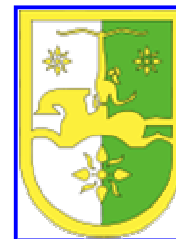


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Around the world' link

Military of Abkhazia



Military of Abkhazia

Founded 12 October 1992
[Abkhazian Air Force](#)

Service branches Abkhazian Army
Abkhazian Navy

Leadership

Commander-in-Chief [Sergei Bagapsh](#)

[Minister of Defence](#) [Mirab Kishmaria](#)

Chief of Staff [Anatoly Zaitsey](#)

Industry

Foreign suppliers  Russia

The **Abkhazian Armed Forces** is the military of Abkhazia, a breakaway republic of Georgia, whose independence is recognized only by Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Nauru.

The Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Abkhazian armed forces were officially created on 12 October 1992, after the outbreak of the 1992-1993 war with Georgia. The basis of the armed forces was formed by the ethnic Abkhaz National Guard created early in 1992 prior to the outbreak of the war. During the war, the Abkhazian forces with the critical support from the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus, Cossack volunteers and the Russian regular military units stationed in or near Abkhazia succeeded in defeating the Georgian troops. After the war, about 80% of the ethnic Georgian population left the territory controlled by Abkhazian authorities. Most of the weapons come from the [Russian](#) airborne division base in Gudauta, others were captured from Georgian forces.

Current situation

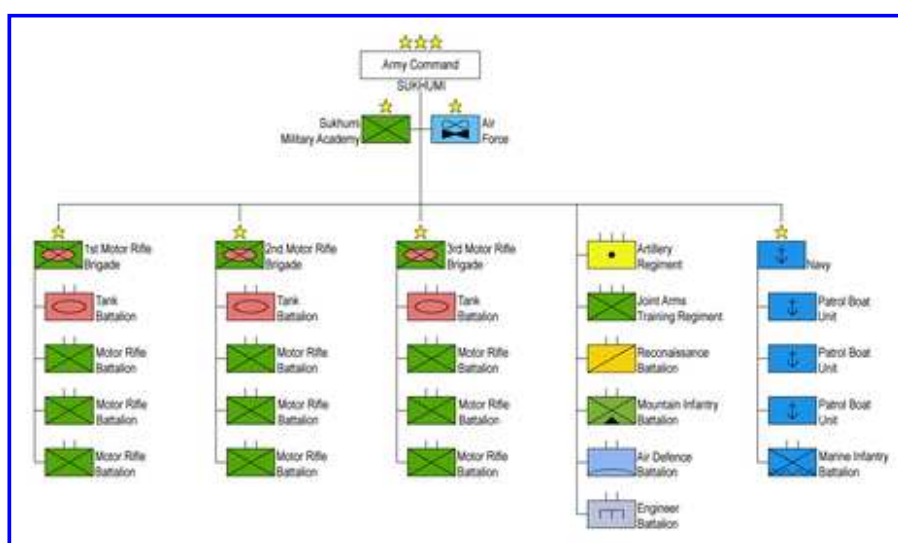
Georgia regards the Abkhaz armed forces as "unlawful military formations" and accuses Russia of supplying and training the Abkhaz troops, partly in exchange for Abkhaz land or hotels. The Abkhaz deny this, saying they bought what they have on the free market except for five sea cutters received from Russia and speedboats from the Abkhaz diaspora in Greece. In March 2005, Abkhaz defense minister Sultan Sosnaliev admitted that the senior and middle-ranking officers in the Abkhaz army are regularly sent to Russia for 2-3 month training courses within the framework of the Russia's

"Vystrel" (Shot) program.

The (May 8, 2007) resigned de facto defence minister and a major contributor to the formation of Abkhazia's military, Sultan Sosnaliev, is a Russian officer from the Kabardino-Balkaria Republic (Russian Federation) and held the same post during the Abkhazian war, with the Chechen field commander and terrorist Shamil Basayev acting as his deputy. Similarly, the chief of staff, Major General Anatoly Zaitsev, is the former deputy commander of the Transbaikal Military District (now part of the Siberian Military District) in Russia. Another top official, Defense Minister Aleksandr Pavlushko is a Russian colonel and the former chief of staff of the Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia. Georgia also regularly accuses Abkhazia of forcibly recruiting Georgian returnees from the Gali district into the armed forces.

The Abkhaz military is primarily a ground force but includes small sea and air units. In 2006, an "anti-terrorist centre" of some 200 personnel was created under the de facto ministry of interior. The de facto minister of finance estimated, in 2006, that 35 per cent of Abkhazia's budget was spent on the military and police.

Structure



Structure of the Abkhazian Armed Forces.

According to the authorities of the Republic of Abkhazia, the Abkhazian Land Forces are organised along the Swiss model - in time of peace they have personnel of 3,000 to 5,000 and in case of war further 40-50,000 reservists are called out. They are authorised to keep registered weapons at home. NOVOSTI (Russian News & Information Agency) gives the following army figures: 10,000-strong Abkhazian Self Defense Force wielding 60 tanks, including 40 T-72s, 85 artillery pieces and mortars, including several dozen with a 122-152-mm caliber and 116 armored vehicles of different types, also has numerous anti-tank weapons ranging from RPG-7 rocket launchers to Konkurs-M anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs).

The exact number and equipment remain unverifiable as no thorough international monitoring has ever been carried out in Abkhazia.

Equipment

- T-55 and T-72 tanks - 50-60



BMP-1,

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BMP-2 IFVs

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; BTR-60,

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-
- BTR-70 APCs - 70-85



-
- ZSU-3-4 self-propelled anti-aircraft system - 6 (?)



- BM-21 "Grad" - 7



- Buk missile system SA-6



- 2A18/D-30 122mm howitzers;
-



-
-
-
- D-44 guns - about 80



- 120 mm and 82mm mortars - 42





- AK 47 (Militia Only)



- AK 74



- RPK



- PK machine gun



- AS Val



-
-
- SVD Dragunov



- Makarov PM



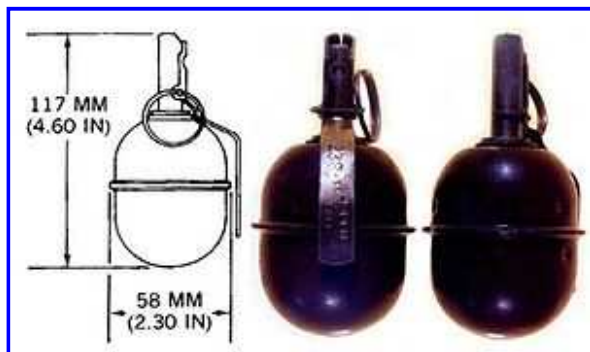
- RPG-7



- RPG18



- RGD5



Navy

The Abkhazian Navy consists of three divisions that are based in Sukhumi, Ochamchira and Pitsunda. As of 2005 the first two of them had one PSKA "Grif" speed-boats each. The navy also includes several civil vessels that were equipped with guns and unguided rocket artillery systems. NOVOSTI (Russian News & Information Agency) gives the following naval figures: over 20 motor boats armed with machine-guns and small-caliber cannons.

PSKA "Grif" speed-boat.



Air force

The Abkhaz air force uses Russian and Soviet-built aircraft. It is a small force, which numbers only 7 aircraft, 3-4 helicopters, and 250 personnel.

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