

## ANGOLA

A leftist coup in Lisbon in April 1974 brought in a new government determined to divest itself of its former colonial empire. As part of this policy the Portuguese withdrew their forces from Angola in 1975. The immediate consequence of this was the panic flight of 300,000 Portuguese nationals along with nearly every other "white" person in the country. The second consequence was a civil war that led to a large-scale infrastructure collapse and a general migration of the urban population to rural areas.

Three indigenous groups, each linked to tribal factions, vied for predominance in Angola. The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) of Agostinho Neto was Marxist and received aid from the USSR and Cuba. The FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) in the north was backed by Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko and initially by a token contribution from the CIA. In the south the UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) of Jonas Savimbi had ties to China but came to rely increasingly on "white" South Africa. Savimbi was the only Angolan guerrilla leader who remained fighting within Angola until the nation reached independence from Portugal in 1975; by this time he had expanded his initially small band of supporters into a guerrilla army numbering in the thousands. UNITA relied for its support on the Ovimbundu people, who were the largest tribal group in the country. Savimbi obtained support from the United States as a counter to the Marxist, Soviet-supported MPLA, which controlled the central government. Then there was the wild card in the Angola equation. UNITA was able to obtain assistance from the South African army and its client force known as the "Southwest African Territorial Force" or (SWATF). These provided a disciplined professional element to the mix. Well-trained and equipped soldiers, they could, and did, out-maneuver and out-fight any opposing force in the theater. The Union of South Africa and SWATF are covered in detail below in a separate chapter.

In the Alvor agreement of January 1975 all three indigenous movements agreed to form a coalition, but civil war resumed in July. By the end of the year the MPLA had been reinforced by 10,000 Cuban soldiers airlifted to Luanda by the USSR. The Cuban "Volunteers" provided by Fidel Castro in return for generous Soviet financial assistance were also disciplined and professional and provided a much-needed stiffening to the less efficient FAPLA and SWAPO forces. The Cuban army is also covered in its own chapter.

In the United States the imperative of "no more Vietnams" and congressional ire over CIA covert operations frustrated President Ford's desire to help non-Communist Angolans. Neto accordingly proclaimed a "People's Republic of Angola" in November 1975 and signed a Treaty of Friendship with the USSR the following October. The rebel factions, however, remained in control of much of the country, and Cuban troop levels eventually reached 19,000. For the next fifteen years, Angola was wracked by civil war. The MPLA ruled Angola as a one-party state and favored central planning in its economic policies. But as part of a peace accord reached between the MPLA and UNITA in 1991, both of those political parties, as well as others, were enabled to compete in national elections in 1992. The MPLA abandoned its commitment to Marxism, and it led a caretaker government for Angola until the September 1992 elections, in which it won a majority of parliamentary seats in the National Assembly. After losing these elections, Savimbi and UNITA resumed their military struggle for control of the country, which continues unabated.

In the TO&E's below, The FAPLA (Armed Forces for the Liberation of the Angolan People) represents the "army" of the Russian/Cuban backed MPLA government. It consists of 11 Militia brigades of indeterminate strength, 17 Infantry brigades, and 5 mechanized brigades. SWAPO (The Southwest African Peoples' Organization) forces carried out guerrilla operations against the SADF (South African Defense Force) and SWATF (South West African Territorial Forces) on three fronts: The North, Northeast, and Northwest. On the Central Front, SWAPO fielded three brigades against UNITA and the South Africans in cooperation with local FAPLA assets.

## FOREIGN WEAPONS

FIM92A "Stinger" - US; All other foreign weapons - RU

### TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

#### "UNITA" Forces: 1980-1991

##### Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 10, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 20%

Guerrilla "Sector" Infantry Force:	1-6xTL2 Infantry(C)
Militia Infantry Company:	1-3xTL3 Infantry(C)
Regular Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C), 1xTL3 Infantry Support, 1x120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1xFIM92A "Stinger"(MP)
Special Forces Company:	2xTL3 Infantry (S)
Support Company:	1xT-34/85 or T-55, 1xType 63 MRL(3)/Truck, 1x76mm M42(2)/Truck, 1x122mm M38(2)/Truck
Militia Infantry Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ, 2-3 Militia Infantry Company, 1x82mm M37 Mortar(2)
Regular Infantry Battalion:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ/Truck, 3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company

- Notes:**
- 1) The "Support Company" represents an ideal situation. There is a 50% chance of each troop type actually being present.
  - 2) There was no fixed TO&E above the battalion level.
  - 3) "Air Superiority Rating" rises to 10 in 2000.

#### "SWAPO" Forces: 1980-1991

##### Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 20, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 20%

Northwest "Front" Detachment:	1xTL3 Infantry(R), 1xTL2 Engineer, 2xTL3 Infantry(C)
Northern "Front" Detachment:	4xTL2 Infantry(C), 2x122mm Rocket(1)
Northeast "Front" Detachment:	3xTL2 Infantry(C), 1xTL2 Infantry(R), 1xTL2 Infantry(S), 2x122mm Rocket(1)
Infantry Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(C), 1x82mm M37 Mortar(3), 1x82mm B10 RcR(MP)
Recon Company:	3xTL3 Infantry(R)
Anti-Tank Company:	3x107mm B11 RcR/Jeep
Tank Company:	3xT-34/85

Northwest "Front": 1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ, 5xDetachment, 1xTL3 Infantry (R), 1xTL2 Engineer, 1x82mm M37 Mortar(3), 1x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck, 1x82mm B10 RcR(MP)

Northern "Front": 1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ, 5xDetachment, 7xTL2 Engineer, 1xTL2 Infantry(R), 1x82mm M37 Mortar(3), 1x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck, 1x82mm B10 RcR(MP)

Northeast "Front": 1xTL3 Infantry(C) HQ, 5xDetachment, 7xTL2 Engineer, 3xTL2 Infantry(R), 2x82mm M37 Mortar(4), 1x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck, 1x82mm B10 RcR(MP)

Infantry Battalion: 3xInfantry Company, 1xSA-7(MP)

Mortar Battalion: 3x120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck

Central "Front" Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry(C)/Truck, 2-3xInfantry Battalion, 1xRecon Company, 1xTank Company, 1xTL2 Engineer, 1xAnti-Tank Company, 2x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck, 1xZU-23/2/Truck, 1xMortar Battalion

#### "FAPLA" Forces: 1980-1991

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 00, Class: Militia, Base Determination Factor: 15%**

Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(C)/Truck

Armored Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(C)/BTR-152

Support Company: 1x82mm M37 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1x107mm B11 RcR/Jeep, 1xAGS-17/Truck, 1x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck

Mechanized Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B)/BTR-60

Mechanized Support Company: 1x82mm M37 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1xAGS-17/BTR-60, 1x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck

Militia Infantry Company: 1-3xTL2 Infantry (C or D)

Militia Recon Company: 1-3xTL1 Infantry (R)/Utility Car

Armored Recon Company: 2xBRDM-2[R], 1xPT-76[R]

Tank Company: 2xT-54 or T-55 or T-62

Militia Infantry Battalion: 1xTL2 Infantry (B) HQ, 3xMilitia Infantry Company

Infantry Battalion: 1xTL2 Infantry (B) HQ, 3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company

Armored Infantry Battalion: 1xTL2 Infantry (B) HQ, 3xArmored Infantry Company, 1xSupport Company

Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 3xMechanized Infantry Company, 1xMechanized Support Company, 1xAT-3 ATGM(MP)

Tank Battalion: 3xTank Company

Mortar Battalion: 1-3x82mm M37 Mortar(3)/Truck

Artillery Battalion: 1x76mm M-42(3)/Truck, 1x122mm D30(3)/Truck, 1xBM21(4)

Mechanized Artillery Battalion: 2x76mm M-42(3)/Truck, 2x122mm D30(3)/Truck, 2xBM21(4), 1x120mm M43 Mortar(3)/Truck

Militia Brigade: 1xTL2 Infantry (C) GHQ/Truck, 3xMilitia Infantry Battalion, 1xMortar Battalion, 1xMilitia Recon Company, 1xTL2 Engineer/Truck, 1x107mm B11 RcR/Truck, 1x14.5mm ZPU-4/Truck, 1xT34/85

Infantry Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry (C) GHQ/Truck, 2xInfantry Battalion, 1xArmored Infantry Battalion, 1xArtillery Battalion, 1xArmored Recon Company, 1xTL3 Engineer/Truck, 1xBRDM-2/AT-3, 1x23mm ZU23-2/Truck, 2xT54 or SU-100

Mechanized Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry (C) GHQ/BTR-60, 1xTank Battalion, 3xMechanized Infantry Battalion, 1xArmored Recon Co, 1xTL3 Engineer/Truck, 1xZSU-23/4, 1xMechanized Artillery Battalion

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

Surface to Air Missile Battery: 1xSA-2 or SA-3 or SA-6 or SA-8 or SA-13

Anti-Aircraft Battery: 1x(37mm M-39 or 57mm S-60)/Truck

Artillery Battalion: 3x122mm M38(3) or 152mm M43(3) or 130mm M46(3) or BM24(6)

Helicopter Squadron: 1-3xMi-24 or Mi-8 or Mi-17 or "Gazelle" or "Alouette III"

**Notes:** 1) The "Utility Car" above may be any light motor vehicle available. (Jeep, Land Rover, Private Car, etc.)  
 2) One stand in each Infantry Company may contain an attached 82mm B10 RcR(MP).  
 3) One stand in each Infantry Company (except Militia Infantry) may contain an attached SA-7 team.  
 4) Mechanized Battalions may use SA-14 rather than SA-7.  
 5) After 1987, all "Infantry" stands may be upgraded to TL3.

#### ANGOLAN ARMY: 2001

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 20, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 25%**

Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(C)

Motorized Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(C)/Truck

Motor Rifle Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(C)/BTR-60

Engineer Company: 3xTL3 Engineer/Truck

Support Company: 1x82mm M37 Mortar(3)/Truck, 2xAGS-17/Truck

Recon Company: 1xT55[R], 1xBRDM-1/-2[R]

Tank Company: 3xT-55

Artillery Battery: 1x122mm D30(3)/Truck or 130mm M46(3)/Truck

Anti-Aircraft Battery:	1xSA-6 <u>or</u> SA-8
Infantry Battalion:	3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company
Motorized Infantry Battalion:	3xMotorized Infantry Company, 1xSupport Company
Motor Rifle Battalion:	3xMotor Rifle Company, 1xSupport Company
Tank Battalion:	3xTank Company
Artillery Battalion:	3xArtillery Battery
Mechanized Regiment:	1xTL3 Infantry (C) GHQ/BTR-60, 1xMotor Rifle Battalion, 1xMotorized Infantry Battalion, 1xInfantry Battalion, 1xTank Battalion, 1xArtillery Battalion, 1xAnti-Aircraft Battery, 1xEngineer Company, 1xRecon Company
Armored Regiment:	1xTL3 Infantry(C) GHQ/BTR-60, 3xTank Battalion, 1xMotor Rifle Battalion, 1xAnti-Aircraft Battery, 1xRecon Company

**Notes:** 1) The current Angolan Army consists of a total of twenty mechanized and six armored regiments.  
2) One stand in each Infantry or Motor Rifle Battalion may contain an attached AT-3 "Sagger" ATGM (MP)  
3) One tank company only in any force (no matter how large) may be equipped with T-62's.

#### **TACTICAL NOTES: 1980-1991**

"UNITA" troops should always be used as a scouting or holding force for their South African or SWATF allies. As a UNITA player you have little in the way of decisive firepower but can provide the necessary "mass" to prevent the enemy from overwhelming your better armed but less numerous foreign "Shock Troops".

"SWAPO" troops suffer from poor training and equipment, but can call on their Cuban allies when things get out of control. Even so, the "Forces of Evil" in the shape of tough and ruthless South African professionals will present a serious challenge. Your main advantage will be that the South African forces will generally be small and "expensive" and cannot stand up to a battle of attrition. You must select your targets well and not disperse your effort. "Smash 'em! Don't tickle 'em! Aggressive play and concentrated effort will serve you best; that and the skillful use of your 120mm Mortars.

"FAPLA" troops, as a Militia force, must be handled carefully. Your Cohesion will generally be low, so you would best keep your men together and concentrate on simple, clearly defined, objectives. Your primary advantage over "UNITA" troops will be your relative mobility. Use this whenever you can. You will be clearly outclassed if you encounter South Africans or their allies in which case you can do little more than hold on and hope for a mistake on your opponent's part.

Information on the organization of Cuban forces in the Angolan civil war can be found in the chapter Cuban army. Likewise, information on the South African and SWATF forces in this period may be found in the chapter on South Africa.

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

In 1997, the Angolan Army invaded the "Democratic Republic of the Congo" in an attempt to topple the government it felt was "too friendly" with Savimbi's UNITA Guerrilla's still active within Angola. Not only was this move unsuccessful, but the Angolan Civil War returned with a vengeance in 1999, with UNITA fielding a thoroughly trained army committed to fighting full scale conventional battles. This remarkable military comeback is financed through the illicit sale of \$3 Billion worth of diamonds gathered in UNITA sweeps of mining areas under its control. [Africa News Online](#) states, "You can fund a spectacular war with \$3 Billion". Savimbi's new assets include six Mi-24 attack helicopters and six MiG-23 fighter aircraft purchased in Ukraine and smuggled in through Uganda! Further organizational data is unavailable at this time..

#### Postscript

From a BBC News Release: Angola (2/25/02)

The 67-year-old Unita leader (Jonas Savimbi) was killed on Friday (2/22/02) alongside 21 of his bodyguards on the banks of the Luvuei River in the eastern province of Moxico... Savimbi had not been easy to catch. He had tried to lay false scents with "diversionary manoeuvres such as crossing various rivers, including the Luvuei and the Luonze". The army caught up with him, Brigadier Wala said, after killing two of his most senior officers, Brigadier Mbule and General "Big Joy". The latter's death was a serious setback, as it deprived Savimbi of diversionary troops who had until then concentrated on attracting attention away from their leader.

Savimbi was shot a total of 15 times - once in the throat, twice in the head, and the rest in the chest, legs and arms. (He) is reported to have been buried on Saturday in the village of Lucusse, about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) south-east of the capital, Luanda, under a tree near where he was killed.

Savimbi's demise was quickly followed by a cease-fire between UNITA and the Angolan authorities, leading to a general amnesty.

#### **2002 ANGOLAN ARSENAL**

Vehicles:	58xT-34/85, 66xT-54, 50xT-55, 18xT-62, 12xPT-76, 80xBRDM-1/-2, 100xBMP-2, 62xBTR-60/BTR-152
AT Weapons:	200x107mm B-11, 200x82mm B-10
Artillery:	350xGuns (130mm M46 <u>or</u> 122mm D-30 <u>or</u> 85mm D-84 <u>or</u> 76mm M1942), 25x240mm BM-24, 50x122mm BM-21, 40x120mm M43 Mortar, 250x82mm M43 Mortar
Anti-Aircraft:	Sa-7, SA-14, SA-16, 70x57mm S-60, 200x37mm M1939, 24xZSU-23/4, 150xZSU-23/2, 400xZPU AAMG's
Combat Aircraft:	16xMi-24, 25xMi-8/Mi-17
Small Arms:	Any "Warsaw Pact" weapons may be encountered, with some admixture of western small arms.

# **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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