

Russia's battalion tactical groups



Russia has sent reinforcements to eastern Ukraine, adding 11 so-called battalion tactical groups (BTGs) and bringing its total to around 76, down from some 120 at the start of the war

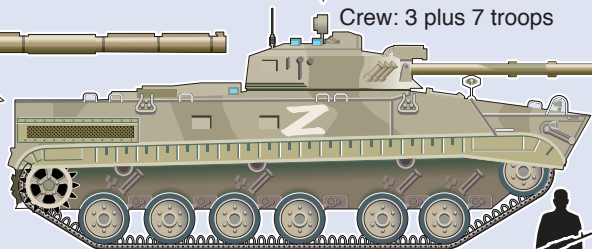
▶ **Sergei Shoigu:** Appointed by President **Vladimir Putin** as Minister of Defence in 2012. Tasked with upgrading **Russian Ground Forces** from Soviet-era model. Divisions and regiments are replaced with brigades which can each field elite BTG combat units

▶ **Gen. Aleksandr Dvornikov:** Appointed by Putin as ground commander in Ukraine, acknowledging invasion has not gone according to plan. Oversaw Russia's brutal intervention in Syria



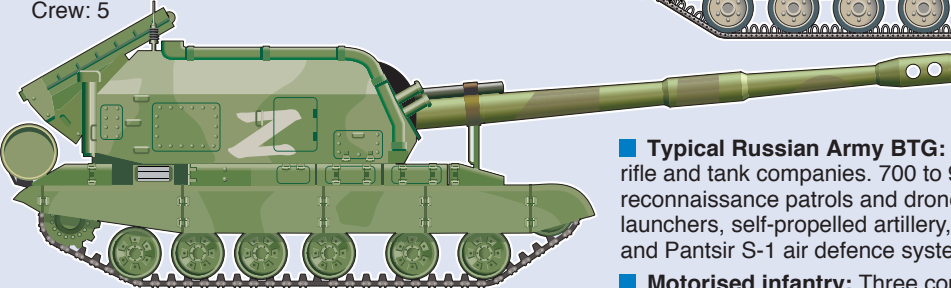
▼ **T-90A:** 125mm cannon, 7.62mm and 12.7mm machine guns. Crew: 3

▼ **BMP-3:** 100mm cannon. Crew: 3 plus 7 troops



To scale

▼ **Msta-S self propelled howitzers:** 152mm cannon. Crew: 5



■ **Tanks:** Two companies, each with ten T-80 or T-90 main battle tanks

■ Russian control territory ● Russian control cities
■ Ukrainian counteroffensives ● Russian BTGs

■ **Typical Russian Army BTG:** Created around motorised rifle and tank companies. 700 to 900 troops with reconnaissance patrols and drones, multiple rocket launchers, self-propelled artillery, mortars, flamethrowers, and Pantsir S-1 air defence systems

■ **Motorised infantry:** Three companies with 30 BMP infantry fighting vehicles. Each BMP carries seven soldiers for dismounted operations – 210 infantry troops



Kalashnikov AK-74 assault rifle is primary personal weapon of motorised infantry

■ **Aug 2021:** Shoigu announces there are 168 BTGs in Russian Armed Forces

■ **Apr 2022:** Some 37-38 BTGs withdrawn following heavy losses. 22 BTGs in north are being refitted and resupplied

■ **BTG command and control:** Senior officers must go to front line to command BTGs.

Maj. Gen. Vladimir Frolov – Deputy commander of 8th Army leading attack against Mariupol – is eighth Russian general killed in Ukraine

