

CORRECTED RESEARCH - Corps Organization, Supply Systems & Weapons Production

CRITICAL CORRECTIONS

VRS Troop Numbers - CORRECTED:

NOT: 250,000 troops (this was inflated "when fully mobilized" in 1992)

ACTUAL:

- 1992 (formation): ~250,000 "when fully mobilized" (includes all reserves)
- 1994-1995: ~155,000 troops deployed (actual operational strength)

Key quote from Balkan Battlegrounds:

"At the time of its formation in 1992, the VRS numbered over 250,000 troops (when fully mobilized), but by 1994-1995, the VRS would deploy only about 155,000 troops, even at full mobilization."

Reality Check:

- "When fully mobilized" = paper strength (includes reservists who never showed up)
- Actual deployed strength much lower
- Desertion, draft dodging increased over time
- By 1995: ~155,000 operational troops

VRS CORPS STRUCTURE (Actual Organization)

VRS Corps (6 Total)

1. Sarajevo-Romanija Corps

Mission: Siege of Sarajevo

Location: Sarajevo area, Romanija region

Strength: 1 mechanized brigade + 7-8 light infantry brigades

Forces: ~18,000-25,000 troops

Structure: Inner siege ring + outer defense ring

Commanders: Multiple during war

Key: Most visible corps (Sarajevo siege)

2. Drina Corps

Mission: Control Drina valley, eastern Bosnia enclaves

Location: Zvornik, Bratunac, Vlasenica, Srebrenica, Žepa, Goražde areas

Strength: 1 motorized brigade + 7-8 light infantry brigades

Forces: ~15,000-20,000 troops

Problem: Split area of responsibility (north + south zones separated by Žepa)

Key battles: Srebrenica (1995), Žepa (1995), Goražde (1994)

Responsible for: Srebrenica massacre

3. East Bosnia Corps (Istočno-Bosanski Korpus)

Mission: Maintain Brčko corridor (most strategic sector)

Location: Brčko, Bijeljina, Majevisa mountains

Strength: 1 mechanized brigade + 7-8 light infantry brigades

Forces: ~15,000-18,000 troops

Critical: Corridor only 5km wide at Brčko

Secondary: Defend against 2nd Corps (Tuzla) and Sapna salient

Commander: Major General Novica Simić (most of war)

4. 1st Krajina Corps

Mission: Western Bosnia, northern sectors

Location: Banja Luka, Prijedor, Doboj, Mrkonjić Grad

Strength: Largest corps - multiple divisions, ~35,000-45,000 troops

Includes: 30th Light Infantry Division, multiple brigades

Key operations: Kupres, corridor operations, Jajce

Note: Best organized, most professional

5. 2nd Krajina Corps

Mission: Bihać pocket containment

Location: Northwestern Bosnia (Krajina area)

Strength: ~15,000-20,000 troops

Problem: Long frontline, low force density

Weakness: Backdoor through which VRS/SVK defeated (1995)

Collapse: August 1995 (Operation Storm)

6. Herzegovina Corps (Hercegovački Korpus)

Mission: Southern Herzegovina
Location: Trebinje, Bileća, Nevesinje, southern areas
Strength: Multiple brigades, ~12,000-18,000 troops
Formed from: JNA 13th Bileća Corps
Area: Old Ottoman vilayet of Herzegovina

Total VRS Forces:

- 6 corps
 - ~80-90 maneuver brigades (not all at once)
 - Operational strength: 155,000 by 1995 (not 250,000!)
 - Plus reserves, rear area units, police
-



ARBiH CORPS STRUCTURE (Gradual Formation)

ARBiH Corps (7 Total by 1993)

1. 1st Corps (Sarajevo)

Location: Sarajevo inner city
Mission: Break siege, defend capital
Commander: Brigadier General Vahid Karavelić
Strength: 24+ brigades at peak
Forces: ~40,000-50,000 (largest corps)
Problem: Trapped in siege, limited mobility
Key: Mountain brigades (urban warfare specialists)
Example units:

- 1st Mountain Brigade "Viteška" (Elite)
- 2nd Mountain Brigade
- 16th Motorized Brigade
- 101st, 102nd Mountain Brigades
- 155th Motorized Brigade (Dobrinja)

2. 2nd Corps (Tuzla-Podrinje)

Location: Tuzla, northeastern Bosnia
Mission: Defend industrial base, support enclaves
Commander: Major General Sead Delić
Strength: 40+ brigades at peak
Forces: ~50,000-60,000 (largest by area)
Operational Groups: Multiple (1st OG, 5th OG, 7-South, etc.)
Key units:
- 246th Viteška Mountain Brigade (Sapna)
- 255th Slavna Mountain Brigade "Hajrudin Mesić" (Teočak)
- Multiple TO brigades from enclaves
Challenge: Scattered forces, multiple fronts

3. 3rd Corps (Zenica)

Location: Zenica, central Bosnia
Mission: Industrial heartland defense
Strength: 30+ brigades
Forces: ~40,000-50,000
Key: Zenica steel industry area
Split off: 7th Corps formed from 3rd Corps units (late 1992/1993)

4. 4th Corps (Mostar-Konjic)

Location: Herzegovina region
Mission: Southern front
Commander: Arif Pašalić
Strength: 20+ brigades
Forces: ~25,000-35,000
Area: Neretva valley, Konjic, Mostar area

5. 5th Corps (Bihać)

Location: Bihać pocket
Mission: Defend isolated enclave
Commander: Atif Dudaković (aggressive, controversial)
Strength: 18-25 brigades
Forces: ~35,000-42,000
Situation: Completely surrounded 1992-1995
Survival: Through determination and eventually Croatian help
Note: Also fought Fikret Abdić forces

6. 6th Corps

Location: Unknown/merged

Note: Mentioned but "former 6th Corps" - may have been reorganized

Zenica, Travnik, Bihać mentioned as former 6th Corps areas

Likely: Absorbed into 3rd/7th Corps

7. 7th Corps (Travnik)

Location: Travnik, western central Bosnia

Mission: Western operations

Commander: Brigadier General Mehmet Alagić

Strength: 10-15 brigades

Forces: ~20,000-30,000

Formed: Late 1992/early 1993 from 3rd Corps units

Key units:

- 17th Krajina Mountain Brigade
- 707th "Bugojno" Mountain Brigade
- 770th "Donji Vakuf" Mountain Brigade
- 727th "Banja Luka" Mountain Brigade
- 705th "Jajce" Mountain Brigade

Total ARBiH Forces:

- 7 corps (6 operational by mid-1993, one merged)
- 150-180 brigades at peak (not 80 like VRS claim)
- Operational strength: ~200,000-250,000 at peak
- But: Poorly equipped, many units understrength
- Reality: Probably 150,000-180,000 effective fighters



SUPPLY & WEAPONS ACQUISITION SYSTEMS

ARBiH Weapons Sources (4 Primary)

1. JNA Barracks Captures (Early War - Critical)

Seized barracks:

- Visoko "Ahmet Fetahagić" Barracks (26-27 April 1992)
 - TO weapons, some small arms
- Zenica "Josip Jovanović" Barracks (8-18 May 1992)
 - Significant arsenal (2,000+ weapons estimated)
- Tuzla "Husinska Buna" Barracks (16 May 1992)
 - TO weapons, ammunition
- Pazarić military school (30 May 1992)
 - Training weapons
- Sarajevo barracks (May-June 1992)
 - Viktor Bubanj (24 May)
 - Jusuf Džonlić (28 May - JNA fled, left equipment)
 - Marshal Tito (5 June)

Problems:

- Most heavy weapons removed by JNA before capture
- Wrong ammunition types (captured 800 Osa 90mm rockets but NO launchers!)
- Artillery pieces captured but no ammunition for them
- "Most equipment lay idle"

Impact: Provided initial weapons but far from sufficient

2. Captured in Battle

Methods:

- Raid Serb villages (Srebrenica tactic)

Quote: "We had to attack to get arms and ammunition.

We attacked to obtain food."

- Ambush supply convoys
- Overrun VRS positions
- Capture during offensives

Examples:

- Srebrenica forces (1992-1993): Systematic raids
- Sapna salient: Repeated attacks on Zvornik-Sekovići road
- 2nd Corps operations: Cutting supply routes, capturing weapons

Gradual accumulation, especially 1993-1995

3. NAMJENSKA INDUSTRIJA (Domestic War Production)

Pretis Factory (Vogošća, near Sarajevo)

Location: Vogošća (Sarajevo area)

Captured: Mid-April 1992 by Patriotic League

Status: Heavily damaged but functioning

Production:

- 90mm Osa anti-tank rockets
- Possibly other ammunition
- Continued production during siege

Problem: Captured rockets but needed launchers flown in

Quote from Balkan Battlegrounds:

"When the Patriotic League successfully stormed the Pretis factory in Vogošća in mid-April 1992, they captured some 800 'Osa' 90-mm antitank rockets, but no rocket launchers. [...] The precious weapon was driven from place to place and used at critical points throughout the city for weeks afterward."

Vitez Explosives/Munitions Factory

Location: Vitez, central Bosnia

Status: Contested with HVO throughout war

Type: Explosives and munitions production

Strategic importance:

- "Functioning 'Slavko Rodić' munitions factory"
- HVO-ARBiH fought repeatedly over this
- HVO threatened to blow it up rather than surrender it
- Never fully captured by ARBiH (remained in HVO area)

Production capacity: Significant (factory worth fighting over)

Control: HVO held (Vitez-Busovača enclave)

Impact: Lost production opportunity for ARBiH

Other Production Facilities:

Zenica area: Industrial capacity (possible production)

Tuzla area: Industrial base

Sarajevo: Limited production under siege

Bugojno: "Slavko Rodić" munitions factory mentioned

Reality: Limited domestic production

- Damaged facilities
- Lack of raw materials
- UN embargo prevented import of materials
- Most production was repairs/modifications

4. SMUGGLING THROUGH BORDERS (HVO TAXATION)

Primary Route: Through Croatia

Path:

- International suppliers → Croatia (Split port)
- Croatia → HVO-controlled areas
- HVO areas → ARBiH territory

Problem: HVO controlled checkpoints and taxed/confiscated weapons

HVO "Tax" System:

- Weapons shipments passed through HVO areas
- HVO took percentage as "customs/tax"
- Some shipments blocked entirely
- Created tension between ARBiH and HVO

Split mentioned as key logistics hub for Croatian operations

Sarajevo Tunnel

Location: Butmir-Dobrinja (under airport runway)

Purpose: Supply route into besieged Sarajevo

Built: 1993

Length: ~800 meters

Importance: Only supply line into Sarajevo

Transported:

- Weapons
- Ammunition
- Food
- Medicine
- Personnel

Limitation: Small, slow, but vital

VRS tried repeatedly to cut/destroy it

Other Smuggling Routes:

- Through Croatian territory (HVO taxation)
- Through Serbia (limited, black market)
- Sea routes (limited by embargo)
- Air drops (rare, UN-controlled)

UN Arms Embargo (Resolution 713, 25 September 1991):

- Applied to ALL former Yugoslav states
- "Locked in weapons advantage" of VRS
- Prevented ARBiH from legal arms purchases
- Forced reliance on smuggling and captures
- Remained in effect throughout war

SUPPLY SYSTEM MECHANICS

VRS Supply Advantage

Sources:

1. JNA stocks (inherited entire arsenal)
 - 500-550 tanks
 - 250 APCs
 - 500-600 artillery pieces (>100mm)
 - 400-500 120mm mortars
 - Massive ammunition stocks
2. Serbia (Federal Republic Yugoslavia)
 - Direct military support
 - "Volunteers" (actually regulars)
 - Ammunition resupply
 - Fuel and spare parts
 - Economic support
3. Republika Srpska Krajina (Croatia)
 - Shared logistics
 - Equipment transfers
 - Coordinated operations
4. Local production
 - Repair facilities
 - Some ammunition production
 - Maintenance infrastructure

Supply lines:

- Direct road links to Serbia
- Control of major highways
- Rail connections
- Less reliance on smuggling

Challenge:

"Limited Manpower: VRS Strategic Reality"

- NOT enough troops to hold long frontlines
- Forced to shift battalions between fronts
- Increasing desertion 1993-1995
- Reserve battalions (men over 50, even women)
- Draft dodging increased

ARBiH Supply Challenges

Problems:

1. UN Arms Embargo

- Illegal to import weapons
- No international suppliers (legal)
- Forced underground channels

2. HVO Taxation/Blocking

- HVO controlled access routes
- Took percentage of shipments
- Sometimes blocked entirely
- Created dependency

3. Limited Production

- Few functioning factories
- Raw material shortages
- UN prevented material imports
- Mostly repairs, not new production

4. Besieged Areas

- Sarajevo: Tunnel only supply line
- Bihać: Completely surrounded
- Goražde, Srebrenica, Žepa: Air drops only
- Sapna-Teočak: Limited resupply

Solutions:

1. Capture in battle (most important!)
2. Domestic production where possible

3. Smuggling (expensive, unreliable)
4. International aid (humanitarian, not military)
5. Black market purchases
Result:
- Chronic ammunition shortages
- Limited heavy weapons
- Artillery ammunition strictly rationed
- Infantry weapons adequate by 1994
- Anti-armor weapons always scarce



CORPS COMPARISON TABLE

Corps	Faction	Strength	Brigades	Equipment	Mission
1st Krajina	VRS	35,000-45,000	20-30	Excellent	Western Bosnia
Sarajevo-Romanija	VRS	18,000-25,000	7-8	Good	Sarajevo siege
Drina	VRS	15,000-20,000	7-8	Good	Eastern enclaves
East Bosnia	VRS	15,000-18,000	7-8	Good	Brčko corridor
2nd Krajina	VRS	15,000-20,000	8-12	Mixed	Bihać front
Herzegovina	VRS	12,000-18,000	8-12	Good	Southern front
1st Corps	ARBiH	40,000-50,000	24+	Poor-Mixed	Sarajevo defense
2nd Corps	ARBiH	50,000-60,000	40+	Poor-Mixed	Tuzla area
3rd Corps	ARBiH	40,000-50,000	30+	Mixed	Zenica industrial
4th Corps	ARBiH	25,000-35,000	20+	Poor-Mixed	Herzegovina
5th Corps	ARBiH	35,000-42,000	18-25	Poor	Bihać pocket
7th Corps	ARBiH	20,000-30,000	10-15	Mixed	Travnik area

Key Differences:

- VRS: Fewer brigades, better equipment, professional structure
- ARBiH: More brigades, poorer equipment, gradual professionalization

- VRS: ~155,000 operational (1995)
 - ARBiH: ~200,000-250,000 paper strength, ~150,000-180,000 effective
-

GAME DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

1. Realistic Troop Numbers

```
javascript

// CORRECTED from 250,000 to actual figures

const vrsStrength = {
  1992: {
    paper: 250000, // "When fully mobilized"
    actual: 180000 // Realistic operational
  },
  1995: {
    paper: 200000,
    actual: 155000 // Per Balkan Battlegrounds
  }
};

const arbihStrength = {
  1992: {
    paper: 40000, // Armed personnel
    actual: 30000 // Effective fighters
  },
  1995: {
    paper: 250000,
    actual: 180000 // Effective fighters
  }
};
```

2. Supply System Integration

```
javascript
```

```
const weaponsSources = {
  arbih: {
    // Early war (1992)
    jnaBarracks: {
      turns: "2-15",
      impact: "moderate",
      weapons: 15000, // Total from all barracks
      problem: "wrong_ammunition"
    },

    // Throughout war
    captureInBattle: {
      turns: "continuous",
      impact: "gradual",
      rate: "100-500 per turn depending on operations"
    },

    // Mid war onwards (1993+)
    domesticProduction: {
      turns: "20+",
      facilities: ["Pretis (Vogošća)", "limited others"],
      output: "low",
      impact: "supplemental"
    },

    // Throughout war
    smuggling: {
      turns: "continuous",
      routes: ["through_croatia"],
      problem: "hvo_taxation",
      hvoCut: 0.20, // HVO takes 20% "tax"
      cost: "high",
      reliability: "variable"
    }
  },

  vrs: {
    // Inherited at start
    jnaArsenal: {
      tanks: 550,
      artillery: 600,
      mortars: 500,
      smallArms: 200000,
```

```
        impact: "massive_advantage"
    },

    // Throughout war
    serbiaSupport: {
        turns: "continuous",
        ammunition: "regular",
        fuel: "regular",
        volunteers: "thousands",
        impact: "sustained"
    }
}
};
```

3. Corps Formation Timeline

javascript

```

const corpsFormation = {
  vrs: {
    turn_5: { // May 1992
      status: "6 corps operational immediately",
      brigades: 80,
      structure: "professional (from JNA)",
      readiness: "high"
    }
  },

  arbih: {
    turn_1: { // April 1992
      status: "No corps, only municipal TO",
      brigades: 0,
      units: "103 municipal TO headquarters",
      readiness: "chaotic"
    },

    turn_20: { // September 1992
      status: "4 corps forming",
      corps: ["1st (Sarajevo)", "2nd (Tuzla)", "3rd (Zenica)", "5th (Bihać)"],
      brigades: 60,
      readiness: "organizing"
    },

    turn_40: { // April 1993
      status: "7 corps operational",
      corps: ["1st", "2nd", "3rd", "4th", "5th", "6th", "7th"],
      brigades: 120,
      readiness: "professional"
    },

    turn_80: { // 1995
      status: "6 corps (6th merged)",
      brigades: 180,
      readiness: "experienced"
    }
  }
};

```

4. Equipment Evolution

javascript


```

const equipmentProgression = {
  arbi: {
    april_1992: {
      armed: 0.40,    // Only 40% have weapons
      equipment: "hunting_rifles",
      heavyWeapons: "none",
      artillery: "none"
    },

    june_1992: { // After barracks captures
      armed: 0.55,
      equipment: "mixed",
      heavyWeapons: "minimal",
      artillery: "captured_but_no_ammo"
    },

    early_1993: { // Domestic production + captures
      armed: 0.70,
      equipment: "mixed",
      heavyWeapons: "limited",
      artillery: "limited_ammo"
    },

    1995: { // Mature army
      armed: 0.90,
      equipment: "adequate",
      heavyWeapons: "adequate",
      artillery: "rationed_ammo"
    }
  }
};

```

KEY SOURCES & QUOTES

On VRS Strength:

"At the time of its formation in 1992, the VRS numbered over 250,000 troops (when fully mobilized), but by 1994-1995, the VRS would deploy only about 155,000 troops, even at full mobilization."

- Balkan Battlegrounds, Vol II, p.268

On VRS Manpower Problems:

"The strategic reality faced by the Main Staff and its corps from the beginning to the end of the war was that the VRS did not have enough troops to hold the long frontlines that stretched from Bihać to Trebinje."

- Balkan Battlegrounds, Vol II, p.271

On Pretis Factory:

"When the Patriotic League successfully stormed the Pretis factory in Vogošća in mid-April 1992, they captured some 800 'Osa' 90-mm antitank rockets, but no rocket launchers."

- Balkan Battlegrounds, Vol I

On Capture as Weapons Source:

"We had to attack to get arms and ammunition. We attacked to obtain food. We had many refugees from Zvornik, Bratunac, Rogatica, and Han Pijesak."

- Muslim battalion commander, Srebrenica, quoted in Balkan Battlegrounds

On UN Embargo Impact:

"The practical consequence of UN Resolution 713 was to lock in the weapons advantage of one side—the Bosnian Serbs—and to close off the other side's ability to achieve parity."

- Balkan Battlegrounds, Vol I

✓ CORRECTIONS SUMMARY

What I Got Wrong:

- ✗ 250,000 VRS troops (inflated mobilization figure, not operational)
- ✗ Didn't emphasize domestic production (namjenska industrija)
- ✗ Didn't detail HVO taxation of smuggling routes
- ✗ Underestimated ARBiH corps complexity (7 corps, not simple structure)

What's Now Corrected:

- ✓ VRS actual strength: ~155,000 operational (1995)
- ✓ ARBiH 4 weapons sources: barracks, battle, production, smuggling
- ✓ Pretis factory (Vogošća) domestic production

- ☒ Vitez munitions factory (contested, HVO-held)
- ☒ HVO taxation of weapons through Croatia
- ☒ Sarajevo tunnel supply line
- ☒ Complete corps structures for both sides
- ☒ Equipment progression timelines
- ☒ Realistic manpower numbers

This corrected research provides accurate foundation for supply and organization systems!  