

How the fuck do I read the map?

Soviet military abbreviation practices employed standardized Cyrillic designations that Western intelligence services transliterated into Latin characters for operational mapping and order of battle tracking. The abbreviation system distinguished between basic unit types, specialized functions, and command relationships within the Warsaw Pact force structure.

The Guards designation (гвардейская/GV) indicated elite status units with enhanced training, equipment, and personnel standards compared to standard formations. Independent or separate units (отдельный/OTD) operated outside normal divisional structure and typically possessed specialized capabilities or direct higher-command control. These modifiers preceded the basic unit type abbreviation in standard Soviet military documentation.

Western intelligence agencies maintained Soviet abbreviation conventions in classified mapping products to ensure precise unit identification and avoid confusion during crisis situations. The transliterated system enabled rapid recognition of unit capabilities, command relationships, and organizational structure without requiring extensive translation or interpretation of captured enemy documents or intercepted communications.

"This seems grossly unclear" well, lock in. We still do it.

Standard Unit Type Abbreviations

Unit Type	Soviet Abbreviation	Map Designation	Example
Infantry Units			
Naval Infantry Battalion	мп бат (mp bat)	MP BAT	877 MP BAT
Naval Infantry Brigade	мп бр (mp br)	MP BR	336 GV MP BR
Motor-Rifle Battalion	мсб (msb)	MSB	134 MSB
Motor-Rifle Regiment	мсп (msp)	MSP	423 GV MSP
Motor-Rifle Division	мсд (msd)	MSD	138 GV MSD
Air Assault Battalion	дшб (dshb)	DSHB	1 DSHB
Air Assault Regiment	дшп (dshr)	DSHR	234 GV DSHR
Air Assault Division	вдд (vdd)	VDD	76 GV VDD
Reconnaissance Company	разв рота (razv rota)	RAZV ROTA	145 RAZV ROTA
Reconnaissance Battalion	разв бат (razv bat)	RAZV BAT	12 RAZV BAT

Unit Type	Soviet Abbreviation	Map Designation	Example
Armored Units			
Tank Battalion	тб (tb)	TB	1 TB
Tank Regiment	тп (tp)	TP	67 GV TP
Tank Division	тд (td)	TD	10 GV TD
Artillery Units			
Artillery Battalion	аб (ab)	AB	456 AB
Self-Propelled Artillery Battalion	саб (sab)	SAB	456 SAB
Artillery Brigade	абр (abr)	ABR	129 GV ABR
Artillery Regiment	ап (ap)	AP	89 GV AP
Multiple Rocket Launcher Battalion	рсзо бат (rszo bat)	RSZO BAT	457 RSZO BAT
Air Defense Units			
Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment	зрп (zrp)	ZRP	244 ZRP
SAM Battalion	зрдн (zrdn)	ZRDN	1 ZRDN
Support Units			
Engineer Regiment	ип (ip)	IP	25 IP
Engineer Battalion	иб (ib)	IB	12 IB
Chemical Defense Battalion	рхбз бат (rkhbz bat)	RKHBZ BAT	47 RKHBZ BAT
Medical Battalion	мед бат (med bat)	MED BAT	67 MED BAT
Supply Battalion	мто бат (mto bat)	MTO BAT	145 MTO BAT
Signal Battalion	связь бат (svyaz bat)	SVYAZ BAT	23 SVYAZ BAT
Aviation Units			
Helicopter Regiment	вп (vp)	VP	398 VP
Transport Aviation Regiment	втап (vtap)	VTAP	12 VTAP
East German Units			
Frontier Brigade	гр бр (gr br)	GR BR	DDR-6 GR BR
Motorized Rifle Battalion (NVA)	мсб (msb)	MSB	DDR-134 MSB
Polish Units			
Amphibious Assault Regiment	дес п (des p)	DES P	POL-15 DES P

Unit Type	Soviet Abbreviation	Map Designation	Example
Assault Battalion	дес бат (des bat)	DES BAT	POL-1 DES BAT

Designation Modifiers

Modifier	Soviet Term	Abbreviation	Usage
Guards	гвардейская (gvardeyskaya)	GV	336 GV MP BR
Independent/Separate	отдельный (otdelnyy)	OTD	25 OTD IP
Motorized	мотострелковый (motostrelkovyy)	MS	134 MS BAT
Self-Propelled	самоходный (samokhodnyy)	SA	456 SA AB

Nationality Prefixes

Nation	Prefix	Example Usage
Soviet	No prefix	336 GV MP BR
East German	DDR-	DDR-134 MSB
Polish	POL-	POL-1 ASS BAT

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