



Russian Army Starts Receiving Kamaz Trucks with Armored Compartments

OE Watch Commentary: The “Kamaz Мыстанг (Mustang) 5350” is a workhorse in the Russian ground forces. It is widely used in maintenance and supply units and as the mount for the Pantsir air defense gun and missile system. An armored cab is one of the options for the Kamaz 5350. As the accompanying article from *Izvestia* discusses, another option has now been added. An armored compartment can now protect the contents of the truck bed from IEDs and small arms attack-and jam IED electronic triggers. According to *Izvestia*, the first compartmented trucks are going to reconnaissance and Spetsnaz forces in the Southern Military District for use in desert and mountain terrain. It will initially be a troop carrier. The article does not mention another use for the armored trucks.

During the heavy city-fighting in Grozny during the First Russo-Chechen War of the last century, the Russians were often unable to resupply forces in contact, refuel vehicles and evacuate wounded since their standard trucks could not survive the drive in and out of the city. Troops drank contaminated water and entire units became ill. Wounded soldiers died for lack of proper treatment. Psychiatric trauma mounted. Armored fighting vehicles were pulled out of fighting to perform resupply and medical evacuation missions when possible. A Russian lesson-learned was that urban combat required armored trucks and armored ambulances. As the Russian Ground Forces receive more compartmented Kamaz 5350s, their urban combat potential should increase. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

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Compendium of Central Asian Military and Security Activity

By Matthew Stein

Since Central Asian states gained independence in 1991, new regional military and security alliances have been created (some of which are Russian-led), new military partnerships with non-NATO countries have been established, a number of joint military exercises have been conducted, over a dozen high-profile incidents of violence and civil unrest have taken place, and military installations have been used by foreign militaries. While this activity gained attention, it has not been collectively compiled. A compilation of this activity can serve as a guide for current and future military and security involvement in Central Asia.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fms0/m/fms0-monographs/194880>





Continued: Russian Army Starts Receiving Kamaz Trucks with Armored Compartments

Source: Aleksey Ramm, Anton Lavrov and Bogdan Stepovoy, "Compartmented vehicles: Reconnaissance forces and Spetsnaz receive armored trucks," *Izvestia*, 17 June 2020. <https://iz.ru/1024339/aleksei-ramm-anton-lavrov-bogdan-stepovoi/kapsulnye-mashiny-razvedchiki-i-spetcnazovtcy-poluchat-bronegruzoviki>

Compartmented vehicles: Reconnaissance forces and Spetsnaz receive armored trucks

Armored compartmented vehicles are being returned to service. Kamaz trucks, with crew compartments installed on the body protect soldiers from bullets, fragments, and mines. Also, they will be equipped with electronic warfare systems, which make it possible to suppress cellular communications and jam UAVs. The army had already purchased such-equipped Kamaz trucks in the beginning of the 2010's, but later they were replaced by Tayfun vehicles. Modern armored compartmented vehicles have better off-road capabilities, experts noted. A decision was made to supply these vehicles to special-purpose detachments and reconnaissance subunits, which will be operating in the mountains and deserts.

The critical decision on delivery of Kamaz-5350 trucks with armored compartments has already been made. Thirteen multi-purpose vehicles have arrived in the Southern Military District, including the first Kamaz trucks with multifunctional MM501 modules -- the army designation for special protection modules. They will enter the inventory of reconnaissance battalions and special-purpose brigades, according to sources in the Defense Ministry.

The vehicles will augment special-purpose detachments and reconnaissance subunits operating in the mountains and mountain-desert terrain. Armored compartments are better off-road in this terrain, and their performance characteristics are higher. The Tayfun series armored vehicles will continue to be the workhorse for the rest of the reconnaissance and Spetsnaz servicemen.

The modules will be equipped with electronic combat systems. They can jam cellular communications -- as a rule, telephone signals are used to remote detonate land mines. Also, they can jam UAVs and conventional radio stations.

Vehicles with armored compartments are needed to transport personnel to combat location where an attack land mines and small arms can be expected at any moment. This is often the situation in Syria, according to military expert Aleksey Khlopotov. ...

In addition, the Kamaz vehicles with armored compartments have gained the reputation of a workhorse in the army -- it is a simple and effective machine. It is easily mastered by personnel and is maintenance friendly, because it is not very different from a civilian truck. Last but not least, they are repairable and have a long service life. They can be used to deliver servicemen (including reconnaissance personnel) or cargo to the forward edge. The Tigr light armored vehicle is best suited for operations in the enemy rear."

Improvised armored compartments were mounted on domestic army trucks during the first campaign in Chechnya. This equipment gained a great deal of popularity in the Combined Troop Grouping in the North Caucasus during the second campaign. It was used especially often in military police companies. Armored vehicles were used to transport personnel and to convoy columns. Sometimes they were additionally equipped with machine guns.

Ten years ago, the Army purchased Kamaz vehicles with armored compartments. Then, deliveries of Tayfun-U and Tayfun-K specialized armored vehicles began. They were supplied to mountain riflemen, Spetsnaz brigades, reconnaissance subunits, and military police. Mainly this equipment was supplied to the Southern and Central military districts.

...The off-road Kamaz-5350 weighs 17 tons. The armored module is fitted with special suspended seats, which help mitigate the effects of a blast wave in case if the vehicle is exposed to an explosion. The compartment is also equipped with independent heaters and air filtration units. If necessary, air conditioning can be installed in it. This will allow the personnel to be transported comfortably both at low and high temperatures. Swinging doors are located in the rear of the module for loading and rapid landing.

There are two round hatches on the roof -- they improve observation when on the move, and also serve as emergency exits in the event that the vehicle is exposed to an explosion. Apertures are equipped with gun slits -- three on each side. There are two more gun slits cut in the rear doors of the compartment. They allow soldiers to conduct fire from small arms while on the move or halted.

The armored compartment provides all-round protection of personnel and internal equipment located in the cab from 7.62-mm bullets of the SVD sniper rifle and similar caliber Kalashnikov assault rifle. It is impossible to penetrate its walls even from a distance of 5-10 meters.

Inside is a "cab-module" communication device and weapons brackets. If necessary, the compartment can be quickly removed from the truck's frame, which makes it possible to use it as a stationary checkpoint. From above, the capsule can be covered with a tarp, after which the armored truck can hardly be distinguished from a common one.

The cabs of these vehicles are designed for three people. It can be manufactured in two versions -- with or without a bunk. The windshield as well as the door glass are made of multilayer special bulletproof glass. They are also equipped with gun slits, which enable the driver and the accompanying officers to conduct fire from light small arms. The roof is fitted with an armored emergency hatch.

The battery, fuel tanks, and main assemblies are protected from high-explosive impact and fragments. These vehicles can also be used to tow artillery. In total, this Kamaz can carry 17 servicemen: three in the cab and 14 in the armored compartment.