

## **E. On the South Ossetian Militia**

1. Which strength and armament did the South Ossetian Militia dispose of at the outbreak of the August hostilities?
2. Which weapons did they use during fighting in Kethagurovo, Muguti, Tbeti, Dmenisi and other villages as well as the town of Tskhinvali?
3. How did they coordinate with Russian and Ossetian Peacekeepers?

By August 2008, the South Ossetian de facto regime was extremely militarized, which was a clear violation of the 1992 Sochi Agreement and numerous regulations of the Joint Control Commission.

The South Ossetian proxy regime irregular forces were subordinated to three main command centers – which, as already reported in the answers to the military and legal sets of questions, were all run by high-ranking officers from the Russian Federation:

1. The so-called “Ministry of Defense and Emergency Situations of South Ossetia”;
2. The so-called “Ministry of Internal Affairs of South Ossetia”; and
3. The so-called “State Security Committee (KGB) of South Ossetia.”

### **“The Ministry of Defense and Emergency Situations of South Ossetia”**

According to the 1992 Sochi Agreement the South Ossetian de facto regime was not allowed to maintain armed forces and have a defense ministry.

#### *Structure and Personnel*

The information provided below is based on Georgian intelligence data. It does not include the armaments provided by Russia immediately after the start of hostilities.

By August 2008, the personnel of the South Ossetian de facto regime’s “Ministry of Defense and Emergency Situations” amounted to roughly 3000 militiamen. They were organized into 10 battalions and several other divisions.

#### ***II Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Znauri, Znauri district

Personnel: 180 militiamen

Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP-1 – 2 units

Howitzers – 2 units

Heavy anti-tank grenade launchers SPG – 3 units

Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns and other fire-arms

### ***III Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Khetagurovo, Tskhinvali district

Personnel – 250 militiamen

Armament:

Howitzers – 2 units

Heavy anti-tank grenade launchers SPG – 3 units

Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

This battalion included **Tbeti company** that consisted of 30 militiamen

### ***IV Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (the so-called “Zhilmasiv” district)

Personnel – 180 militiamen

Armament:

Armored Personnel Carriers BTR – 1 unit

Howitzers – 2 units

Heavy anti-tank grenade launchers SPG – 3 units

Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

This battalion also included:

#### **“Shanghai” company**

Personnel: 60 militiamen on regular basis, 250-300 in case of mobilization

Armament:

Self-propelled artillery system “SAU” – 1 unit

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP-1 – 1 unit

Armored Personnel Carriers BTR – 1 unit

Mortars – 2 units

Machine guns – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

#### **“Tsarz” company**

Personnel: 100 militiamen with light firearms

#### **“Gafez” company**

Personnel: 100 militiamen with light firearms

### ***V Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (“Mamisaantubani” district)

Personnel: 180 militiamen

Armament:

Mortars – 8 units

Howitzers – 2 units

Heavy anti-tank grenade launchers SPG – 3 units

Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

This battalion included **Prisi company**

Personnel: 150-160 militiamen

Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP-1 – 5 units

120mm mortars – 4 units

82mm mortars – 2 units

Anti-aircraft system ZU-23 – 1 unit

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

### ***VI Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (“Zagozerno” building), Villages Kverneti and Kusreti

Personnel: 250 militiamen

Armament:

Multiple Rocket Launcher BM21/GRAD – 1 unit

Howitzers – 2 units

Heavy anti-tank grenade launchers SPG – 3 units

Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

This battalion included “**Bam**” company

Personnel: 100 militiamen armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s, 2 DShK machine guns and other firearms

### ***VII Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Dmenisi, Tskhinvali district

Personnel: 180 militiamen on regular basis, 300-500 in case of mobilization

Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicle BMP-2 – 1 unit

Armored Personnel Carrier BTR – 1 unit

Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 2 units

85mm cannons – 2 units

Mortars – 3 units (82mm and 120mm)

Heavy anti-tank grenade launchers SPG – 3 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

### ***VIII Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Java, Java district (firing ground and warehouses in village Zivgomi)

Personnel: 300 militiamen

Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP – 2 units

Armored Personnel Carriers BTR-70 – 4 units

Anti-aircraft system ZU-23 – 1 unit

Self-propelled artillery system GVOZDIKA – 22 units

Multiple Rocket Launcher BM-21/GRAD – 3 units  
Anti-tank guided rocket launchers FAGOT – 44 units  
Howitzers (85-122mm) – 15 units  
Mortars (82-120mm) – 20 units  
Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, mortars, RPG-7s and other firearms

### ***IX Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Gromi, Tskhinvali district  
Personnel: 180 militiamen  
Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicle BMP – 1 unit  
Anti-aircraft system ZU-23 – 1 unit  
Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s and other firearms

This battalion included **Tsinagari** and **Artsevi companies**

### ***X Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Velebi, Znauri district  
Personnel: 200 militiamen  
Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP-1 – 2 units  
Anti-aircraft system ZU-23 – 1 unit  
Anti-tank guided missile launcher FAGOT – 1 unit  
80mm cannon – 1 unit  
Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s, mortars and other firearms

### ***XI Motor Rifle Battalion***

Location: Village Kvaisa, Java district  
Personnel: 100 militiamen  
Armament:

Anti-aircraft system ZU-23 – 1 unit  
Anti-aircraft systems IGLA – 3 units  
Heavy armor, particularly two T-55 tanks and one self-propelled artillery system SAU  
Heavy anti-tank grenade launcher SPG – 1 unit  
Anti-tank grenade launchers RPG-7 – 10 units  
Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s, SVD sniper rifles and other firearms

### ***Separate Mountain Company (“Kazak army of South Ossetia”)***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (the so-called “Khutor” settlement) and Village Kroza, Java district  
Personnel: 150 militiamen  
Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP-2 – 6 units  
Armored Personnel Carriers BTR – 8 unit  
Anti-aircraft systems ZU-23 – 1 unit  
Anti-aircraft systems IGLA – 3 units

Anti-tank guided missile FAGOT – 1 unit  
Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s, SVD sniper rifles and other firearms

### ***Separate Reconnaissance Battalion***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (near the so-called “Big Market”)

Personnel: 200 militiamen

Armament:

Infantry Fighting Vehicles BMP-2 – 4 units

Armored Personnel Carriers BTR – 2 unit

Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles BRDM – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, RPG-7s, and other fire-arms

### ***Separate Tank Battalion***

Location: Village Buzala, Java district

Personnel: unknown

Armament:

Tanks T-60 – 12 units

Tanks T-55 – 2 units

### ***Anti-Aircraft Rocket Battery***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (“Zagozerno” building)

Personnel: 86 militiamen

Armament:

Anti-aircraft system ZU-23 – 3 units

Anti-aircraft systems IGLA and STRELA – about 20 units

Anti-tank guided missiles METIS – 3 units

Anti-tank guided missiles FAGOT – 3 units

### ***Engineer Company***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali

Personnel: 60 militiamen

### ***Mortar Battery***

Location: Town of Tskhinvali (“Zagozerno” building)

Personnel: 40 militiamen

Armament:

120mm mortars – 5 units

### ***Special Forces Company (“Ossetian GRU”)***

Personnel: 60 soldiers – all trained by Russian instructors in the Russian Federation.

## **“The Ministry of Internal Affairs of South Ossetia”**

Total personnel: approximately 900 militia officers.

Armament: different types of automatic firearms, hand machine guns, grenade launchers and SVD sniper rifles. UAZ and GAZ-66 type vehicles.

This “Ministry” included special task units OMON and SOBR.

### ***Special Task Unit OMON***

Personnel: 350 militiamen (mostly with criminal past). Deployed in Tskhinvali, Java and Znauri.  
Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles AKS-U  
Grenade launchers RPG, AGS-1 and SPG  
SVD-1 sniper rifles  
TT pistols.  
3 BTRs and 1 BMP,  
UAZ and GAZ-66 type vehicles

### ***Special Task Unit SOBR***

Personnel: 45 militiamen.

Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles AKS-U  
Grenade launchers RPG-7 (3 units), AGS-1 (3 units) and SPG (3 units)  
SVD-1 sniper rifles  
TT type pistols.  
UAZ and GAZ-66 type vehicles

## **“The State Security Committee (KGB) of South Ossetia”**

Personnel: 70 employees, plus Operational Activity Support Team (OSOM) with 40 employees, armed with Russian light firearms, sniper rifles and special equipment. The KGB included the so-called Border Guard Service.

### ***Border Guard Service***

Personnel: approximately 380 militiamen

Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles, machine guns, mortars.  
Armored Personnel Carriers BTR-80 – 9 units  
KAMAZ and UAZ type vehicles.

### ***Border Guard Service HQ***

Personnel: 110 border guards, including:  
Special intelligence group – 15 militiamen  
Tskhinvali border guard station – 44 militiamen

Operational division – 20 militiamen

***Java Border Guard Office***

Location: Java district

Personnel: 150 militiamen

Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 160 units

Kalashnikov machine guns – 10 units

Armored Personnel Carriers BTR-80 – 7 units

KAMAZ-505 type vehicle – 3 units

UAZ-469 vehicle – 5 units

This office included Kvaisa, Roki, Edisi and Sinaguri border guard units.

***Kvaisa border guard unit***

Location: Village Kvaisa

Personnel: approximately 35 militiamen

Armament:

Armored Personnel Carriers BTR-80 – 2 units

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 36 units

Machine guns – 2 units

RPG grenade launchers – 3 units

Sniper rifles – 2 units

Anti-aircraft systems

KAMAZ-505 type vehicle – 1 unit

UAZ-469 type vehicle – 1 unit

***Roki border guard unit***

Location: Roki Tunnel

Personnel: 30 militiamen

Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 35 units

Machine guns – 3 units

***Edisi border guard unit***

Location: Village Edisi

Personnel: 35 militiamen

Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 40 units

Machine guns – 3 units

***Sinaguri border guard unit***

Location: Village Sinaguri

Personnel: 30 militiamen

Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 35 units  
Machine guns – 2 units

***Znauri Border Guard Office***

Location: Village Znauri  
Personnel: 120 militiamen  
Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 125 units  
Machine guns – 7 units

This office included Muguti, Velebi and Balta border guard units.

***Muguti border guard unit***

Location: Village Muguti  
Personnel: 35 militiamen  
Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 40 units  
Machine guns – 3 units

***Velebi border guard unit***

Location: village Velebi  
Personnel: 30 militiamen  
Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 30 units  
Machine guns – 2 units

***Balta border guard unit***

Location: Village Balta  
Personnel: 30 militiamen  
Armament:

Kalashnikov assault rifles – 30 units  
Machine guns – 2 units

***On the section 3 of the question E, please see answers to question B, as well as answers to question 3 of the military set of questions.***