

Enemy ORBAT

Category	Strength	Availability
Initial Assault Forces		
336th Guards Naval Infantry Brigade	2,400 personnel	
- 877th Naval Infantry Battalion		
- 878th Naval Infantry Battalion		
- 879th Naval Infantry Battalion		
- 145th Reconnaissance Company		
East German 6th Frontier Brigade	1,200 personnel	
- 134th Motorized Rifle Battalion		
- 135th Motorized Rifle Battalion		
- 136th Motorized Rifle Battalion		
Polish 15th Amphibious Assault Regiment	800 personnel	
- 1st Assault Battalion		
- 2nd Assault Battalion		
First Reinforcement Echelon		Estimated Available: July 5-7
138th Guards Motor-Rifle Division	4,500 personnel	
- 423rd Guards Motor-Rifle Regiment		
- 424th Guards Motor-Rifle Regiment		
- 89th Guards Tank Regiment		

Category	Strength	Availability
234th Guards Air Assault Regiment (76th Guards AAD)	1,500 personnel	
- 1st Airborne Battalion		
- 2nd Airborne Battalion		
- 3rd Airborne Battalion		
Heavy Reinforcement Echelon	12,000 personnel	Estimated Available: July 10-15
10th Guards Tank Division	10,000 personnel	
- 67th Guards Tank Regiment		
- 68th Guards Tank Regiment		
- 69th Guards Tank Regiment		
- 425th Guards Motor-Rifle Regiment		
129th Guards Artillery Brigade	1,200 personnel	
- 456th Self-Propelled Artillery Battalion		
- 457th Multiple Rocket Launcher Battalion		
244th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment	800 personnel	
- 1st SAM Battalion (SA-6)		
- 2nd SAM Battalion (SA-8)		
Total Peak Strength	22,400 personnel	

Initial Garrison and Coastal Forces

The 336th Guards Independent Naval Infantry Brigade constitutes the primary Soviet assault force conducting amphibious operations against Hiiumaa Island and adjacent coastal sectors of Lääne County. Western intelligence assesses this unit deployed from Kaliningrad with full combat strength of approximately 2,400 personnel, organized into three naval infantry battalions with attached reconnaissance, engineer, and air defense companies. The brigade operates BTR-60PB armored personnel carriers and maintains organic 122mm artillery support through attached battery elements from Baltic Fleet coastal artillery units.

East German participation centers on the 6th Frontier Brigade (Grenzbrigade Küste), a specialized coastal defense formation transferred from Baltic Sea patrol duties to support Soviet suppression operations. This unit provides approximately 1,200 personnel organized into three motorized rifle battalions equipped with BTR-152 and BTR-50 amphibious vehicles suitable for Estonian coastal terrain. The East German contingent includes signals intelligence specialists and combat engineers experienced in coastal fortification reduction.

Polish People's Army contribution involves elements of the 7th Coastal Defense Division, specifically the 15th Amphibious Assault Regiment deployed from Gdynia naval facilities. Polish forces number approximately 800 personnel operating BRDM-2 reconnaissance vehicles and providing specialized naval gunfire coordination capabilities. Western intelligence indicates Polish involvement serves primarily political purposes, showing Warsaw Pact solidarity while limiting actual combat exposure for Polish units.

Soviet Reinforcement Echelons

Category A motor-rifle units from the Leningrad Military District provide the primary reinforcement capability as operations expand inland from initial beachhead positions. The 138th Guards Motor-Rifle Division, normally stationed near Vyborg, deployed two regiments totaling approximately 4,000 personnel with T-80 main battle tanks and BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles. Western intelligence assesses this formation capable of sustained offensive operations against organized resistance, with particular effectiveness in forested terrain characteristic of Estonian interior regions.

The 45th Independent Air Assault Regiment, drawn from VDV reserves, provides rapid deployment capability for seizing key terrain features and transportation nodes throughout Lääne County. This airborne unit operates with approximately 1,500 personnel equipped with BMD airborne fighting vehicles and organic 122mm artillery support. Intelligence reports indicate the regiment practiced helicopter assault operations specifically targeting Estonian infrastructure during June training exercises, suggesting pre-planned mission assignments for current operations.

Naval aviation support includes elements of the 398th Independent Helicopter Regiment operating Mi-8 Hip transport helicopters and Mi-24 Hind attack helicopters from forward bases established near Paldiski. Western analysts estimate approximately 24 rotary-wing aircraft available for tactical

support, with additional fixed-wing assets provided by Baltic Fleet maritime aviation units based at Severodvinsk and Kaliningrad.

Heavy Armor and Artillery Reinforcement

Second-echelon reinforcement involves deployment of the 10th Guards Tank Division from the Baltic Military District, bringing significant armored capability to support expansion operations beyond coastal sectors. This formation provides approximately 10,000 personnel with 328 main battle tanks including T-80 and T-72 variants, plus organic motor-rifle elements equipped with BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles. Western intelligence assesses this unit capable of decisive offensive operations against any organized Estonian resistance or potential NATO intervention forces.

Artillery support expands significantly with deployment of the 129th Guards Artillery Brigade, providing 152mm self-propelled howitzers and multiple rocket launcher systems for fire support throughout operational area. Intelligence estimates indicate approximately 72 artillery pieces available for sustained fire missions, with particular emphasis on counter-battery capabilities against potential Western artillery support for Estonian resistance elements.

Air defense coverage increases through deployment of SA-6 Gainful and SA-8 Gecko surface-to-air missile systems from the 244th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment. Western analysts assess this provides comprehensive low-to-medium altitude air defense coverage throughout southern Estonia, significantly complicating potential NATO air operations in support of resistance activities or humanitarian missions.

Specialized and Support Elements

Support Element	Strength	Availability	Primary Function
Combat Support			
25th Independent Engineer Regiment	800 personnel	Estimated Available: July 5-7	Bridge-laying, mine-clearing, fortification
- MTU-55 Bridge Company			
- IMR-2 Combat Engineer Company			
47th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion	200 personnel	Estimated Available: July 3-5	Decontamination, chemical reconnaissance

Support Element	Strength	Availability	Primary Function
• 16th Independent Radio-Electronic Combat Regiment	600 personnel	Estimated Available: July 1-3	SIGINT, communications jamming
Aviation Support			
398th Independent Helicopter Regiment	400 personnel	Estimated Available: July 1-3	Tactical air support, transport
- Mi-8 Hip Transport Squadron (12 aircraft)			
- Mi-24 Hind Attack Squadron (12 aircraft)			
• 12th Independent Military Transport Aviation Regiment	300 personnel	Estimated Available: July 7-10	Strategic airlift, resupply
- An-12 Cub Transport Squadron (8 aircraft)			
- An-26 Curl Transport Squadron (8 aircraft)			
Logistics Support			
• 145th Independent Material-Technical Support Battalion	500 personnel	Estimated Available: July 1-3	Ammunition, fuel, maintenance
• 67th Independent Medical Battalion	300 personnel	Estimated Available: July 3-5	Field hospitals, casualty evacuation
Total Support Strength	3,100 personnel		

Engineer support involves the 25th Independent Engineer Regiment providing bridge-laying, mine-clearing, and fortification construction capabilities essential for sustained operations in Estonian terrain. This unit operates specialized equipment including MTU-55 bridge layers and IMR-2 combat engineer vehicles.

Chemical defense capabilities center on the 47th Independent Chemical Defense Battalion, equipped with decontamination vehicles and specialized reconnaissance assets. Western intelligence indicates this unit's deployment may reflect Soviet concerns about potential chemical or tactical nuclear weapons employment.

Signal intelligence and electronic warfare support comes from elements of the 16th Independent Radio-Electronic Combat Regiment, providing communications intercept and jamming capabilities against Estonian resistance networks and potential NATO coordination elements. Intelligence assessments indicate this unit possesses sophisticated equipment for monitoring and disrupting

civilian communications throughout the operational area.

Logistics and Sustainment

Military transport aviation support involves elements of the 12th Independent Military Transport Aviation Regiment operating An-12 Cub and An-26 Curl aircraft for personnel and equipment movement between Soviet territory and forward bases in occupied Estonian territory. Western intelligence estimates indicate approximately 16 transport aircraft available for sustained airlift operations, with additional civilian Aeroflot resources requisitioned for logistical support missions. Heavier lift aircraft, such as the IL-76, have historically been utilized as well.

Naval logistics support operates through the 145th Independent Material-Technical Support Battalion, providing ammunition, fuel, and maintenance capabilities for sustained combat operations. This unit establishes forward supply bases utilizing captured Estonian port facilities, with particular emphasis on fuel storage and distribution given the mechanized nature of Soviet forces deployed in the operational area.

Medical support involves the 67th Independent Medical Battalion providing battlefield medical treatment and evacuation capabilities throughout the operational area. Intelligence reports indicate establishment of field hospitals near Haapsalu and provisional medical facilities on Hiiumaa Island, suggesting Soviet planning for sustained operations with significant casualty expectations.

Assessment and Capabilities

Total Warsaw Pact strength in southern Estonia operations reaches approximately 22,000 personnel across all participating units, with Soviet forces comprising roughly 85% of total strength. Western intelligence assesses this force structure capable of overwhelming Estonian resistance elements and conducting sustained operations against limited NATO intervention capabilities.

Command and control operates through the Baltic Military District headquarters with forward command posts established near Paldiski and Haapsalu. Intelligence indicates direct coordination with KGB border troops and internal security forces for population control and counter-intelligence operations in occupied areas.

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