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## CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

*Morale: All Regular*

### 1990s+ PLA Armoured Division

#### Division Headquarters:

Headquarters Company: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in APC  
 HQ Defence: 2-Infantry Stands in truck

#### 3-Armour Regiments, each with:

Regimental Headquarters Company: HQ: 1-MBT

1-Engineer Company: 2-Engineers in APC  
 1-Type 59 AVLB  
 1-towed minelayer  
 1-GSL + line charge  
 3-trucks with 2 mine plows each

1-Recon Company: 2-Light tank

#### **1-Air Defence Battalion:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

2-AA Company, each with: 3 or 4 SPAAG

1-SAM Company: 3 MANPADS

**1-Artillery Battalion:** 4-Type 89 122mm SPH

#### **3-Tank Battalions, each with:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-MBT

3-Tank Companies, each with: 2-MBT

#### **1-Mechanised Infantry Battalion:**

### 1990s+ PLA Mechanised Infantry Division

#### Division Headquarters:

Headquarters Company: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in APC  
 HQ Defence: 2-Infantry Stands in truck

#### 2/3-Mechanised Infantry Regiments, each with:

Regimental Headquarters Company: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in APC

Recon Company: 2-IFV Infantry Combat Teams

Engineer Company: 2-Engineers in APC  
 1-Type 59 AVLB  
 1-towed minelayer  
 1-GSL + line charge

#### **1-Air Defence Battalion:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-AA Company: 3 or 4 SPAAG

1-SAM Company: 3 MANPADS/Lt T

**1-Artillery Battalion:** 4-Type 89 122mm

#### **3-Mechanised Infantry Battalions, each with:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in

3-Mechanised Infantry Companies, each with: 2 or 3-IFV Infantry Combat Teams

1-Mortar Company: 1-100/120mm mortar/truck or IFV

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in IFV

3-Mechanised Infantry Companies, each with: 2-IFV Infantry Combat Teams

1-Mortar Company: 1-100/120mm mortar/truck

### **1-Artillery Regiment**

2-152mm Howitzer Battalions, each with: 4-152mm Type 83 SP howitzers

1-130mm MRL Battalion: 4-130mm Type 85 MRL

1-AT Battalion: 4/6-SP ATGW stands

### **1-Air Defence Regiment**

Regimental Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-SAM Battalion: 3-HQ-7 SAM

1-AA Battalion: 4-towed 25mm AAG

1-AA Battalion: 4-towed 37mm AAG

### **1-Engineer Battalion:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-Bridging Company: 2-TMM Bridge Sections

1-Sapper Company: 2-Engineer Stands in APC

1-towed minelayer

1-GSL + line charge

1-River Assault Company: 2-assault boats in trucks

1-Pontoon Company: 4-pontoon bridge sections in trucks

### **1-Recon Battalion:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

2-Light tank Companies, each with: 2-light tanks

1-Mechanised Infantry Company: 2-IFV Infantry Combat Teams

### **1-Armour Regiment:**

Regimental Headquarters Company: HQ: 1-MBT

1-Engineer Company: 2-Engineers in AF

1-Type 59 AVLB

1-towed minelayer

1-GSL + line charge

3-trucks with 2 minelayers each

2-Light tank

### **1-Recon Company:**

### **1-Air Defence Battalion:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

2-AA Company, each with: 3 or 4 SPAAG

1-SAM Company: 3 MANPADS/Lt TL

### **1-Artillery Battalion:**

### **3-Tank Battalions, each with:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-MBT

3-Tank Companies, each with: 2-MBT

### **1-Mechanised Infantry Battalion:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in IFV

3-Mechanised Infantry Companies, each with: 2 or 3-IFV Infantry Combat Teams

1-Mortar Company: 1-100/120mm mortar/truck or IFV

### **1-Artillery Regiment**

1-122mm Howitzer Battalion: 4-122mm Type 85 towed howitzers

1-130mm MRL Battalion: 4-130mm Type 85

1-152mm SP Howitzer Bn: 4-152mm Type 83

1-AT Battalion: 2/6-SP ATGW stands

### **1-Air Defence Regiment**

Regimental Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-SAM Battalion: 3-HQ-7 SAM

1-AA Battalion: 4-towed 25mm AAG

<b>1-AA Battalion:</b>	4-towed 37mm A/
<b>1-Engineer Battalion:</b>	
<u>Battalion Headquarters:</u>	HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck
<u>1-Bridging Company:</u>	2-TMM Bridge Se
<u>1-Sapper Company:</u>	2-Engineer Stand: APC 1-towed minelaye 1-GSL + line char;
<u>1-River Assault Company:</u>	2-assault boats in trucks
<u>1-Pontoon Company:</u>	4-pontoon bridge sections in trucks
<b>1-Recon Battalion:</b>	
<u>Battalion Headquarters:</u>	HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck
<u>2-Light tank Companies, each with:</u>	2-light tanks
<u>1-Mechanised Infantry Company:</u>	2-IFV Infantry Cor Teams

- There are about ten armoured divisions (some may be downsizing into brigades) and three mechanised infantry divisions (plus three more converting) in the PLA order of battle.
- These "heavy" formations are generally concentrated in the north of China where they used to f the Soviet threat.
- Some elements are based on "best guesses", i.e. Recon and engineering assets.
- In some formations AA may be all towed and regimental artillery may not yet be completely self-propelled
- The rules for Soviet-style organisations apply.
- Each mineplow can be used to equip one MBT platoon.
- Some formations may have an AT Battalion with 4 towed Type 73/85 100mm ATG and 2 SP-A1
- IFV can be ZBD-97 (BMP-3 turret); Type-86 (BMP-1); Type-86Mod (30mm turret); WZ-307; Typ Type-85; Type-63; Type-92
- MBT can be Type-59; Type-79; Type-88B; Type-96; Type-98. In some divisions intended for amphibious ops, the MBT may in fact be the ZTS-63A amphibious tank.
- Light Tanks can be Type-62; Type-63; ZTS-63A
- APC may be Type-63 or Type-85 or Type-92 wheeled 6x6
- SPAAG may be Type-88 or Type-95
- MANPADS may be HN-5 or QW-1/2/3/4

**1990s+ PLA Armoured Brigade****Brigade****Headquarters:**HeadquartersCompany:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in APC

1-Engineer Company: 2-Engineers in APC

1-Type 59 AVLB

1-towed minelayer

1-GSL + line charge

1-Recon Company: 2-light tanks**1-Artillery Battalion:** 4-Type-89 122mm SPH**1-AA Battalion:** 4-SPAAG**4-Tank Battalions, each with:**BattalionHeadquarters:

HQ: 1-MBT

3-Tank Companies, each with:

2-MBT

**1-Mechanised Infantry Battalion:**BattalionHeadquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in IFV

3-Mechanised Infantry Companies, each with:

2-IFV Infantry Combat Teams

1-Mortar Company: 1-100/120mm mortar/truck**PLA 1990s+ Artillery Brigade****Brigade****Headquarters:**

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

**1 or 2-AT Battalion, each with:**

4-Type-89 120mm SPG or

4-HJ-9 ATGM vehicles

**1 or 2-MRL Battalion, each with:**

4-122mm or 130mm MRL

**3 or 4-Artillery Battalions, each with:**

4-130mm guns or 152mm towed howitzers or Type-83 152mm SPH

**PLA 1990s+ Motorised Infantry Division****Division Headquarters:**Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand truck

HQ Defence:  
2-Infantry Stands truck

2-Infantry Stands/Truck

Recon Company:**1-Engineering Battalion:**Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck

2-Engineer Companies, each with:

2-Engineer Stand Truck

1-Bridging Company:

1-Pontoon bridge/truck

1-Obstacle Company:

1-truck towing minelayer

**1-Tank Regiment:**Regimental Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-MBT

1-Engineer Company:

2-Engineers in A

1-Type 59 AVLB

1-towed minelayer

1-GSL + line cha  
3-trucks with 2 m  
plows each

2-Light tank

1-Recon Company:**1-Air Defence Battalion:**Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck

1-AA Company:

4 SPAAG

1-SAM Company:

3 MANPADS/Lt 1

**1-Artillery Battalion:**

4-Type 89/85 12: SPH

**3-Tank Battalions, each with:**Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-MBT

3-Tank Companies, each with:

2-MBT

## **2 or 3-Motorised Infantry Regiments, each with:**

Regimental Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck

Recon Company: 2-Infantry Stands/truck

Engineer Company: 2-Engineer Stands/truck

**1-Artillery Battalion:** 4-122mm Type-8 towed howitzers  
1-130mm MRL

**1-AA Battalion:** 4-25mm towed A guns

## **3-Motorised Infantry Battalions, each with:**

Battalion Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck

1-Heavy Weapons Company: 2-HMG Stands/tr

1-82mm mortar/t

1-82mm RCL sta

3-Motorised Infantry Companies, each with: 2-Infantry Stands/truck

## **1-AA Regiment:**

Regimental Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand truck

**1-AA Battalion:** 4-25mm towed A guns

**1-AA Battalion:** 4-37mm towed A guns

**1-SAM Battalion:** 3-HQ-7 SAM

## **1-Divisional Artillery Regiment:**


Regimental Headquarters: HQ: 1-HQ Stand i truck


**1-Artillery Battalion:** 4-Type-85 122mm towed howitzers


**1-Mortar Battalion:** 4-120mm towed mortar

**1-MRL Battalion:** 4-130mm MRL

**1-AT Battalion:** 6-ATGW stands

 The Armoured Brigade emerged in the late 1980s in many of the newly organised Group Armies; has more firepower than the old independent tank regiment.

 The Group Army Artillery Brigade provides support to divisions of a Group Army. For instance, the supporting the elite 38th Group Army has one battalion of 152mm towed gun-howitzers, two battalions of 130mm towed guns, one battalion of 122mm MRL, and one battalion of Type-89 SPATG.

 The motorised infantry division uses the truck as its main form of transport. On the battlefield it conducts infantry warfare. Motorised Infantry divisions are being downsized to only two infantry regiments. Others are being turned into Motorised Infantry Brigades.

- Some Motorised Divisions (mainly in China's north) have a divisional artillery regiment with 1-battalion of 4 towed 152mm howitzers; 1-battalion with 4-towed 130mm guns; 1-battalion with 4-towed 122mm howitzers and 1-battalion with 4-122mm MRLs. Some also have an AT battalion with 4-100mm ATG or 105mm jeep-mounted recoilless rifle and 2-ATGW stands.
- Some Motorised Infantry Regiments (mainly in China's south) have a regimental artillery battalion with 1-105mm jeep-mounted recoilless rifle; 1-100mm towed ATG; 1-100mm mortar stand; and 1-100mm towed MRL.

### **1970s PLA Infantry Division**

<b>Division Headquarters:</b>	1-HQ Stand in truck
<u>Recon Company:</u>	3-Infantry Stands in truck
<u>Flamethrower Company:</u>	3-Combat Engr w/flame
<u>Guard Company:</u>	3-Infantry Stands

### **Divisional Artillery**

<b>Anti-tank battalion:</b>	
<u>4-AT Companies, each with:</u>	3-57mm towed AT gun
<b>Artillery Regiment with:</b>	
<b>1-Howitzer Battalion:</b>	3-122mm Type-54 towed
<b>1-Artillery Battalion:</b>	4-76.2mm towed
<b>Anti-aircraft battalion:</b>	4-37mm towed

### **Engineer Battalion:**

<u>Battalion Headquarters:</u>	1-HQ stand in truck
<u>3-Engineer Companies, each with:</u>	3-Engineer stands in truck

### **Tank Regiment**

<u>Regimental Headquarters:</u>	1-HQ MBT or light tank
<b>1-Tank Battalion:</b>	
<u>Battalion Headquarters:</u>	1- HQ MBT
<u>3-Tank Companies, each with:</u>	2-MBT
<u>1-Light tank company:</u>	2-light tanks

### **PLA 1970s Tank Division**

<b>Division Headquarters:</b>	1- HQ MBT
<u>Guard Company:</u>	3-Infantry Stand in truck
<u>Armoured Recon Company:</u>	3-light tanks
<u>Flamethrower Company:</u>	3-Combat Eng w/flame

### **Artillery Regiment:**

<b>1-Howitzer Battalion:</b>	3-122mm towed
<b>1-Gun Battalion:</b>	4-76.2mm towed

<b>Anti-aircraft Battalion:</b>	4-37mm/57mm towed
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### **Engineer Battalion:**

<u>Battalion Headquarters:</u>	1-HQ stand in truck
<u>3-Engineer Companies, each with:</u>	3-Engineer stands in truck

### **Mechanised Infantry Regiment:**

<u>Regimental HQ:</u>	1-HQ stand in truck
<u>Engineer Company:</u>	3-Engineer stands in truck

### **Regimental Artillery:**

<u>AAMG Company:</u>	3-towed 14.5mm AAMG
<u>Heavy Mortar Company:</u>	1-towed 120mm mortar
<u>Recoilless Rifle Company:</u>	1-towed 75mm
<u>Howitzer Battery:</u>	1-76.2mm towed

**3-Infantry  
Regiments, each  
with:**Regimental  
Headquarters: 1-HQ Stand in truckEngineer Company: 3-Engineer Stands**Regimental  
Artillery:**AAMG Company: 3-towed 14.5mm AAMGHeavy Mortar  
Company: 1-towed 120mm mortarRecoilless Rifle  
Company: 1-75mmRCLHowitzer Battery: 1-76.2mm towed**HMG Battalion:** 4-12.7mm HMG  
4-57mm towed AT gun**3-Infantry  
Battalions, each  
with:**Battalion  
Headquarters: 1-HQ StandHeavy Weapons  
Company: 3-MMG

1-57mmRCL

2-82mm Mortar


3-Infantry  
Companies, each  
with: 3-Infantry Stands**HMG Battalion:** 4-12.7mm HMG  
4-57mm towed  
gun**1-Mechanised Infantry  
Battalion:**Battalion Headquarters: 1-HQ Stand inHeavy Weapons Company: 3-MMG in APC



1-57mmRCL ir

2-82mm Mortar  
APC3-Mechanised Infantry  
Companies, each with: 2-APC Infantry  
Combat Team:**2-Motorised Infantry  
Battalions, each with:**Battalion Headquarters: 1-HQ Stand inHeavy Weapons Company: 3-MMG in truck1-57mmRCL ir  
truck2-82mm Mortar  
truck3-Infantry Companies, each with: 3-Infantry Stan  
trucks**3-Tank Regiments, each with:**Regimental Headquarters: 1-HQ MBTGuard Platoon: 1-Infantry Stan  
truckEngineer Platoon: 1-Engineer Sta  
truck

Recon Platoon: 1-light tank

**3-Tank Battalions, each with:**Battalion Headquarters: 1- HQ MBT3-Tank Companies, each with: 2-MBT**NOTES:** These units are useful for Sino-Soviet clashes and Sino-Vietnamese wars. Not altered until 1985 Deng restructure of PLA.

 Late 70s may see changes in artillery such as 100mm ATG, more 122mm howitzers.

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