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*KEA*

imagery analysis report

**Disposition of Soviet Ground Forces in Afghanistan as of**  
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Z-14018/84

IAR-0009/84

MARCH 1984

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**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

NOFORN -	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT -	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN -	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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**DISPOSITION OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN**

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1. This report updates NPIC report Z-14522/82 and reflects changes in the status and disposition of Soviet ground forces in Afghanistan. It further contributes to the satisfaction of community requirements for more definitive data on Soviet ground order of battle in Afghanistan. This report, containing four photographs, two tables, and one map,

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25X1**OVERVIEW**

2. The disposition and subordination of major Soviet combat units in Afghanistan has remained essentially unchanged since early 1982 (Figure 1, Table 1, and Table 2). The airborne units, however, have been extensively upgraded and augmented with equipment designed to increase their firepower, maneuverability, and survivability. Other developments during this period include continued upgrades of equipment in motorized rifle, reconnaissance and artillery units;

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deployment of a new, large security unit, a new security battalion, two new probable KGB border security units, and an airborne unit; and relocation of two special purpose forces (Spetznaz) units and two airborne battalions. In addition, imagery analysis has confirmed the motorized rifle regiment (MRR)/brigade at Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac as being an independent unit. (S/WN)

**DISCUSSION****Equipment Upgrades and Augmentation**

3. BMD M-1981/2 self-propelled guns/mortars, variants of the BMD airborne amphibious armored personnel carrier (APC), were delivered to several airborne units in Afghanistan during this period. One BMD M-1981/2 battalion (18 BMD M-1981/2s and 3 to 5 BMD M-1979 command variants) and one battery (six BMD M-1981/2s and one BMD M-1979) were first identified in Afghanistan with the airborne units at Kabul International Airfield (Figure 2) and Bagram Airfield, respectively. In addition, the airborne battalion deployed to Anawa Garrison site in the Panjser Valley in July 1982 included one firing section (three BMD M-1981/2s and one BMD M-1979). A second BMD M-1981/2 battalion was deployed to Kabul International Airfield in November 1982. This battalion departed Kabul in early January 1983 and was probably dispersed in firing sections to various airborne units throughout the country. BMD M-1981/2 firing sections were subsequently observed with airborne units at Kabul Royal Palace at Farah Airfield at Bost Airfield and at Kabul International Airfield. Elements of a third BMD M-1981/2 battalion, observed at Khairabad Transshipment Point were seen departing Khairabad the Soviet units at Gardez New Airfield and Hesarak Soviet Camp had each received a battery of BMD M-1981/2s. Prior to its introduction in Afghanistan, the BMD M-1981/2 had been seen only in the Soviet Union. (S/WN)

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4. All of the airborne battalions and regiments were upgraded with larger and more heavily armored APCs during the period. In two airborne battalions organic to the independent MRR/brigades at Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac and at Jalalabad Army Camp Soviet Bivouac 3, the BMP M-1981 completely replaced the BMD by October 1982. The BMP M-1981, which mounts a 30mm automatic cannon in a large two-man turret,<sup>2</sup> was reported as being in Afghanistan as early as April 1981 but was first seen deployed with airborne units in March 1982. At Kabul Barracks Regiment and Battalion Headquarters and

(Continued p. 13)

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FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

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**Table 1.**  
**Deployment of Soviet Ground Forces in Afghanistan as of 31 December 1983**  
**(Items keyed to Figure 1)**

Item	Installation/BE No	Units Present*	Remarks
1	Sheberghan Soviet Deployment [redacted]	Probable KGB border security unit (BTR-70/60PB and BMP equipped)	
2	Khairabad Transshipment Point [redacted]	Two motorized rifle companies (BTR-70/60PB equipped) <b>Heavy lift unit**</b>	Two motorized rifle companies have been on perimeter defense since Jan 83 and are possibly from Termez Army Bks AL 3 [redacted] the PMP/PPS bridge unit reported in Feb 82 departed in Nov 82; the heavy lift unit was newly identified in Jun 83; two security battalions, present from Mar to May 83, are probably deployed on road security missions from Khairabad to Kabul
3	Mazar E Sharif Soviet Bivouac [redacted]	<b>Probable KGB border security unit (BTR-70/60PB and BMP equipped)</b>	Unit was newly identified in Apr 82
4A	Kholm Soviet Military Camp [redacted]	<b>Elements of MRR (BTR-70/60PB equipped)</b>	Unit relocated here from Kholm Bivouac Area in Mar 82
B	Kholm Soviet Bivouac South [redacted]	<b>Probable KGB border security unit</b>	Unit, present since May 82, was newly identified in Jul 83
C	Kholm Bivouac Area [redacted]	Pipeline construction unit	
5	Sher Khan Pt Facs [redacted]	<b>Motorized rifle company</b>	Unit was present since at least Dec 81
6A	Kunduz Airfield [redacted]	201st MRD headquarters MRR (BMP M-1981/BMP equipped) less one battalion Antiaircraft artillery regiment (S-60 equipped) Chemical battalion Elements of signal battalion Medical battalion Construction battalion <b>Security battalion (BTR-70/60PB and BRDM-2 equipped)</b>	One RKH-M chemical, biological, radiological reconnaissance vehicle was identified with chemical battalion in Feb 83; security battalion was newly identified in Mar 82
B	Kunduz Deployment Area North [redacted]	Multiple rocket launcher (MRL) battalion (BM-21 equipped) Artillery battalion (122mm howitzer D-30 equipped) Engineer battalion Elements of signal battalion Motor transport battalion Maintenance battalion	Motorized rifle company reported in Feb 82 is no longer present
7A	Taloqan Bivouac Area [redacted]	Tank company	
B	Taloqan Army Barracks [redacted]	Probable KGB border security unit (BTR-70 and BMP equipped)	Unit was newly identified in Jun 82
8A	Yangi Qala Security Post [redacted]	<b>Probable KGB border security unit (BTR-70 and BMP equipped)</b>	Unit newly identified in Jul 83 is associated with probable KGB border security unit at Chah E Ab Security Post
B	Chah E Ab Security Post [redacted]	<b>Probable KGB border security unit (BTR 70/60PB and BMP equipped)</b>	Unit newly identified in Jul 83 is associated with probable KGB border security unit at Yangi Qala Security Post

\* Derived from referenced documents 4-6

\*\* New units or unit changes since Feb 82 are shown in bold type.

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**Table 1. (cont'd)**

Item	Installation/BE No	Units Present*	Remarks	
9	Faizabad Airfield [redacted]	Elements of MRR (BMP equipped) <b>Security battalion (BTR-70/60PB and BRDM-2 equipped)</b>	Security battalion has been present but not reported since Jan 80	25X1 25X1
10	Mazar Soviet Bks [redacted]	<b>Motorized rifle battalion (BMP equipped)</b>	Unit has been present since at least Aug 82	25X1
11	Khal Khan Military Facility [redacted]	<b>Elements of motorized rifle battalion (BMP equipped)</b>	Motorized rifle company was reported in Feb 82 and has been battalion-sized since at least Sep 82	25X1
12A	Aybak Soviet Bivouac [redacted]	<b>Spetznaz unit consisting of:</b> <b>Motorized rifle battalion (BTR-70, BMP M-1981/BMP and BMD equipped)</b> <b>Artillery battery (D-30 equipped)</b> <b>Antiaircraft artillery battery (ZSU-23/4 equipped)</b> <b>Elements of tank company</b>	Units were newly identified in Aug 82 after relocating from Aqchek Soviet Bivouac [redacted]	25X1 25X1
B	Aybak Soviet Bivouac South [redacted]	Probable pipelaying battalion		25X1
13	Pol E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area [redacted]	MRR (BTR-70/60PB equipped) Medical unit Motor transport regiment Elements of troposcatter communications battalion	BTR-70s were confirmed with MRR in Apr 83; TWIN DISH troposcatter antennas have been in operation with troposcatter battalion since Aug 82	25X1
14	Jabal Os Saraj Army Camp Soviet [redacted]	MRR (BTR-70/60PB equipped) less one battalion MRL battery (BM-21 equipped) <b>Road security company</b> <b>Elements of radio and radar intercept company</b>	Regimental artillery battalion was up-graded with MT-LB tracked prime movers in Aug 82; road security company was identified here in May 83; reconnaissance battalion reported in Feb 82 is no longer present; radio and radar intercept company was present but not reported in Feb 82	25X1
15	Rohka Garrison Site [redacted]	No units are based here	<b>Spetznaz</b> unit was identified in Jun 82 after relocating from Maimana Airfield during Panjser V in Jun 82; unit vacated garrison in Mar 83 and relocated to Golbahar Complex	25X1
16	Anawa Garrison Site [redacted]	<b>Airborne battalion (BTR-70 and BMD equipped)</b> <b>Artillery battery (D-30 equipped)</b> <b>BMD M-1981/2 firing section</b>	Garrison was established during Panjser V in Jun 82 with at least one motorized rifle battalion, elements of one 152mm self-propelled gun battalion, one D-30 battalion and a motor transport unit; these units vacated garrison in early Jul 82; present units were identified in late Jul 82; BMD M-1981/2 firing section has been present since Jul 82	25X1
17	Golbahar Complex [redacted]	<b>Spetznaz unit consisting of:</b> <b>Motorized rifle battalion (BTR-70/60PB, BMD, and BMP equipped)</b> <b>Artillery battery (M-30 equipped)</b> <b>Antiaircraft artillery battery (ZSU-23/4 equipped)</b> <b>Elements of tank company</b>	Unit was newly identified in Nov 83; it had relocated from Rohka Garrison Site in Mar 83	25X1

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**Table 1. (cont'd)**

Item	Installation/BE No	Units Present*	Remarks
18A	Bagram Airfield [redacted]	Airborne regiment (BTR-70 and BMD equipped) <b>BMD M-1981/2 firing section</b> Antitank guided missile (ATGM) battery Antiaircraft missile and artillery battery Elements of SA-8 regiment (two batteries) Medical battalion Motor transport battalion Security battalion Elements of tracked and wheeled vehicle maintenance regiment <b>Elements of radio and radar reconnaissance company</b>	One BMD M-1981/2 battery was identified in Mar 82; one BMD M-1981/2 firing section is currently deployed at Anawa Garrison Site; airborne regiment was partially equipped with BTR-70s in Apr 82; one SA-8 battery was reported in Feb 82; one additional battery has been present since May 82; elements of radio and radar reconnaissance company were present but not reported in Feb 82
B	Bagram Soviet Barracks Area [redacted]	108th MRD headquarters Elements of tank regiment Reconnaissance battalion <b>Chemical battalion</b> Signal battalion Motor transport battalion Elements of engineer battalion Artillery battery (D-30 equipped) <b>MRL battery (BM-21 equipped)</b>	One PARK DRIVE mobile satellite communications station was deployed here from mid-Jan 82 to Feb 83; MRL battery was deployed in May 82; chemical battalion returned from Kabul International Airfield in Jul 82; reconnaissance battalion was upgraded with BMP M-1981s in Oct 82
19	Charikar Soviet Bivouac [redacted]	Elements of engineer battalion	The remainder of this battalion is at Bagram Soviet Barracks Area
20	Bamian Airfield [redacted]	Two airborne companies (BMD equipped) <b>Elements of one airborne artillery battery (D-30 equipped)</b>	Artillery battery has been present since Nov 81; its presence was not reported in Feb 82
21A	Kabul Deployment Area SW [redacted]	40th Army headquarters TAC air headquarters MRR (BMP M-1981/BMP equipped) Elements of SA-8 SAM regiment (3 batteries) Two signal regiments TAC air signal regiment ECM communication jamming battalion <b>Communications relay battalion</b> <b>Independent security service battalion</b> <b>Motor transport battalion</b>	Omsk computer/electronic van trailer was identified in Apr 83; communications relay battalion and independent security service battalion were identified in Jul 83 but have been present since at least Feb 82; motor transport unit has been present since Feb 82; regimental artillery battalion was upgraded with MT-LBs in Apr 82
B	Kabul Deployment Area NW [redacted]	MRR (BTR-70/60PB equipped) Elements of artillery regiment (152mm SP gun M-1973 and D-30 equipped) MRL battery (BM-21 equipped) <b>Signal Unit</b> Vehicle maintenance battalion Elements of construction battalion Airborne unit (nine BMD M-1979)	Signal unit possibly includes elements of divisional signal battalion and has been present but not reported since Jan 82; artillery regiment was upgraded with MT-LBs in May 82 and D-30s in May 83; two BM-21 batteries were present until Sep 82; airborne unit has been present since Mar 83 and probably is liaison between 108th MRD and 103rd Airborne Division

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Table 1. (cont'd)

Item	Installation/BE No	Units Present*	Remarks
C	Kabul Bks Reg A Bn Hq A Sch Bala Hisar <input type="text"/>	Elements of one airborne regiment to include one BMD-equipped airborne battalion, one BTR-70-equipped airborne battalion, and one airborne regiment headquarters unit Security battalion	Airborne battalions were reequipped with BTR-70s in Apr 82; one additional airborne battalion from Kabul Ministry of Nat Defense A Bks <input type="text"/> was present from Jun through Dec 82
D	Kabul Comsat A Radcom Sta <input type="text"/>	Headquarters/signal unit	One PARK DRIVE mobile satellite communications station was newly identified in Jan 83; one KH-1 computer/electronics van trailer was newly identified in Sep 82; one WOOD BINE mobile satellite communication station was newly identified in Jun 83
E	Kabul Royal Palace <input type="text"/>	Airborne battalion (BTR-70 and BMD equipped) <b>BMD M-1981/2 firing section</b>	Airborne battalion was partially equipped with BTR-70s in Apr 82; BMD M-1981/2 firing section, newly identified in May 83, had been present since Jan 83
F	Kabul International Airfield <input type="text"/>	103rd Airborne Division headquarters Airborne regiment (BTR-70 and BMD equipped) <b>BMD M-1981/2 firing section</b> <b>Elements of airborne assault gun battalion (ASU-85 and T-62 tank equipped)</b> Elements of airborne artillery regiment Medical battalion <b>Transportation and maintenance battalion</b> <b>Motor transport unit</b> Elements of one construction battalion Antiaircraft missile and artillery battery	BMD M-1981/2 battalion was newly identified with the airborne artillery regiment in Mar 82; one additional BMD M-1981/2 firing section was newly identified with airborne regiment in May 83; one additional BMD M-1981/2 battalion was present from Nov 82 to Jan 83; airborne regiment was partially equipped with BTR-70s in Apr 82; 15 T-62 medium tanks have been with the airborne assault gun battalion since Jan 83; motor transport unit was newly identified in Jun 82; transportation and maintenance battalion was present but not reported in Feb 82
G	Charki Ord Plt A Repair Shop <input type="text"/>	Vehicle maintenance unit	
22	Seh Sada Training Area <input type="text"/>	<b>Elements of tank company</b> <b>Elements of two motorized rifle companies</b>	Units were newly identified in Oct 82; this is a permanent installation, not a training area
23A	Jalalabad Airfield <input type="text"/>	<b>Artillery battery (D-30 equipped)</b> <b>Elements of antiaircraft missile and artillery battery</b> Security battalion	All units are on perimeter defense; the artillery battery and antiaircraft unit have been present since at least Feb 82; the motorized rifle battalion reported in Feb 82 is no longer present
B	Jalalabad Army Camp Soviet Bivouac 3 <input type="text"/>	MRR (BMP M-1981/BMP equipped) less two battalions Airborne battalion (BMP M-1981 equipped) <b>MRL battery (BM-21 equipped)</b> <b>Medical unit</b>	BMP M-1981s replaced BMDs in airborne battalion in Oct 82; the MRL battery and medical unit have been present since at least Feb 82

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**Table 1. (cont'd)**

Item	Installation/BE No	Units Present*	Remarks
24	Chagasary Complex [redacted]	Motorized rifle battalion (BMP equipped) Tank company Artillery battery (D-30 equipped) Elements of airborne company MRL battery (GAZ-66 MRL equipped)	
25	Hesarak Soviet Camp [redacted]	<b>Elements of airborne battalion (BTR-70 and BMD equipped) Elements of tank company BMD M-1981/2 battery Two airborne artillery batteries (D-30 equipped)</b>	Units were newly identified in Apr 82
26	Gardez New Airfield [redacted]	Elements of air assault brigade (one BMD and one truck equipped battalion) BMD M-1981/2 battery Airborne artillery battalion (D-30 equipped) MRL battery (GAZ-66MRL equipped) Tank company	Units were previously reported at Gardez Airfield [redacted] airborne artillery battalion was previously reported as an airborne artillery regi- ment; BMD-equipped air assault battalion was partially equipped with BTR-70s in Apr 82; truck-equipped air assault battalion has been present but not reported since Dec 81
27A	Ghazni Military Camp SE [redacted]	MRR (BTR-70/60PB equipped) MRL battery Security battalion	
B	Ghazni Airfield [redacted]	<b>Security battalion</b>	Unit was newly identified in Oct 83; it had been present since Oct 82
28A	Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac [redacted]	Independent MRR/brigade (BTR-70/60PB equipped) Airborne battalion (BMP M-1981 and MT-LB equipped) <b>MRL battery (BM-21 equipped)</b> Medical battalion Elements of SA-8 SAM regiment (two batteries)	BTR-70s were confirmed with the independent MRR/brigade in Nov 82; MRL battery was not reported in Feb 82; one WOOD BINE mobile satellite communications station was operationally deployed with regimental/brigade signal company in Apr 82; BMP M-1981s replaced BMDs in the airborne battalion in Oct 82; SA-8 batteries were probably detached from the 5th Guards Motorized Rifle Division at Shindand
B	Kandahar Airfield International [redacted]	Security battalion	Unit moved into permanent facility southwest of old bivouac area in Aug 82
29	Bost Airfield [redacted]	Airborne battalion (BTR-70 and BMD equipped) Elements of tank company MRL battery (BM-21 equipped) <b>BMD M-1981/2 firing section</b>	Airborne battalion is possibly organic to air assault brigade based at Gardez New Airfield; airborne battalion was partially equipped with BTR-70s in Jun 82; BMD M-1981/2 firing section was newly identified in Apr 83
30	Gereshk Soviet Bivouac Area [redacted]	<b>Airborne battalion (BTR-70 and BMD equipped) One artillery battery (D-30 equipped) BMD M-1981/2 firing section</b>	Battalion was deployed here from Farah Airfield by Aug 83

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**Table 1. (cont'd)**

Item	Installation/BE No	Units Present*	Remarks
31	Farah Airfield [redacted]	Units no longer based here	Units were deployed from Shindand Deployment Area in Mar 82; airborne battalion was partially equipped with BTR-70s in Jun 82; BMD M-1981/2 firing section was deployed in Feb 83; units vacated garrison in May 83 and relocated to Gereshk Soviet Bivouac Area by Aug 83
32A	Shindand Airfield [redacted]	Security battalion	
B	Shindand Deployment Area [redacted]	5th Guards Motorized Rifle Division headquarters Tank regiment MRR (BMP M-1981/BMP equipped) less one battalion Artillery regiment (D-30 equipped) MRL battalion (BM-21 equipped) Elements of SA-8 SAM regiment (3 batteries) MRL regiment (BM-27/BM-21 equipped) Chemical battalion Reconnaissance battalion Antitank battalion Signal battalion Motor transport battalion Construction battalion Medical battalion Maintenance battalion	Artillery regiment was upgraded with MT-LBs in Mar 82; artillery battalion in tank regiment was upgraded with MT-LBs in May 82; airborne battalion, previously located here, was redeployed to Farah Airfield in Mar 82; reconnaissance battalion was upgraded with BMP M-1981s in Dec 82; signal battalion has been present but not reported since Feb 82
33	Adreskan Soviet Bivouac [redacted]	Elements of engineer battalion <b>Elements of radio and radar reconnaissance company</b>	Elements of the radio and radar reconnaissance company have been present since at least Feb 82
34	Herat Soviet Deployment Area [redacted]	MRR (BTR-70/60PB equipped)	BTR-70s were confirmed in May 83
35	Chakhcharan Airfield [redacted]	Elements of motorized rifle battalion (BMP M-1981/BMP equipped) Artillery battery (D-30 equipped) <b>Elements of tank company</b>	Tank company has been present since at least May 82
36	Qual-Ye-Now Soviet Bivouac [redacted]	Probable KGB border security unit (BTR-70/60PB and BMP equipped)	Unit moved into bunkers north of old bivouac area in May 82
37	Maimana Airfield [redacted]	Probable KGB border security unit (BTR-70/60PB and BMP equipped)	Unit moved into bunkers southwest of old bivouac area in May 82

\* Derived from referenced documents 4-6

\*\* New units or unit changes since Feb 82 are shown in bold type.

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**Table 2.**  
**Probable Subordination of Soviet Ground Forces Units Deployed in Afghanistan**  
**as of 31 December 1983**

Subordination*	Unit**	Installation/BE No	Table 1 Item No	
40th Army	Headquarters	Kabul Deployment Area SW	21A	
	Two signal regiments			25X1
	ECM communications jamming battalion			
	Communication relay battalion			
	TAC air headquarters			
	TAC air signal regiment			
	Motor transport regiment	Pol E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area	13	25X1
	Elements of troposcatter communication battalion			
	MRL regiment	Shindand Deployment Area	32B	25X1
	Elements of tracked and wheeled vehicle maintenance regiment	Bagram Airfield	18A	25X1
5th Guards Motorized Rifle Division	Division headquarters	Shindand Deployment Area	32B	
	Tank regiment			25X1
	MRR (less one battalion)			
	Artillery regiment			
	MRL battalion			
	Three SA-8 SAM batteries			
	Chemical battalion			
	Reconnaissance battalion			
	Antitank battalion			
	Signal battalion			
	Motor transport battalion			
	Construction battalion			
	Medical battalion			
	Maintenance battalion			
	MRR	Herat Soviet Deployment Area	34	25X1
	Motorized rifle battalion	Chakhcharan Airfield	35	25X1
	Artillery battery			
	Elements of tank company			
103rd Airborne Division	Elements of engineer battalion	Adreskan Soviet Bivouac	33	25X1
	Elements of radio and radar reconnaissance company			
	Division headquarters	Kabul International Airfield	21F	25X1
	Airborne regiment			
	Elements of airborne assault gun battalion			
	Elements of airborne artillery regiment			
	Medical battalion			
	Transportation and maintenance battalion			
	Motor transport unit			
	Elements of one airborne regiment	Kabul Bks Reg A Bn Hq A Sch Bala Hisar	21C	25X1
	Airborne battalion	Kabul Royal Palace	21E	25X1
	BMD M-1981/2 firing section			
	Two airborne companies	Bamian Airfield	20	25X1
	Elements of airborne artillery battery			

\* Derived from referenced document 5

\*\* Derived from referenced document 7

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Table 2. (cont'd)

Subordination*	Unit**	Installation/BE No	Table 1 Item No	
108th Motorized Rifle Division	Elements of airborne battalion	Hesarak Soviet Camp	25	25X1
	Elements of tank company			
	BMD M-1981/2 battery			
	Two airborne artillery batteries			
	Division headquarters	Bagram Soviet Barracks Area	18B	25X1
	Elements of tank regiment			
	Reconnaissance battalion			
	Chemical battalion			
	Signal battalion			
	Motor transport battalion			
	Elements of engineer battalion			
	Artillery battery			
	MRL battery			
	Medical battalion	Bagram Airfield	18A	25X1
	Motor transport battalion			
	Antiaircraft missile and artillery battery			
201st Motorized Rifle Regiment	Elements of SA-8 SAM regiment (two batteries)			
	Antitank guided missile battery			
	Elements of radio and radar reconnaissance company			
	MRR	Kabul Deployment Area SW	21A	25X1
	Elements of SA-8 SAM regiment			
	Motor transport unit			
	MRR	Kabul Deployment Area NW	21B	25X1
	Elements of artillery regiment			
	MRL battery			
	Signal unit			
	Vehicle maintenance battalion			
	Elements of construction battalion			
	MRR	Jabal Os Saraj Army Camp Soviet	14	25X1
	MRL battery			
	Elements of radio and radar reconnaissance company			
	Elements of engineer battalion	Charikar Soviet Bivouac	19	25X1
	Elements of construction battalion	Kabul International Airfield	21F	25X1
	Antiaircraft missile and artillery battery			
	Division headquarters	Kunduz Airfield	6A	25X1
	MRR (less one battalion)			
	Antiaircraft regiment			
	Chemical battalion			
	Reconnaissance battalion			
	Elements of signal battalion			
	Medical battalion			
	Construction battalion			
	MRL battalion	Kunduz Deployment Area North	6B	25X1
	Artillery battalion			
	Engineer battalion			
	Elements of signal battalion			
	Motor transport battalion			
	Maintenance battalion			
	MRR	Pol E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area	13	25X1
	Medical unit			

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Table 2. (cont'd)

Subordination*	Unit**	Installation/BE No	Table 1 Item No	
	Elements of MRR	Kholm Soviet Military Camp [redacted]	4A	25X1
	Motorized rifle company	Sher Khan Pt Facs [redacted]	5	25X1
	One tank company	Taloqan Bivouac Area [redacted]	7A	25X1
Unid Independent Motorized Rifle Regiment/ Brigade	MRR/brigade Airborne battalion MRL battery Medical battalion Two SA-8 SAM batteries (subordination unknown)	Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac [redacted]	28A	25X1
Unid Independent Motorized Rifle Regiment/ Brigade	MRR/brigade (less two battalions) Airborne battalion MRL battery Medical unit	Jalalabad Army Camp Soviet Bivouac 3 [redacted]	23B	25X1
	Motorized rifle battalion Tank company Artillery battery Elements of one airborne company GAZ-66 MRL battery	Chagasaray Complex [redacted]	24	25X1
	Elements of tank company Elements of two motorized rifle companies	Seh Sada Training Area [redacted]	22	25X1
	Artillery battery Elements of antiaircraft missile and artillery battery	Jalalabad Airfield [redacted]	23A	25X1
860th Independent Motorized Rifle Regiment	Elements of MRR	Faizabad Airfield [redacted]	9	25X1
	Motorized rifle battalion	Mazar Soviet Barracks [redacted]	10	25X1
	Elements of motorized rifle battalion	Kal Khan Military Facility [redacted]	11	25X1
Unid Independent Motorized Rifle Regiment	MRR	Ghazni Military Camp SE [redacted]	27A	25X1
Unid Independent Air Assault Brigade	Two airborne assault battalions Airborne artillery battalion BMD M-1981/2 battery GAZ-66 MRL battery Tank company	Gardez New Airfield [redacted]	26	25X1
	Airborne battalion Elements of tank company MRL battery BMD M-1981/2 firing section	Bost Airfield [redacted]	29	25X1
Unid Independent Airborne Regiment	Airborne regiment (less one battalion) BMD M-1981/2 battery	Bagram Airfield [redacted]	18A	25X1
	Airborne battalion Artillery battery BMD M-1981/2 firing section	Anawa Garrison Site [redacted]	16	25X1

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**Table 2. (cont'd)**

Subordination*	Unit**	Installation/BE No	Table 1 Item No
Unid Independent Airborne Battalion	Airborne battalion	Gereshk Soviet Bivouac Area	30
	Artillery battery		
	BMD M-1981/2 firing section		
Special Purpose forces (Spetznaz) Units	Motorized rifle battalion	Avbak Soviet Bivouac	12A
	Artillery battery		
	Antiaircraft artillery battery		
	Elements of tank company		
Probable KGB Border Security Units	Motorized rifle battalion	Golbahar Complex	17
	Artillery battery		
	Antiaircraft artillery battery		
	Elements of tank company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Sheberghan Soviet Deployment	1
	BMP company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Mazar E Sharif Soviet Bivouac	3
	BMP company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Kholm Soviet Bivouac South	4B
	BMP company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Yangi Qala Security Post	8A
	Elements of BMP company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Chah E Ab Security Post	8B
	Elements of BMP company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Taloqan Army Barracks	7B
	Elements of BMP company		
Security Battalions	BTR-70/60PB company	Qual-Ye-Now Soviet Bivouac	36
	Elements of BMP company		
	BTR-70/60PB company	Maimana Airfield	37
	Elements of BMP company		
		Kunduz Airfield	6A
		Faizabad Airfield	9
		Bagram Airfield	18A
	All units consist of BTR-70/60PBs and BRDM-2s and are deployed for perimeter defense	Kabul Bks Reg A Bn Hq A Sch Bala Hisar	21C
		Jalalabad Airfield	23A
		Ghazni Military Camp SE	27A
		Ghazni Airfield	27B
		Kandahar Airfield International	28B

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**Table 2. (cont'd)**

Subordination*	Unit**	Installation/BE No	Table 1 Item No
	All units consist of BTR-70/60PBs and BRDM-2s and are deployed for perimeter defense	Shindand Airfield [redacted]	32A
Miscellaneous Units	Headquarters/signal unit	Kabul Comsat A Radcom Sta [redacted]	21D
	Vehicle maintenance unit	Charki Ord Plt A Repair Shop [redacted]	21G
	Two security battalions (probably providing road security on road from Kabul to Khairabad)		2
	Two motorized rifle companies	Khairabad Transshipment Point	2
	Heavy lift unit	[redacted]	
	Independent security service battalion	Kabul Deployment Area SW [redacted]	21A
	Airborne unit	Kabul Deployment Area NW [redacted]	21B
	Pipeline construction unit	Kholm Bivouac Area [redacted]	4C
	Probable pipelaying battalion	Aybak Soviet Bivouac South [redacted]	12B

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\* Derived from referenced document 5

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This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL/NOFORN. [redacted]

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School Bala Hisar, one of the two BMD-equipped airborne battalions was completely re-equipped with BTR-70s by June 1983 (Figure 3). BTR-70 APCs had partially replaced or augmented BMDs in all other airborne battalions and regiments by July 1982. The BMP M-1981 and the BTR-70 provide airborne units with increased combat capabilities and armor protection. (S/WN)

5. The firepower of the airborne assault gun battalion of the 103rd Airborne Division based at Kabul International Airfield increased significantly with the addition of T-62 medium tanks in January 1983. As of December 1983, the battalion consisted of at least 15 T-62 medium tanks and 15 ASU-85 assault guns. (S/WN)

6. In addition to upgrading airborne units, BMP M-1981s have been deployed in battalion strength in MRRs at Kabul Deployment Area Southwest and Kunduz Airfield since at least April 1982 and in fewer numbers with motorized rifle battalions at Shindand Deployment Area, Jalalabad Army Camp Soviet Bivouac 3, and Chakhcharan Airfield. BMP M-1981s had also replaced standard BMPs in the reconnaissance units at Shindand Deployment Area, Bagram Soviet Barracks Area, and Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac by December 1982. BMP M-1981s have also been deployed with the Spetznaz unit at Aybak Soviet Bivouac (Figure 4). (S/WN)

7. Upgrading was also observed in all the divisional and regimental artillery units when MT-LB tracked prime movers replaced trucks. The MT-LB upgrade, completed by October 1982, affords greater all-terrain capability and crew protection. (S/WN)

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### New Units

9. A new, large security unit consisting of two battalions, equipped with BTR-70 APCs and BRDM-2 armored scout cars, was newly identified bivouacked approximately 0.5 nm south of Khairabad Transshipment Point [REDACTED]. The unit remained essentially unchanged in the bivouac until its departure [REDACTED]. Subsequently, one company-sized security unit, possibly organic to the Khairabad unit, was observed at Jabal Os Saraj Army Camp Soviet [REDACTED]. The departure of the two battalions from Khairabad and the arrival of the company at Jabal Os Saraj suggest that the remainder of the security unit may be providing security along the road from Khairabad to Kabul. (S/WN)

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10. A security battalion was newly identified on perimeter defense at Ghazni Airfield in October 1983. The unit, present since at least October 1982, is equipped with BTR-70/60PB APCs and BRDM-2 scout cars and is similar to security battalions identified at eight other Soviet installations in Afghanistan. (S/WN)

11. Two probable KGB border security units equipped with BMPs, BTR-70s and searchlight trucks were newly identified in 1983. The one unit, [REDACTED] was deployed near Yangi Qala and Chah E Ab. The other unit, identified [REDACTED] was permanently deployed at Kholm Soviet Bivouac South. Five similarly equipped, probable KGB border security units had been previously identified in Afghanistan. (S/WN)

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12. A small Soviet airborne unit consisting of nine BMD M-1979s has been deployed with the signal unit at Kabul Deployment Area NW since March 1983. This unit is probably a liaison between the 108th MRD and the 103rd Airborne Division. (S/WN)

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Unit Relocations

13. The two Spetznaz units deployed in Afghanistan have relocated since early 1982. One unit moved from Maimana Airfield to Rohka Garrison Site in the Panjser Valley during the fifth Panjser Valley offensive in June 1982. This unit departed Rohka Garrison Site when the Soviets withdrew from the upper valley in March 1983 and has been at Golbahar Complex since at least June 1983. The other unit relocated from Aqcheh Soviet Bivouac [redacted] to its present location at Aybak Soviet Bivouac in August 1982. (S/WN)

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14. Two airborne battalions were also redeployed during the period. One battalion departed Shindand Airfield in western Afghanistan in February 1982 and established a base of operations at Farah Airfield in March 1982. The battalion withdrew from Farah in late May 1983 and is currently at Gereshk Soviet Bivouac. The other battalion, probably organic to the airborne regiment at Bagram Airfield, was deployed to Anawa Garrison Site in the Panjser Valley in July 1982. This battalion, the only known unit maintaining a Soviet presence in the Panjser Valley, has not been observed out of garrison. (S/WN)

15. One MRR of the 201st MRD moved from Kholm Bivouac Area to nearby Kholm Military Camp in March 1982.<sup>1</sup> (S/WN)

Confirmation of Independent MRR/Brigade

16. The operational deployment of one WOOD BINE satellite communication station at Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac [redacted] indicates that the MRR/brigade stationed there since at least July 1980 is an independent unit. In Afghanistan, WOOD BINE and PARK DRIVE mobile satellite communication stations are deployed only with army, division, and independent regiment/brigade headquarters; they afford these units a rapid communications channel with command elements in Kabul and the Soviet Union.<sup>3</sup> (S/WN)

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