

SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Army can trace its roots back to 1652, with the establishment of a small security garrison for the original "Dutch East India Company" refreshment station at the "Cape of Good Hope". When this proved inadequate, it was supplemented by a slightly larger militia force in 1658. By the 1670s, this had grown into the "commando" system, a mixed force of militia and regulars operating under Dutch officers against hostile natives. By 1715 local "Boer" officers were in charge, and this system remained in force until Britain took control of the Cape colony in 1795.

The British soon saw the need for a regular force of mounted troops to keep not only the natives but the local Boer population in line as well. In 1796 this force was supplemented by a "Hottentot Corps", again with the dual purpose of defending against external attack and intimidating the colonists. The British pulled out after only a short occupation, however, and the commando system soon re-established itself, as the Dutch Government found regular forces too expensive to maintain. When the British returned in 1806 they found the existing system effective and retained it.

By this time, the Bantu tribes had become a constant threat and volunteer commandos were serving one month in three on campaign. The damage done to the economy was becoming serious. By 1812, regular Hottentot regiments were being raised to take the load off the local farmers. The commandos were then abolished in 1834. Defense of the colony was then largely in the hands of British regulars, reinforced by the Hottentots and local militia when necessary. By the 1880s these militia became known as the "CF" (Citizen Force), which became the basis for the South African reserve system.

Dissatisfied with British rule, many Dutch settlers began to move deeper into the interior, starting around 1836, and took the commando system with them. It proved its worth in clashes both with hostile tribes and the British in the First Boer War (1880-1881). By the time of the Second Boer War (1899-1902), the commandos had been augmented by regular artillery units and, in the Transvaal, the police. In this war, the Boers developed truly innovative tactics, making extensive use of mounted riflemen and well-camouflaged and dug-in defensive positions. The commando system allowed the Boers to conduct effective guerrilla warfare long after their conventional armies had been defeated. The best evidence of this is the fact that only 20,000 Boer mounted riflemen with almost no logistic support were able to tie down 250,000 British troops for three years, long after their conventional armies had been defeated. With British rule established in the former Boer Republics, the commando system was abolished again. In its place, the British established their own volunteer units in the Transvaal after 1900. In Natal, volunteer units were converted into a militia force that was backed by a conscripted reserve when necessary.

World War

When the official "Union of South Africa" was established in 1910, a review of defense policy resulted in the "South African Defense Act" of 1912. This provided for an army comprising a permanent force of five regiments of South African Mounted Rifles, a Coast Garrison force and an "Active Citizen Force" (ACF). The latter consisted of the existing volunteer units backed up by the conscription of selected male citizens between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five. In war, the ACF would be employed along the lines of the Boer commandos. This reorganization was only partially complete when WWI broke out in 1914 when, under British orders, South African troops entered German South-West Africa to seize the powerful radio transmitters there and to deny its ports to German maritime raiders.

The German commander there skillfully avoided contact for as long as possible, in an effort to preserve his badly outnumbered force. The campaign, therefore, which lasted until July of 1915, primarily involved a lot of marching but few battles. The 1st South African Infantry Brigade, for instance, marched two hundred forty-four miles through poorly mapped wilderness in sixteen days. The last forty-five miles of this trek were covered in just a day and a half! The campaign in East Africa was to be much more grueling. The German commander there was Von Lettow Vorbeck, a brilliant tactician and charismatic leader. With only a few thousand men, he ran 111,000 imperial troops ragged well into 1919, using the same sort of hit-and-run tactics used by Boer commandos twenty years earlier.

World War, Again!

For most of the Second World War the South Africans were a "hard luck" army. After a clumsy start in East Africa, the 5th SA Brigade fought a disastrous battle near Sidi Rezegh on November 23rd, 1941 (Tottensonntag), in which it was overrun and destroyed by the Afrika Korps. Seven months later, 10,722 South African troops were captured when Tobruk fell in the summer of 1942. The remnants of the 1st South African Division returned home, full of bitterness, in 1943.

Next, came the 6th South African Armored Division, whose combat record was much more satisfying. This unit entered combat in Italy on June 3rd, 1944, entered Rome on June 6th, and fought some hard battles along the "Gothic Line" in September of 1944, before the Alpine winter halted all further advances. It then participated in the attack on the Po Valley in April 1945, after which German resistance in Italy finally collapsed.

Post War Neglect and Recovery

The South African Army suffered from severe neglect after WWII. It quickly shrank down to a tiny fraction of its former size. In fact, the only thing keeping it from disappearing altogether was the provision of an armored division for service in the Middle East in the event of hostilities there. To this end, the first of two hundred "Centurion" MBTs were purchased, which began arriving in 1952. In 1956, however, half of these were sold to Switzerland, effectively reducing the army to a pure infantry force. Ironically, the "South African Defense Force" (SADF) had to go to extraordinary lengths to obtain more Centurions years later. In the 1960s, South Africa's first Panhard AML-60 and AML-90 armored cars were produced on license from France and a parachute battalion and six infantry-training battalions were established. In addition, three armored squadrons were created and the first locally manufactured FN-FAL assault rifles were produced.

The South African Army took over responsibility for counterinsurgency operations in northern South West Africa (SWA) when a revolution in Portugal liberated that country's former colonies and brought civil war to Angola and a hostile government to Mozambique. The SADF actually invaded Angola in 1975. The campaign was not successful, but was useful in pointing out the army's capabilities and shortcomings.

Expansion in the Seventies

In 1976, the Army unveiled its new IFV (the "Ratel"). In 1977 national service was extended from one to two years. The first large-scale maneuvers in ten years took place in 1978, followed by the expansion of the parachute battalion to a full brigade. A state-of-the-art 155mm gun and a 127mm MRL were revealed in 1979 and 1980 respectively. The Ratel-60 and -90 appeared in 1981 along with an upgraded Centurion (the "Olifant"). Other developments included long-range ammunition for South Africa's existing 5.5" guns,

various mine-protected vehicles, a range of locally designed and built trucks, and a new assault rifle.

There was a reorganization of conventional forces and the formulation of new tactical doctrine. The Army was also concerned with reassessing its strategic situation and preparing plans to meet new threats, while conducting counterinsurgency operations in SWA. These proved beyond doubt what should have been obvious for years. The Army was woefully ill equipped for anything but small-scale counter-insurgency actions. This weakness was most clearly evident in its artillery arm, where WWII equipment was still in general service. South African 25lbs were severely out-ranged by most enemy guns and rocket launchers in Angola. Existing programs were accelerated and new ones initiated to remedy this.

Final Structures

In 1985 the South African Army was organized into a Territorial Force and a Conventional Force. In addition, there were those elements stationed in SWA and the SWA Territory Force (SWATF) itself, which consists chiefly of army elements and remained part of the SADF until Namibian independence in 1990. The bulk of the Army's strength consisted of "National Service" (NS) and "Citizen Force" (CF) personnel. The NS generally received six to eight months of basic, advanced individual, and sub-unit level training at one of the training units before being posted to operational duties. Infantry and commandos were trained at one of the school battalions while most of the other corps had their own schools.

In 1991, the South African order of battle consisted of one Corps HQ, two Division HQs, one Armored Brigade, one Mechanized Brigade, four Motorized Brigades, one Parachute Brigade, thirteen Artillery Regiments, fifteen Engineer Squadrons, seven Anti-Aircraft Regiments, and one SAM Regiment, for a total of 76,400 active duty (NS) personnel backed up by 130,000 (CF) reservists.

Apartheid

Throughout the 20th century, South African politics was dominated by the need to maintain white supremacy. In 1948, The "National Party" government introduced a program of institutionalized segregation called "apartheid". It established a rigid racial hierarchy fixing whites and blacks at opposite ends of the economic and political spectrum, with whites holding virtually all political power and controlling most of the country's wealth. In between, were the Asians (mostly Indians) and "Coloreds" (people of mixed race). Unrest among the nonwhite population became widespread during the 1950s, resulting in violent conflicts with police over the destructive influences of this system.

From 1948 to 1993, apartheid continued to be the underlying basis of all South African domestic policy. Under apartheid, the government established ten Bantu (African) national "homelands" to which it assigned specific tribal groups. In 1970, all blacks were made citizens of one or another of these homelands. By this ploy, the white minority effectively stripped all of South Africa's black population of their rights as "South African" citizens.

The Fabric Unravels

By 1978, most of the black homelands were suffering from complete economic and political collapse. Their only significant resource was labor and most of their leaders were corrupt and unpopular. The national economy overall was suffering deep recession. Skilled whites were emigrating in large numbers to Britain, Australia, and the US. Inflation was at a ruinous level. Moreover, the global political environment was becoming increasingly hostile. Ian Smith's white-dominated regime in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe after 1980) was on its last legs. Increasingly isolated as the last bastion of white supremacy, South Africa had become a focus of global criticism and outright denunciation.

At this time, the National Party was passing under the control of a new class of urban Afrikaners, who believed that reforms should be introduced to appease foreign and domestic critics. Their first attempt to implement these reforms came with the election of Pieter W. Botha in 1978. Botha repealed the bans on interracial sex and marriage, desegregated many public facilities, outlawed unfair hiring practices, and repealed the "pass" laws restricting the free movement of blacks within the country. Provided that black trade unions registered as such, they were given access to a new industrial court and permitted to strike. A new constitution created separate parliamentary bodies for Indians and Coloreds, and greatly increased the power of the president, namely P.W. Botha!

However, Botha's reforms stopped short of altering the apportionment of "real" power. The white parliamentary chamber could override the Colored and Indian chambers on "important" matters, and all black Africans remained disenfranchised. The "Group Areas Act" and "Land Acts" maintained residential segregation. Educational, health, and welfare services for Africans, Indians, and Coloreds remained segregated and inferior, and most nonwhites, especially black Africans, remained crushingly poor.

Moreover, Botha used the "State Security Council", which was dominated by the military, rather than the cabinet, as his primary policy-making body. Botha used South Africa's military strength to restrain neighboring countries from pursuing anti-apartheid policies. He kept South West Africa (Namibia) under South African domination, sent military raids into every other southern African state, and assisted the "Renamo" rebels in Mozambique and the "UNITA" faction in Angola, in an effort to keep those countries off balance and destabilized.

During the 1980s, the Thatcher administration in Britain and the Reagan administration in the US faced increasingly vociferous pressures for sanctions against apartheid. In 1986 a high-level Commonwealth mission went to South Africa in an effort to persuade the government to suspend military action in the black townships, release political prisoners, and stop destabilizing neighboring countries. Later that year, American public resentment of South Africa's racial policies became strong enough for Congress to pass the "Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act", banning new investments and loans, ending air links, and prohibiting the importation of many South African commodities. Other governments, albeit reluctantly, followed the US example.

In 1983, representatives of hundreds of community groups, trade unions, youth and women's organizations launched the "United Democratic Front". Numerous strikes, boycotts, and attacks on black police and urban councilors followed. Under strong pressure from white leaders, the Botha government resisted. In 1985 it declared a state of emergency in many parts of the country. A year later it extended the state of emergency nationwide and began hunting down the opposition. For three years armored vehicles patrolled the townships. Squatter camps were burned. Blacks were detained without charge. Thousands were abused and many killed.

Meanwhile, the army continued its raids on neighboring countries. Rigid censorship laws were enacted to conceal all this from hostile television, radio, and newspaper coverage. Well-known public figures such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, defied the government. Influential Afrikaner clerics and intellectuals withdrew their support. There were massive strikes by mineworkers. Black "death squads" killed whites in increasing numbers. White "death squads" killed blacks. Trade sanctions strained the economy. The gross domestic product sagged. Inflation soared. Foreign investment dried up.

Then, in 1988, the army suffered a series of setbacks in Angola. The government was forced to sign an accord paving the way for the removal of Cuban troops fighting there. The UN was called in to set up Namibia as an independent state in 1990. Many whites came to realize that there was no stopping the incorporation of black Africans into the South African political system. The smart ones got out quick!

Nelson Mandela and The ANC

Government officials decided to discuss matters with Nelson Mandela, an imprisoned leader of the "African National Congress" (ANC), a "Front" organization that had been established, armed, and financed by the Soviet Union for decades. Botha tried, but could not bring himself to allow Africans to participate in the running of South Africa. In 1989 Botha stepped down as party leader and president. To succeed him, the National Party parliamentary caucus elected F.W. de Klerk. De Klerk was twenty-one years younger than Botha and more sensitive to the dynamics of a world where racism was anathema and democracy was on the rise in places like Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In a dramatic address to Parliament on February 2nd, 1990, he announced radical changes. Parliament repealed the fundamental apartheid laws, including the "Group Areas Act", the "Population Registration Act", and the "Land Acts". The state of emergency was lifted. Many prisoners were released, including Mandela, and exiles allowed to return.

Mandela was subsequently elected president of the ANC in 1991. He agreed with de Klerk that it was essential to negotiate a way out of the existing stalemate. The two leaders now worked to draw up a new constitution. This was not going to be easy. Whites were loath to forfeit their power and privileges. Blacks hoped to win complete control of the state. Although a majority of white voters endorsed constitutional reform in a referendum in 1992, both white and black extremists tried to sabotage the process by acts of terror.

Nevertheless, by the end of 1993, Mandela, de Klerk, and leaders of eighteen other parties had produced a new, interim constitution, to take effect immediately after South Africa's first election by universal suffrage, scheduled for April 1994. Under this constitution, all citizens over eighteen years of age were enfranchised and the "homelands" were abolished. The new constitution contained a long list of political and social rights and a mechanism through which Africans could gain ownership of land that had been confiscated under apartheid. In April 1994, the ANC won sixty-three percent of the vote, becoming the majority party in seven of the nine provinces.

"New" South Africa

The new "Government of National Unity" aimed to provide Africans with improved education, housing, electricity, running water, and sanitation. Recognizing that economic growth was essential for such purposes, the ANC adopted a moderate economic policy, dropping the communist slant that had characterized its earlier programs, and Mandela and his colleagues campaigned vigorously for foreign aid and investment. But there was no flood of foreign capital. Many other countries were vying for the same money, and foreign investors waited to see whether the new South Africa could remain stable.

The government also had to grapple with a host of daunting institutional problems associated with the transition away from apartheid. This necessitated adding black Africans to the civil service, incorporating anti-apartheid guerrillas into the police and the army, and creating new municipal governments that embraced both the old white cities and their black township suburbs. Labor disputes, criminal violence, and conflict between Zulu factions continued. Zulu's resisted what they saw as domination by "inferior" tribes. This resulted in regular outbreaks of violence and the Zulu nation, under the banner of the "Inkatha Freedom Party" (IFP), refused to participate in the process that resulted in the creation of a new national constitution passed by parliament in May 1996.

This constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of the "National Council of Provinces" and the "National Assembly". The president of the republic, who may serve no more than two five-year terms is elected by the National Assembly. The judiciary is headed by the Constitutional Court and includes the Supreme Court of Appeal, the High Courts, and the Magistrates' Courts.

Foreign Policy

In 1996, the "Cameron Commission", appointed to investigate South African arms sales, recommended the disbanding the "Armcor" (The South African National Arms Consortium) board of directors and that Armcor should no longer have the power to determine who could and who could not buy South African arms. The commission recommended that all future arms deals be authorized by parliament and made public. The government accepted the recommendations. Despite evidence of illegal exports of arms to Rwanda and Burundi, the government, against the opposition of human rights groups, approved the sale of arms to the Rwandan government in October of that year.

For many years South Africa had been one of the few governments to maintain diplomatic relations with both Taiwan and the Peoples' Republic of China, but late in the year it severed ties with Taiwan. Its relations with the US included a bi-national commission chaired by US Vice President Al Gore and South African Deputy President Mbeki. In 1996, the South African government backed away from Mandela's call at the 1995 "Commonwealth Conference" for sanctions against Nigeria for human rights violations. Controversy also arose over Mandela's meetings with "Nation of Islam" leader Louis Farrakhan, with a representative of the Palestinian terrorist organization "Hamas", and over Mandela's attempts to tighten South Africa's relationships with Libya, Cuba, and Iran.

Namibia?

During WWI troops from the Union of South Africa defeated the German colonial forces in South West Africa. Following the war the League of Nations mandated the territory to South Africa. Initially, the mandate was administered as a South African colony. In 1926 a legislative assembly was established with limited domestic authority. After WWII, South Africa denied any obligation to relinquish the mandate to the newly established United Nations. In 1946 South Africa, with alleged but dubious tribal support, requested UN permission to incorporate South West Africa, but the request was denied.

In 1964 the UN voted to end South Africa's mandate and four years later, in 1968, voted to recognize the name "Namibia." South Africa, however, refused to relinquish its control or to soften its policies toward the country's economically disenfranchised black majority. Demands for the immediate withdrawal of South African administration came from the UN Security Council in 1969 and the International Court of Justice in 1970. In the mid-1970s South Africa proposed a partition of Namibia, but this was rejected by the "South West Africa People's Organization" (SWAPO), an organization of black Namibians, armed and financed by the Soviet Union, that since the 1960s had waged a guerrilla war against South African rule in an effort to gain independence. In 1988, after many years of conflict, South Africa agreed to grant Namibia

independence. In 1989 SWAPO won a majority of seats in a new Constituent Assembly that drew up a new constitution, and in 1990 Namibia gained full independence under a government dominated by SWAPO.

FOREIGN WEAPONS

ENTAC ATGM, AML-H60/90 - FR; 25lbr, 5.5" Howitzer, "Milan" ATGM - UK, 106mm M40 RcR - US

TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES: 1975-1990 (NAMIBIA)

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 60, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Light Infantry Company:	4xTL3 Infantry(R) "Tracker"/Buffel
Infantry Company:	5xTL3 Infantry(C)/Buffel
Light infantry Support Company:	1x81mm M3 Mortar(4)/Truck, 1x106mm M40 RcR/Truck, 1xZPU-1 "Heavy" MG/Truck
Parachute Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(B)
Para-Support Company:	1x81mm M3 Mortar(2), 1xTL3 Engineer
Mechanized Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C)/Ratel-20, 1xTL3 Infantry[R]/Ratel-60, 1x81mm M3/Ratel(2)
Armored Squadron (Infantry Battalion <u>only</u>):	2xEland-90, 1xEland-60
Armored Squadron:	3xRatel-90
Tank Squadron:	3xOlifant
Anti-Tank Company:	2xRatel-90, 1xJeep/ENTAC
Anti-Aircraft Troop:	2x20mm "Ystervark" SPAA Gun
Infantry Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Buffel, 3xInfantry Company, 1xArmored Squadron, 1xTL3 Engineer/Buffel, 1x81mm M3 Mortar(4)/Truck, 1-3xTL3 Support/Truck, 0-3xTL3 Cavalry[R] or Motorcycle Infantry[R]
Mechanized Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Ratel-20, 2xMechanized Infantry Company, 1xArmored Squadron, 1xTank Squadron, 1x120mm M5 Mortar(4)/Truck, 1xAnti-Tank Company, 1xTL3 Engineer/Buffel, 1xAnti-Aircraft Troop
Light Infantry Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Buffel, 5xLight Infantry Company, 1xLight Infantry Support Company, 1xArmored Squadron, 1xAnti-Aircraft Troop
Parachute Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ, 4xParachute Company, 1xPara-Support Company

- Notes:
- 1) Eland-60s and -90s are almost identical to French AML-60s and -90s, but manufactured in South Africa.
 - 2) The Eland-90 replaced all Eland-60s by 1984.
 - 3) In 1984, the 120mm M5 Mortar(4)/Truck may be replaced by the 155mm G5 Gun/Howitzer(4)/Truck .
 - 4) Anti-Tank Companies may consist of 3xRatel ZT-3 from about 1987.
 - 5) The 81mm M3/Ratel(2) is not available until late 1986.
 - 6) The "Ystervark" SPAA is a truck mounted 20mm "Oerlikon" similar in performance to the Russian ZPU-23 (SP).
 - 7) The primary mission of "Trackers" is just what the name implies.
 - 8) South African forces included five Infantry Battalions, two Light Infantry Battalions, and one Parachute Battalion.

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

Rocket Battalion:	2x127mm "Valkir" or "Bataleur" MRL(8)
Marine Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C) equipped with water transport (Boats, dinghies, etc.)
Artillery Regiment:	3x5.5" Gun/Howitzer(3)/Truck
Helicopter Squadron:	4x"Alouette-II", 4x"Puma"
Gunship Squadron:	4x"Alouette-III"

Air Support: Mirage-5, Mirage F1C

SOUTH WEST AFRICAN TERRITORIAL FORCE (SWATF): 1975-1990 (NAMIBIA) Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 45, Class: Regulars, Base Determination Factor: 35%

Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C), 1xTL3 Support
Mounted Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C)/Buffel, 1xTL3 Support/Buffel
Light Infantry Company:	3xTL2 Infantry(R) "Tracker", 1xTL3 Infantry(R)
Heavy Infantry Company:	4xTL3 Infantry(C), 1xTL3 Support
"Special Service" Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(R) "Tracker"
Mounted "Special Service" Infantry Co:	3xTL3 Infantry(R) "Tracker"/Casspir
Recon "Wing":	6xTL2 Infantry(R) "Tracker"
Support Company:	1-2x81mm M3 Mortar(2)/Truck, 1x106mm M40 RcR/Jeep, 1xTL3
Armored Squadron:	2xEland-90, 1xEland-60

SWATF Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ, 3-6x"Infantry" Company, 0-1xSupport Company, 0-1xArmored Squadron 0-1xRecon "Wing"

- Notes:
- 1) Six SWATF Battalions served in Southwest Africa/Namibia, the 101st, 102nd, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, and 701st.
 - 2) Any combination of Infantry types is allowed.
 - 3) The SWATF was recruited from among the local population and used in support of "white" South African forces.
 - 4) SWATF forces may be used independently or units may be attached to "white" units.
 - 5) The primary mission of "Trackers" is just what the name implies.

SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES: 2001

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 45, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 20%

Light Infantry Company:	4xTL3 Infantry(R)/Mamba
Light Infantry Support Company:	1xTL3 Cavalry[R], 1xTL3 Infantry(R)/Mamba, 1xTL3 Motorcycle Infantry[R], 1x"Canine" Platoon/Mamba
Motorized Infantry Company:	3-5xTL3 Infantry(C)/Casspir
Motorized Support Company:	2x81mm M3(2)/Casspir, 1xTL3 Support/Casspir, 1x106mm M40 RcR/Casspir, 1xTL3 Infantry(R)/Casspir
Parachute Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(B)
Para-Support Company:	1x81mm M3 Mortar(2), 1xTL3
Mechanized Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C)/Ratel-20, 1xTL3 Infantry[R]/Ratel-60
Mechanized Support Company:	1x81mm M3/Ratel(4), 1xRatel-90 or 1xRatel ZT-3, 1xTL3 /Ratel-20
Armored Recon Squadron:	3xRooikat
Tank Squadron:	4xOlifant
Anti-Tank Company:	2xRatel-90, 1xJeep/ENTAC or 3xRatel ZT-3
Motorized Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Casspir, 3xMotorized Infantry Company, 1xMotorized Support Company
Mechanized Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Ratel-20, 3xMechanized Infantry Company, 1xMechanized Support Company, 0-1xArmored Recon Squadron
Light Infantry Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Bufel, 4xLight Infantry Company, 1xLight Infantry Support Company
Parachute Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ, 4xParachute Company, 1xPara-Support Company
Tank Regiment:	1xOlifant (HQ), 3xTank Company

Notes: 1) The 106mm M40 RcR/Caspir in the Motorized Support Company may be replaced by a Toyota Truck/Milan.
2) In South African service, the British 25lbr is known as the "G1" and the British 5.5" Gun/Howitzer is known as the "G2".
3) "Canine" Platoons consist of highly trained dogs and their handlers specializing in counter-terrorist and crowd control duties.
4) The SANDF currently consists of four mechanized battalions, four motorized battalions, one parachute battalion, three engineer regiments, one tank regiment, one armored vehicle regiment, one armored recon squadron, one artillery regiment, and one air-defense regiment. It also includes one "specialist" battalion consisting of motorcyclists, horse cavalrymen, "trackers" and "canine" specialists.

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
Armored Recon Squadron: 2xEland-90, 1xEland-60
Anti-Aircraft Company: 3x20mm "Ystervark" or 3xZPU-23/2 (SP) or 3x40mm "Bofors"/Truck
Rocket Battalion: 3x127mm "Valkir" or "Bataleur" MRL(12)
Artillery Regiment: 3x25lbr Howtzer G1(3)/Truck or 3x5.5" Gun/Howitzer G2(3)/Truck
Helicopter Squadron: 3x"Alouette-II", 6x"Puma"
Gunship Squadron: 2x"Rooivalk" or 4x"Alouette-III"

Air Support: Mirage F1C, Cheetah-E, or Impala "Ground Attack" aircraft

TACTICAL NOTES

Since the 1970s, the South African army has evolved in a sort of vacuum. It was separated from the mainstream of world events by more than just great physical distances. Its isolation was also political, cultural, even ethical and moral. From a purely technical standpoint, it faced quite different tactical and logistical problems from any other country. Forced by political exile to rely almost exclusively on its own resources to solve these problems, it came up with unique and often surprising solutions to them.

The South African invasion of Southwest Africa/Namibia, for instance, produced a complete revolution in armored vehicle technology. The South Africans developed the first "wheeled" main battle tank (the "Rooikat"), capable of maneuvering at high speeds on the kind of open "parkland" common in Namibia. They built the first nearly mine-proof APC (the "Bufel"), an ungainly-looking brute, but highly effective and economical. Tactically, they resurrected the mounted cavalryman, and used him according to the long-established principles that brought them success in an earlier century. In this arm, they combined modern firepower and nearly silent movement with "mechanical" reliability and simplicity, proving that the best solution may not always be a high-tech one. They were also able to take "subject" peoples and turn them into reliable and effective defenders of the status quo, a practice used successfully by the British Empire for centuries.

Scenarios from the Namibian/Angolan War should include the presence of Cuban and South African troops, of course. But you should not forget the main antagonists: SWAPO, UNITA, FAPLA, The Angolan National Army, and the SWATF forces. Though they may not possess large numbers of armored vehicles, these armies were highly mobile, heavily armed, and strongly motivated. If you run a scenario or two with them you'll see what I mean. "Modern-era" wargamers often lose track of the human side of warfare. This theater combines infantry and cavalry tactics from another era with the lethality of modern firepower. Don't sell it short!

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

South Africa has settled into a certain stability, despite many internal political problems. The most potentially destructive of these appears to be the situation in Kwazulu-Natal, where political violence between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party continues, threatening serious long term damage to the security and economic health of the region. Worse, South Africa suffers from one of the highest rates of AIDS infection in the world, with all the terrible economic and social consequences that entails.

South Africa has the only real industrial economy south of the Sahara. Its 1999 GDP amounted to only slightly less than the GDP of the rest of sub-Saharan Africa put together. This, combined with an efficient financial infrastructure, is seen as an "engine" for development in a region where the current economic situation can best be described as "chaos". Much will depend on whether the traditionally socialist ANC can make the transition to a free market and carry the bulk of the population with it.

In 1998, the South African Army instituted an integration program designed to take the former SADF, the armies of the formerly independent homelands, and the former armed wings of the ANC, and meld them into a single "National Defense Force". It has been largely successful, but still faces some major challenges. It must maintain core defense capabilities despite funding cuts of more than fifty percent since 1989 and continuing budgetary pressure. It must take on a growing set of regional roles and missions, as the country takes on the mantle of regional power, and do that within the same limited budget.

In pursuit of these goals, Lieutenant General Reg Otto clashed with the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) over a report criticizing the integration of former anti-apartheid forces with the new "South African National Defense Force" (SANDF), in March 1998. The report was submitted to the "Parliamentary Integration Oversight Committee" by the team's former commander, Brigadier General Paul Davis. It strongly criticized the integration process, saying that "attitudes had hardened" among former SANDF personnel towards former ANC forces. General Otto challenged BMATT to give examples to support its criticism and then reported to Defense Minister Joe Modise to counter the allegations. The report has irritated many in the SANDF, who say it has been taken out of context. BMATT's most recent reports have generally been positive and suggest that many of the complaints have proved to be untrue.

Problems in Zimbabwe

In late 2000, Zimbabwe presented the South African government with a conundrum. South Africa cannot afford to let Zimbabwe implode economically. It is too important economically and geographically, but there is little that Pretoria can actually do to prevent this. Zimbabwe is South Africa's largest market in Africa and its sixth largest overall. It is also a significant element of the region's economy: it has the second largest economy on the continent and has the only other viable industrial base.

An economic implosion in Zimbabwe will have immediate effects not only on South Africa, but the whole region. The current crisis has already led to a marked drop in South African exports to Zimbabwe and a growing flood of refugees from there. If Zimbabwe slides into civil war, the whole region will suffer. Worst affected would be Botswana, which would be squeezed between civil wars in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A military option is not relevant. There are no grounds for an intervention unless the Zimbabwe Defense Force stages a coup, which does not seem likely, or the country disintegrates into chaos. Perhaps more to the point, the South African National Defense Force is in no state to intervene except at unacceptable risk.

New Weapons

In June 1996, the South African Air Force formally ordered its first twelve Atlas CSH-2 "Rooivalk" attack helicopters, for delivery between 1998 and 2001, under a contract worth US\$120 million, with the first being delivered on May 7th, 1999. In April of 1997, Eurocopter and South Africa's "Denel Aviation Corporation" signed an accord covering co-operation on both "Rooivalk" and "Oryx" helicopters. Eurocopter agreed to support the Rooivalk and Oryx if Denel Aviation fails to maintain a local support structure. Eurocopter has a real interest in the Rooivalk, which it sees as complementary to its lighter Tigre and as a real competitor to the US AH-64 Apache. They also argue that a combined Rooivalk/Tigre force might be an attractive option, with the Rooivalk serving as the attack aircraft and the Tigre in the escort role.

Reports in 1999 suggested that the delaying of the South African National Defense Force tank acquisition program, "Project Aorta", has endangered this and other ongoing armor acquisition programs. Previously the officially expressed intent had been to acquire a new fully qualified tank from an overseas source (either the French Leclerc or the UK Challenger-2) based on the most advantageous counter-trade deals, industrial participation, and politico-industrial accords available. The relative weakness of South African armored units with the acquisition of Russian built T-72s by its neighbors has thrown the need for a modern tank force into sharp relief.

Government officials have insisted that though the cabinet subcommittee on the SANDF procurement program had recommended that the "acquisition of battle tanks not be considered at this time... (this) does not mean they will be excluded in the future. They will be considered when appropriate." The defense budget is already stretching available resources and there will have to be a concerted review of the SANDF's wheeled vehicle and tank requirements before any final decision is made. One materiel solution might be a further upgrade to the SANDF's current tank, unofficially dubbed the "Olifant-2", with new armor, a more powerful engine, and (possibly) a new gun. Despite its potentially lower cost, this solution is said to be least favored by the SANDF.

A section of the SANDF remains committed to acquisition of a state-of-the-art foreign design superior to the T-72, but there is also another group more inclined to adopt a lightly armored "tank destroyer" instead. This would most likely be fitted with a 120mm gun, overmatching the 105mm guns of the SK105 tank destroyers purchased by neighboring Botswana. In the meantime, there is a plan to update the "Rooikat" armored car. In export terms, a 120mm-armed Rooikat would be likely to have wide appeal. Whatever tank and/or tank destroyer is developed, it will be paired with the SANDF's new-generation infantry combat vehicle (NGICV), which is intended as a replacement for the "Ratel" family of vehicles currently in use.

2002 SOUTH AFRICAN ARSENAL

Vehicles: 172xOlifant 1A/1B, 114x"Rooikat" Armored Cars, 931x"Ratel" & 428x"Mamba" APCs
AT Weapons: 16x"Ratel" ZT-3 ATGM, 200x92mm & 106mm RcRs
Artillery: 45x155mm G5 Towed, 43x155mm G6 SP, 25x127mm "Bataleur" & "Valkir" MRLs, 25x120mm Mortars
Anti-Aircraft: 35x35mm Mk4/5 Towed, 36x23mm SP Anti-Aircraft Guns, 54x"Cactus" (Crotale) SAMs
Combat Aircraft: 30x"Cheetah" C/D, 30x"Impala" MkI/MkII
Helicopters: 48x"Oryx", 28xSA.319 "Alouette-III", 4x"Rooivalk"
Small Arms: 9mm P, Vektor SP-1, Vektor Z88, & Star Pistols, 9mm P9, Uzi, & BXP Submachineguns, 7.62 mm FN FAL, R-1, R-2, R-3, G-3, R-4, R-5, & R-6 Rifles, 7.62mm SS-77, FN MA, Bren, MG-4, & .50 cal M2HB Machineguns, 40mm MGL-6 Auto & M-79 Single-Shot Grenade Launchers

Notes: 1) The Olifant is a modified "Centurion Mk13" MBT.
2) Plans to replace South Africa's Olifants with 850 new MBTs has been postponed until at least 2015.
3) Equipment currently in storage and up for sale includes 120 Olifants, 128 Rooikats, 450 Ratels, & 216 artillery pieces.

- 4) The 16th Squadron will have twelve CSH-1 "Rooivalk" helicopters operational by mid-2003.
- 5) Sixteen Saab "Gripen" fighters will be delivered to the South African Air Force between 2009 and 2012.
- 6) 30x"Agusta" light utility helicopters are on order to replace Alouette-IIIs.
- 7) 22xMirage F-1s, 16x Cheetahs are up currently for sale.

Definitions:

- 1) Buffel - Cape Buffalo, often called M-Bogo in Zulu, literally "The Beast"
- 2) Casspir - Acronym/Anagram for "Council for Scientific and Industrial Research" and "South African Police"
- 3) Mamba - Aggressive venomous tree viper, from the Zulu "M-Amba"
- 4) Olifant - Elephant
- 5) Ratel - Honey Badger
- 6) Rooikat - Lynx, literally "Red Cat"
- 7) Rooivalk - Lesser Kestrel, literally "Red Hawk"
- 8) Valkir - Hawk
- 9) Ystervark - Porcupine

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