

## Poland 6th Airborne Brigade 1967 - 1989 *Morale: see note 2*

Brigade Headquarters Company: (see notes 1, 2, 3, 4)

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Truck

Security: 1-Infantry Stand in Truck (see note 7)

1-NBC Company (22nd) with:

1-GAZ-69 or (from 1972) UAZ-469RH

1-Recon Company (49th?) with: (to 1976 only?)

2-Infantry Stand in Jeep (see notes 7, 8)

1-Engineering Company (11th) with:

2-Light Engineer Stand in Truck or (from 1984) Combat Engineer Stand in Truck

1-AA Battery (120th) with: (from 1976) (*data deficient, but possibly:*)

2\*-ZU-23-2/Jeep plus 2\*-S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep (see note 17), or

3-ZU-23-2/S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep

1-AT Battery (from 1978) (see note 14)

2-9K111 (AT-4 Spigot) in Jeep or Truck plus 2- SPG9-DM in Jeep or Truck, or

4-9K111 (AT-4 Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

**3-Parachute Battalions (10th, 16th, 18th), each with:** (see notes 5, 6)

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Jeep or Truck

Engineering: 1-Light Engineer Stand in Truck (from 1976)

Recon: 1-Infantry Stand in Jeep (from 1976; see note 7)

AA Battery, with:

1-S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep (from 1970?) (see note 10)

1-ZU-23-2/Jeep (from 1976) (see note 11)

AT Battery, with: (to 1978) (see notes 15, 17)

2\*-2P26 (to 1974) or 2P27 (to 1974) or (from 1974 to 1976) 9M14

(AT-3a Sagger A) in Jeep or Truck or (from 1974 to 1976) 9M14

(AT-3a Sagger A)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck or (from 1976 to

1978) 9K111 (AT-4 Spigot) in Jeep or Truck or (from 1976 to 1978)

9K111 (AT-4 Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

2\*-B-10 82 mm RR Stand in Jeep (to 1969; see note 16) or 1-SPG9-

DM in Jeep or Truck or (from 1974 to 1976) 1-9M14 (AT-3a Sagger

A)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck or (from 1976 to 1978) 1-9K111 (AT-

4 Spigot)/SPG-9DM in Jeep or Truck

3-Assault Companies, each with:

2-Infantry Stand in Truck (see notes 7, 8)

1-Mortar Platoon with:

2\*-82 mmM wz. 37 in Truck (see notes 17, 19)

1-Mortar Battery with:

2\*-120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66

**1-Self-propelled Artillery Battalion (35th), with: (to 1976)**

HQ: 1-ASU-85

3-Assault Gun Companies, each with:

2-ASU-85

**1-Anti-Aircraft Battalion (6th), with: (to 1976)** (see note 9)

3-PKZM-2/Jeep (to 1969) or ZU-23-2/Jeep

3-PKZM-2/Jeep (to 1969) or ZU-23-2/Jeep or S-2 (SA-7b

Grail)/Jeep or ZU-23-2/S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep (see note 10)

**1-Mixed Artillery Battalion, with:** (see note 20)

1-FAO (see note 13)

2-WP-8z/GAZ-69 (to 1984) (see note 12)

2\*-120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 (to 1984) or (from 1984) 2B9/GAZ-66

(see notes 17, 18)

2\*-120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 or (from 1984) 2B11/GAZ-66

2\*-2B11/GAZ-66 (from 1984) (see note 17)

### Notes:

1. The Brigade was called a "Division" until 1986, mostly for political purposes, to ensure it received its "fair" share of resources. It was nonetheless clearly just a brigade in practice, and indeed was usually commanded by a mere colonel, and not even a brigade-general. Its true status as a brigade was officially recognized in 1986, as was that of the similarly-positioned 7th Marine landing "Division" at the same time.

NATO-style designations are given to aid the reader in *narrow italics*, as in 1-S-2 (SA-7b Grail)/Jeep.

For simplicity, where dates refer to, e.g. "to 1978", and from 1984", these two dates do not overlap. Thus, unless otherwise stated, two items, one in the form of "to 1978" and the other in the form of "from 1978" cannot be both used. Where entries refer to, e.g. "120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 or (from 1984) 2B11/GAZ-66", this means replacement with 2B11/GAZ-66 is optional from 1984; if the entry however reads "120 mmM wz. 38/GAZ-66 (to 1984) or (from 1984) 2B9/GAZ-66", then replacement is mandatory from 1984. Where entries refer to, e.g. "3-PKZM-2/Jeep or ZU-23-2/Jeep", this means either three of one or three of the other are the only two options allowed; a mixture of one or two of each is not allowed (unless indicated otherwise in the list notes, as in note 15 below).

In all cases, the rules for Soviet-trained organizations apply (see page 68 of the rules).

2. While the unit was always something of an elite formation, its efficiency seems have dipped after the mid-70s, when its members had to spend too much time marching in parades propping up the political leadership, and not enough time practicing parachuting, etc. Accordingly moral is 1/2 Veteran, 1/2 Regular to 1976, and from 1976, Regular only.

3. In addition to being carried in vehicles, the Brigade may be para-dropped (without vehicles), or transported by helicopter (Mi-4, Mi-6, and Mi-8, drawn from Army-level assets; jeeps can be carried, but not trucks). There were not enough aircraft to transport the Brigade in one lift, and Soviet gear would have to have been borrowed to do this, which could have been problematic in that they would have likely been too busy transporting their own airborne forces. Trucks and other heavy gear (such as ASU-85) would have to have been airlifted in once the Brigade had seized an airfield.

4. "Jeep" means GAZ-69 or (from 1972) UAZ-469. "Truck" means GAZ-66, Star-66, Star-244, or Star-266.

5. Until 1976, there was a 4th (reserve) Battalion, the 33rd, equipped as the other three, but not fully-manned in peacetime. This may not be graded Veteran, as it would likely require recruits to bring it up to strength.

6. The Brigade's Training Battalion (the 6th) has been omitted from the list as it would not be used except in dire emergency.

7. Infantry stands in this list have RPG-7D by default. From 1978, they may be equipped with 9M115 Metis (*AT-7 Saxhorn*), and in assault companies, must do so, but only one stand per company.

8. Fighting companies had 3 platoons each, but the companies were the standard small WarPac size, and so should be represented by just 2 stands total. However, if a tabletop force includes no units other than those drawn from this list, a slight relaxation in scale should be allowed to field 3 stands per company.

9. For the purposes of attachment (Section 2.3.3 of the rules, 2nd paragraph, page 3) each base or pair of bases of the Anti-Aircraft Battalion may count as a company.

10. S-2 is the Polish designation for the Soviet 9K32M (*SA-7b Grail*). It is not clear what year the S-2 was used from; some sources imply it was already in use in the late 60s, but if so, this must have been the original 9K32 (*SA-7*) version and not the S-2 (*SA-7b*).

11. One source indicates ZU-23-2s may not have been received by the battalions until as late as 1979, but if this is true, they presumably would have still been kept at Brigade-level as in the pre-1976 organization, in which would have been handed out to the battalions anyway in an actual conflict.

12. As the WP-8z 140 mm towed rocket launcher had a meager 8 barrels, the battalion's 18 launchers are modelled by a maximum of only 2 stands on the table, not 4. Even this is very generous, and a single stand may be better. Probably the best solution, not covered by the rules, might be two stands, but using the smaller 3" artillery template.

13. The FAO does not add to or deduct from the morale of whichever battalion it is attached to. The FAO may spot only for the MRLs or for the 120 mm mortars (either wz. 38 or 2B11), but not both. Choose which at deployment (note, the FAO is not necessary to direct the fire of either, as the weapons may still be called on by other elements as per the usual rules).

14. The two options for the Brigade AT battery represents in the first case, two stands of 9K111/AT-4 and two stands of SPG9-DM, so they can be deployed separately, and in the second case, the same weapons deployed together as four mixed stands. This battery was officially part of the 5th Mixed

Artillery battalion. Individual stands or pairs of stands may count as companies for the purposes of attachment (Section 2.3.3 of the rules, 2nd paragraph, page 3). Some sources indicate *Sagger* was still used into the 1980s instead of *Spigot*: up to half the AT-4 stands may thus alternatively be AT-3 stands (presumably as AT-3C).

15. Although AT-3 launchers were officially on the books from possibly as early as 1971, the first practical firings apparently didn't place until 1974, and since the weapon system was useless without frequent practice, it should not be allowed until then. The armoured 2P27 AT-1 vehicle is rather surprisingly attested in two sources in addition to the unarmoured 2P26; accordingly batteries may be armed with either or a mixture of the two.

16. The B-10 82 mm RRs were part of a company-level support weapons platoon, which also including the battalion's 82 mm mortars, but these were both too few to count as a single MSH stand, so they have here been consolidated at battalion-level. It is not clear if they had already been replaced by the SPG-9 by the starting date of this list.

17. Platoons given with a strength of 2\*- represent 6 vehicles/weapons systems, and accordingly if just a single one is absent, the platoon should be represented by a single stand. Accordingly, such platoons may be chosen to be represented by a single stand; in a battalion with such reduced strength platoons, all such 2\*-strength platoons should be represented as reduced strength units before any other platoons can be represented by less than the normal number of stands. (Note that some small weapons systems are grouped in multiples before being counted as "a system". Thus two S-2 (*SA-7b Grail*) teams counts as a single "system" for the purpose of these lists, so that a single element of AA: 1-S-2 (*SA-7b Grail*) in Jeep typically models six vehicles, each carrying 1 S-2 team).

18. The 2B9 stand(s) may be attached to a fighting battalion as if they were a standard support company rather than counting as part of an attached artillery battalion.

19. 82 mm wz. 37 is the Polish designation for the Soviet 82 mm mortar, mark 1937.

20. 120 mmM wz. 38 is the Polish designation for the Soviet 120 mm mortar, mark 1938.