



## Russian Capabilities in Tajikistan

**OE Watch Commentary:** The Russian 201st Motorized Rifle Division based in Tajikistan has undergone several notable changes in recent years, including the addition of S-300 air defense systems and unmanned aerial systems in 2019. The accompanying excerpted articles report on how the 201st MRD recently carried out three exercises in as many weeks and it provides a reminder of what capabilities are in place.

The articles are from *Asia Plus*, a website with news from Tajikistan, and the first one reports on a “tactical exercise of a mountain motorized rifle unit” in early August that involved “Orlan-10 unmanned aerial systems” being used to “carry out artillery strikes on targets as well as to gather intelligence.” The article also notes that around 500 soldiers participated in the exercise (500 soldiers also took part in the other exercises).

The second article reports on another tactical exercise in late August that focused on an effort “to repulse an attack from a conditional enemy against military infrastructure.” The article also mentions how the exercise “utilized multifunctional radios of the Azart system.” The third article reports on the exercise in early September, which used Grad multiple rocket launcher and the Orlan-10 UAV and worked through a scenario of eliminating “a hidden camp of a conditional enemy.” The article also notes how “full sized targets were used, imitating men and equipment of a conditional enemy.” The article also mentions that “according to the agreement signed in October 2012, (the 201st military base) will be in Tajikistan until 2042.”

Overall, the exercises of units of the Russian 201st are similar to various exercises they carry out in a given year, though the use of the Orlan-10 UAVs and Azart radio systems is notable. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**



Orlan-10.

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Orlan-10\\_\(2\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Orlan-10_(2).jpg), CC BY YA 4.0

***“A total of about 500 soldiers from motorized rifle, reconnaissance and artillery units were involved in the one day exercise, which took place at the Sambuli training facility”***

**Source:** “Активная фаза тактического учения российских мотострелков состоялась в Таджикистане (The active phase of the tactical exercise of a Russian motorized rifle unit was held in Tajikistan),” *Asia Plus*, 11 August 2020. <https://www.asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/security/20200811/aktivnaya-faza-takticheskogo-ucheniya-rossiiskih-motostrelkov-sostoyalas-v-tadzhikistane>

*At the Lyaur training facility of the Russian 201st military base in Tajikistan, the active phase of a tactical exercise of a mountain motorized rifle unit took place...*

*During the changing situation of the maneuvers, the motorized rifle units, with support from T-72 tanks, finished offensive and defensive tasks...*

*Orlan-10 unmanned aerial systems were used to carry out artillery strikes on targets as well as to gather intelligence...more than 500 soldiers and around 100 pieces of military and special equipment were involved in the exercise.*

**Source:** “Российские военнослужащие в Таджикистане защитили военные объекты от условных боевиков (Russian soldiers in Tajikistan protected military objects from the conditional enemy),” *Asia Plus*, 26 August 2020. <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/security/20200826/rossiiskie-voennosluzhatshie-v-tadzhikistane-zatshitili-voennye-obekti-ot-uslovnih-boevikov>

*Russian soldiers of the 201st military base in Tajikistan have worked out tactics to repulse an attack from a conditional enemy against military infrastructure...*

*...the soldiers worked out several tactical situations, including a clash in a village, maneuverable defense, and a reconnaissance-strike in coordination with self-propelled artillery...commanders utilized multifunctional radios of the Azart system...about 500 soldiers and 50 pieces of equipment were involved in the one day exercise.*

**Source:** “Российские «Грады» уничтожили цели на учениях в горах Таджикистана (Russian “Grads” eliminated the targets at an exercise in the mountains of Tajikistan),” *Asia Plus*, 2 September 2020. <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/security/20200902/rossiiskie-grady-unichtozhili-tseli-na-uchenyah-v-gorah-tadzhikistana>

*Grad multiple rocket launcher systems of the Russian 201st military base, with the support of unmanned aircraft, eliminated targets at an exercise in the mountains of Tajikistan.*

*According to the scenario of the exercise, the crews of “Orlan-10” unmanned aerial vehicles discovered a hidden camp of a conditional enemy. Artillery units, having received the coordinates of the target in the mountains, carried out a strike on the enemy...full sized targets were used, imitating men and equipment of a conditional enemy.*

*A total of about 500 soldiers from motorized rifle, reconnaissance and artillery units were involved in the one day exercise, which took place at the Sambuli training facility...According to the agreement signed in October 2012, (the 201st military base) will be in Tajikistan until 2042.*