

TAC NEWS

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September–October 2022 Modeling Excellence Since 1967

The conclusion of the July–August 2022 Tac News article:

THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

Chinese Farm!

Meanwhile in the Sinai, on October 9th, an Israeli recon unit reached the Eastern Shore of the Great Bitter Lake and reported no enemy forces there. A quick commando raid by Israeli recon troops using captured Egyptian PT-76 tanks verified that the western side of the lake was unoccupied as well. This meant that there was a huge gap in the Egyptian line, right at its center between the Egyptian 2nd and 3rd Armies! By October 14th, with Israeli troops rushing south from the stable Golan front, the stage was set for an Israeli counteroffensive. This counter-offensive began at 1700 hours on October 15th with Israeli paratroops crossing the canal by rubber boat and seizing a three-square kilometer bridgehead. Egyptian reaction was immediate. Both 2nd and 3rd armies were ordered to cut off this 183 bridgehead and ran headlong into three Israeli tank brigades from Sharon's division on October 16th in the battle of "Chinese Farm". This battle raged until October 18th, when Sharon took the "Farm", and the Israeli bridgeheads were secure.

As Israeli forces crossed the Suez Canal and moved to surround the Egyptian Third Army, the United States and the Soviet Union traded charges and countercharges. Before they knew it, they found themselves on the verge of nuclear war. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed, and a compromise was worked out between the two superpowers. A UN-monitored cease-fire took effect on

October 24. On the Syrian front, a similar cease-fire arrangement proved more difficult and did not become a reality until May of 1974. As a result of the fighting, Israel gained additional territory along the Suez Canal (Egyptian armed forces were present on both sides of the canal as well), and Israel took more land from Syria beyond the cease-fire lines of 1967, drawing ever closer to Damascus. It was the United States that brokered the disengagement agreements between Israel, Egypt and Syria. In compliance with these agreements, Israeli forces withdrew from certain designated territories, Egyptian or Syrian forces moved forward in limited numbers, and UN forces were stationed between them.

Lessons

Egyptian and Syrian courage were no longer in question. Their ability to fight tenaciously when well led and well-motivated had been proven beyond doubt. They were still awkward at mobile, combined-arms operations, but had improved considerably since 1967. Poor tactics and inferior equipment still dogged them, however, and they were simply no match for the Israelis in anything like a fair fight. The Israelis, for their part, had allowed themselves to be surprised, but responded quickly and decisively. Their most serious failure had been to grow over-confident (even arrogant) from repeated success in earlier conflicts. They ignored the basics and paid heavily for it.

ISRAELI FORCES: 1973

Generation: III / Air Superiority Rating: 60 / Class: Conscripts / Base Determination Factor: 35%

Motorized Company: 3 x TL2 Infantry(B)/Truck,
1 x TL2 Infantry Support/Truck

Mechanized Company: 3 x TL2 Infantry(B)/M113A1,
1 x TL2 Infantry Support/M113

Engineer Company: 3 x TL2 Engineer/Truck

Tank Company: 3 x Tank

Recon Company: 1 x Tank[R], 2x M113 (Cav) [R]

Motorized Battalion: 1 x TL2 Infantry(B) HQ/Truck,
3 x Motorized Company,
1 x 81mm (SP) Soltam Mortar(3),
1 x 106mm/M40 RcR/Jeep

Mechanized Battalion: 1 x TL2 Infantry(B) HQ/M113,
3 x Mechanized Company,
1 x 81mm (SP) Soltam Mortar(3),
1 x 106mm/M40 RcR/Jeep

Tank Battalion: 1 x Tank (HQ), 3x Tank Company

Recon Battalion: 1 x M113 (Cav) HQ[R],
3 x Recon Company

Engineer Battalion: 3 x Engineer Company

Mortar Battalion: 3–4 x 120mm M65/M113 Mortar(3)
or 120mm M65/M3 Mortar(3)

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(SP) Artillery Battalion: 3-4 x 105mm M52(3) **or**
155mm Soltam/M71(3)

Armored Brigade: 1 x TL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/M577,
3 x Tank Battalion, 1 x Mortar Bn.,
1 x Recon Company

Mechanized Brigade: 1 x TL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/M577,
3 x Mechanized Battalion,
1 x Mortar Battalion, 1 x Recon Co.

Infantry Brigade: 1 x TL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck,
3 x Motorized Battalion,
1 x Mortar Battalion., 1 x Tank Co.,
1 x Engineer Co., 1 x Recon Co.

Armored Division: 2-3 x Armored Brigade,
0-1 x Mechanized Brigade,
1 x (SP) Artillery Battalion,
1 x Recon Bn., 1x Engineer Bn.

Mechanized Division: 2-3 x Mechanized Brigade,
0-1 x Armored Brigade,
1 x (SP) Artillery Battalion,
1 x Recon Bn., 1 x Engineer Bn.

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

Heavy Mortar Battalion: 3 x 160mm M160/M4(2)

Artillery Battalion: 3 x 105mm Mle 50(2)/Truck Heavy

Artillery Battalion: 3 x 155mm Mle 50(3)/Truck

Anti-Aircraft Battery: 1 x 40mm/L60 "Bofors"/Truck **or**
1 x U.S. "Hawk"

Air Support: U.S. A-4 "Skyhawk", F-4 "Phantom", French/Israeli Mirage III "Kfir", French "Mystere", and "Super Mystere"

Notes:

1. Tanks include Centurion Mk13, M60A1, M60A3, "Magach", T1-67(105), M50 "Super Sherman", and M-51 "Isherman" types.
2. Israeli "Reserve" armored units continued to field vehicles from their 1967 and 1956 arsenals.
3. Reserve units had no M113s and continued to make do with U.S. M3 "Halftracks".
4. Armored battalions sometimes contained four tank companies.
5. The Israeli Air-Superiority number should rise to 80% after the first six days of the fighting.

EGYPTIAN FORCES: 1973

Generation: II / Air Superiority Rating: 45 / Class: Conscripts / Base Determination Factor: 30%

ARMORED/MECHANIZED BRIGADE

Recon Company: 1 x PT-76[R], 1 x BRDM-1[R]

Medium Tank Company: 3 x T-55 **or** T-62

Mechanized Infantry Co.: 3 x TL2 Infantry(A)/BTR-152

Infantry Support Co.: 1 x 14.5mm ZPU-4/BTR-152,
1 x 82mm "M43"(3)/BTR-152,
1 x 107mm "B11" RcR/
BTR-152 130

Anti-Tank Company: 1 x 100mm T-12/Truck

ATGM Company: 3 x BRDM-1/AT-2 Swatter **or**
BRDM-2/AT-3 Sagger

Mortar Company: 1 x 120mm M1970 Mortar(3)/
Truck

Anti-Aircraft Company: 2 x ZSU-23/4

Mech. Infantry Battalion: 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) HQ/BTR-152,
3 x Mechanized Infantry Co.,
1 x Infantry Support Company

Tank Battalion: 3 x Medium Tank Company

Armored Brigade: 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) GHQ/BMP-1,
3 x Tank Battalion, 1 x Recon Co.,
1 x AA Company

Mechanized Brigade: 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) GHQ/BTR-152,
3 x Mechanized Bn., 1 x Tank Bn.,
1 x Anti-Tank Co., 1 x Mortar Co.,
1 x ATGM Co., 1 x AA Company

Air Support: MiG-21 **or** MiG-17 **or** SU-7 **or** Mi-4 **or** Mi-8

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

AAGM Battery: 1 x SA-2 **or** SA-3 **or** SA-6

Air Defense Battalion: 4 x ZSU-23/4

Multiple Rocket Regiment: 6 x BM21(8)

Anti-Tank Battalion: 3 x 100mm T-12/Truck

Artillery Regiment: 6 x 122mm D30/Truck,
3 x 152mm D20/Truck **or**
9 x 122mm D30/Truck

Mortar Battalion: 3 x 120mm M1970(3)/Truck Tank

Destroyer Battalion: 9 x SU-100

Notes:

1. One stand in each Mechanized Infantry Company may contain an attached "AT-3" team(MP).
2. One stand in each Mechanized Infantry Battalion may contain an attached "SA-7" team(MP).
3. T-62 Tanks were used in Armored Brigades. T-55 Tanks were used in Mechanized Brigades.
4. BTR-152's may be replaced by BTR-50s, OT-62s, or BMP-1s at your discretion.

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5. Motorized Infantry Brigades are organized as Mechanized Brigades had no tank battalion and used truck transport.
6. The Egyptian "Base Determination Factor" of 50% should be reduced to 35% after the first week or so of fighting.

SYRIAN INFANTRY DIVISION: 1973

Generation: II / Air Superiority Rating: 60 / Class: Conscripts / Base Determination Factor: 40%

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Infantry Company: | 3 x TL2 Infantry(A)/BTR-152 | | 3 x Mechanized Bn., 1 x Tank Bn., 1 x Engineer Company(B), 1 x Recon Company, 1 x ZSU-23/4, 1 x 120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck |
| Infantry Support Co.: | 1 x 82mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1 x 107mm B-11 RcR/GAZ Jeep | | |
| Mechanized Company: | 3 x TL2 Infantry(A)/BTR-60PB | | |
| Mechanized Support Co.: | 1 x 82mm M43 Mortar(3)/ BTR60PB, 1 x 107mm B-11 RcR/GAZ Jeep | Artillery Regiment: | 2 x 122mm M38(3)/Truck, 1 x 122mm D30(3)/Truck, 3 x 152mm D20(3)/Truck |
| Engineer Company(A): | 2 x TL2 Engineer/Truck, 1 x Bulldozer (Civilian) | Infantry Division: | 1 x Mechanized Brigade, 2 x Infantry Brigade, 1 x Artillery Regiment, 1 x (Independent) Tank Battalion, 1 x Engineer Bn., 1 x Recon Bn. |
| Engineer Company(B): | 2 x TL2 Engineer/BTR-152, 1 x T-55 AVLB or T-55 (Mine-roller) | | |
| Tank Company: | 3 x T-55 | Available Support Units: | One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion. |
| Recon Co. (Infantry Brigade): | 2 x Jeep/LMG[R], 1 x TL2 Infantry(R)/Truck | Mortar Battalion: | 2 x 160mm M160(6)/Truck, 1 x 240mm M240(Truck) |
| Recon Co. (Mech Brigade): | 2 x BRDM-2[R] | ATGM Battalion: | 3 x BRDM-2/AT-3 |
| Infantry Battalion: | 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) HQ/BTR-152, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Infantry Support Company | Anti-Tank Battalion: | 2 x 85mm D48/Truck, 1 x 100mm M44/Truck |
| Mechanized Battalion(A): | 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) HQ/ BTR-60PK, 3 x Mech Company(A), 1 x Mech Support Company(A) | SAM Battery: | 1 x SA-2 or 1 x SA-3 or 1 x SA-6 |
| Tank Battalion: | 3 x Tank Company | Air Support: | MiG-21s, MiG-17s, Su-7, Iliushin-28s |
| Recon Battalion: | 3 x T-55[R], 3 x PT-76[R], 3 x TL2 Infantry(R)/BTR-60PB | Notes: | |
| Infantry Brigade: | 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) GHQ/Truck, 3 x Infantry Bn., 1 x Tank Bn., 1 x Engineer Company(A), 307, 1 x Recon Co., 1 x ZSU-23/4, 1 x 120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1 x 107mm B-11 RcR/Truck, 1 x Artillery Battalion | 1. There were three Syrian Infantry Divisions in the 1973 war (5th, 7th, & 9th). | |
| Mechanized Brigade: | 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) GHQ/ BTR50PK, | 2. There were not enough BTR-152s to equip all Infantry Battalions. Some units made do with truck transport instead. | |
| | | 3. One stand per Infantry or Mechanized Battalion may contain an attached AT-3 "Sagger" ATGM Team (MP). | |
| | | 4. One stand per Infantry or Mechanized Battalion may contain an attached SA-7 "Grail" AAGM Team (MP). | |
| | | 5. After October 7th, Syrian morale collapsed as they fell back in disorder. Reduce their "Base Determination Factor" to 25%. | |

SYRIAN ARMORED DIVISION: 1973

Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 60, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 40%

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mechanized Co. (BMP): | 3 x TL2 Infantry(A)/BMP-1 | Recon Co. (Tank Brigade): | 2 x BRDM-2[R], 1 x PT-76[R] |
| Mechanized Co. (BTR-60): | 3 x TL2 Infantry(A)/BTR-60PB | Recon Co. (Mech Brigade): | 2 x BRDM-2[R] |
| Mechanized Co. (BTR-50): | 3 x TL2 Infantry(A)/BTR-50PK | | |

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Engineer Company: 2 x TL2 Engineer/BTR-152,
1 x T-55 AVLB or T-55 mine roller

Tank Battalion (T-62): 9 x T-62

Tank Battalion (T-55): 9 x T-55

Mechanized Bn. (BMP): 1 x TL2 Infantry(A) HQ/BMP-1,
3 x Mech Company(BMP),
1 x 82mm M43 Mortar(3)/
BTR-60PB

Mechanized Bn. (BTR-60): 1 x TL2 Inf.(A) HQ/ BTR-60PK,
3 x Mech Company(BMP),
1 x 82mm M43 Mortar(3)/
BTR-60PB

Mechanized Bn. (BTR-50): 1 x TL2 Inf. (A) HQ/BTR-50PK,
3 x Mech Company(B),
1 x 82mm M43 Mortar(3)/
BTR-50PK,
1 x 107mm B-11 RcR/ BTR-50PK

Recon Battalion: 3 x T-55[R], 3 x PT-76[R],
3 x TL2 Infantry(R)/BTR-60PB

Tank Brigade(A): 1 x TL2 Inf. (A) GHQ/BTR-50PK,
3 x Mech Battalion (BMP),
3 x Tank Battalion (T-62),
1 x Recon Co., 1 x Engineer Co.,
1 x ZSU-23/4,
1 x 120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck

Tank Brigade(B): 1 x TL2 Inf.(A) GHQ/BTR-50PK,
3 x Mech Battalion(BTR-60),
3 x Tank Battalion (T-55),
1 x Recon Co., 1 x Engineer Co.,
1 x ZSU-23/4,
1 x 120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck

Mechanized Brigade: 1 x TL2 Inf. (A) GHQ/BTR-50PK,
3 x Mechanized Bn. (BTR-50),
1 x Tank Battalion(T-55),

1 x Engineer Co., 1 x Recon Co.,
1 x ZSU-23/4,
1 x 120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck,
1 x Anti-Tank Battalion

Artillery Regiment: 2 x 122mm M38(3)/Truck,
1 x 122mm D30(3)/Truck,
3 x 152mm D20(3)/Truck

Armored Division: 1 x Tank Brigade(A),
1 x Tank Brigade(B),
1 x Mechanized Brigade,
1 x Artillery Regiment,
1 x Engineer Bn., 1 x Recon Bn.

Notes:

1. There were two Syrian Armored Divisions in the 1973 war (1st & 3rd).
2. One stand per "BTR" equipped Mechanized Battalion may contain an attached AT-3 "Sagger" ATGM Team (MP).
3. One stand per Mechanized Battalion may contain an attached SA-7 "Grail" AAGM Team (MP).
4. After October 7th, Syrian morale collapsed as they fell back in disorder. Reduce their "Base Determination Factor" to 25%.

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

Mortar Battalion: 2 x 160mm M160(6)/Truck,
1 x 240mm M240(Truck)

ATGM Battalion: 3 x BRDM-2/AT-3

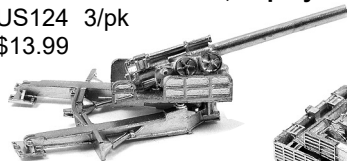
Anti-Tank Battalion: 2 x 85mm D48/Truck,
1 x 100mm M44/Truck

SAM Battery: 1 x SA-2 or 1 x SA-3 B 1 x SA-6

Air Support: MiG-21s, MiG-17s, Su-7s, & Iliushin-28s

1/285th (6mm) Scale WWII Micro Armour

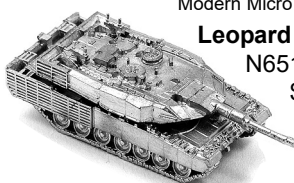
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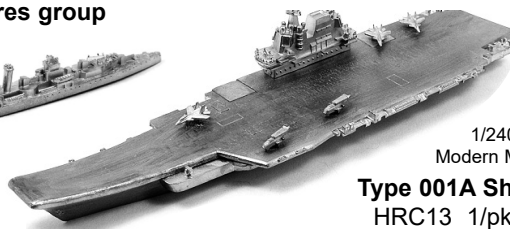


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CA "C" Class, Ceres group
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Photos not to scale



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