

## FRANCE

The evolution of French military theory and practice since the end of W.W.II has been influenced by four pivotal events and one personality; the Indochina War, The Korean War, The Algerian War, the Cold War, and Charles de Gaulle. The French army had risen like a phoenix out of the ashes of 1940. General de Gaulle had risen from complete political obscurity to command one of the four premier allied powers in 1945. The "Fighting French" had overcome incompetence, political infighting, and outright treachery on the part of their own countrymen, and the handful of die-hards that had once huddled together in England and Africa grew into a great host that marched in triumph through the streets of Paris and the rubble that was once Berlin.

Political crisis followed hard on the heels of victory. De Gaulle suddenly resigned as Prime Minister in January 1946, disgusted by what he saw as the failure of the new republic to reform its archaic and corrupt political institutions. The army had become alienated from French society at large and became a separate political entity from the nation it served. In a sweeping austerity drive in the same year as de Gaulle's resignation, forty-five percent of all officers and forty percent of NCO's were cashiered in a single stroke. It's true that the army was far larger than France could afford to maintain, but to the many thousands of professional soldiers effected, the move felt like a betrayal of the nation's obligation to them for faithful service through years of danger and adversity. Distrust of governmental "good faith" soon made it impossible to attract talented individuals to army careers.

With de Gaulle gone the "Fourth Republic" was free to pursue one ill-fated venture after another, to the disgust of its professional soldiers. Without exercising sufficient political will and without general public support, it charged the army with the restoration of French authority over its neglected colonial empire, beginning with Indo-China. Once again, government policy acted to further alienate the army from the people. All units sent to Indo-China were drawn from the regular army cadre, the Foreign Legion, and colonial forces. Since French conscripts were not allowed to serve in this war, the sacrifices and suffering of the army were largely ignored by the "man in the street". In addition, by committing most of the remaining regulars abroad, the war caused a considerable reduction in training and performance standards among the conscript forces based in France.

Despite claims to the contrary, French doctrine in Indo-China placed great emphasis on technological superiority. They relied heavily on American material support and their forces were equipped on a lavish scale. This actually acted as a disadvantage in the mountains, swamps, and forests of Southeast Asia, where French forces became tied to an unwieldy supply echelon plagued by a primitive transportation network. The nature of the casualties suffered was an additional drain on army morale and efficiency: the prohibition of conscript service meant that combat losses fell heavily on colonial troops and officers. Of 92,000 reported French deaths, only 20,000 were natives of metropolitan France. Almost all of these were officers, including the sons of twenty-one marshals of France. It has been calculated that one French officer died for each day of the seven years the French army was committed to the Indo-China War. Despite atrocious casualties, French victories were, in the long run, indecisive.

Defeat in Indo-China came to the French, as it was later to come to the Americans, as a result of bad judgement and indecision at the highest levels, not from failure in the field. The junior officer corps displayed real talent for improvisation, adaptation, and innovation. This talent was largely wasted by a high command that insisted there was nothing to be learned from Indo-China either politically or militarily. The Vietminh, however, pursued the war on a very broad front, giving due priority to political, military, social, and cultural considerations. This was at the very heart of their continuing success. To this must be added the unquestioning loyalty of 300,000 troops and an enormous civilian support organization. Oddly enough, the most reliable and determined of the French troops were the men of the Foreign Legion, over twenty-five percent of whom were Germans!

In spite of their enormous commitment to Indo-China, French pride required that they make a contribution to the allied forces fighting the communists in Korea. Their expeditionary force, consisting of a single battalion, was commanded by a Lieutenant General! This man (Lt. Gen. Montclar) took a temporary demotion to the rank of Lt. Colonel for the honor of commanding this largely symbolic French force. Its combat record was anything but symbolic, however. It was attached to the U.S. 2nd Division and charged with the bayonet at Wonju and helped break the back of a Chinese offensive at Chip'yong-ni. A year later it fought brilliantly at Heartbreak Ridge and Arrowhead Hill. It left Korea in 1953 having sustained 261 dead and in the words of Nigel Thomas, "having restored a certain lustre to French arms".

To understand the emotional attachment the French army felt toward Algeria you have to understand that Algeria held the same place in the psychology of French soldiers that India held for British soldiers. In their eyes, Algeria was an integral part of the French nation, the tenth "Department" of France, and not a colony at all. Thus, when on November 1st, 1954, with the French army only four months out of its ordeal in Indo-China, fighting broke out between the Algerian "Fronte de la Liberation Nationale" (FLN) and French outposts in the Aures Mountains, French reaction was swift and dramatic.

The French military had persisted in refusing to learn the lessons of Indo-China right up to outbreak of war in Algeria. But the shock of their defeat at Dien Bien Phu and the outbreak of the Algerian War caused the seething bitterness of many French veterans to boil over. French attitudes reversed themselves in short order. By 1956, French forces in Algeria grew to 200,000, almost all of whom were Indo-China veterans. Unlike Indo-China, Algeria was officially a war on French soil. Therefore, the French government mobilized the French Territorial Army. At its height in 1957, the Algerian War required the dispatch of sixty percent of the total French army, and required not only huge numbers of conscripts but also the call-up of large numbers of reservists. The army expanded to 830,000 and only 50,00 remained to man the country's West German garrison.

Although 300,000 French troops, eighty percent of them conscripts, were deployed across Algeria in small security garrisons, a 30,000 man "General Reserve" consisting of tough French paratroop units made up the core of their military effort along with the veterans of the Foreign Legion, especially the 1st and 2nd "Regiments Legion E'trangers de Parachutistes" (The REP's). It soon became apparent that by doing this, France had established two separate armies in Algeria. On the one hand, the Territorial Army occupied the countryside while on the other, the General Reserve did most of the fighting. It became common for the Territorials to pull back on contact with the enemy and "wait for the Para's". The relationship between numbers of men in the field and the number of combat effectives soon became meaningless in this atmosphere. The General Reserve began to look down on the rest of the army and to see itself as a professional elite, which is what it had become.

The Algerian campaign resolved itself into two distinct phases. First, the porous border between Algeria and her neighbors, Morocco and Tunisia, was closed to infiltration by the use of electrified wire, extensive minefields, and radar sensors. Mobile patrols constantly monitored this border and pounced on any Algerian infiltrators. Once the Algerians gave up on bringing in outside reinforcements, the action turned to the hunting down of hidden FLN refuges within Algeria. French troops methodically isolated and

strangled each FLN group in a district one by one. The REP's suffered a total of around fifteen hundred casualties to all causes while killing 3,650 FLN and capturing another 538. The skillful use of helicopters for reconnaissance and as troop transports was a major factor in this phase. Their successes combined with isolation from the rest of the French army to make the officers of the General Reserve feel that they represented a sort of independent state within its ranks, dedicated to a "warrior code" and to the preservation of French honor. It was only a short step from this attitude to their participation in the attempted coup of May 13th, 1958 that brought down the Fourth Republic and brought de Gaulle out of retirement.

The sin of the Fourth Republic, in their eyes, was to consider reopening negotiations with the FLN on the eve of military success. In the words of Peter Tsouras, in his book Changing Orders, "...The army believed that de Gaulle had given his word as a soldier that Algeria would remain French; it would learn to its bitter regret that he had given his word as a politician". A deep-rooted distrust developed between President de Gaulle and the French officer corps, which boiled over in the shameful events of April 1961. At this time, a group of high army officers headed by General Raoul Salan formed the Secret Army Organization (Organisation de l'Armée Secrète; OAS) and attempted to stage a coup in Algiers using three parachute regiments, including the 1st REP. When the insurrection failed, the OAS turned to terrorism and there were several attempts on de Gaulle's life. The president pushed ahead nevertheless with his search for a settlement with the Algerians that would combine independence with guarantees for the safety of French colonists and their property. Such a settlement was finally worked out and in a referendum in April of 1962 more than 90 percent of the war-weary French voters approved the agreement. An exodus of European settlers ensued; 750,000 refugees flooded into France. By 1963, the French were gone.

Having defeated the coup d'état by the French army, stabilized French politics, and restored French power and prestige in the world, de Gaulle proceeded to write a new constitution for a Fifth Republic establishing presidential leadership and restoring France's political stability. In defense matters, de Gaulle bristled at NATO's reliance on the United States and publicly doubted America's commitment to the defense of Europe even at the risk of nuclear war. Therefore, de Gaulle accelerated the quiet development of a nuclear capacity begun under the Fourth Republic, and France exploded its first atomic bomb in 1960. The "Cold War" period was marked by a fiercely independent French foreign policy. Many Americans were angered and frustrated by what they saw as French duplicity and ingratitude. Perhaps they were right. Only time will reveal the true nature of French policy in the period. I feel it must be said however, that the Soviet Union never quite grasped French independence in spite of their attempts at driving every wedge possible between France and the NATO powers.

I clearly remember the frustrated looks on the faces of Soviet arms negotiators as they tried to combine French, American, and other European nuclear weapons into a single total when comparing numbers of warheads as a basis for strategic arms limitation talks. American negotiators would throw up their hands in despair as they tried to make the Soviets understand that the U.S. had no control whatsoever over whether or when French nuclear weapons might be used. There was the story that made the rounds of the "Intelligence" community of the Soviet diplomat at an embassy cocktail party who quietly advised a minor U.S. official, "Your country simply cannot expect to maintain order in Western Europe until you learn to control your "satellites".

After a major reorganization in 1964, the "Territorial" and "Professional" armies were replaced by new organizations. The new "Territorial" army was now responsible for conscription, training, mobilization, and internal security. The new "Standing Army" represented the actual fighting units and, as such, was fitted with a new mechanized division TO&E; the "Type 1967" division. This was to be a "Heavy" division composed of three "All-Arms" brigades with about 16,000 men and included four launchers for the new "Pluton" battlefield nuclear missile, capable of delivering a 30 kiloton warhead to a range of 75 miles.

The French army was to experience a long period of relative political and military stability for the next fifteen years followed by the brilliant work of the Foreign Legion in Chad during the 1980's and the successful French expedition to the Persian Gulf in 1991. These exploits reassured the French population that they were finally getting their military money's worth. Opportunities for advanced technical training, decent benefits, and a more liberal selection policy where officer candidates increasingly came from among promising enlisted men eventually put an end to recruitment shortages.

For centuries conscription has been a fact of life for France. But this era finally came to an end due, in large part, to the 1994 French "National Defense Policy - White Paper". This document tasked the French military establishment with four new missions:

- 1) "preserving the vital interests of France against all forms of aggression"
- 2) "contributing to the security and defense of the European and the Mediterranean space with the eventual prospect of a joint European defense policy"
- 3) "contributing to actions for the promotion of peace and the observance of international law"
- 4) "carrying out public service tasks, especially by reinforcing the facilities and organizations normally responsible for the civilian defense of the territory" (of France).

By the end of 1999, the army had been scaled down to a pool of 180,000 uniformed personnel (of whom 118,000 were professionals) from 236,000 (including 132,000 conscripts). Some 60,000 of these were designated as "projectable" (conscripts cannot be sent overseas). A good deal of turbulence has been engendered by this restructuring and by the incomplete nature of its personnel recruitment and training programs. In addition to this, France has still had to face the same problems and issues faced by all other armies today, as well as contemplate future advances in both technology and philosophy.

## FOREIGN WEAPONS

"Milan" ATGM - UK; 57mm M18 RcR, 75mm M20 RcR, 81mm M1 Mortar, 105mm M101, 155mm M114, CEV, LVTA4, M3 Halftrack, M4A3 Sherman, M5 Stuart, M8 Greyhound, 75mm M8 HMC, M-15, M-16, M29 Weasal, M36 Jackson, M24 Chaffee - US

## TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

### FRENCH FORCES - INDOCHINA: 1951-1954

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 70, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 40%**

Infantry Company: 4xTL1 Infantry(B), 1xTL1 Infantry Support  
Armored Infantry Company: 4xTL1 Infantry(B)  
Infantry Support Company: 1xTL1 81mm M1 Mortar(3)/Truck, 2xTL1 Infantry Support, 1xJeep/75mm M20 RcR, 1xTL1 Infantry (R)/Jeep

Vietnamese Motorized Company: 3xTL1 Infantry(C)/Truck  
 Vietnamese Infantry Company: 3xTL1 Infantry(C)  
 Engineer Company: 3xTL1 Engineer Infantry/Truck  
 "Crab" Company (GA): 2xTL1 Infantry Support/M29 Weasal, 2xM29/57mm M18 RcR  
 "Alligator" Company (GA): 3xLVT4, 1xLVT(A)4(3)  
 Tank Company: 4xM24 Chaffee, 1xTL1 Infantry(B)/M3 Halftrack  
 Armored Squadron: 4xM4A3 Sherman or M24 Chaffee  
 Vietnamese Armored Squadron: 3xM8 Greyhound  
 Colonial Armored Squadron: 4xM4A3 Sherman  
 Tank Destroyer Squadron: 3xM36 Jackson  
 Anti-Aircraft Company: 2xM-16, 1xM-15  
 Foreign Legion Tank Company[R]: 4xM24 Chaffee or 4xM5 Stuart  
 Foreign Legion Recon Troop[R]: 4xM8 Greyhound, 1x75mm M8 HMC(1+)  
 "Crab" Company(GEA): 3xM29 Weasel/LMG[R], 1xM29/57mm M18 RcR[R]  
 "Alligator" Company (GEA): 1xTL1 Infantry(R)/LVT4, 1xLVT-4(CS)[R]

Infantry Battalion: 1xTL1 Infantry (B) HQ/Truck, 3xInfantry Company, 1xInfantry Support Company  
 Vietnamese Infantry Battalion: 1xTL1 Infantry (C) HQ/Truck, 3xInfantry Company, 1xTL1 Infantry Support, 1x81mm M1 Mortar(3)  
 "Groupe Blinde" (GB): 1xTL1 Infantry(B) HQ, 1xArmored Company, 2xArmored Infantry Company  
 1xColonial Armored Regiment 1xM4A3 Sherman (HQ), 1xTank Destroyer Squadron, 3xColonial Armored Squadron  
 4xArmored Regiment: 1xM4A3 Sherman (HQ), 4xArmored Squadron

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units, or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)  
 2xAmphibious Group (GA): 2x"Crab" Company, 3x"Alligator" Company  
 3xForeign Legion Recon Group: 1xForeign Legion Tank Company, 1xForeign Legion Recon Troop  
 6xAmphibious Group (GEA): 1x"Crab" Company (GEA), 1x"Alligator" Company (GEA)  
 2xAmphibious Regiment: 3xAmphibious Group (GEA)  
 Artillery Battalion: 3x105mm M101(3)/Truck  
 Heavy Artillery Battalion: 3x155mm M114(2)/Truck

Notes: 1) In 1951 there were two "Groupes Blindes". In 1954 the number grew to four.  
 2) In April 1953 the (GA) Amphibious Groups were replaced by six (GEA) Amphibious Groups organized into two regiments.  
 3) The French armed the standard LVT-4 with two .50 cal HMG and two .30 cal MG (and sometimes a 75mm M20 RcR).  
 4) The LVT-4(CS) was a standard LVT-4 fitted with a 40mm "Bofors" Anti-Aircraft Gun and twin coaxial .50 cal HMG's.  
 5) Due to widespread political unrest, "Colonial" units, especially the Moroccans, should suffer from reduced cohesion.  
 6) Most Vietnamese units are "Conscripts", and should be even more disaffected than other "Colonial" troops.

#### "THE REPI"

##### 1st and 2nd Regiments E'tranger Parachutistes: 1955 - 1961

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 60, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 60%**

Parachute Company: 4xTL2 Infantry(B), 1xTL2 Infantry Support  
 Para Support Company: 1xJeep/75mm RcR, 1x105mm RcR/Light Truck, 1x120mm "Brandt" Mortar(2)/Truck  
 Recon Company: 4xJeep/.50 cal[R]  
 Tank Company: 4xAMX-13

Parachute Regiment: 1xTL2 Infantry(B) GHQ, 4xParachute Company, 1xPara Support Company, Recon Company, 1xTank Company

Notes: 1) Sufficient helicopters are available to "lift" all personnel units.  
 2) "Insurgent" forces may possess any combination small arms and light support weapons of French or Soviet manufacture.

#### "TYPE 1967" DIVISION

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%**

Mechanized Infantry Company: 4xTL2 Infantry(B)/AMX VCI, 1x81mm AMX VCI(1)  
 Tank Company: 4xAMX-30  
 Tank Destroyer Company: 1xAMX-13/75 w/SS-11, 4xAMX-13/75 or 4xAMX-13/90  
 Reconnaissance Company[R]: 1xTL2 Infantry(R)/Light Truck, 3xAML-H60 or AML-H90, 1xJeep/.50 cal  
OR: 1xTL2 Infantry(R)/Light Truck, 3xEBR-75 or EBR-90, 1xJeep/.50 cal  
 Mechanized Regiment: 1xTL2 Infantry(HQ)/"AMX VCI", 2xMechanized Infantry Company, 2xTank Destroyer Company, 1x120mm AMX VCI(3)  
 Armored Regiment: 1xAMX-30(HQ), 4xTank Company, 1xMechanized Infantry Company  
 Artillery Regiment: 3x155mm "AMX/F-3"(3)  
 Mechanized Brigade: 1xTL2 Infantry(GHQ)/"AMX VCI", 2xMechanized Regiment, 1xTank Regiment, 1xArtillery Regiment

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units, or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)  
 Engineer Company: 3xTL2 Engineer Infantry/Truck  
 Anti-Aircraft Battalion: 4x"Roland", 3x30mm AMX-DCA  
 Recon Regiment: 1xTL2 Infantry(HQ)/"AMX VCI", 3xReconnaissance Company

Helicopter Transport Squadron: 3x"Puma"  
 Attack Helicopter Squadron: 3x"Alouette III"/SS-11  
 Helicopter Scout Squadron: 3x"Alouette II"  
 Air Support: "Super Mystere", "Mirage 5"

- Notes: 1) Each "Type 1967" Division contained 3xMechanized Brigade.  
 2) Regiments are actually battalion-sized units.

**"TYPE 1977" LIGHT ARMORED DIVISION**

**Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%**

Mechanized Infantry Company: 4xTL3 Infantry(B)/AMX-10PC, 1x81mm Mortar(1)/VAB  
 Tank Company: 3xAMX-30

2xMechanized Regiment: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) GHQ/AMX-10PC, 3xMechanized Infantry Company, 1x120mm Mortar(3)/VAB, 1xJeep/GPMG[R]

2xArmored Regiment: 1xAMX-30(GHQ), 4xTank Company, 1xAVLB, 1xJeep/GPMG[R]

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units, or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)

3xReconnaissance Company: 3xAML "Armored Car"[R]  
 Anti-Tank Company: 3xVAB/"HOT"  
 Armored Engineer Company: 2xTL3 Engineer Infantry/AMX-10P, 1xCEV  
 Engineer Company: 2xTL3 Engineer Infantry/Truck  
 4xArtillery Battery: 1x155mm AMX/F-3(3) or 1x155mm AMX GCT/AUF-1(3)

- Notes: 1) Regiments are actually battalion-sized units.  
 2) The AMX-10PC is the "Command" version of the AMX-10P.

**"Type 1977" MOTORIZED "DIVISION"**

**Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%**

Motorized Infantry Company: 4xTL3 Infantry(C)/AMX-10PC, 1x81mm Mortar(1)/VAB

3xMotorized Infantry Regt: 1xTL3 Infantry(C) GHQ/AMX-10P, 3xMotorized Infantry Company, 1x120mm Mortar(3)/VAB, 1xJeep/LMG[R]

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units, or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)

Engineer Company: 2xTL3 Engineer Infantry/AMX-10P, 1xAVLB  
 Anti-Tank Company: 3xVAB/"HOT"  
 3xReconnaissance Company: 2xAML "Armored Car"[R], 2xTL3 Infantry (R)/AMX-10P  
 3xArtillery Battery: 1x155mm AMX GCT/AUF-1(3)

- Notes: 1) Regiments are actually battalion-sized units.  
 2) The AMX-10PC is the "Command" version of the AMX-10P.

**FOREIGN LEGION FORCES - CHAD: 1987**

**Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 60%**

Parachute Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B), 1xTL3 Infantry Support, 1x81mm "Brandt" Mortar(1)  
 Support Company: 1xJeep/HMG[R], 1x120mm "Brandt" Mortar(3)/Truck, 1xTL3 Infantry Support, 1xJeep/"Milan", 1xTL3 Infantry(S)

Cavalry Squadron: 4xAMX-10RC  
 Anti-Tank Company: 4xVAB/HOT

Parachute Regiment: 1xInfantry(GHQ), 4xParachute Infantry Company, 1xSupport Company

Armored Cavalry Regt: 1xInfantry(GHQ)/VAB, 3xCavalry Squadron, 1xAnti-Tank Company

- Notes: 1) Sufficient transport helicopters are available to "lift" all personnel units.  
 2) Truck transport may be provided as needed.  
 3) Close air support may be provided by SEPECAT "Jaguar S" aircraft and/or various contemporary helicopters.

**"F.A.R." LIGHT DIVISION - PERSIAN GULF: 1991**

**Generation: IV, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%**

Infantry Company: 3xTL4 Infantry(B), 1xTL3 81mm "Brandt" Mortar(1)/Light Truck  
 Infantry Support Company: 1xVBL/"Milan", 1x20mm "Tarasque"/(ACMAT)VBL, 1x120mm "Brandt Mortar(3)/Light Truck, 1xTL4 Infantry(R)/Light Truck,

Mechanized Infantry Company: 3xTL4 Infantry(B), 1xTL3 81mm "Brandt" Mortar(1)/VAB, 1xVBL/"Milan"

Armored Engineer Squadron: 2xTL4 Engineer Infantry/VAB, 2xAMX-30 (Bridge), 1xAMX-30 (Dozer)

Cavalry Squadron[R]: 4xAMX-10RC, 1xVAB/HOT, 1xVBL/LMG

Air Cavalry Squadron[R]: 4xERC-90, 1xVBL/.50 cal

Armored Squadron: 4xAMX-30/B2

Anti-Tank Squadron: 3xVAB/HOT  
 Recon Company[R]: 3xJeep/LMG, 1xVBL/"Milan"  
 Anti-Aircraft Company: 4x20mm "Tarasque"/Truck

Infantry Regiment: 1xVBL(ACMAT) GHQ, 4xInfantry Company, 1xInfantry Support Company  
 Mechanized Infantry Regt: 1xVAB-PC GHQ, 4xMechanized Infantry Company, 1xRecon Company, 1xAnti-Aircraft Company, 1x120mm "Brandt" Mortar(3)/VAB  
 Light Armored Regiment: 1xVAB-PC (HQ), 3xCavalry Squadron, 1xAnti-Tank Squadron  
 Armored Regiment: 1xAMX-10PC (HQ), 3xArmored Squadron, 1xVBL/LMG[R]  
 Armored Recon Regiment: 1xVAB-PC, 3xAir Cavalry Squadron

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units, or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)  
 Artillery Regiment: 4x155mm TRF-1(3)/Truck, 1xVBL/"Mistral"  
 Armored Engineer Regiment: 3xArmored Engineer Squadron  
 Anti-Aircraft Missile Battery: 1xAMX/Roland or "IHAWK"/Truck  
 Scout Helicopter Squadron: 3xSA341 "Gazelle"  
 Anti-Tank Helicopter Squadron: 3xSA342M "Gazelle"  
 Transport helicopter Squadron: 3x"Super Puma"

Notes: 1) The "FAR" is the French "Rapid Deployment Force".  
 2) one stand in each "Infantry Company" may contain a "Milan" team (MP).  
 3) The VBL is a light utility car similar to a U.S. "HMMWV".  
 4) The VAB-PC is the "Command" version of the VAB.

### TANK AND MECHANIZED BRIGADES: 2000

**Generation: IV, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%**

Infantry Company: 3xTL4 Infantry(A)/VAB, 1xTL4 Infantry Support/VAB, 1x81mm "Brandt" Mortar(1)/VAB  
 Infantry Support Company: 3xVBL/LMG[R], 1xMortar Battery, 1x20mm "Tarasque"/Truck  
 Anti-Tank Company: 4xVAB/HOT  
 Mechanized Infantry Company: 3xTL4 Infantry(A)/AMX-10P  
 Tank Company: 4xAMX-30B2, 1xTL4 Infantry(B)/VAB  
 Tank Company (2003): 3xLeclerc, 1xTL4 Infantry(A)/VAB  
 Mortar Battery: 1x120mm AMX-10 TM(3)

Infantry Regiment: 1xAMX-10PC (GHQ), 4xInfantry Company, 1xInfantry Support Company, 1xAnti-tank Company  
 Mechanized Infantry Regt: 1xAMX-10PC (GHQ), 3xMechanized Infantry Company, 1xMortar Battery, 2xVBL/LMG[R]  
 Armored Regiment: 1xAMX-30B2 (GHQ), 1xAMX ARV, 4xTank Company  
 Armored Battalion (2003): 1xLeclerc (GHQ), 3xTank Company (2003)  
 Armored Regiment (2003): 2xArmored Battalion (2003)

Tank Brigade: 1xTL4 Infantry(A) GHQ/AMX-10PC, 2xArmored Regiment, 2xMechanized Infantry Regiment  
 Mechanized Brig: 1xTL4 Infantry(A) GHQ/AMX-10PC, 1xInfantry Regiment, 1xMechanized Infantry Regiment, 1xArmored Regiment

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units, or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)  
 Anti-Tank Company: 3xVAB/HOT-2  
 Artillery Regiment: 3x155mm GCT/AUF-1(4)  
 Recon Squadron: 3x(ACMAT)VBL  
 Armored Engineer Squadron: 2xTL4 Engineer Infantry/VAB, 2xAMX-30 (Bridge), 1xAMX-30 (Dozer)

Notes: 1) Each "Mechanized" Infantry Company may contain 1x"Milan-2" Team (MP) and 1x"Eryx" Team (MP).  
 2) Each Infantry "Company" may contain 1x"Eryx" Team (MP).  
 3) Each Infantry "Regiment" may contain 2x"Milan-2" Team (MP).  
 4) The (2003) designation refers to the projected Brigade TO&E as of that year.

### PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Additional French TO&E's appear in the chapter on UN "Peacekeeping" forces, elsewhere in this book.

### TACTICAL NOTES

Indo-China: Battles of the Indo-China War should be similar to those in the Vietnam War (1961-1975). These will generally involve a Vietminh attack on a French or Vietnamese outpost. Alternately, you may try French "Sweeps" into Vietminh territory using mobile (even air-mobile) forces. Amphibious operations provide for some truly interesting situations using "Crab" and "Alligator" units in the Mekong Delta. These actions will revolve around the fact that the Vietminh nearly always had the initiative, while the French had the "Lion's Share" of the firepower.

Algeria: The Algerian war was different from the Indo-China War, in that "The Rep" generally had the initiative, and never let go of it. You may design scenarios around insurgent attacks on French "Base Camps", but the historical situation was such that most scenarios of this type should begin with the insurgents besieging the camp. The besiegers should then be attacked by a mobile French "Relief Force".

Chad: This is a classic example of what a small force of well equipped professionals can do to a large force of poorly trained and led conscripts. The "Legion" should be used as a "high-tech" support force. Take a Libyan formation, lay it across a Chadian "anvil", and smash it to pieces using your Legionnaires as a "hammer"!

The Persian Gulf: As with the other "Western" armies in the Persian Gulf, action between the French and the Iraqi's more closely resembles a "Mugging" than a battle! The French operated on the "Open" left flank of the Allies and all scenarios should take place in this vast expanse of dunes and salt pans.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In mid-2000, France's "Deputy Chief of Staff for Planning and Finance" reported that the planned reformation process was two-thirds complete. The required training and support organizations were still evolving, but were projected to be in place by the end of 2002. The French Army is now organized into eight maneuver brigades. Equipment scales run from the very lightest, to state-of-the-art "Heavy Metal". Great emphasis has been placed on "modularity". Standard divisional organizations and affiliations have been disbanded and replaced by "division-level" headquarters staffs (Force HQ's) capable of controlling two to four brigades. The single "permanent" structure is the Force HQ and two brigades dedicated over the next two years to the multinational "Eurocorps" (More on that in the chapter on UN peacekeeping). With the exception of the Franco-German brigade, there is not even any certainty that brigade HQ's will be deployed with their component battalions. These will be organized into task oriented "Tactical Groups" (Groupements Tactiques). French forces stationed abroad (as of mid-2000) include the following:

West Indies - 3xMarine Regiments (3800 pers.)  
Chad - 2xInfantry Company, 1xAML Squadron (960 pers.)  
Ivory Coast - 1xMarine Battalion, 1xAML Squadron (500 pers.)  
Djibouti - 1xMarine "Detachment", 2xAMX Squadron?, 1x155mm Artillery Battery(-), 10xMirage F-1, 3xSA-319 (1500 pers.)  
Kosovo (KFOR)- 1xDivisional Headquarters, 1xLogistic and Support Brigade (3800 pers.)  
French Guiana - 2xMarine Regiment, 1xForeign Legion Regiment (3200 pers.)  
Gabon - 1xInfantry Battalion, 1xAML Squadron(-) (650 pers.)  
Germany - 2700 including "Eurocorps" elements  
Reunion Island - 2xMarine Regiment, 1xLogistic Support Battalion (4,100 pers.)  
Lebanon UNFIL- 1xLogistic Support Battalion(-) (250 pers.)  
New Caledonia - 1xMarine regiment, 1xLogistic Support Battalion (3,100 pers.)  
Polynesia - 1xForeign Legion Regiment + Support (3,200)  
Senegal - 1xMarine Battalion, 1xAML Squadron (1,200 Pers.)

### 2002 FRENCH ARSENAL

Vehicles: 300+"Leclerc", 200xAMX-30B2, 342xAMX-10RC, 192xERC-90, 335xAMX-10PC, 840xVAB  
AT Weapons: 947xMilan, 135xVAB/HOT, 700xEryx  
Artillery: 160x155mmAUF-1(SP) and 105mmTRF-1 (Towed), 58xMLRS, 364x120mm Mortar  
Anti-Aircraft: 26xIHAWK, 20xRoland/Carol, 69xRoland II, 326xMistral  
Combat Aircraft: Fixed Wing: 170xMirage-2000, 100+Mirage F-1, 25xJaguar  
Helicopter: 40xSA-342 "Gazelle"/HOT, 30xSA-342 "Gazelle"/Mistral, 40xSA-341 "Gazelle"/Recon, 80xSA-330 "Puma", 30xAS-532 "Cougar"  
Small Arms: 9mm (MAT-49, H&K MP5) Submachineguns, 5.56mm (FAMAS, SG540), 7.62mm FR-F1/F2) rifles, 7.62mm (AAT-52), 12.7mm ("Browning" M2HB) Machineguns, 11,500x89mm STRIM, 7,000xAPILAS ATGL's

- Notes:
- 1) 500xAMX-30 and 3,000xVAB are in storage.
  - 2) 96x"Leclerc" are scheduled for delivery between 2002 and 2005.
  - 3) A new AFV, the VBCI (8x8), will begin replacing the AMX-10P, beginning in 2006. A total of 433 are to be built.
  - 4) 300 AMX-10RC's are to be upgraded. They are scheduled to be replaced by a new vehicle, the EBRC, after 2012.
  - 5) The 105mm TRF-1 is to be replaced in the near future by a new "Truck Mounted" 155mm model, the "Caesar".
  - 6) A new mobile SAM system is being developed in cooperation with Italy. First deliveries are expected in 2008.
  - 7) "Fixed Wing" aircraft figures represent numbers operationally deployed and exclude aircraft in storage.
  - 8) 36x"Rafale" fighters are scheduled for delivery beginning in 2004, with the first operational squadron ready by 2006.
  - 9) The Helicopter fleet is dropping to a total of 433 during 2002 and 376 by 2010.
  - 10) The first delivery of 70x"Tigre" helicopters begins in 2003, 10 more are scheduled for delivery beginning in 2011.

### POINTS OF CONTACT

"Ministry of Defense" and "General Armaments Commission" - Tel: ++33-1-42193011