

Reorganization of the Soviet forces in East Germany for a *Blitzkrieg*

The 400,000-strong Soviet army in East Germany has undergone a major reorganization—unnoticed by the Western media—to boost the effectiveness of the forces which, in case of war, would play the decisive offensive spearhead role in a surprise attack and breakthrough to the Rhine and beyond. The chart shows this detailed restructuring of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG), coinciding with the top-level command changes of 1983-84.



The information reported here has never before been presented in the public press.

The GSFG is commanded by General of the Army Mikhail Zaitsev, the only commander of a Soviet Military District

designated “commander in chief” instead of just “commander”—a sign of the importance of these forces. Zaitsev is a specialist in the armored offensive, and, before his current appointment in December 1980, he held the rank of colonel general of the Tank Forces.

The chart reveals the following changes:

The strengthening and upgrading of the 2nd Guards Tank Army, headquartered in Fürstenberg. This is the Army facing Schleswig-Holstein in the north of West Germany, between the Elbe River and the Danish frontier. As *EIR* has stressed, this area is one of the most likely targets for a Soviet surgical strike. The front of the 2nd Guards Tank

Army	Late 1970s	ORGANIZATION AS OF:	
		Jan. 1, 1982	June 1, 1984
1st Guards Tank Army Dresden 	6th Guards Tank Div. Wittenberg	Withdrawn	—
	7th Guards Tank Div. Dessau-Rosslau	7th Guards Tank Div. Dessau-Rosslau	Shifted to 3rd Shock Army
	27th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Halle	27th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Halle	Shifted to 8th Guards Army
	9th Tank Div. Riesa	9th Tank Div., Riesa	9th Tank Div. Riesa
	11th Guards Tank Div. Dresden	11th Guards Tank Div. Dresden	11th Guards Tank Div. Dresden
			20th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Grimma
2nd Guards Tank Army Fürstenberg 	—	25th Tank Div. Vogelsang	Shifted to 20th Guards Army
	9th Guards Tank Div. Neustrelitz	16th Guards Tank Div. Neustrelitz	16th Guards Tank Div., Neustrelitz
	32nd Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Perleberg	21st Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Perleberg	21st Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Perleberg
	94th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Schwerin	94th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Schwerin	94th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Schwerin

Army has been expanded, with the transfer of the 207th Motorized Rifle Division (headquartered at Stendal, between the Elbe and the West German border) from the jurisdiction of the 3rd Shock Army to the 2nd Guards. In early 1984, three independent Tank Regiments were added to the Army.

The narrowing of the front of the 3rd Shock Army.

The shift of the 207th Motorized Rifle Division from the 3rd Shock Army (headquartered in Magdeburg) to the 2nd Guards transformed the 3rd Shock Army into a pure Tank Division Army. In terms of classical considerations of an armored offensive breakthrough, this gives this critical spearhead Army a maximal armored "punch" on a narrow front.

The strengthening of Soviet forces stationed throughout the northern half of East Germany. This can be seen in the bolstering of the 20th Guards Army, with its divisions based north, east, and south of Berlin. The 20th Guards Army forms the second wave of the first echelon, serving as the immediate back-up Army for the two spearhead Armies facing the northern half of West Germany—the 2nd Guards Tank Army and the 3rd Shock Army. The latest reorganization has increased the strength of the 20th Guards by two Tank Divisions: The 25th Tank Division has been added to it, and the 14th Guards Motorized Rifle Division has been converted into the 32nd Tank Division, based in Jueterbog.

Army	Late 1970s	Jan. 1, 1982	June 1, 1984
3rd Shock Army Magdeburg 	25th Tank Div. Vogelsang	Shifted to 2nd Guards Tank Army	—
	207th Motorized Rifle Div. Stendal	207th Motorized Rifle Div. Stendal	Shifted to 2nd Guards Tank Army
	10th Guards Tank Div. Krampnitz	10th Guards Tank Div. Krampnitz	10th Guards Tank Div. Altengrabow
	12th Guards Tank Div. Neuruppin	12th Guards Tank Div. Neuruppin	12th Guards Tank Div. Neuruppin
	47th Guards Tank Div. Hillersleben	47th Guards Tank Div. Hillers	47th Guards Tank Div. Hillersleben
	—	—	7th Guards Tank Div. Dessau-Rosslau
8th Guards Army Weimar-Nohra 	20th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Grimma	20th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Grimma	Shifted to 1st Guards Tank Army
	39th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Ohrdruf	29th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Ohrdruf	39th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Ohrdruf
	57th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Naumburg	57th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Naumburg	57th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Naumburg
	20th Guards Tank Div. Jena	79th Guards Tank Div. Jena	79th Guards Tank Div. Jena
	—	—	27th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Halle
20th Guards Army Eberswalde 	6th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Bernau	6th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Bernau	6th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Bernau
	19th Motorized Rifle Div. Doberitz	35th Motorized Rifle Div. Doberitz	35th Motorized Rifle Div. Doberitz
	14th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Jueterbog	14th Guards Motorized Rifle Div. Jueterbog	32nd Tank Div. Jueterbog
	—	—	25th Tank Div. Vogelsang