

12-11-14. Welcome to the new look Forward Observer. The archives are easier to access and are in PDF format for saving. Hope you like it..More to comeENJOY!!

12-13-14. Finishing up the USMC. In the meantime, I have re-visited the graphics for the U. S. helicopters. I think they look a lot better. I have replaced the helo units in the 101st Air Assault and will gradually replace them all. Enjoy!

12-16-14. I was slow to get it but the Hungarian 8th Motor Rifle Division is up in the Hungarian 1st Army. The USMC is proceeding wonderfully. Look for the 22 MEU and the 2nd Marine Division up by the first of the year. I will also have the U. S. Navy amphibious fleet and direct fire charts for the Marines. I will do the U. S. Army and the USMC as separate entities with their own pages. It works out best that way. Until the next publishing, ENJOY!!!

12-20-14. Well the USMC and USN are on-line. I think we've created a pretty good representation of what the USMC would have looked like in a late 1990s Warsaw Pact world. You will find the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit already organized with the headquarters available to create two more plus the rest of the 2nd Marine Division. There is also a serious revamping of the rules to address the enhanced naval capabilities of the USMC and USN versus the Warsaw Pact. I am pleased with our efforts. You will find the Marines and the Navy on a separate page from the U. S. Army. There were enough units and enough justification for them to be separate. The USMC can now operate in the arctic reinforcing Norway or on the Southern Front with the Italians, Spanish and soon to come Greeks and Turks. 2015 will also see the introduction of Yugoslavia pre-dissolution, Austria, Romania and Bulgaria. Maybe even some Swiss and Albanians. Have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season with family and friends and remember always.....ENJOY!!

12-22-14. Merry Christmas. I have added the full German HFK 1 (1st Army Aviation Command) to the I German Korps. The HFR 10 is no longer on the 27th Luftlande Brigade but is found in the HFK 1. Enjoy!

1-12-15. Welcome to a new year of Assault. Lots of projects in the works for 2015. We are going to start off with adding our first Non-aligned Nation, SWEDEN. I really like modeling the Swedes. They have some interesting vehicles and formations. What you will see is a number of brigades posted then Divisional units should you wish to create that level of command. We will be adding the Strv-103C "S" tank in coming days, CAS and light infantry units. After the Swedes I will probably explore the Finnish Army, before moving south to the Balkans. More to come! ENJOY!!!

1-14-15. Some minor tweeking going on with the Swedish page. I forgot to adjust the IKV-91 to account for the fire control system and the laser rangefinder; accuracy is everything. A word on the MeK9 mechanized infantry battalion and the MeK9B mech infantry brigade. These are probably the same unit. There was a massive downsizing of the Swedish Army at the end of the cold war. It dropped from almost 300,000 soldiers to around 80,000 or so. As part of this there was a lot of combining, splitting and decommissioning of units. As such I am aware that the Swedish Order of Battle is spotty at best. The OOB that I am using dates from

1989-90, along with the composition of the current Swedish Army, I am attempting to produce a plausible Swedish OOB from 1998 that accounts for a still active Warsaw Pact. I believe that if the Pact had still been active, the Swedes would probably have held on to some the older armor, i.e. Striv-103Cs, that were decommissioned in 1997. I also do not have good descriptions of the different type units, such as Type 85 arctic battalions. I will peer into the crystal ball and hopefully come up with a logical oob. ENJOY!!

1-23-15. It's been a day or two since we introduced new units. I took a break from the Arctic and moved to the Med. You will find the Greek Army available for deployment. More to come on the Greeks in the days to come, so for now ENJOY!!

2-1-15. We have left the Mediterranean for the Black Sea. The groundwork for the Romanian Army is out. The Romanians were somewhat of an enigma within the Warsaw Pact. The Romanian Army never participated in Pact drills and from what I have been able to find out the Soviets never garrisoned any troops in Romania. Most Romanian equipment during the coldwar is very antiquated; I even found an OOB that listed T-34s and BTR-152s in 1989. I am hoping that by the mid to late 90s there would have been some progress towards modernization. The Romanians were more or less left to their own devices and did some interesting things with the T-55 resulting in the TR-580 and TR-85M. The initial fielding of the TR-85M was a disaster but eventually (most improvements came about after the "fall" of communism) it developed into a decent tank. You will also find the MVLM APC developed for use by the Romanian mountain troops. It is very lightly armored and lightly armed and comes in the basic APC version and a 120mm mortar carrier. A few more Romanians to come then OFF to Bulgaria!!

2-8-15. The Bulgarians are in the field. Fine adversaries for the Greeks and NATO's southern front. The Bulgarians were considered the Soviets most dependable allies but probably do to their theater of operation, were not as well armed as the East Germans. The Bulgarians did operate (and still do) some fine locally produced AIFVs, the BMP-30 and BMP-23. These vehicles were based on the ACRV/MTLBs and quite roomy for Warsaw Pact AIFVs. More Bulgarians to come; the 3rd Army is being assembled now..ENJOY!

2-11-15. I took a little break from the Warsaw Pact to work on the Spanish Army. I was never happy with the color scheme and I finally found one that I can live with. The original orange was just too light and made it hard to see the 1 step and single vehicle units. This new brown base works much better. I also took time to correct some oob and counter discrepancies. I think it works much better now. Back to the Bulgarians soon. ENJOY!!

2-12-15. Got the Bulgarian 3rd Army out as promised and I upgraded some of the artwork for the U. S. 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Updates are going to be slow for the next few weeks; we're in the process of moving to a new house and

hopefully upgrading the computer and graphics programs. Maps maybe? I hope. I am really thinking about modeling the Middle East Armies (Merkavas and Khalids) but there is also Turkey, Finland, Austria and Jugoslavia (post Tito/pre-Dissolution) maybe even Albania. If anyone has any requests just leave me a note on the Facebook page or email me. I will respond. Also, look for the U.S. 1995+ Direct Fire Data Chart, it's been updated, TOW-2A values were corrected and the thermal imaging symbols have been corrected. Plans are to begin a V Corps Battles series after my move. We'll fight the V Corps vs Warsaw Pact, maybe some good Division/Corps size engagements. Coming in soon. ENJOY!!!

2-18-15. Counter backs are now available on the NATO and Warsaw Pact pages. Here's how they work. I use full sheet mailing labels to print counters on then peel off the backing and stick on to a thick poster board. I then trim out the counter-set in one piece and apply the counter-back label on the reverse side. I then cut out the individual counters and they are printed both front and back. The alignment of the counter-backs is not that important. Now you have counters that hide the true nature and nationality of your units until spotted, also non-unit counters now become dummy counters.

2-20-15. Check out the Charts & Tables page. I have added Warsaw Pact and NATO Advanced Capability Charts. Basically these are Quick Reference Guides to Armored Vehicles. I have listed Anti-armor modifiers for each vehicle. These modifiers account for Chobham, Kontakt, ERA, Spaced, Shtora, Laminate and combinations of armor that were/are used by both sides. You will also find on the Warsaw Pact chart modifiers for the Shtora system versus all ATGMs, both ground and air launched. There is also a column indicating if the vehicle has smoke generating capability (separate from the one-shot smoke grenade systems on all military vehicles). The final column has symbols for Advanced Optics, Thermals, Stabilized weapons, Radar (SAM) and Infa-red (SAM) systems. Feel free to use whatever combination of modifiers you want, or stick with the original simplified version in the Basic Assault Rules. Remember it's YOUR simulation and these are just options that I have developed in my research on these weapon systems. It is going to be slow pumping out more upgrades and additions between now and mid-March as our move to a new residence is getting in high gear; BUT once it is done look out! We have plans to introduce basic and advanced tutorials (you are welcome SAVA) and if things work out right we may even be able to get a video posted for those. Also we will be fighting the V Corps versus 8th Guards Combined Arms Army and 1st Guards Tank Army (with pictures and hopefully video) using advanced rules!! Exciting things to come. In the meantime, ENJOY ENJOY ENJOY!!

2-26-15. Well, the snow in Tennessee has delayed my move, much to the chagrin of my wife, so it gave me a little more time to work on "The Project". I have added the 4th Romanian Army. You may have noticed a slight change to the graphics. I am using larger numbers for the counter data; these eyes do not see as well as

they used to. Looks like I may be snowed in one more day so we'll keep working on a surprise I have been kicking around for about a week or two. ENJOY!!