

## **BELGIUM**

### **BELGIUM - BASIC FACTS**

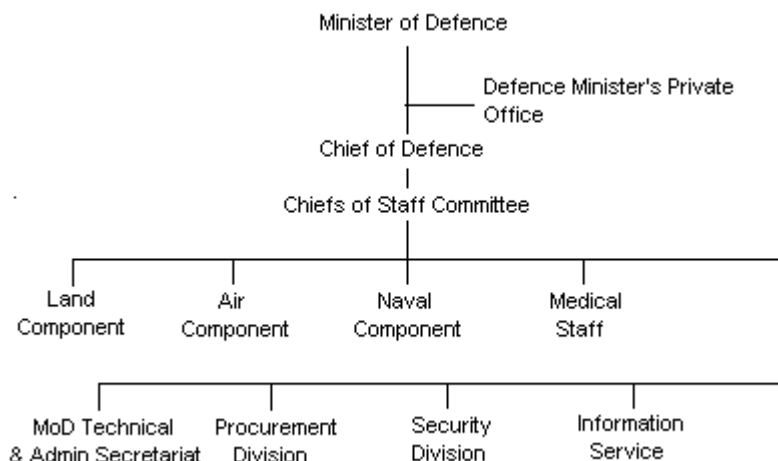
Population:	10.3 million
Defence budget 2005:	Euros 2.64 billion (US\$3.27 billion)
GDP:	Euros 297 billion (US\$365 billion)
Land area:	30,200 sq kms (11,615 sq miles)
Capital:	Brussels (Population 980,000)
Life expectancy:	79 years
Population growth rate:	0.3 per cent

### **Total Armed Forces**

Army:	29,000 (including 4,000 reservists)
Navy:	3,000 (including 500 reservists)
Air Force:	7,800 (including 1,500 reservists)

### **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

#### **Belgium – Chain of Command**



#### **Ministry of Defence Contact Details**

Ministry of Defence  
Rue Lambermonstraat 8  
B-1000 Bruxelles  
BELGIUM

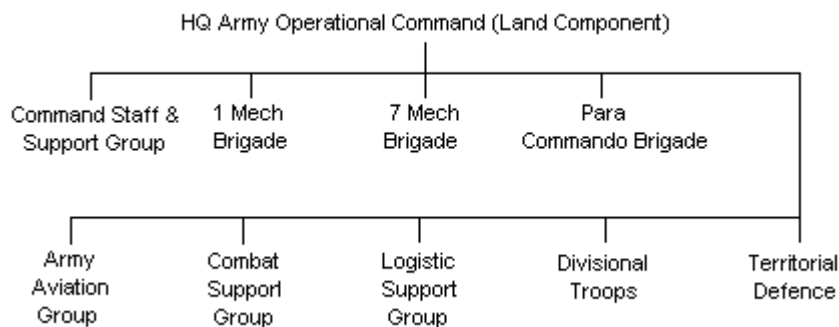
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### **ARMY (BELGIAN LAND COMPONENT)**

**Army Strength:** approximately 29,000 including 4,000 reservists  
In general terms and available for immediate operations are:

- 7 x Infantry battalions (including 3 x Para Commando)
- 2 x Tank battalions
- 1 x Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 x Special forces group
- 4 x Artillery battalions (including 1 x observation and surveillance)
- 2 x Engineer battalions
- 5 x Communications groups
- 7 x Logistic/combat support battalions
- 2 x Anti-tank helicopter battalions
- 1 x Liaison helicopter battalion

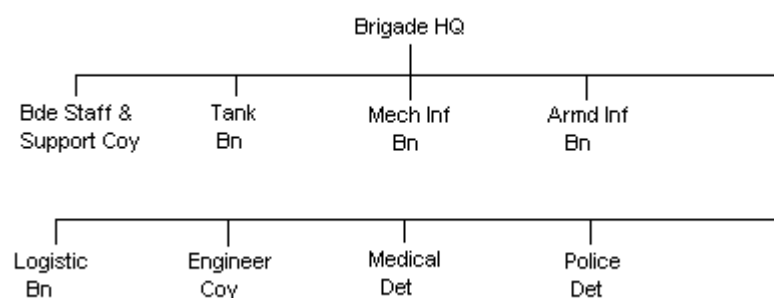
The following diagram shows the outline structure of the Belgian Land Forces (Army)



Notes:

- (1) The HQ of Army Operational Command (Land) and 1 Mechanised Brigade plus 7 Mechanised Brigade form the Belgian contribution to the Eurocorps.
- (2) The Para Commando Brigade is Belgium's immediate rapid reaction force.
- (3) Divisional troops include a reconnaissance battalion, observation and surveillance battalion, air defence battalion, logistic battalion and communications group.
- (4) The Army Aviation Group is part of the Air Component but available for joint operations.

### Belgian Mechanised Brigade Outline Organisation



Note:

- (1) 1 Mechanised Brigade has 2 x Armoured Infantry Battalions and 7 Mechanised Brigade has 1 x Armoured Infantry Battalion and 1 x Mechanised Infantry Battalion.
- (2) The Para Commando Brigade has 3 x Para Commando Battalions. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Battalion stationed at Antwerp forms the initial entry battalion of the NATO Response Force (NRF) and is integrated into the Franco-German Brigade.

### Reserves

There are two main elements. The Ordinary Reserve and the Volunteer Reserve; the compulsory reserve consists of ex conscripts and former regular personnel. The Volunteer Reserve consists of

volunteers, some of whom may not have had prior military service. A Special Reserve Group consists of personnel who have agreed to serve for a specified period during peace should the need arise.

<b>Belgium – Army – Equipment</b>	
Main Battle Tanks (MBT)	52 x Leopard 1A5 (Operational – to be phased out by 2011)
Armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicles (AIFV)	120 x YPR-765
Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC)	163 x M-113 (Tracked) 60 x Pandur (Wheeled) 220 x Dingo (Wheeled)
Self Propelled Artillery (SP Arty)	48 x M-109 variants (Tracked)
Towed Artillery (Towed)	14 x 105 mm Light Gun
Mortars (Mor)	45 x 120 mm (estimate) 30 x 81 mm (estimate) 50 x 60 mm (estimate)
Anti-Tank (Atk)	150 x Milan ATGW (estimate in service) 200 x 66 mm/112 mm (estimate)
Low Level Air Defence (LLAD)	36 x Mistral SAM (under Air Force Command control)
Infantry Weapons (Inf Wpns)	9 mm FN 35 9 mm H&K MP5 5.56 mm Minimi 5.56 mm FN-FNC 7.62 mm FN-FAL 7.62 mm MAG 0.5 in Browning

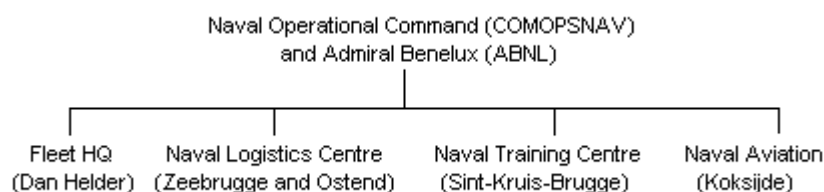
## **NAVY (BELGIAN NAVAL COMPONENT)**

**Navy Strength:** approximately 3,000 (including 500 reservists)

### **Principal units:**

- 2 x Frigates
- 6 x Mine Warfare Vessels

### **Belgian Navy Outline Organisation**



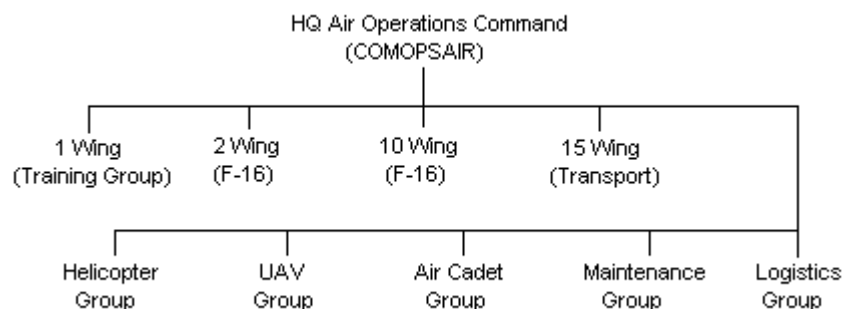
Operational command of Belgian and Netherlands naval (surface) forces is delegated to the Admiral, Benelux (ABNL) command at Den Helder. The ABNL has a bi-national structure with a modular approach to operations, training and logistics, this results in the Comopsnav only performing tasks not delegated to the ABNL.

<b>Belgium – Navy – Equipment</b>	
Frigates (FF)	2 x Wielingen
Mine Hunter Coastal (MHC)	6 x Tripartite
Miscellaneous	9 x Support Vessels
Naval Aviation	3 x SA-316B 5 x Sea King Mk 48 (Search and Rescue)

### **AIR FORCE (BELGIAN AIR COMPONENT)**

**Air Force Strength:** approximately 7,800 (including 1,500 reservists)

Diagram shows outline structure of Belgian Air Component



**Notes:**

(1) The helicopter group has the 3 x A 109 squadrons that were previously part of the Army Aviation Group. For operations these squadrons could be placed under the control of the Army Operational Command. The helicopter group also includes the 5 x search and rescue (SAR) Sea Kings.

(2) Major Airbases are located at Beauvechain, Florennes, Kleine Brogel, Koksijde (Coxyde) and Bierset.

<b>Belgium – Air Force – Equipment</b>	
Fighter Ground Attack (FGA)	Approx 72 x F-16 in operational service with some 28 in store
Electronic Intelligence (ELINT)	2 x DA-20 Falcon
Transport (TPT)	11 x C-130H Hercules 2 x A-310-200 1 x Falcon 900 2 x ERJ-135 2 x ERJ-145 2 x Falcon 20

Training (Trg)	29 x Alpha Jet
	23 x SF 260MB
	9 x SF 260 D
Helicopters (Hel)	40 x A-109
	20 x SA-318
	5 x Sea King Mk 48 (SAR)
Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV)	18 x B-Hunter
Air launched missiles (ALM)	AMRAAM AIM-120 AAM
	Sidewinder AIM-9 AAM
	AGM-65 Maverick
Surface to Air Missiles (SAM)	24 x Mistral SAM launchers