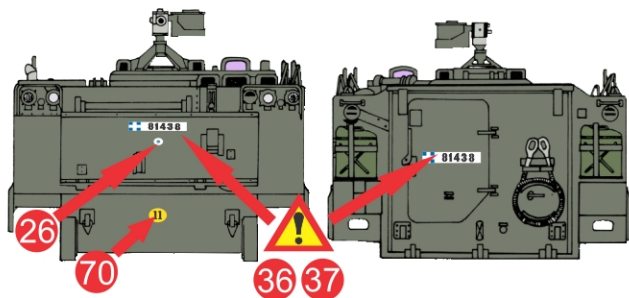


# Modern Hellenic Army AFVs



When the M113 and M106 first entered service with the Hellenic army they were finished in overall olive drab.

Marking **26** indicated the presence of anti-freeze in the vehicle's radiator so it was not always present.

**Note:** Decal **37** is for an M106 Mortar carrier.

In the early 1970s the Hellenic Army experimented with a number of schemes among which was this splinter pattern which saw limited use in Northern Greece. It was applied to the M113APC, M106 Mortar Carrier and M113 armoured ambulance.

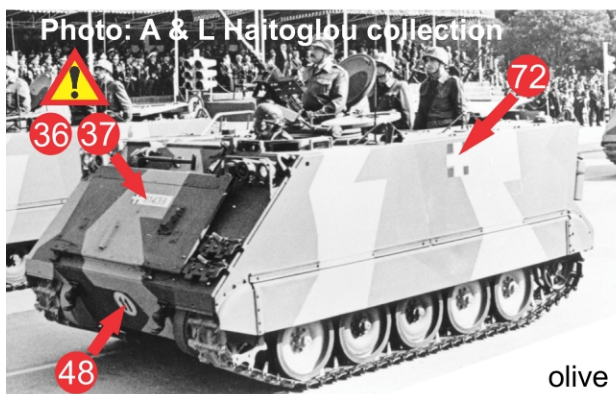
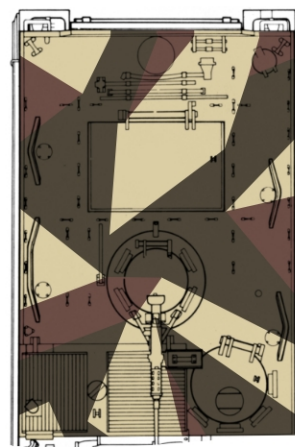
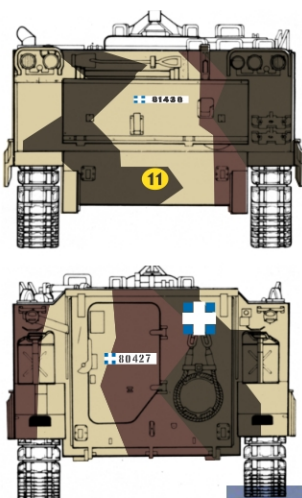
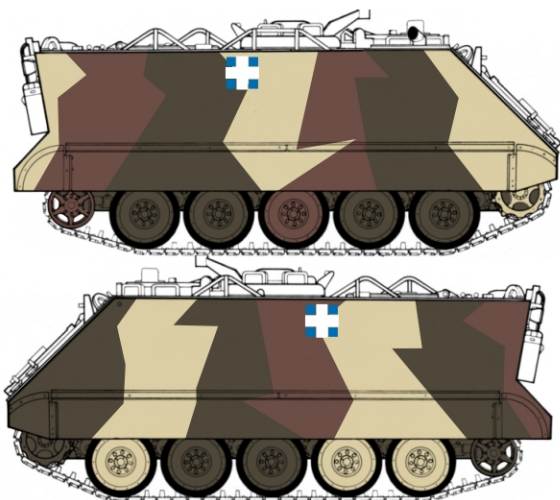


Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection

The exact colours of this scheme are not sure as there is only one rather faded photograph in an old magazine available as a guide. It is believed that the green shade is the vehicle's olive drab base colour. Research indicates that the brown colour was a rather dark chocolate shade. The top view pattern is not exact as a clear top view is not available.



Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



**Note:** The jerry cans carried on these vehicles were painted to conform to the camouflage pattern.

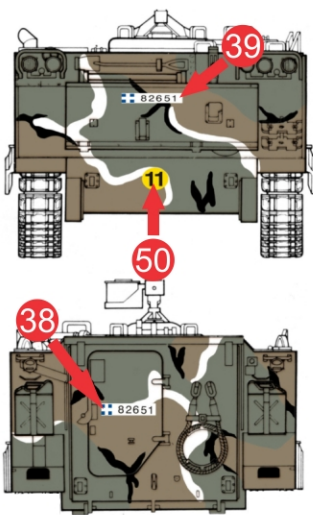
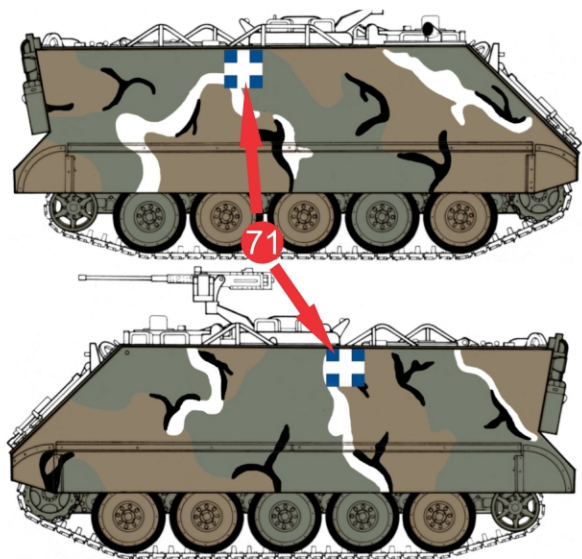
In 1976 the Hellenic army adopted a four colour camouflage scheme based on the American MERDC patterns. This is still used today. At the same time a square form of the national insignia was adopted for all AFVs. This was applied to both sides of the vehicle

**Note:** The number plate on the rear of the TFH vehicle was applied to the crew door in the standard position as shown in the plan above. The decal to use is **61**

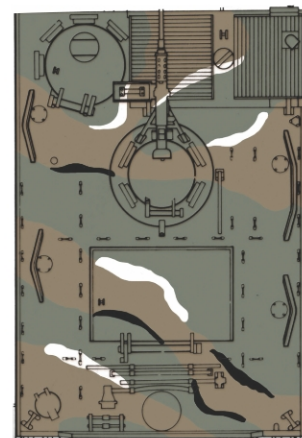


Photo: NATO AFSOUTH





This M113 has the standard MERDC camouflage pattern but carries slightly oversize national insignia. It was photographed in the 2006 25th March Independence Day parade in Athens. All the markings were vinyl stickers. This practice is now



quite common. Vinyl stickers are not matt like the vehicle's paint but have a slight sheen. In order to replicate this, the modeller should not attempt to hide the decals' sheen.

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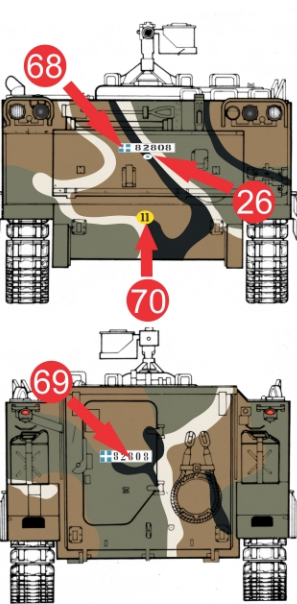
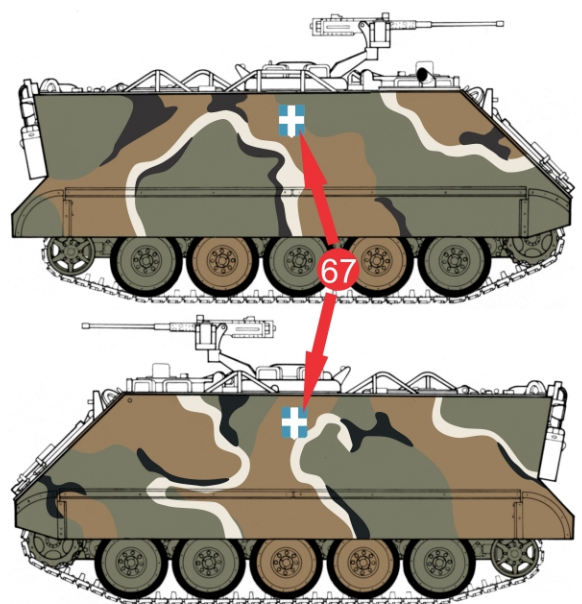
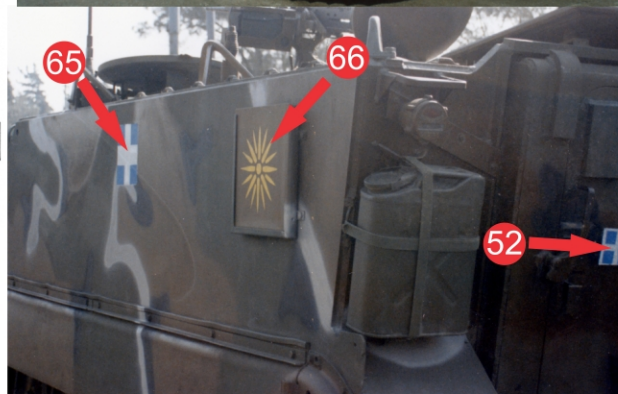


Photo: T. Metsovitis



The first Leopard type to enter service with the Hellenic Army in 1983 was the Leopard 1GR. These tanks were delivered in a factory applied four-colour Hellenic Army camouflage scheme based on the American MERDC camouflage scheme. The actual shades of the factory applied colours were quite different to the shades usually used by the Hellenic Army and the pattern was identical on all tanks. The brown was distinctly chocolate and the green had a grey tinge. These tanks retained their factory applied scheme for quite a few years, before being repainted in more "Greek"

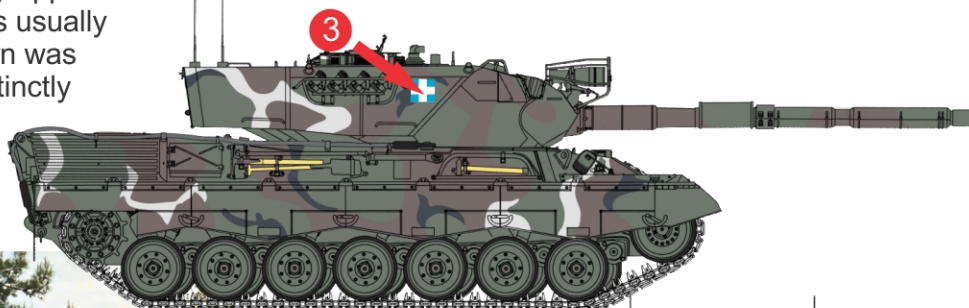


Photo: T. Metsovitis

shades. The Greek colours are equivalent to FS37038 (black), FS34079 (forest green), FS 30118 (field drab and FS30277 (sand). The position of all the markings was identical on all tanks, as seen on the photo to the left.

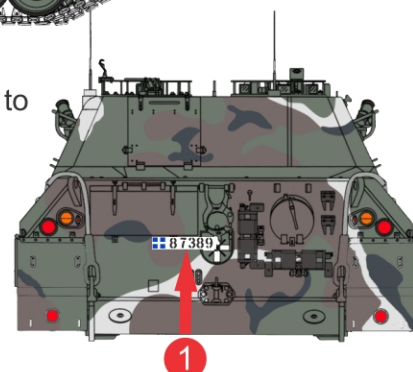






Photo: D. Lambaditis

The national markings on the tanks in the 25th March 1992 parade were darker than previous years.



Photo: D. Lambaditis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

The second Leopard type to enter service was the Leopard 1V in 1992. These were ex-Netherlands Army tanks and arrived in their Dutch dark green colour scheme, which they retained for a few years and Dutch markings. All Dutch national markings and number plates were painted over leaving a patchy finish, but some unit markings remained. The Dutch green finish was heavily stained and presented a multitude of different shades on various surfaces. Later these tanks were fitted with Pearson mine ploughs and also repainted in the Greek four-colour camouflage. The rear number plate on the

Leopard 1V was under the stowage box.

The circular Dutch marking depicting a dog's head appeared on the mantlet of many Leopard 1Vs.



Photo: T. Tsiplakos

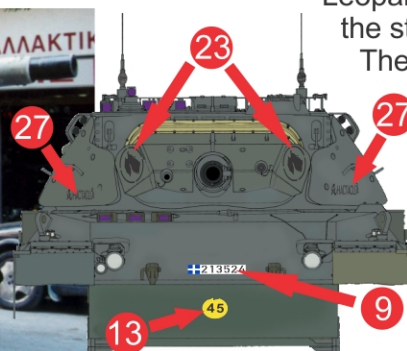


Photo: T. Metsovitis

Along with the Leopard 1V the Hellenic Army received two unique prototype tanks. These were two Leopard 1Vs fitted with the EMES 18 fire control system like the German Leopard 1A5. The redundant cast thermal imaging protective collar was removed and replaced with a circular

welded cover with a new rotating periscope for the loader. These two tanks had stowage boxes on the hull sides just like the 1V. The Dutch smoke launchers were removed. Originally these tanks were delivered in the standard NATO three-colour camouflage and received Hellenic Army markings. Later they were repainted in the Greek four-colour camouflage as seen here. The rear number plate on these tanks was again under the stowage box.



Photo: D. Lambaditis

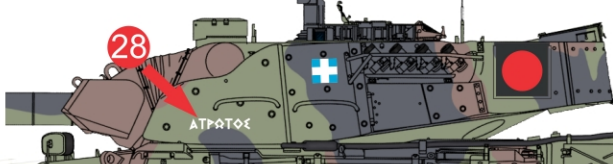




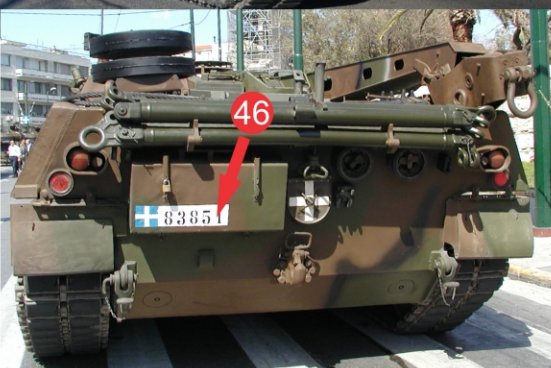
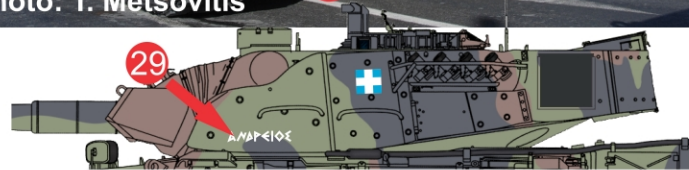
The Leopard 1A5 was the final type to enter service in 1993. All Leopard 1A5s were from Bundeswehr stocks and originally in the standard NATO three-colour camouflage, which they kept for some time, and they all received Hellenic Army markings. The three NATO colours were Bronze Green (Bronzegrün - RAL 6031), Black (Teerschwarz - RAL 9021) and Brown (Lederbraun - RAL 8027). Gradually all tanks were repainted in Greek colours when overhauled.



Some tanks had names applied to the turret in "ancient Greek" script. It is not certain if the name was also applied to other side of the turret and their numbers are not known.



**NOTE:** For the coloured tactical signs carried by Hellenic Army tanks see set LM87001.



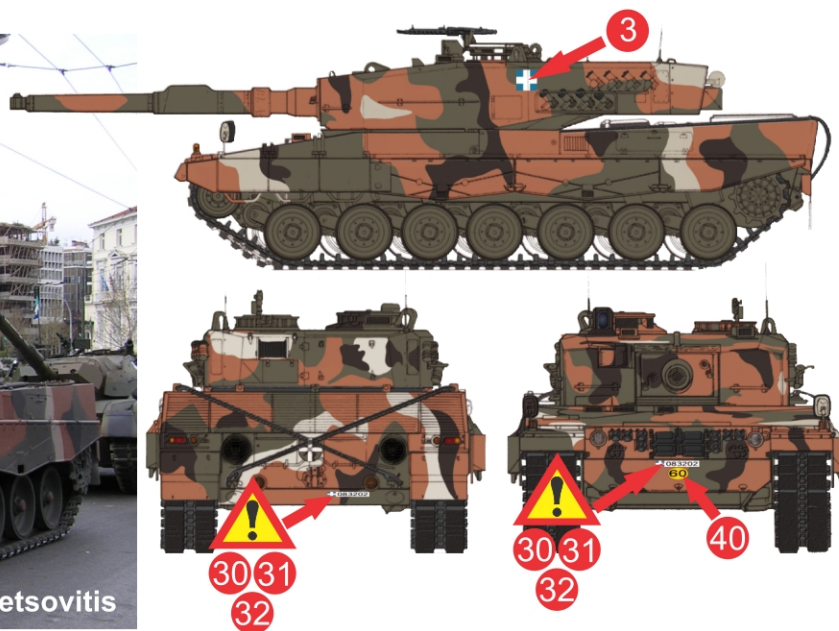
The Leopard 1 tanks are supported by the Bergepanzer Standard Leopard 1 ARV.

Photos: G. Papadimitriou





The Leopard 2A4 entered service with the Hellenic Army in 2005 making its first public appearance in the 28th October parade of that year in Salonika. In total 182 tanks were delivered. These came from the 2nd to 5th production batches (Baulos) and were finished in a four colour MERDC type camouflage scheme. The colours that were used had anti-IR properties and were not standard RAL ones. They also differed from the shades in use by the Hellenic army. The camouflage pattern was standard on all tanks but not entirely identical.



**Note:** Markings 45 and 46 should be used with marking 35. Markings 30, 31 and 32 should be used with marking 40.



Tactical sign holders for use on manoeuvres have recently been added to Leopard 2A4 tanks. Markings for these panels can be found in set LM 87001.

Photos: Hell. Army







Photo: T. Metsovitis

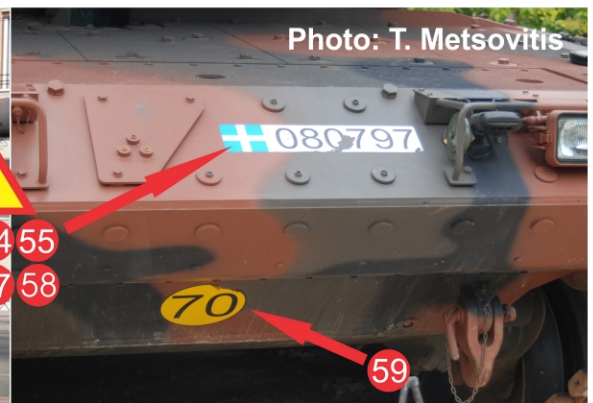


Photo: T. Metsovitis

The Leopard 2HEL made its first public appearance in the 25th March 2008 Independence Day parade in Athens. The camouflage colours were the same as the Leopard 2A4 and were factory applied to a standard pattern. The number plates, national insignia and bridge class markings are vinyl stickers that may tear and peel over time. The greasing nipples in the wheel centres are painted red.



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

Leopard 2 tanks are supported by the Bergepanzer 3 Büffel Armoured Recovery Vehicle. The camouflage colours are the same as for the Leopard 2A4 tanks and the pattern is standard on all vehicles but not entirely identical.

**Note:** Marking 73 appears on both sides of the hook assembly.



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photos: Hell. Army



Photo: T. Metsovitis





