



New Arctic T-80BVM Tanks Get Workout

OE Watch Commentary: The T-80BVM has a gas-turbine engine that makes it optimum for starting at -40°. It is faster than other Russian tanks, has excellent cross-country capability but it is expensive, high-maintenance and hardly fuel efficient. It does not perform well in mountainous dusty terrain, but is the premier tank for Arctic conditions. It made its official Northern Fleet debut in the 7 November 2019 Military Parade in Murmansk. As the accompanying article discusses, the tank is now in the hands of troops conducting company-level training. Will it be involved in amphibious landings during this year's summer training? **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

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Source: Unattributed, “Russian Northern Fleet motor rifle troops employ upgraded T-80BVM tanks in drills,” *Tass*, 6 April 2020. <https://tass.com/defense/1140825>

Russian Northern Fleet motor rifle troops employ upgraded T-80BVM tanks in drills

The Northern Fleet’s motorized rifle brigade held company-level tactical drills during troops’ qualification checks after the winter training period, involving over 100 weapons systems, including the upgraded T-80BVM tanks...

“Company-level tactical drills were held in the Pechengsky district of the Murmansk Region. Aside from the personnel of motorized infantry units, the drills involved more than 100 items of combat hardware: MTLB multi-purpose light-armored prime movers and T-80BVM tanks,” according to a press office statement. During the drills, the motorized rifle troops practiced going on high alert and conducted a march to the designated areas, repelling attacks by enemy subversive groups and overcoming notionally contaminated terrain...

“At the training ground, the troops practiced small arms, combat vehicle, artillery, mortars and grenade launcher fires against targets that simulated the enemy’s armored vehicles at distances of 100 to 3,000 meters and conducted fire against low-flying air targets.” The drills assessed the troops’ readiness to accomplish gunnery, tactical, engineering and special training exercises within the required time limits, and also the tactical skills of commanders in a battle. Special attention was paid to troops’ cohesion in defense and a counter-attack, camouflaging and terrain reconnaissance...

The T-80BVM is the Russian upgraded version of the T-80BV tank. The upgraded tanks arrived at the Northern Fleet’s motor rifle brigade in 2019. The T-80BVM tank features a multi-channel gunner sight, a 125mm 2A46M1 gun, a 12.7mm NSVT anti-aircraft and a 7.62mm PKT coaxial machine-gun. The ammunition load includes the 9K119 Refleks missile system. The tank is equipped with a weapon stabilizer and a vision device for the mechanic/driver. The T-80BVM is outfitted with an upgraded GTD-1250TF gas turbine engine with a 1,250 horsepower capacity. The tank can develop a maximum speed of 70 km/h and has a fuel capacity for 500 kilometers. T-80BVM tanks feature improved maneuverability and mobility and are outfitted with new devices that enhance their combat efficiency, the level of protection and reliability in extreme conditions. The new engine improves the tank’s performance characteristics, especially in harsh Arctic conditions.