



Belgium

Demographics:

Population: 10,289,088 (July 2003 est.)

Area: 30,510 sq km

Government: Federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch



Army

Personnel:

Active: 26,400 (including 1,500 women)

Reserves: 71,500

Organization:

OPERATIONAL COMMAND: The Army Operational Command is charged with the preparation, the execution and the control of all operations in which Army units take part. Furthermore it is responsible for the basic instruction of all Army volunteers and for the specialized training that is not provided in one of the Arms schools. A project has been launched to make sure the Army is not only operational where its equipment and the physical condition of its troops are concerned but also on a level of mental readiness.

Another project of the operational command is the CIMIC, with stand for Civil Military Cooperation. It consists of the whole of personnel, means, procedures and agreements the military commander in operations disposes of in his contracts with the local population and civil organizations to fulfill the common mandate in the most efficient way.

The Army Operations Command consists of the 1st Mechanized Division, the Para-Commando Brigade, the Army Aviation Group and the five large training area's

FIRST MECHANIZED DIVISION: The 1st Mechanized Division has its headquarters in Saive near Liege and is composed of Divisional Troops, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 7th Mechanized Brigade, and the 17th Mechanized Brigade. Each brigade consists of 1 tank, 2 armored infantry, 1 SP artillery battalion, 1 engineer coy) (2 brigades are at 70%, 1 brigade at 50% combat strength), 1 air defense artillery battalion, 2 recce (including 1 UAV) battalion, 1 Military Police company; 1 recce battalion (Multinational Defense Corps)

PARA-COMMANDO BRIGADE: The Para-Commando Brigade, with headquarters at Heverlee, operates closely with the 15th Transportation Wing of the Belgian Air Force and has a high level of readiness. The brigade can be put into action at very short notice and is therefore well suited to form intervention units. The Para-Commando Brigade is one of the Belgian contributions to NATO and is prepared to participate both in the Immediate and Rapid Reaction Force. Besides the defense of Belgian territory the Brigade is also charged with the execution of operations to protect or evacuate its citizens abroad.

Today the Para-Commando Brigade, spread over the entire Belgian territory, is composed of 3,000 men in peacetime and three para-commando infantry battalions.

ARMY AVIATION CORPS [As of June 2002]: The Army Aviation Group, with headquarters and headquarters company at Bierset, near Liege, is part of the Belgian Air Force, but operates under Army command. The main mission of the Army Aviation Group is to execute antitank actions as a mobile combat element of the Army Operations Command. It also has to be ready at all times to be put into action for crisis management in an international framework as was the case in Somalia and Rwanda.

ARMY AVIATION GROUP		
HQ Company		
16th Battalion of Liaison	15 Alouette II, BN Islander	Bierset
70 Liaison Helicopter Company		
17th Attack Helicopter Battalion	A.109BHA/HO	Bierset
18th Attack Helicopter Battalion	A.109BHA/HO	Bierset
Army Aviation School	A.109B, Alouette II, BN- 2A Islander	Brasschat
Light Aviation School Squadron	A.109B, Alouette II, BN- 2A Islander	
255 Maintenance Company		Bierset

Aircraft Inventory: The Army Aviation Group has: 38 AB-109 (six versions)[46 delivered]; 15 Alouette II plus aircraft in school units [27 delivered]; and, 4 BN-2A Islander [10 delivered]. In wartime, school aircraft reinforce the operational units.

TRAINING AREAS: Bevelo, Marche, Vogelsang, Elsebom, Lagland

COMBAT SUPPORT DIVISION: The Combat Support Division has two main missions. On the one hand it is in charge of the specialized and continual training of all Army personnel as well as of the basic instruction of the majority of the Army's non-commissioned offers. On the other hand the Division supports the Army operational Command in operations and in training.

LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIVISION: The mission of the Logistic Support Division is twofold. It provides general and direct support where supply, maintenance and transportation are concerned. Furthermore it is in charge of the logistic support of all operations by providing mobile logistic detachments.

The Logistic Support Division consists of two Groups and one independent battalion

Supply and Transportation Group: The Supply and Transportation Group is composed of five specialized battalions (for instance food, fuel, ammunition, spare parts, etc.) charged with managing the Army reserves and one transportation battalion.

Maintenance Group: The Maintenance Group is charged with providing general territorial support in maintenance.

TERRITORIAL DEFENSE: 11 light infantry battalions (9 province, 1 guard, 1 reserve)

Equipment:

MBT: 132 Leopard 1A5

RECCE: 119 Scimitar

AIFV: 218 YPR-765 (plus 56 variants)

APC: 187 M-113 (plus 109 variants), 95 Spartan (plus 50 variants), 50 Pandur including variants

TOTAL ARTY: 272

TOWED: 105mm: 14 LG Mk II

SP: 155mm: 108 M-109A2

MOR: 107mm: 90 M-30; **120mm:** 60; **81mm:** 118

ATGW: 420 Milan (including 215 YPR-765, 2 M-113)

RL: 66mm: LAW

AD GUNS: 35mm: 51 Gepard SP

SAM: 118 Mistral

UAV: 3 B-Hunter systems (18 aircraft)

Forces Abroad:

UN AND PEACEKEEPING

BOSNIA/CROATIA (SFOR II): up to 450; (UNMOP): 1 observer; DROC (MONUC): 5
INDIA/PAKISTAN (UNMOGIP): 2 observers; FYROM (KFOR): 210; ITALY (SFOR Air): 4 F-16A; MIDDLE EAST (UNSTO): 6 observers; WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO): 1 observers; YUGOSLAVIA (KFOR): 800

Navy

Personnel: 2,400 (including 280 women)

Reserves: 3,300

Bases: Ostend, Zeebrugge (Belgian and Dutch navies under joint operational command based at Den Helder, Netherlands)

Inventory:**Principal Surface Combatants:**

Frigates: 3

FFG: 3

3 Wielingen class ASW with 4 MM38 Exocet, 1 8-cell Sea Sparrow, 1 100mm DP, 375 mm ASW mortar, 2 ASW torpedo-launching racks

Mine Warfare: 11**MINE COUNTERMEASURES:** 11

3 (planned) KMV class minesweepers with 1 30mm AA, 2 12.7mm MG

6 Aster (Tripartite) class minehunters with 1 20 mm, 2 12.7 mm

Georges Truffaut (Agile/Dash) class mine countermeasures trials ship with 2 12.7 mm MG

4 Van Haverbeke MCMV (US Aggressive MSO)

Support and Miscellaneous: 11

1 Godetia minecraft tender with 1 40 mm AA, 6 12.7 mm MG

1 Myosotis (modified Tripartite class) munitions transport

1 Belgica coastal oceanographic & fisheries research ship

1 sail training

5 tugs

2 logistics support/command vessels with helicopter deck

Naval Aviation (*Belgische Marine / Marine Belge*):**Bases:** Koksijde**Organization:**

Belgische Marine		
Helicopter Flight	SA-316B	Koksijde

Aircraft Inventory:

Aérospatiale SA-316B Alouette III (3)

Air Force *Belgische Luchtmacht / Force Aérienne Belge***Personnel:** 8,600 (including 800 women)**Reserves:** 10,000**Bases:** Beauvechain, Florennes, Kleine Brogel, Koksijde, Melsbroek**Organization:**

Tactical Air Force	
2 Wing Tac	Florennes
1 Smaldeel (Squadron)	F-16
2 Smaldeel	F-16
350 Smaldeel	F-16
10 Wing Tac	Kleine Brogel
31 Smaldeel	F-16
349 Smaldeel	F-16
OCU(S)	F-16
15 Wing Tpt Aè	Melsbroek
20 Smaldeel	C-130H
21 Smaldeel	A-310, Falcon 20/900, ERJ-135/145
40 Smaldeel	Sea King (Koksijde)
Training and Support Command	
1 Wing	Beauvechain
5 Smaldeel	SF-260

7 Smaldeel	Alpha Jet
11 Smaldeel	Alpha Jet
33 Smaldeel	CM-170

Inventory:

Airbus A-310-225 (2)

Airbus A-400M (7) (on order)

Dassault Falcon 20 (2)

Dassault Falcon 900 (1)

Dassault/Dornier Alpha Jet E (29)

EMBRAER ERJ-135 (2) (on order)

EMBRAER ERJ-145 (2) (on order)

Fouga CM-170 Magister (10)

Lockheed-Martin C-130H Hercules (11)

Lockheed-Martin F-16AM/BM Fighting Falcon Block 10/15 (99)

SIAI-Marchetti SF-260MD/D (33)

Westland Sea King Mk48 (5)

Weapons Systems:

AAM: AIM-9 Sidewinder, AIM-120 AMRAAM

ASM: AGM-65G Maverick