

Central Group of Forces [Czechoslovakia] (Центральная Группа Войск (ЦГВ)) (Tsentral'naya Gruppy Voisk (SGV)) (II Formation)

Version 3.0.0

17 February 2007

Headquarters: Milovice, Czechoslovakian Democratic Republic

Commander-in-Chief: General-Colonel E. A. Vorob'ev (appointed December 1987)

28th Army Corps
15th Guards Tank Division
18th Guards Motorized Rifle Division
48th Motorized Rifle Division
Independent Assets

History:

This is actually the second formation of the Central Group of Forces. The first one was formed in June 1945, controlling the occupation forces in Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary (see Appendix 4). It was disbanded in 1955 when the forces in Austria and Hungary were withdrawn from those countries. The second formation occurred as a result of the Warsaw Pact invasion Czechoslovakia in August 1968. As a result of a directive issued on 16 October 1968, on 24 October 1968 the Headquarters of the Central Group of Forces was re-established, this time for forces solely on Czech territory. These forces would remain "temporarily" until, as a result of the agreement signed between Czechoslovakia and the USSR, all Soviet forces are to be withdrawn by July 1991. This was agreement was fulfilled when on 27 June 1911 the Headquarters, Central Group of Forces was disbanded with the departure of the last Soviet forces.

A. Group-level Assets:

1. Group Headquarters – Milovice, Czechoslovakia
2. Combat units:
 - a. 259th Independent Security & Protection Battalion –
 - b. 901st Air Assault Battalion – Riechki
 - c. 680th Independent Special Purpose Company [SPETSNAZ] – Bogdanech
 - d. 155th Helicopter Regiment (+) – Mimoň-Hradčany
 1. 426th Independent Aerodome-Technical Support Battalion (attached)
 - d. 238th Helicopter Regiment (+) – Slyach
 1. 362nd Independent Aerodome-Technical Support Battalion (attached)
 - d. 490th Helicopter Regiment (+) – Olomouc-Nerzhedin
 1. 170th Independent Aerodome-Technical Support Battalion (attached)
3. Combat Support units:
 - a. 199th Independent Helicopter Squadron (+)– Mimoň-Hradčany 50° 37' 10" North, 14° 44' 00" East
 1. 244th Independent Aerodome-Technical Support Company (attached)
 - b. 185th Missile Brigade (SS-1C) – Turnov
 - c. 441st Missile Brigade (SS-21) – Mimoň-Hvězdov
 1. 404th Independent Missile Battalion (from 30th GMRD)
 2. 440th Independent Missile Battalion (from 18th GMRD)
 3. 535th Independent Missile Battalion (from 31st TD)
 - d. 5th Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade – Kuřivody
 - e. 211th Guards Artillery Brigade (36 2S5, 24 D-30) – Jeseník

4. Support units:

- a. 563rd Independent Pontoon Bridge Battalion –
- b. 1257th Independent Pontoon Bridge Battalion -- Olomouc
- b. 130th Independent Signals Regiment – Jiřice

50° 15' 20" North, 14° 51' 10" East

The following formations and units were taken off a Czech web site (those in Italics) or a separate Russian file (underlined) detailing the Central Group of Forces. (If unit has both italics and underlined, they are mentioned in both files) This units have NOT been confirmed by the CFE Treaty data nor any Russian source. The possibility exists that these were non-combat service units that had no equipment that would be displayed in the CFE Treaty database.

7th Signals Brigade - Milovice-Olomouc
233rd Radio-Technical Regiment - Lázně Bohdaneč
Unidentified Independent Engineer-Sapper Battalion - Olomouc
129th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion - Červená Voda-Karlovy
14th Independent Signals Battalion Direction Station - Olomouc
304th Independent Signals Battalion Direction Station - Milovice
310th Independent Signals Battalion Direction Station - Jiřín
329th Independent Signals Battalion Direction Station - Milovice
604th Independent Signals Battalion Direction Station - Milovice
234th Independent Radio-Relay Battalion - Milovice
821st Independent Radio-Relay Battalion - Jiřice
635th Independent Radio-Relay Cable Battalion - Jiřice
730th Independent Radio-Relay Cable Battalion
57th Independent Radio-Technical Battalion (Air Defense) – Neratovice
1240th Independent Radio-Technical Battalion (Air Defense) - Hostouň
1921st Independent Radio-Electronic Warfare Battalion (Ground) - Mimoň-Hradčany
979th Independent Radio-Electronic Warfare Battalion (Airborne) - Luštěnice
144th Independent Automobile Battalion - Luštěnice
556th Independent Automobile Battalion - Luštěnice
Unidentified Independent Automobile Battalion - Olomouc
75th Independent Battalion Repair Machine Shop Equipment - Milovice
651st Independent Battalion Repair Armor Equipment - Milovice
605th Independent Construction Battalion - Mimoň-Hradčany
1637th Independent Construction Battalion - Milovice
1639th Independent Construction Battalion - Milovice
1640th Independent Battalion Mechanized Construction Laundry - Milovice
498th Automobile Repair Plant – Olomouc
463rd Independent Signals Company (RTO)
844th Supply Storage Depot – Olomouc
Unidentified Supply Storage Depot – Yanska
Unidentified Supply Storage Depot – Vikava
Unidentified Food Storage Depot – Butovice
Unidentified Medical Storage Depot – Bystrice
1550th Military Evacuation Hospital
Headquarters, Counter-Intelligence Directorate for Central Group of Forces – Milovice

B. 28th Army Corps

Corps Headquarters – Olomouc, Czechoslovakian Democratic Republic:

30th Guards Motorized Rifle Division

31st Tank Division

Independent Assets:

779th Independent Security & Protection Company – Olomouc
 Unidentified Signals Regiment – Olomouc

Historical Note:

The 28th Army Corps was formed at the end of 1968 using a cadre from the headquarters of the 38th Army left behind when the 38th returned to the Carpathian Military District. The Corps headquarters would remain in Czechoslovakia until 1991 when it was disbanded upon its return to the USSR.

1. 30th Guards Motorized Rifle Division - [Category A]**Historical Note:**

The 30th Guards Motorized Rifle Division can trace its history back to October of 1918 when the 4th Urals Rifle Division was formed during the Russian Civil War. In November 1918 it was renamed to the 30th Rifle Division. Sometime between September 1939 and June 1941, it was reorganized into the 30th Mountain Rifle Division. It was reorganized into the 30th Rifle Division on 25 August 1941. For its contributions in defending the Caucasus region, on 18 December 1942 it was awarded 'Guards' status and renamed the 55th Guards Rifle Division. As the 55th, it literally fought over Russia, from helping to liberate the Caucasus and the Crimea, to the Baltic States, then finally into Czechoslovakia as part of the 1st Ukrainian Front. After the war, it returned to the USSR in the Minsk (Byelorussian) Military District and assigned to the 28th Army. It would remain the 55th Guards Rifle Division until 1957 when it was reorganized into the 55th Guards Motorized Rifle Division. In 1965, as part of the 20th anniversary celebration, it was re-numbered to the 30th Guards Motorized Rifle Division. It took part in Operation "Danube", the invasion of Czechoslovakia as part of the 28th Army. It would then take up garrison duties in Slovakia and re-assigned to the 28th Army Corps. This remained until the Division withdrew from Czechoslovakia in October 1990 and was moved to Puchovichi in the Byelorussian Military District. In 1992, it was transferred to Belaus control, where it first was reorganized into the 30th Mechanized Brigade, then to the 30th Weapons and Equipment Storage Base. Note: Since it was in the process of withdrawing from Czechoslovakia when the CFE Treaty was signed, it was still carried as part of the CGF, with some equipment still in Czechoslovakia, although all of its subordinate units had already departed.

Assigned units:

- a. Division Headquarters – Zvolen
- b. 164th Guards Motorized Regiment (BTR) – Jelšava
- c. 166th Guards Motorized Regiment (BMP) – Komárno
- d. 168th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (BTR) – Ružomberok
- e. 30th Guards Tank Regiment – Oremov Laz
- f. 126th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment – Rožňava
- g. 144th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment – Oremov Laz
- h. 404th Independent Missile Battalion (SS-21) (to 441st Missile Brigade in 1989)
- i. 75th Independent Tank Battalion – Riečky
- j. 205th Independent Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion – Štúrovo
- k. 20th Independent Reconnaissance & Radio-EW Battalion – Riečky
- l. 85th Independent Signals Battalion – Zvolen
- m. 63rd Independent Engineer-Sapper Battalion – Štúrovo
- n. 71st Independent Repair-Reconstruction Battalion – Rimavská Sobota
- o. 205th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion – Nové Zámky
- p. 11th Independent Medical-Sanitation Battalion – Zvolen
- q. 1054th Independent Material Support Battalion – Rimavská Sobota

Division Notes:

The honorific title of the Division was the "30th Guards Order of Lenin Irkutsk-Pinsk Tamn, twice Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov and Honorary Red Banner Motorized Rifle Division in the name of the Supreme Council of the RSFSR.

2. 31st Tank Division - [Category A]**Historical Note:**

The 31st Tank Division can trace its history back to 26 May 1943 when the 31st Tank Corps was formed in the rear areas of the Voronezh Front. It was still in the process of forming when the Germans began their Kursk attack on 5 July 1943. Although some elements did take part in the battle, most did not. For the rest of 1943, after completing its formation in October 1943, it fought across the Ukraine with the 1st Ukrainian Front, then southern Poland in the L'vov-Sandomierz Operation. Its final operation was in the Prague Operation assigned to the 60th Army. Post-war, it was returned to the USSR at Proskurov (now Khmel'nitskii) in June 1945. On 1 December 1945, it was reorganized into the 31st Tank Division, which it remained throughout the remainder of its existence. In August 1968, it took part in the invasion of Czechoslovakia as part of the 38th Army. It was assigned to the 28th Army Corps when the 38th was withdrawn in late 1968. It took up garrison duties at Bruntal, where it remained. Between February and March of 1990, it was withdrawn from Czechoslovakia and transferred to Nizhnii Novgorod in the Moscow Military District where by November 1990 it

had been reduced to a Category C Division. There it remained until between March and April 1997, it would be utilized to form a new Division, the 3rd Motorized Rifle Division. The Division Headquarters was officially renamed on 1 July 1997.

- a. Division Headquarters – Bruntál
- b. 77th Guards Tank Regiment – Krnov
- c. 100th Tank Regiment – Frenštát
- d. 237th Tank Regiment – Libavá
- e. 322nd Motorized Rifle Regiment (BMP) – Milovice
- f. 1047th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment – Frenštát
- g. 1143rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment – Bruntál
- h. 535th Independent Missile Battalion (SS-21) – (to 441st Missile Brigade in 1989)
- i. 84th Independent Reconnaissance & Radio-EW Battalion – Bruntál
- j. 692nd Independent Signals Battalion – Swietoszow – Bruntál
- k. 145th Independent Engineer-Sapper Battalion – Libavá
- l. 152nd Independent Repair-Reconstruction Battalion – Libavá
- m. 400th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion – Bruntál
- n. 221st Independent Medical-Sanitation Battalion – Bruntál
- o. 911th Independent Material Support Battalion – Bruntál

Division Notes:

The honorific title of the Division was the “31st Vislensk Red Banner Orders of Suvorov & Kutuzov Tank Division.

C. 15th Guards Tank Division - [Category A]

Historical Note:

The 20th Tank Division can trace its history back to 8 July 1941 when the 55th Cavalry Division was formed in the Moscow Military District. It was awarded ‘Guards’ status on 14 February 1943 and reorganized into the 15th Guards Cavalry Division. It would serve with the 7th Guards Cavalry Corps through the remainder of the war. After the war, the entire Corps would return to the USSR and be garrisoned in the Baranovichi Military District with the 15th GCD at Brest. When the Corps was disbanded in early 1946, the 14th and 16th Guards Cavalry Divisions would form the 31st Guards Mechanized Division while the 15th GCD would form the 12th Guards Mechanized Division. In 1957, the Division would be reorganized into the 33rd Guards Tank Division and re-numbered to the 15th Guards Tank Division in 1965. In 1968, it took part in the invasion of Czechoslovakia as part of the 38th Army. When HQ, Central Group of Forces was formed, the 15th GTD would be assigned to it and it would remain in Czechoslovakia until October of 1990 when it began its withdrawal from there. By the time of the CFE Treaty signing, only the Division HQ, the Reconnaissance Battalion and the 721st MRR was left. It was moved to Chebarkul in the Volga Military District where it was disbanded in 2005.

- a. Division Headquarters – Milovice
- b. 29th Guards Tank Regiment – Milovice
- c. 239th Guards Tank Regiment – Stráž pod Ralskem
- d. 244th Guards Tank Regiment – Milovice
- e. 295th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (BMP) – Milovice
- f. 914th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment – Trutnov
- g. 282nd Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment – Lázně Bohdaneč
- h. Unidentified Independent Missile Battalion (SS-21) – (to 441st Missile Brigade in 1989)
- i. 81st Independent Reconnaissance & Radio-EW Battalion – Milovice
- j. 215th Independent Signals Battalion – Milovice
- k. 152nd Independent Engineer-Sapper Battalion – Zdechovice
- l. 142nd Independent Repair-Reconstruction Battalion – Milovice
- m. 517th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion – Milovice
- n. 119th Independent Medical-Sanitation Battalion – Milovice
- o. 910th Independent Material Support Battalion – Milovice

Division Notes:

1. The honorific title of the Division was the “15th Guards Mozyr Red Banner Order of Suvorov Tank Division.
2. By 1990, the 239th GTR would be reorganized to the 260th Tank Regiment and the 244th GTR would be reorganized to the 721st Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment.

D. 18th Guards Motorized Rifle Division - [Category A]

Historical Note:

The 18th Guards Motorized Rifle Division can trace its history back to September 1939 when the 133rd Rifle Division (I Formation) was formed in Novosibirsk in the Siberian Military District. It took part in the defensive battles of 1941, then counter-offensives northwest of Moscow in the winter, where it helped to liberate Kaluga. On 18 March 1942, for its actions during the previous winter, it was awarded 'Guards' status and renamed the 18th Guards Rifle Division. The 18th Guards was with the 49th Army from the summer of 1942 all the way through the early part of 1943, when it was assigned to the 16th Army (later renamed the 11th Guards Army). It remained with the Army through the remainder of the war, helping to liberate the northern Ukraine, Byelorussia, then helping to capture Insterburg and Königsberg in 1945. It remained in East Prussia through the post-war up period, up to 1946/47 when it was reorganized into the 30th Guards Mechanized Division. In 1957, it was reorganized into the 30th Guards Motorized Rifle Division, then renamed to the 18th Guards Motorized Rifle Division. In 1968, it took part in the invasion of Czechoslovakia and would remain there until June 1991 when the last elements of the Division withdrew. In fact, when the CFE Treaty was signed in November 1990, the Division was half-way in the middle of its withdrawal, with half in Czechoslovakia and the rest located in Gusev in the Baltic Military District. After 1995, it would be reorganized into the 18th Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade and by 2003, the Brigade would be disbanded and its remnants organized into an Unidentified Weapons Equipment & Storage Base, still in Gusev.

Assigned units:

- a. Division Headquarters – Mlada Boleslav
- b. 275th Guards Motorized Regiment (BTR) – Mlada Boleslav
- c. 278th Guards Motorized Regiment (BTR) – Zákupy
- d. 280th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (BTR) – Bohosudov
- e. 360th Tank Regiment – Strach pod Ralskem
- f. 52nd Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment – Hvězdov
- g. 130th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment – Svěbořice
- h. 185th Independent Missile Battalion (SS-21) – Hvězdov
- i. 86th Independent Tank Battalion – Strach pod Ralskem
- j. 149th Independent Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion – Kuřivody
- k. 45th Independent Reconnaissance & Radio-EW Battalion – Děčín
- l. 27th Independent Guards Signals Battalion – Mladá Boleslav
- m. 234th Independent Guards Engineer-Sapper Battalion – Kuřivody
- n. 80th Independent Repair-Reconstruction Battalion – Hvězdov
- o. 106th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion – Kuřivody
- p. 386th Independent Medical-Sanitation Battalion – Děčín
- q. 898th Independent Material Support Battalion – Kuřivody

Division Notes:

The honorific title of the Division was the "18th Guards Insterburg Red Banner Order of Suvorov Motorized Rifle Division.

E. 48th Motorized Rifle Division - [Category A]

Historical Note:

The 48th Motorized Rifle Division can trace its history back to 26 February 1920 when the 1st Tula Rifle Division was renamed the 48th Rifle Division. In the pre-WW2 period, it took part in the Russian Civil War and the occupation of Latvia in June 1940. When the war started it was on the border of East Prussia. After being pushed back, it was forced into the Oranienbaum bridgehead, where it remained until 1944. It helped clear the Baltic states, then helped isolating the German forces in the Courland peninsula by the end of the war. Initially, it took up garrison duty in the Baltic MD, but was later moved south to the Odessa Military District. In 1957, it was reorganized into the 132nd Motorized Rifle Division, but was renamed to the 48th Motorized Rifle Division in 1965. In 1968, it took part in the invasion of Czechoslovakia as part of the 38th Army. The Division would remain in Czechoslovakia until 1990 when it was the first Division to depart (between February and May 1990). It would be moved to Chuguev in the Kiev Military District, using the same garrison as the disbanded 75th Guards Tank Division. It appears that there wasn't enough space for the entire Division, so the 210th MRR was attached to the 18th Guards Motorized Rifle Division. The remainder of the Division departed, with the last arriving by May 1991. By then, it had been decided that in order to avoid the restrictions on the CFE Treaty, certain elements of the Soviet Army would be transferred to the other branches. Divisions stationed along coastlines would be transferred to the Navy, individual pieces of equipment would be transferred to the Strategic Rocket Forces, but whole units would be transferred to the KGB, which the 48th was one of. When the last of the 48th arrived in Chuguev, the entire Division was transferred to the Directorate of Instruction for Special Purposes KGB by June 1991.

To replace the loss of the 210th MRR, the 255th Guards MRR was formed for the Division, probably from what was left of the 75th GTD. After the August 1991 coup attempt, since the 48th was stationed on Ukrainian territory, the government of Ukraine took command of the Division, where they reorganized it to the 6th Division of the National Guard of Ukraine. It would eventually in the 1990s be reorganized into a Brigade.

Assigned units:

- a. Division Headquarters – Vysoke Myto
- b. 265th Guards Motorized Regiment (BMP) – Vysoke Myto
- c. 210th Motorized Regiment (BTR) – Olomouc
- d. 333rd Motorized Rifle Regiment (BTR) – Česká Třebová
- e. 375th Tank Regiment – Šumperk
- f. 585th Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment – Klášterec nad Orlicí
- g. 716th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment – Červená Voda
- h. Unidentified Independent Missile Battalion (SS-21) – (to 441st Missile Brigade in 1989)
- i. 55th Independent Tank Battalion – Šumperk
- j. 258th Independent Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion – Klášterec nad Orlicí
- k. 31st Independent Reconnaissance & Radio-EW Battalion – Vysoké Mýto
- l. 813th Independent Guards Signals Battalion – Vysoké Mýto
- m. 118th Independent Engineer-Sapper Battalion – Vysoké Mýto
- n. 88th Independent Repair-Reconstruction Battalion – Vysoké Mýto
- o. 308th Unidentified Independent Chemical Defense Battalion – Vysoké Mýto
- p. 34th Independent Medical-Sanitation Battalion – Vysoké Mýto
- q. 909th Independent Material Support Battalion – Vysoké Mýto

Division Notes:

The honorific title of the Division was the “48th Ropshinsk Red Banner Motorized Rifle Division in the name of M. I. Kalinin.