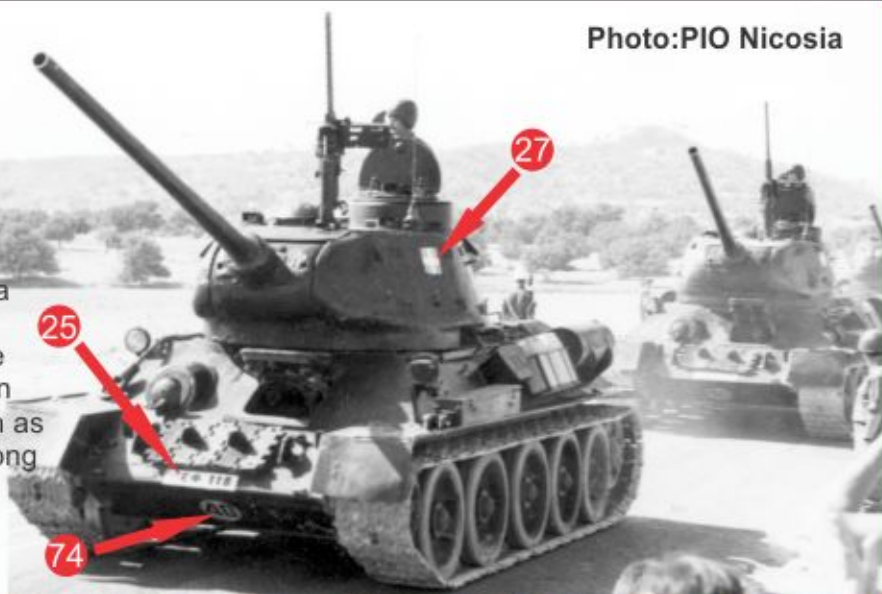


Cyprus National Guard Vehicles 1975 - 2015

Following the 1974 Turkish invasion and the occupation of the northern part of the island by Turkish forces the Cyprus National Guard was left with a portion of its previous, mostly outdated, equipment such as the T-34/85 tank the Marmon Herrington MkIV armoured cars and the BTR-152 APCs, which it continued to use until the country's ruined economy would allow a measure of modernisation. The overall colour continued to be a dark green and local mud was used as temporary camouflage on manoeuvres and operations. In the late 1970s camouflage colours began to appear on some vehicles, mainly sand and sometimes brown as well. Over time all the colours faded under the strong Cyprus sun so there was quite some variation.

Photo:PIO Nicosia



Dk. Green



Photo:PIO Nicosia



Dk. Green Sand

Photo: S. Markides collection



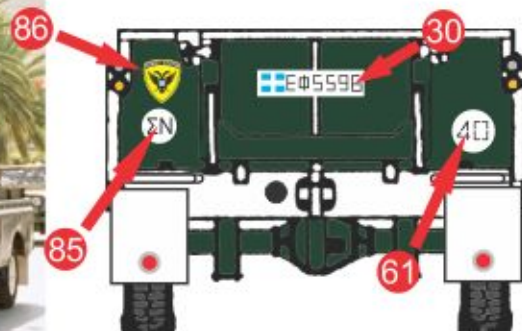
Dk. Green Sand Brown



Dk. Green

Photo:PIO Nicosia

Photo: S. Markides Collection



Military police vehicles had white trim and displayed the military police logo "ΣΤΡΑΤΟΝΟΜΙΑ" and initials "ΣΝ".

Photos: S. Markides



In 1983 a three colour scheme of Sand (close to FS 33695), Brown (close to FS 30252), and Green (close to FS 34098) was adopted for all vehicles. At the same time more modern equipment coming into service such as the VAB APC in 1984 and AMX-30B2 tanks in 1989 were delivered in the new camouflage.

Instead of being painted on, vinyl stickers were used for many vehicle markings and this should be taken into account by modellers. National insignia was applied to all AFVs in the form of a Greek flag on the left side and a Cypriot flag on the right side.

Photo: S. Markides

AMX-30B2



Photo: S. Markides

Rectangular metal plates were fitted to the jerrycan holders on the rear of the AMX-30B2 in order to carry the National Guard badge and the rear number plate.

Photo: S. Markides



NOTE: The central greasing nipples on the road-wheels were highlighted in yellow on both AMX-30B2 and the AMX-30B tanks.

AMX-30B

In 1994 Greece supplied Cyprus with AMX-30B tanks that were being withdrawn from Hellenic Army service. These were finished in the three-colour camouflage but the pattern was not the same as on the AMX-30B2 tanks.



All photos on this page: S. Markides



On the AMX-30B the National Guard badge was carried on a shield shaped metal plate fixed to the jerrycan holder and the rear number plate was applied to the lower engine bay access cover.



In 1994 BMP-3 IFVs entered service finished in the three-colour camouflage. Local mud continued to be used as additional camouflage on operations, usually covering the vehicle's markings and sometimes being used in more creative ways!



In 2002 the National Guard adopted a new four-colour camouflage scheme of Green (close to FS34087), Sand (close to FS 30372), Mid Grey (close to FS 36293) and Light Grey (close to FS 37722). Although similar to the MERDC pattern, it was often simpler utilising wide swathes of the two basic colours (green and sand) bordered by narrow lines of the secondary colours (mid and light grey).

Photo: K. Zantis

Military police vehicles adopted a Green flashing beacon instead of the previously used blue which is used on civilian police vehicles.



NOTE: On Mercedes - ELVO 250GD vehicles the camouflage pattern on the side mirrors that of the other side.



Photo: S. Markides



Photos: S. Markides



Photos: S. Markides



Photos: K. Zantis





Photos: K. Zantis



With the new camouflage scheme came a small change in vehicle number plates. The numbers were prefixed by the Greek flag as before and followed by a miniature Cypriot flag. All other markings remained the same.



BMP-3 Battalions use a system of Chevrons and number to distinguish individual vehicles. The direction of the chevron signifies the Squadron and the number the Troop and vehicle within the troop. So vehicle 11 belongs to the troop leader of the 1st Troop and 23 is the 3rd vehicle in the 2nd troop. The chevron may point to the left, right or upwards. These markings appear on both sides of the turret, on both sides of the hull, on the front and the rear of the vehicle. Markings **52**, **59** and **81** can be combined in various ways to portray different vehicles in different squadrons.



Photos: S. Markides



Photo: S. Markides

After 2002 the AMX-30B2 and AMX-30B tanks were repainted in the new camouflage colours.



Photo: K. Zantis

On some AMX-30B2 tanks stencilled markings depicting animal heads have been seen in various positions around the turret.



Markings 19, 37, 71 and 92 can be used for the tank with the tiger's head.



Markings 13, 39, 46 and 63 can be used for this tank.

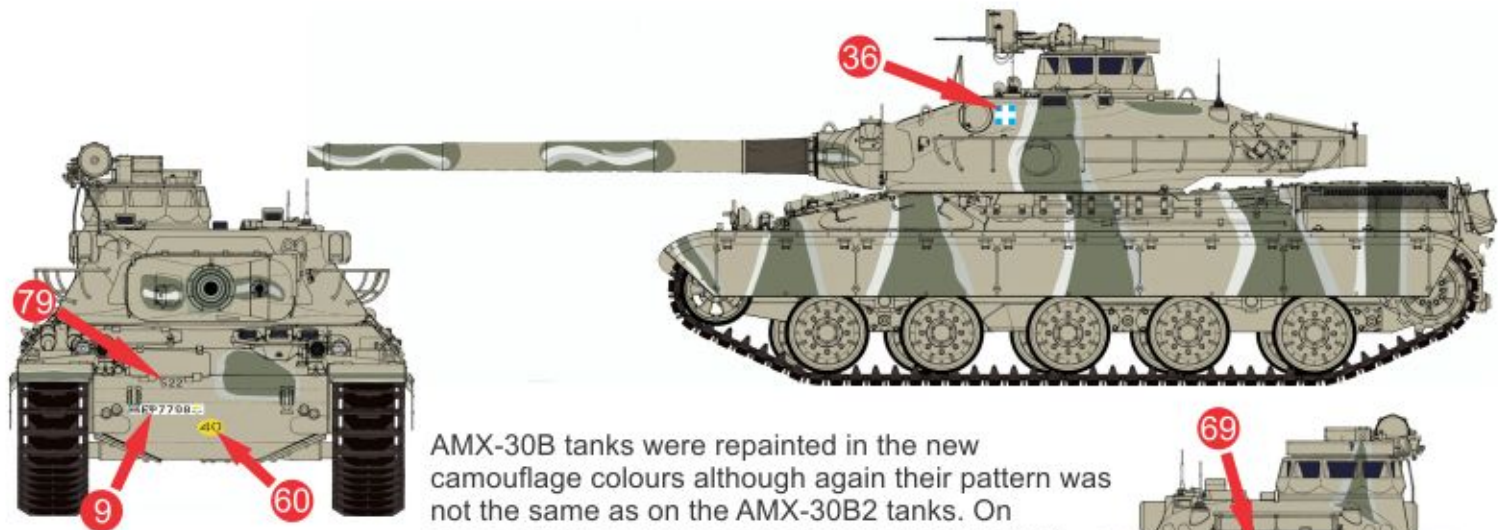


Markings 11, 32, 41, 42 and 77 can be used for the tank with the wolf's head.

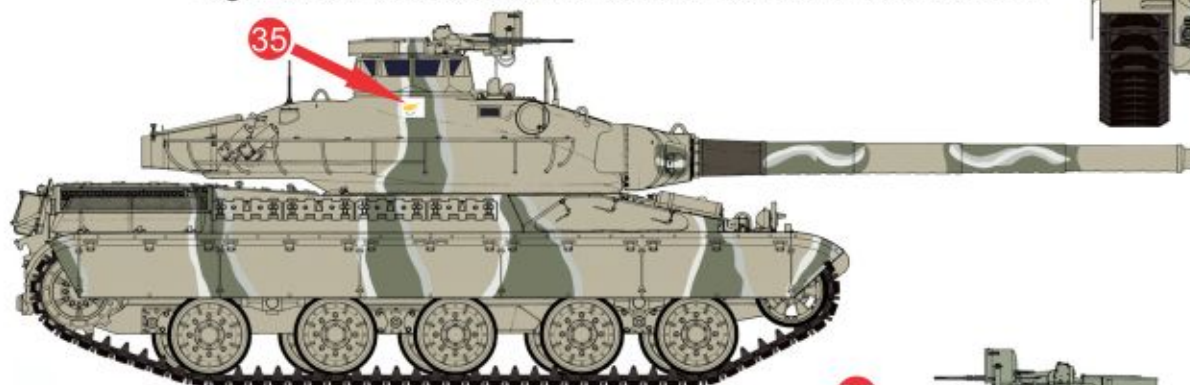
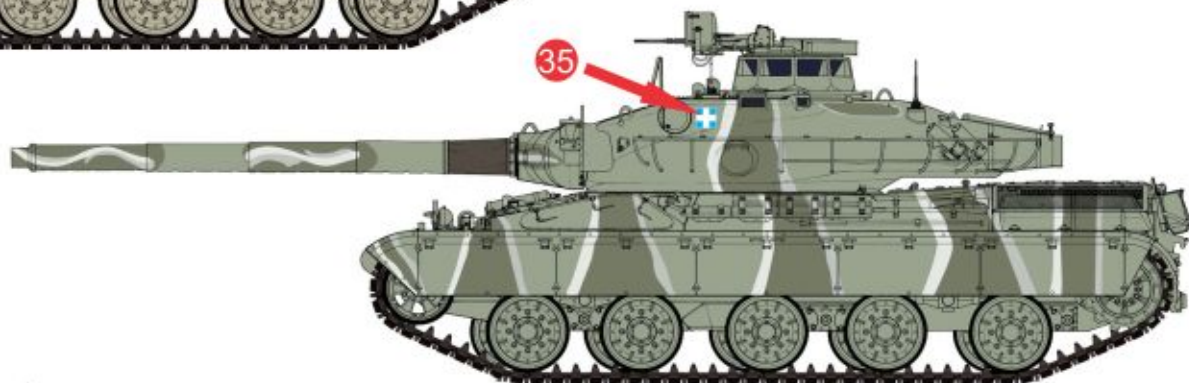
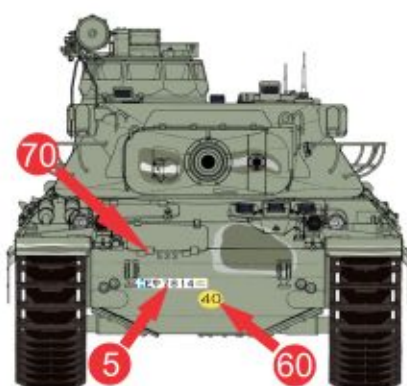


Markings 26, 31, 41, 42, 76 and 88 can be used for the tank with the panther's head.

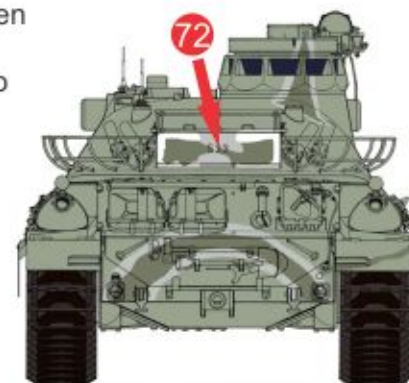




AMX-30B tanks were repainted in the new camouflage colours although again their pattern was not the same as on the AMX-30B2 tanks. On some a light grey green shade was used instead of the sand colour. Their national insignia was also closer to a square than a rectangle. Many of these tanks had a black three-digit number stencilled on the nose and the rear of the turret bin.

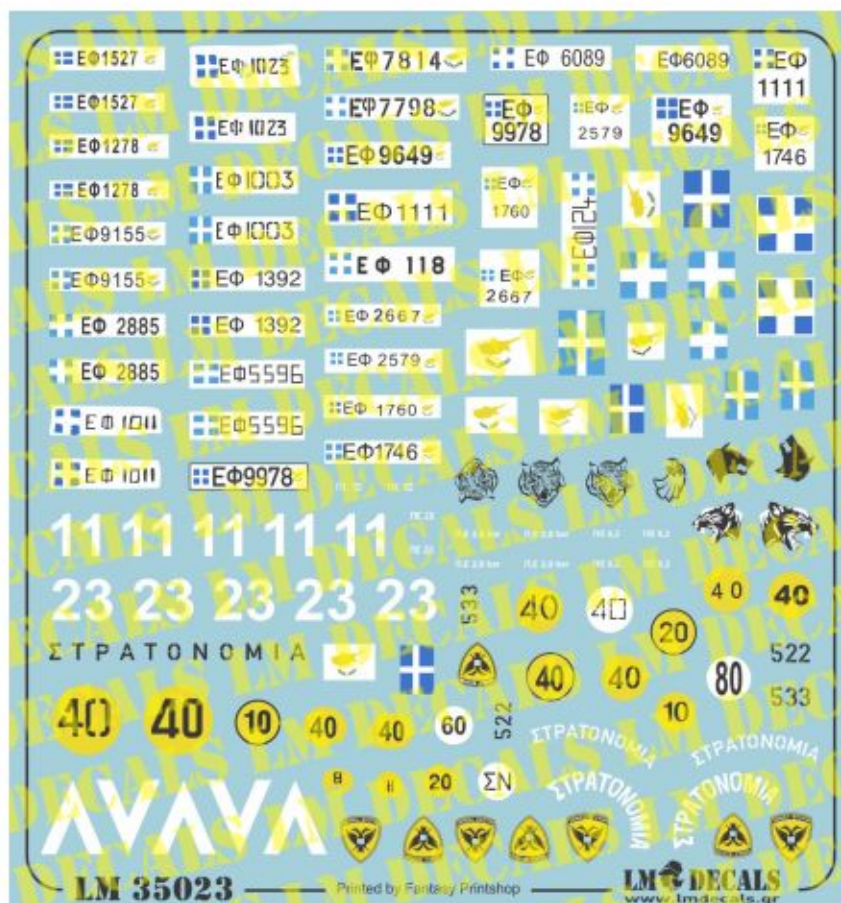


The new style of number plate was wider than the old one and seems to not have been applied to the tanks' rear as the position of the previous rear number plate was now too narrow for the new style.



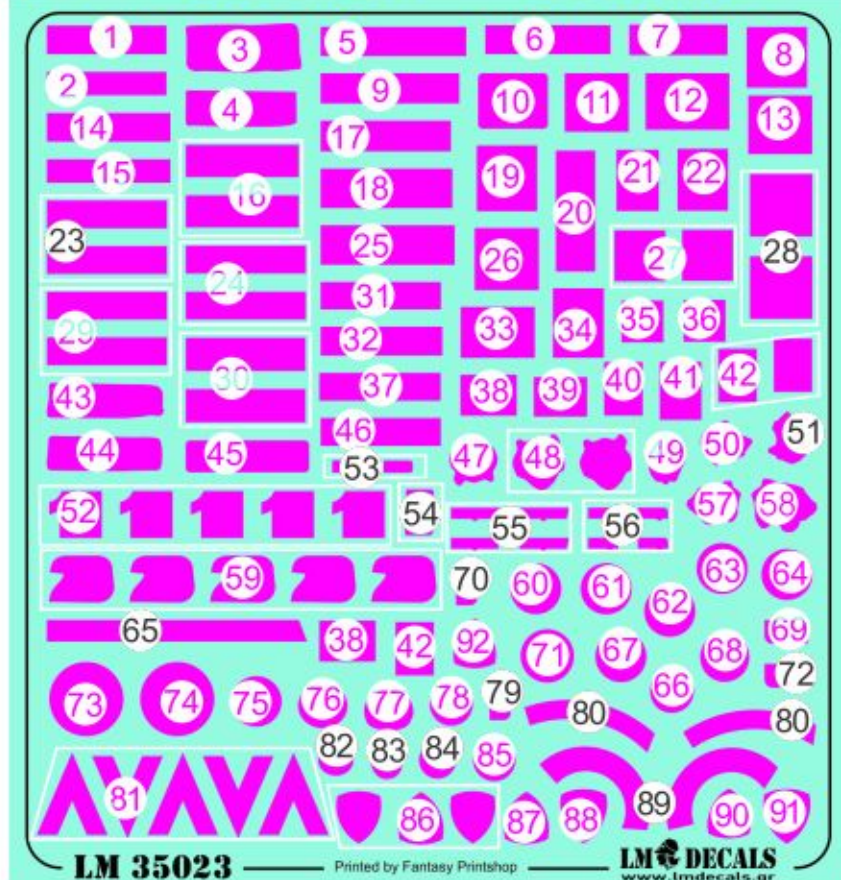
Cyprus National Guard Vehicles 1976 - 2015

LM35023



ATTENTION!

This symbol indicates that alternative markings are applicable in this position **OR** that the same marking is applicable to more than one colour scheme.



NOTE: The brass St. Barbara icon marking used on the BM-21 and all National Guard artillery pieces is available in set LM 350022.

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