

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The state of Yugoslavia was, in reality, little more than "Greater Serbia". Its constitution guaranteed that all important decisions were made in Belgrade and dominated by Serbs. Bosnia, therefore, was no better or worse off than any other non-Serbian province. Then, in 1929, King Alexander established a royal dictatorship and redrew all internal borders, completely ignoring traditional ethnic boundaries. Even the name of the new state, "Yugoslavia", was an invention, designed to overwhelm tribal antagonisms. Within ten years Serbian dominance and Croatian separatism put an end to any dreams of Yugoslav national identity. An agreement promulgated in 1939 assigned most of Herzegovina and southeastern Bosnia to Croatia. The rest went to Serbia. The numerous Muslim population in the area was not consulted!

After the Germans invaded Yugoslavia in 1941, the country was split between Nazi and Italian zones of occupation, and Bosnia and Herzegovina fell under Nazi control in their puppet state, Croatia. A brutal civil war followed, in which Bosnians, Croats, and Serbs tore at each other. The Croat "Ustase" regime committed savage atrocities against Serbs and reprisals were committed with equal savagery by the royalist Chetniks and by Tito's communist partisans. It has been over fifty years since then, but the memory of those horrors lives, and is used daily to justify new atrocities.

Tito's communists smothered internal conflict under a new dictatorship after the war. Bosnia and Herzegovina became one of six federated republics. After all, nationalist aspirations were incompatible with socialism. The 1974 constitution allowed a lot of autonomy to the republics, in an attempt to ease tensions. Things actually became worse, though, when the republics embraced nationalism almost immediately. In Bosnia and Herzegovina things were complicated by the constitutional recognition of Muslims as a separate nationality. After Tito's death in 1980, civil war was once again inevitable. Free elections in November of 1990 split the three communities along ethnic lines and the government in Sarajevo proclaimed independence from Yugoslavia. Over three years of ethnic bloodshed followed.

The Dayton Peace Agreement was signed on December 14th, 1995, ending the fighting, but serious problems remained. Loyalties were never to the government in Sarajevo, but to ethnic communities which had nothing to do with state boundaries. The whole notion of a state called "Bosnia and Herzegovina" often seemed like a historical "relic" with no contemporary relevance. Indicted war criminals continued to exert powerful influence on all three sides and remained committed to separate, "ethnically pure" states. A cloud of questions remains over Bosnia and Herzegovina even now. Is there a fair way to partition the country along ethnic lines? If the NATO and UN forces withdraw, will war resume? Many have addressed these problems, but they have thus far proved insoluble.

### FOREIGN WEAPONS

130mm Type 70 - CH; 20mm FlaK38 - GE; M4A3E8, 50cal. AAMG, 155mm M114A1 - US; All other foreign weapons - RU

### TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

#### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: 1990-1991

**Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 00, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 20%**

Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(D)

Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry (C) HQ, 3xInfantry Company, 1x82mm B10 RcR(MP), 1x82mm M37 or 120mm M43 Mortar(2)

Infantry Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry (C) GHQ, 2-6xInfantry Battalion

Independent Formations: 1xRecon Platoon:

1x1x TL3 Infantry(R)/BTR-60P

1xTank Platoon:

1xM4A3E8 "Easy-8" or T-34/85 or T-55M

Rocket Battery:

1x130mm Type70(2)/Truck

Anti-Aircraft Platoon:

1x20mm FlaK38/Truck or 1x50cal. AAMG/Jeep

Artillery Battery:

1x155mm M114A1(2)/Truck, 1x122mm M38(2)/Truck

- Notes:**
- 1) Stands without transport may obtain this at double normal cost. These represent "commandeered" civilian cars or trucks.
  - 2) One stand in each Infantry Battalion may contain an attached AT-3 "Sagger" ATGM team(MP).
  - 3) Bosnian forces in 1992 consisted of seven brigades.
  - 4) The 1993 Bosnian army consisted of six "Corps" of 2-6 brigades each.
  - 5) The Bosnian army also contained one battalion each of Afghan, Palestinian, and Turkish "Mujehadeen" volunteers.

#### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: 1991-1995

**Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 30, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 23%**

Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(D)

Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry (C) HQ, 3xInfantry Company, 1x82mm B10 RcR(MP), 1x82mm M37 or 120mm M43 Mortar(2)

Infantry Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry (C) GHQ, 2-6xInfantry Battalion

Independent Formations: 1xArmored "Group":

1xT-62, 1xTL3 Infantry(C)/BTR-60PB, 1x"BOV"[R]

1xTank Platoon:

1xM4A3E8 "Easy-8" or T-34/85 or T-55M

1xRecon Platoon:

1x1x TL3 Infantry(R)/BTR-60PB

Rocket Battery:

1x130mm Type70(2)/Truck

Anti-Aircraft Platoon:

1x20mm FlaK38/Truck or 1x50cal. AAMG/Jeep

Artillery Battery:

1x155mm M114A1(2)/Truck, 1x122mm M38(2)/Truck

- Notes:**
- 1) Stands without transport may obtain this at double normal cost. These represent "commandeered" civilian cars or trucks.
  - 2) One stand in each infantry battalion may contain an attached "AT-3" team(MP).
  - 3) Bosnian forces in 1992 consisted of seven brigades.

- 4) The 1993 Bosnian army consisted of six "Corps" of 2-6 brigades each.
- 5) The Bosnian army also contained one battalion each of Afghan, Palestinian, and Turkish "Mujehadeen" volunteers.
- 6) The "Armored Group" may be used in 1991 only.
- 7) The "BOV" vehicles, manufactured in Slovenia, are similar in both performance and appearance to the US "V-150" series.

#### **TACTICAL NOTES: 1990-1995**

Small unit actions are all this army is capable of. You will have the best chance of putting up a good showing with them if you match them up against Serbian forces of the same time period. These are a fair match for them, and interesting scenarios can be developed around attacking or defended militarily worthless but politically vital villages and towns. Your scenarios should always include significant numbers of unarmed civilians and partly armed militia. The protection of these will often be the key to one side's victory, while the other side may be trying to drive them out of an area (Ethnic Cleansing!).

Information on the various UN "SFOR" and "KFOR" peacekeeping forces engaged against the FBiH from 1990-1995 is included in the "UN Peacekeeping Forces" Chapter. Organization of Serbian and Croatian Armies may be found under Yugoslavia.

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

Today, the "Federal Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (FBiH) officially comprises a union of two separate entities, one Bosnian (Muslim) and one Croatian. All powers not expressly designated to the federation are the responsibility and province of these "entities". Each has its own president, Prime Minister, and parliament. (Sounds pretty clear, but let's cut to the chase!) Real power is divided among the five international agencies present in the country: 1) The UN "Stabilization Forces" (SFOR) commander, 2) The staff of the "Special Representative of the UN Secretary General", 3) The head of the "Organization For Security and Cooperation in Europe" (OSCE), backed by the U.S., 4) The head of the "UN High Commission For Refugees" (UNHCR), and 5) overall power is exercised by the "UN High Representative to Bosnia-Herzegovina". Is this all perfectly clear?

"Landmines played a prominent role in the Bosnian Civil War. First, they were easy to use. Second, the former Yugoslavia was a major supplier of mines to the former Soviet Union, so they were also plentiful. All three factions buried hundreds of thousands of landmines along the "Zone of Separation" (ZOS) between the entities and around ethnically cleansed areas to discourage the return of refugees to their homes. It is estimated that there are between one and one-point-five million landmines still buried in 30,000 minefields scattered throughout the country. I spent nine months supporting SFOR's mine awareness training program for the Bosnian people. During my tour it was a rare week not to have reports of several civilians maimed or killed by mines. Tragically, a very large proportion of these were children. There is a massive UN led International effort currently underway to de-mine Bosnia."\*

\*Provided by MAJ Daryl M. Nichols, USAR. His comments were greatly appreciated.

#### **2002 BOSNIAC-HERZEGOVINAN ARSENAL**

Vehicles:	46xT-34/85, 8xM-47, 5xT-54, 77xT-55, 6xM-84, 45xM60A3, 50xAMX-30, 16xBOV/BVP, 3xBRDM, 8xPT-76, 72xOT/BTR-60, 80xM113A2, 2xBTR-50PK, 25xAMX-10, 3xBTR-70
AT Weapons:	AT-3, AT-6, and "Milan"
Artillery:	119x155mm M114A2, 116x122mm D-30, 419xMB-120 Mortar, 492x82mm Mortar, (36+)x122mm MRL
Anti-Aircraft:	350xAnti-Aircraft Guns of 20mm - 30mm caliber
Combat Aircraft:	12xMi-8
Small Arms:	Any combination of small arms may be encountered, former Soviet bloc weapons will predominate.

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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