

~~TOP SECRET RUFF ZARF UMBRA~~

DST-1800R-429-81-SAO

New 152 mm Field Artillery (U)

2 copies

(S/NOFORN/REL AUS, CAN, UK/WNINTEL) The Soviets are deploying a new 152 mm cannon system in both self-propelled and towed versions.

Description:

(S/NOFORN/REL AUS, CAN, UK/WNINTEL) The Soviets have deployed a new 152 mm (6 inch) cannon system in both towed (M1976) and self-propelled (M1977) versions. Both probably fire the same ammunition and use the same tube, breech mechanism, and muzzle brake. The dual-axled M1976 towed field gun began deployment in 1979 replacing the 130 mm field gun M-46 on a one for one basis. All 14 battalion sets of the M1976 deployed have been to units within the USSR. Although all evidence indicates both versions are 152 mm, the caliber of the towed system has a degree of less certainty. Selected estimated data follows:

	<u>Self-Propelled</u> 152 mm SP Gun, M1977 (C/REL AUS, CA, UK, FR)	<u>Towed</u> 152 mm (?) Field Gun, M1976 (S/REL AUS, CA, UK)
Range	27 km (or greater)	(Same as SP)
Dimensions		
Length	8.2 meters	12.8 meters
Width	3.2 meters	2.1 meters
Weight	30 tons	10 tons
On-board Ammo	25 rounds	(undetermined)
Max rate of fire	6 rd/min.	5 rd/min
Crew	6	7
Crew Protection	None (open mount)	None

(S/NOFORN/REL AUS, CA, UK/WNINTEL) These two systems have been observed in development since the mid-1970s. The M1977 self-propelled gun was probably deployed within the Soviet Union by mid-1980 and was first observed in the GDR in March 1981. The allocation of this 152 mm SP weapon to units within the GSFG will probably first replace the 130 mm (5.1 inch) towed system in front-level artillery brigades. If, however, the M1977 is nuclear capable it will probably be issued to newly organized separate artillery regiments subordinate to the front-level Chief of Rocket Troop and Artillery.

Comment:

(S/NOFORN/REL AUS, CA, UK/WNINTEL) Except that the SP chassis is probably a variant of the SA-4/GANEF TEL, these two systems are believed to be entirely new including the associated ammunition.

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- References:
1. AST-2660P-222-81, Biweekly S&T Intel Summary, 17 April 1981, pp. 3-10.
 2. DIAWIS 29-81, Weekly Intelligence Summary, 17 July 1981, pp. 1-2.
 3. AST-2660P-228-81, Biweekly S&T Intel Summary, 10 July 1981, pp. 1-4.
 4. DINSUM 64-81, Defense Intelligence Summary, DIADIN 77-1A, 18 March 1981.

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