire Control: none Stabilization: none Armament: NSV, PK (C) Ammo: 500x12.7mmB, 500x7.62mmL Tr Mov: 160/95 Com Mov: 55/15 Fuel Cap: 460 Fuel Cons: 133 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 2.5 tons Veh Wt: 20.6 tons Mnt: 6 Crew: 2 + 12 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: Shielded Config: Std Susp: W(3) Armor: HF6 HS4 HR3

OT-64: The OT-64 (known as the SKOT to the Poles) is a joint product of Poland and Czechoslovakia used by those countries in place of the BTR-60 and BTR-70. There are several variants available, but the main version is a basic wheeled APC with a turret in the center of the hull mounting a KPV and a PK machinegun. This turret is the same one as mounted on the BRDM-2 and BTR-70. The next most common variant is the OT-64C(1)/SKOT-2AP; this has a new turret of a different shape than the BTR-70 and BRDM-2 turrets, and the weapons have a much higher elevation (capable of firing almost straight up). After that, there is another variant of the OT-64C(2)/SKOT-2AP; this version has a launcher for an AT-3 Sagger ATGM on either side of the turret or a double launcher to the left side and to the rear of the turret. There are at least 10 other variants for differing roles, from recovery vehicles to command post carriers. Besides Czechoslovakia and Poland, the OT-64 is used by 11 other nations, including Cambodia, India, Iraq, Syria, and several African countries. (multiple statistics refer to OT-64A/OT-64C(1)/OT-64C(2).)

Price: \$38,750/54,000/99,500 (S/C) Fire Control: none Stabilization: none Armament: KPV, PK/KPV, PK, 2 x AT-3 Ammo: 1250x7.62mmL/500x14.5mm, 2000x7.62mm/500x14.5mm, 2000x7.62mm, 4xAT-3 ATGM Tr Mov: 120/72 Com Mov: 30/18/3 Fuel Cap: 330 Fuel

Cons: 66 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 1.7 tons Veh Wt: 14.3 tons Mnt: 4 Crew: 3+10 Night Vision: Active/Passive IR Radiological: enclosed Config: CiH Susp: W(3) Armor: TF4 TS4 TR4 HF6 HS4 HR3

OT-810C: The OT-810 is a 3-ton armored halftrack armored personnel carrier. It is a post-Second World War Czech modification of the German wartime SdKfz 251 armored personnel carrier. Changes were relatively minor - most importantly the gasoline engine was replaced with a diesel one. Although thoroughly obsolete, a few hundred of these vehicles were held in reserve by the Czechoslovak army and saw service with mobilization-only units during the war. There is an armored gun shield (AV:2) for the Commanders machine gun mounted at the front of the open crew compartment and a second machine gun mounted on the top of the rear hull wall. A large door is provided in the rear hull for exit along with the driver and front passengers side doors.

Price: \$35,000 Fire Control: none Stabilization: none Armament: 2 Vz.59 (C), (P) Ammo: 5,000x 7.62mmL Tr Mov: 115/65 Com Mov: 25/15 Fuel Cap: 185 Fuel Cons: 40 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 3 tons Veh Wt: 8.2 tons Mnt: 8 Crew: 3+10 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: open Config: Std Susp: T(1) Armor: HF3 HS2 HR2

Light Combat Vehicles

Alligator 4x4: This is a common vehicle, which has been sold to numerous countries in Warsaw Pact-held Europe. In Czechoslovakia it was issued to Border Guard Brigades to replace the OT-65. The vehicle is amphibious at one-quarter its cross-country speed, is NBC-sealed, and is fast. The Alligator is usually encountered as a scout or patrol vehicle depending upon its role. It can be equipped with explosive reactive armor (HF, HS) upon request; without it, the vehicle is designed to shield against shell fragments and small arms fire. There is a firing port on each side.

Price: \$14,139 (R/C) Fire Control: none Stabilization: none Armament: PK or NSV (C) Ammo: 1000x7.62mm or 12.7mm Tr Mov: 206/ 82 Com Mov: 52/21 Fuel Cap: 150 Fuel Cons: 70 Fuel Type: D, A Load: 500 kg Veh Wt: 6.5 tons Mnt: 2 Crew: 2 + 4 Night Vision: Headlights Radiological: Shielded Config: Std Susp: W(2) Armor: HF4 HS2 HR2

Engineer Vehicles

MT-55A: This Czech AVLB is based on the T-55A chassis. It is used in place of the MTU-20 in Czech service and alongside the MTU-20 in the Soviet Union, India, Iraq, Yugoslavia, and in some Middle Eastern countries. It uses a stronger bridge that can support 50 tons. If necessary, a bridge from an MT-72 or MTU-72 can be substituted for the normal bridge carried by the MT-55A. The normal bridge can span a gap of 18 meters, weighs 6.5 tons, takes 3 minutes to lay, and 3-8 minutes to recover. The bridge can support a vehicle weighing 50 tons.

Price: \$94,000 (R/R) *Tr Mov:* 110/75 *Com Mov:* 25/15 *Fuel Cap:* 960 *Fuel Cons:* 214 *Fuel Type:* D, A *Load:* 500 kg *Veh Wt:* 36 tons *Mnt:* 15 *Crew:* 2 *Night Vision:* Headlights *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* CiH *Susp:* T(6) *Armor:* TF4 TS4 TR4 HF67 HS16 HR8

VT-55A: This vehicle was type standard in the Czech Army until the advent of the VT-72B; it is still used to recover lighter tanks and other armored vehicles. It is based on the chassis of the T-55 tank, and is similar to the Soviet BTS-T-55-T recovery vehicle.

The turret of the T-55 is removed, and the opening replaced with steel plate and a cupola for the commander. On the right side of the hull roof is a crane that can lift 1.5 tons. On the rear of the hull deck is a platform that can carry a load of 3 tons. There are two winches; the main winch is driven by the engine, and can pull 25 tons with 200 meters of cable. The auxiliary winch has its own motor, can pull 800 kg, and has 400 meters of cable. The front of the vehicle mounts a full-width dozer blade that can excavate 150 cubic meters per hour. The VT-55A can normally ford water of 1.4 meters depth, but can be equipped with a snorkel allowing the vehicle to ford 5 meters for 1000 meters. These vehicles typically carry several tow bars and a 4.2 meter tow cable, as well as welding equipment and toolkits appropriate to its purpose of recovering and repairing smaller tanks and armored vehicles. The crew compartment has a heater.

Price: \$112,500 (-/R) *Fire Control:* none *Stabilization:* none *Armament:* PK (C) *Ammo:* 3000 x 7.62mm *Tr Mov:* 107/75 *Com Mov:* 25/15 *Fuel Cap:* 812 *Fuel Cons:* 215 *Fuel Type:* D, A *Load:* 3 tons *Veh Wt:* 36.45 tons *Mnt:* 8 *Crew:* 3 *Night Vision:* Active/Passive IR *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Stnd *Susp:* T(6) *Armor:* HF67 HS16 HR8

VT-72B: The VT-72B is a recovery vehicle based on the T-72 chassis, built by Czechoslovakia. It is very similar to the BREM-1 in many respects; visually, the



VT-55A Armored Recovery Vehicle

biggest difference is that the VT-72B's crane is on the right side of the superstructure instead of the left.

The T-72's turret is removed and replaced with an armored, raised superstructure. The crane can lift 19 tons and has a reach of 7.6 meters, and there is a load platform on the rear of the superstructure that can carry a load of 4 tons. The winch is located in the center of the vehicle, has 200 meters of cable and can pull 40 tons. There is also a secondary winch that can pull 2.5 tons and has 400 meters of cable. Its full width dozer blade located at the front of the vehicle can brace the vehicle. The dozer is also used to dig defensive positions for itself and other vehicles. There is also a rack at the rear of the vehicle for fuel drums and jerry cans. The VT-72B carries a 5kW generator for use with power tools or the welding equipment and air compressor (both issued with the vehicle). Other equipment also includes tools appropriate for working on tanks, excavating tools, and a tow bar.

Czechoslovakia uses the VT-72B in place of the BREM-1; the vehicle is also used by India.

Price: \$136,000 (-/R) *Fire Control:* +1 *Stabilization:* none *Armament:* NSV (C) *Ammo:* 500 x 12.7mm *Tr Mov:* 125/88 *Com Mov:* 25/20 *Fuel Cap:* 1000 + 400 *Fuel Cons:* 311 *Fuel Type:* D, A *Load:* 4 tons *Veh Wt:* 46.5 tons *Mnt:* 17 *Crew:* 2+3 *Night Vision:* Active/Passive IR *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Stnd *Susp:* T(6) *Armor:* HF120 HS18Sp HR8

VPV: This Czech vehicle is used for support of BMP-series, BRDM-series, and BTR-series vehicles, and other vehicles with weights up to 15 tons. It is based on the BVP-2 chassis (the Czech version of the BMP-2), and is very similar in layout and equipment carried to the Soviet BREM-2. The turret is removed and replaced with a cable drum and a hatch to access the winch and crew compartment. The winch can pull 17

tons, or double that with the use of return pulleys; this winch has 120 meters of cable. The VPV has a dozer blade that is lowered to brace the vehicle in winching operations. The VPV has a crane mounted at the rear of the vehicle that can lift 5.2 tons and has a reach of 4.5 meters. The vehicle is equipped with full tool sets for work on tracked and wheeled vehicles, as well as a tow bar, welding set and cutting tools, and an air compressor.

The VPV retains the amphibious capability of the BVP-2, but will swamp if waves more than 100mm or currents over 1.2 meters per second are encountered. Czech forces use the VPV, as does Hungary (where it is known as the BMP-1VPV); a few are also used by the Soviet Union to supplement their BREM-2s.

Price: \$113,000 (-/R) *Armament:* PK (C) *Ammo:* 2000 x 7.62L *Tr Mov:* 135/95 *Com Mov:* 30/ 20/3 *Fuel Cap:* 480 *Fuel Cons:* 105 *Fuel Type:* D, G, AvG, A *Load:* 3 tons *Veh Wt:* 14 tons *Mnt:* 9 *Crew:* 2 + 1 *Night Vision:* Active/Passive IR, Image Intensification *Radiological:* Shielded *Config:* Stnd *Susp:* T(2) *Armor:* HF8 HS4 HR4

Large Caliber Guns

M-53: Like many such things, the Czechs developed their own light antiaircraft gun system. In this case, the twin 30mm autocannon M-53 is used to replace the ZU-23-2 in Czechoslovak service. It is heavier than the ZU-23-2 and has a lower rate of fire, but the range and punch are greater. There is no provision for radar control, but a telescopic periscope is provided.

Price: \$20,000 (R/R) *RF:* +5 *Wt:* 2100 kg *Mnt:* 2 *Crew:* 4 *Set Up Time:* 4 minutes

M-52: This Czech 85mm field gun had been long out of production by the time of the war, and was in service only with reserve formations. It may be fitted with a variety of sights and night vision devices. In addition to Czechoslovakia, this weapon is used by Austria. With the war, the M-52 was pressed into service, usually as a support weapon for infantry formations rather than as an antitank weapon. There is an armored gun shield (AV:2).

Price: \$9,800 (R/R) *Fire Control:* +1 *Wt:* 2.1 tons *Mnt:* 2 *Crew:* 4 *Set Up Time:* 4 minutes

M-53: This is a Czech 100mm antitank field gun that can also be used for indirect fire. The weapon has a greater indirect fire range than its Soviet counterpart, the M-1944, because it may be raised to approximately twice the elevation of that weapon. Its indirect fire range is thus 15,400 meters. The M-53 may be fitted with a variety of sights and night vision devices. There is an armored gun shield (AV:2).

Price: \$19,700 (-/S) *Fire Control:* varies *Wt:* 4.3 tons *Mnt:* 2 *Crew:* 4 *Set Up Time:* 4 minutes

AMMUNITION

Large Caliber Rounds

30mm M-53 API: Weight 3kg each, 1500kg per 500-round belt; Price \$1025 per 500-round belt (R/S)

30mm M-53 HE: Weight 3kg each, 1500kg per 500-round belt; Price \$1025 per 500-round belt (R/S)

Fire Chart Data

Weapon	ROF	Magazine	Range	Round	Damage	Penetration
M-53	10	10 Clip (x2)	520	API	7	5/4/3/2
	10	10 Clip (x2)	390	HEI	C1 B5	-3C

Map of Czechoslovak People's Republic

