

# POLISH ARMY



## FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS

**POLISH ARMY ALWAYS HAD TO RELY ON THE DEDICATION AND COURAGE OF ITS SOLDIERS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. SOME WARS WERE WON, OTHER WERE LOST - ONE THING, HOWEVER, REMAINED CONSTANT: THE SOLDIERS HAVE NEVER FAILED.**

### A BIT OF HISTORY

After the Warsaw Pact dissolved, Polish army had to prepare for the new mission at hand. It was no longer to be a part of force preparing to assault the NATO defenses to bring socialism to the countries of Western Europe. Its new mission was simple - defense of the homeland. Switching to the new mission was not going to be simple, especially since the country's transformation from socialist to capitalist economy was very difficult. Many mistakes were made - like the dissolution of many special forces and engineering units, but the progress was steady.

Yet another change had to be implemented when Poland became member of NATO and European Union and its former enemies became its allies. The Army could no longer concentrate on homeland defense only, it had to be able to support its new allies. The job, again, was a difficult one. It was even harder because many politicians lived in their fantasy world and did not

want to accept the responsibilities NATO membership came with, believing that "we don't need any army, NATO will defend us" instead.

Eighteen years after the transformation started, Polish Army is once again an effective fighting force. Just like during the Polish golden age, it combines the Eastern and Western approach to warfare and equipment, creating an excellent combination.

### THE NEW ARMY

The resources put at military's disposal are limited. This means that the bulk of military forces utilizes equipment which may be considered obsolete by the world's most powerful militaries. Most of this equipment has been upgraded to enhance its usefulness on modern battlefield, but often this is not enough.

The most numerous formation in Polish army is the mechanized infantry. Well suited both for offensive and defensive operations, it excels in combat in woodland

and urbanized terrain. Motorized infantry units, using the new Rosomak IFVs have more manpower, but the wheeled vehicles restrict their mobility.

Armoured Cavalry Brigades are the heaviest armoured force in Polish army. They utilize their tanks in the most efficient manner, fighting a war of maneuver, striking the enemy vulnerable flanks and rear areas.

Airborne and air cavalry units add even more mobility to Polish army. These excellent light infantry units can hit the enemy rear areas and exploit any weakness he might have.



# INFANTRY WEAPONS



Beryl Assault Rifle



UKM-2000 GPGM



TOR Sniper Rifle



Pallad Grenade Launcher



RPG-7

## EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Polish units took part in many operations on foreign soil in the last twenty years. Most of these operations were peace enforcement missions - but even peace enforcement is a dangerous job. Polish contingents are quite small in comparison to those from bigger and wealthier countries, but soldiers sent on those missions are all professionals and volunteers, equipped with the best of what Polish military has to offer.

The expeditionary forces are drawn both from heavy and light components of Polish Army. Lighter units, especially the airborne and air cavalry units are usually equipped with patrol vehicles like the homegrown variants of Russian BRDM-2 vehicle and US-made HMMWV as well as Polish W-3 helicopter and Russian Mi-24D. Heavy units use BWP-1 (Russian designation BMP-1) and Rosomak (Polish-manufactured Patria AMV) infantry fighting vehicles. Deployment of heavy armor is rare, since usually there is no appropriate enemy for the tanks, the fixed-wing air support is also usually provided by Polish allies.

### EXPEDITIONARY FORCE PLATOON

The Expeditionary Force Platoon consists of highly trained and well equipped infantry supported by IFVs, light vehicles and helicopters. The organization of expeditionary platoons is less rigid than those of defensive forces, since they are tailored for the task at hand.

**Squad:** 2 to 4 units. Expeditionary Forces squads have to be equipped with body armor.

**Support:** One unit per 2 squads. If the support unit is a vehicle and there is an option to up-armour it, the vehicle has to be upgraded. Support infantry units may only be fielded if they are equipped with body armor.

**Transport:** Enough to transport all your Size 1 models. If there is an option to up-armour the transport vehicle, the vehicle has to be upgraded. You may take Transport Helicopters.

**Armour:** No armoured units other than air-defense assets are allowed.

**Air units:** No fixed-wing aircraft are allowed. One helicopter per 1000 points.

**Command:** Up to one command unit.

You may field one Expeditionary Forces Platoon per 1500 points.

### SPECIAL FORCES PLATOON

The Special Forces are most likely to be

used in initial stages of any operation. Using stealth and their superior training they are going to accomplish their mission and fade away.

**Squad:** None.

**Support:** Two to four infantry support units.

**Transport:** You may take enough to transport all your Size 1 models. None of the vehicles may have the Armoured trait. You may take Transport Helicopters.

**Armour:** No armoured units are allowed.

**Air units:** One per 1000 points.

**Command:** Up to one command unit.

You may field one Special Forces Platoon per 1500 points.

## DEFENSIVE FORCES

The main mission of Polish army is and will be the defense of Polish territory and citizens. At this moment most people think that Poland is at no risk, but the geopolitical climate in Europe has changed drastically over short periods of time before.

The defensive forces may utilize anything in Polish inventory. A platoon-sized force will typically come from a single service arm, possibly with some support elements cross-attached from other service arms. You can field one of seven platoon types as a Defensive force.

### MECHANIZED INFANTRY PLATOON

Mechanized Infantry use infantry fighting vehicles and APCs for mobility. They are the most numerous formation in Polish army.

**Squad:** Two Mechanized or Motorized squad units.

**Support:** Up to two Support units are allowed.

**Transport:** Enough to transport all your Size 1 models. All transport vehicles have to use common chassis. You may not take Transport Helicopters.

**Armour:** Up to one armoured unit can be taken.

**Air units:** One per 2000 points.

**Command:** One Mechanized or Motorized command unit.

You may field one Mechanized Infantry Platoon per 1000 points.

### TANK PLATOON

Tank platoons are the most potent fighting force in the open field and are very useful as infantry support in dense terrain. They are very vulnerable to enemy air strikes, however.

**Squad:** Up to one Infantry unit.

**Support:** Up to two Support units are allowed.

**Transport:** You have to take enough to transport all your Size 1 models. All transport vehicles have to use common chassis. You may not take Transport Helicopters.

**Armour:** Three to four Armoured vehicles, all have to be tanks of the same type. You may take one additional Armoured air defense vehicle.

**Air units:** One per 2000 points.

**Command:** You either have to take the Command upgrade for one of your tanks or a tracked command vehicle.

You may field one Motorized Infantry Platoon per 2000 points.

## RECON PLATOON

Recon units are supposed to find the enemy, but avoid engagement, relying the information to frontline units instead. This is easier said than done, however. The recon units are perfectly capable of dealing with lighter enemy units if they have to.

**Squad:** Up to four Scout Teams.

**Support:** Up to four Support units are allowed.

**Transport:** You have to take enough to transport all your Size 1 models. You may take Support vehicles with transport capabilities as Transport options.

**Armour:** No Armoured units are allowed.

**Air units:** One per 2000 points.

**Command:** Up to one command units. You may take the Command upgrade for one of the vehicles for +50 points.

You may field one Recon Platoon per 1500 points.

## AIRBORNE PLATOON

Airborne units are among the elite of Polish army. They don't use much heavy support, but can rely on more air support than other units.

**Squad:** Two to four Airborne squad units.

**Support:** Up to two Support units are allowed.

**Transport:** Enough to transport all your Size 1 models. All transport vehicles have to use common chassis and cannot have the Armoured trait.

**Armour:** Up to one armoured unit can be taken.

**Air units:** One per 1000 points.

**Command:** One Airborne command unit.

You may field one Airborne Infantry Platoon per 1000 points.

## AIR CAVALRY PLATOON

Air Cavalry units are among the elite of Polish army. While not numerous, they

benefit from high number of professional soldiers in their ranks and have a lot of experience gained during foreign missions.

**Squad:** Two to four Air Cavalry squad units.

**Support:** Up to two Support units are allowed. Only infantry support units are allowed.

**Transport:** Enough Transport Helicopters to transport all your Size 1 models.

**Armour:** No armoured units are allowed.

**Air units:** One per 1000 points.

**Command:** One Air Cavalry command unit. You may field one Airborne Infantry Platoon per 2000 points.

## REMNANTS PLATOON

Intensive conflicts, like a full-scale defensive war, may cripple larger formations to a level at which they are not capable to function effectively. Remaining combat-capable units from various units will then be combined to keep on fighting. Such units will usually have a mix of various equipment and operate with limited support, since most air assets and other support units will be gone or very limited by this stage of the war.

**Squad:** 2 to 6 units.

**Support:** One unit per 2 squads.

**Transport:** You may take enough to transport all your Size 1 models. You may not take Transport Helicopters.

**Armour:** Up to three Armoured units may be taken. No more than two may be vehicles of the same type.

**Air units:** No air support is allowed.

**Command:** Up to one command unit.

You may field one Remnants Platoon per 2000 points.

## POLISH TROOPS AS A PART OF THE EFTF FORCE

You may take Polish troops as a part of the EFTF force. The Polish troops taken as a part of an EFTF force do not benefit from any special rules a pure Polish army would be subject to.

# COMBAT VEHICLES



PT-91 Twardy



Rosomak IFV



Dzik Patrol Vehicle



BRDM-2 wz. 96

# EQUIPMENT OF THE POLISH ARMY



Polish army utilizes equipment coming both from the east and the west. Most of its equipment is manufactured locally and most hardware has underwent several upgrades.

## INFANTRY EQUIPMENT

The Polish infantry uses two main types of small arms. One is the AK-47 and its most popular variant - AKM. The other is the Beryl Assault Rifle, locally developed and manufactured AK variant using 5.56 NATO ammunition. While not as high tech as weapons used by some other armies, Beryl is a very reliable weapon.

The most common support weapons are the RPK and PKM machine guns, RPG-7 and Pallad 40mm grenade launcher - used both in the stand-alone and recently introduced under-barrel variants. Some units use the homegrown UKM-2000 GPMG, which uses NATO ammunition. Air cavalry units utilize the Carl Gustav launchers instead of the RPG-7. Most light infantry units equip some of their squads with 60mm mortars, which may be used to provide direct and indirect fire support using high explosive, smoke or illumination ammo.

Infantry units utilize ATGMs to combat enemy tanks. Some units still use the obsolete Russian missiles, but they are being replaced with new NT-S Spike - one of the most advanced ATGMs in the world.

Body armor, while used, is not yet common in Polish Army. It is assigned usually to special forces troops and soldiers deployed as a part of expeditionary forces.

## COMBAT VEHICLES

Polish Army uses armored fighting vehicles of both western and eastern origin, often with homegrown modifications which enhance their usefulness on modern battle-

field.

Three Main Battle Tanks are currently used by Polish troops. The most numerous is the T-72M tank, probably the most common tank in the world. While it is not as capable as the world's most advanced MBTs, it still stands a chance against them in the dense terrain of Central Europe. The second is PT-91 "Twardy" (Hard) - a home-grown upgrade of T-72, with enhanced survivability, better engine and much more capable fire control system. The last one is Leopard 2A4, German MBT, one of the best tanks in the world.

Motorized and Mechanized infantry use two IFV types. The first is the BWP-1, which is Polish designation for Russian BMP-1 vehicle. It is obsolete, but still able to support the dismounted infantry with decent firepower. The second is Rosomak (Wolverine) - recently introduced wheeled IFV, manufactured under license obtained from the Patria company. This heavy wheeled IFV offers good protection level and can support troops with its powerful Bushmaster II autocannon.

Other vehicles worthy of notice are the BRDM-2 series vehicles. Excellent in reconnaissance role, many of them have been seriously upgraded to enhance their capabilities. Specialist variants of the BRDM-2 are also in use - mostly ATGM carriers and air defense vehicles.

Many soft-skin vehicles are also in use. Imported HMMWV vehicles are used by airborne and air cavalry troops, while the Military Police uses light Scorpion-3 and heavy Dzik-2 (Wild Boar) patrol vehicles.

## AIR POWER

Polish Air Force provides the Army units with air support. At this moment three aircraft types remain in service.

MiG-29 fighters are excellent dog-fighters and good overall air superiority fighters, but their ground-attack capabilities are limited. The Su-22M4 fighter-bombers are their exact opposite, they excel in ground attack but their chances in dogfight against modern fighter are very poor. The newly acquired F-16C/D multi-role fighters excel in both roles, but their numbers are still limited.

The Army has its own aircraft. Mi-24 helicopters are excellent attack helicopters. While not as good in tank-hunter role as Apache, the Mi-24 is well protected and carries a lot of firepower. Its transport capabilities combined with its survivability make it a good CSAR or Medevac helicopter.

Lighter Sokol (Falcon) helicopters are the main transport helicopters of the Air Cavalry units. They are armed, but are not as good as the Mi-24 in attack role. Mi-8 and Mi-17 heavy helicopters provide transport in the rear areas. Light Mi-2 helicopters are used both as utility, transport and light attack platforms.

## POLISH STUBBORNNESS

Polish soldiers are well known for their stubbornness and unwillingness to give up in face of overwhelming odds. Platoons from the Defensive Forces will shatter after losing 75% of their models, not two thirds as usual. This rule does not apply to platoons coming from the Expeditionary Forces.

## IT'S OUR LAND

Polish commanders are intimately familiar with the terrain they're most likely to fight over - their homeland. Any force composed of Defensive Force platoons will benefit from +1 to its rolls for set-up and deployment. Additionally, a single squad may benefit from the Infiltration special rule.

## LIMITED RESOURCES

Poland can assign only limited resources to any expeditionary mission. This means that any combat losses will strongly reflect on the war-fighting capabilities of the expeditionary contingent. The limit of losses Polish force consisting of Expeditionary Forces can sustain in a campaign is 25% lower.