

Hellenic Army tactical markings

Most Hellenic army armoured vehicles carry a tactical plate holder on both sides. This is a square frame which holds four 40 cm x 40 cm metal plates that slide in from the top and are interchangeable so as to display the required one.



These plates carry three shapes, a square, a triangle and a circle in two colours, orange and magenta. The background colour is very dark olive, almost black.

There are also two blank surfaces for when no tactical sign is required to be displayed. These tactical signs are displayed during exercises to designate "friendly" and "enemy" forces depending on the colour displayed. The shapes differentiate formations or units.

The use of this device began around 1994 and it can be seen on almost all AFV types apart from the Leopard 2. It has also been seen on M113 family vehicles, the BMP-1, the VBL armoured car, M109 family self propelled guns and their FDC vehicles. It has also been seen on a few soft-skin vehicles such as Hummers and Mercedes 240GD field cars. It is placed as close as possible to the vertical. The frame is fixed to the vehicle in different ways depending on the vehicles configuration. The location of the tactical sign holder on various vehicles is shown in the following photographs and profiles. Its location and method of support is not always exactly the same even on vehicles of the same type.



Any shape or colour can be used on a vehicle, provided the same sign appears on both sides of the vehicle.

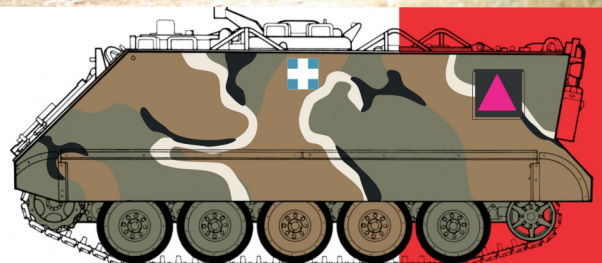




Photo: T. Metsovitis

LEOPARD GR1



Photo: T. Metsovitis

NOTE: on some vehicle types a coloured tactical sign, that is not in use at that time, may be visible on the **rear** of the holder. For example this can be visible from the inside of the turret stowage basket of an M60A1 or M60A3 tank, and also on the BMP-1 IFV because the tactical sign holder projects above the vehicle's hull.



Photo: S. Soulis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

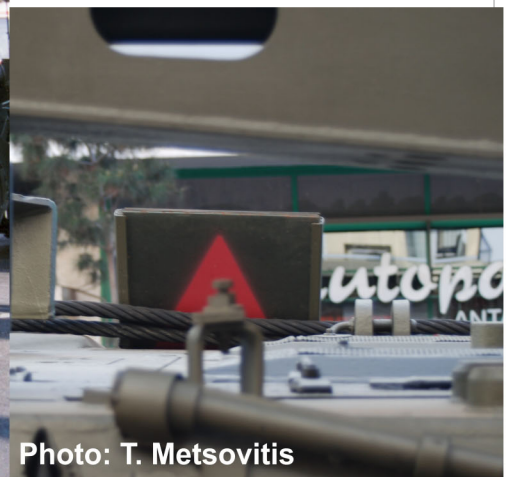


Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

LEOPARD 1A5



Photo: T. Metsovitis

M88A1G



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

VBL SERIES



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

M-114GR



Photo: S. Soulis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

PZH 2000



Photo: S. Soulis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

M109 SERIES



Photo: S. Soulis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

FDC

MERCEDES 240GD



Photo: T. Metsovitis

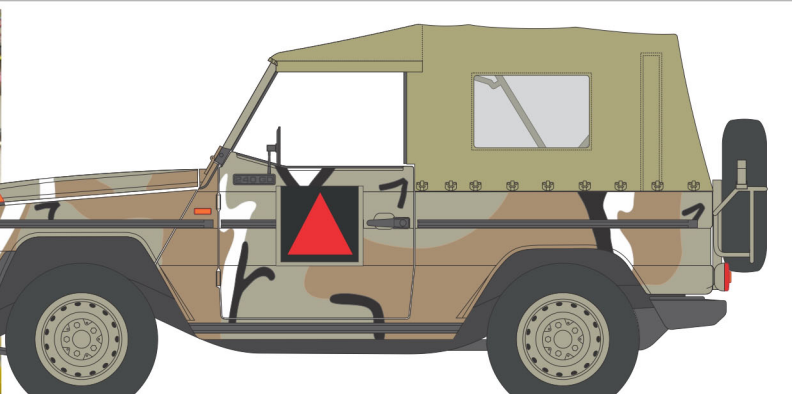


Photo: S. Konstantineas



MERCEDES 290 GD

Photo: S. Soulis

The frame fitted to Mercedes field cars is of lighter construction than that fitted to AFVs and it is possible that only the plate being used is actually carried in the frame.

The Bergepanzer Standard Leopard 1 is unique because it seems to carry a tactical plate holder on the side of the boom, with no such fitting on the other side of the vehicle.

BERGEPANZER LEOPARD 1 STANDARD



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

The Leopard IV and GR1 tanks fitted with the Pearson mine plough system have the tactical sign holder in the same positions as the respective main battle tanks.



Photo: T. Metsovitis

PIONIERPANZER LEOPARD 1



Photo: T. Metsovitis



M901



M106

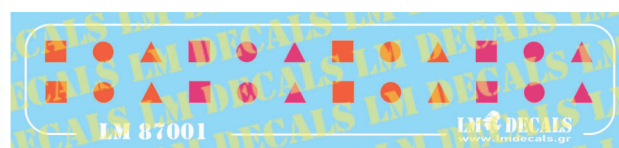


M-1097A2



Hellenic Army tactical markings

LM35010
LM72008
LM87001



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