



Potential Equipping of Russian Naval Infantry with the BMP-3F

OE Watch Commentary: The sea-worthy BMP-3F infantry fighting vehicle was developed at least ten years ago, but Indonesia was the only country using it. The Russian Naval Infantry has been using BTR-82 armored troop carriers, which lack in armor and firepower compared to the BMP-3F. The Russian Navy has lacked an “over-the-horizon” amphibious capability. The BMP-3F provides that capability and is especially designed for amphibious landings. According to the excerpted article, Russia has improved its seaworthiness and buoyancy. The BMP-3F can fire accurately at Beaufort Sea Force 2 and function up to Sea Force 3. Reportedly, it can endure sustained amphibious operations for up to seven hours. According to the source, the BMP-3F lacks the self-entrenching capability of most Russian combat vehicles, but their job is carry naval infantry to shore and fight anything they meet underway and on shore. The article also discusses the Russian BT-3F tracked, armored troop carrier. It has the same amphibious and land movement characteristics as the BMP-3F, but lacks the heavily armed BMP-3F turret. It has a three-man crew and can carry 14 dismounts. It can mount a machine gun or automatic grenade launcher. Indonesia seems enthusiastic about their BMP-3F and BT-F3 amphibious vehicles and according to this report, the Russian Naval Infantry is near “final decision” regarding replacing their BTR-80 series vehicles with these. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**



BMP-3F.

Source: Vitaly Kuzmin, <https://www.vitalykuzmin.net/Military/ARMY-2020-Static-part-1/i-t4ZKsph#>

“The BMP-3F will appear on the Caspian coast during the course of the Kavkaz-2020 Exercises. The final decision on reequipping the Naval Infantry (MP) brigades with the new armored vehicles will be made based upon the results of these maneuvers.”

Source: “Rush with the wave: Naval Infantry will get new armored vehicle”, *Izvestia*, 22 September 2020. <https://iz.ru/1063543/roman-kretcul-anton-lavrov/nakhlynut-s-volnoi-morpekhi-poluchat-novye-boevye-mashiny>

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The BMP-3F - is the “naval” modification of the most state-of-the-art BMP-3 armored infantry vehicle that have been accepted into the inventory. It differs from the basic version by its enhanced buoyancy. The vehicle is equipped with a light-weight splash guard, a telescoping air intake snorkel, and additional splash guards on the turret. It can move through ... waves of ... up to one meter in height, and it is capable of conducting aimed fire in waves of up to half a meter in height. Maximum speed along a paved road is 70 kilometers per hour, and afloat - up to 10 kilometers per hour. The vehicle can be continuously swim under power ... for up to seven hours.

The armored vehicle carries an impressive arsenal - a 2A40 100-millimeter gun, which also serves as an Antitank Guided Missile launcher, a 2A42 30-millimeter automatic cannon, and three 7.62-millimeter machineguns: two hull machineguns and one paired with the main gun.

Of all of the armored vehicles, in which motorized riflemen, airborne troops, and naval infantrymen operate, the BMP-3 has the strongest armor. It withstands a hit of a 30-millimeter projectile in the forward compartment. The side armor is capable of defending the assault force from bullets and shrapnel....

Two years ago, the Ministry of Defense decided to reinforce the Naval Infantry brigades with tanks. However, it is impossible to employ the tanks in the first phase of an amphibious assault operation against a defending enemy. According to military expert Viktor Murakhovskiy, “One can disembark main battle tanks, when a sector of coast at on the water’s edge has been seized. The Naval Infantry urgently needs an amphibious vehicle with seaworthiness, which is no worse than a BTR-82 but has more powerful weaponry. The BMP-3 has proven itself in combat. The 100-millimeter gun does a good job of destroying dug-in targets. It has guided missiles to combat armored vehicles. As compared to armored transport vehicles, the BMP-3 possesses a better cross-country capability, thanks to its tracked base.”

Military Historian Dmitriy Boltenkov noted, “The BMP-3 is essentially a light tank and a BTR is incomparable with it based upon firepower. It is impossible to oppose an enemy with heavy weapons with a BTR. With the new armored vehicles, the naval infantry will be able to fight tanks and direct bursts of gunfire against the enemy while landing on the coast.

Despite the fact that the naval modification of the BMP-3 was developed more than 10 years ago, these vehicles were not integrated into the Russian forces. Indonesia was the only country with BMP-3Fs in their inventory. Indonesia’s first contract was in 2009 for a trial batch of 17 BMP-3Fs for their Marines. They purchased 37 more in 2012 for \$114 million. The Indonesian marines noted the high power of the BMP-3F’s weapons, its low silhouette, the effectiveness of its jet propulsion devices, and its reliability and ease of maintenance.

In addition to the Russian vehicles, Indonesia planned to acquire Ukrainian BTR-4 amphibious armored transport vehicles. But their seaworthiness proved inadequate in tests. In 2019, Indonesia contracted for the delivery of another 22 BMP-3F and 21 BT-3F tracked armored transport vehicles. The cost of the order totaled \$175.2 million. This March, the Indonesian Ministry of Defense requested another \$286 million from the government to purchase 79 armored transport vehicles from Russia.

“Right now, Indonesia has at least two battalions in these vehicles,” Viktor Murakhovskiy stated. “While taking into account that this is an island country, the Indonesian Marines have fully tested all of the BMP-3’s capabilities. They have not only conducted the landing of an assault force from ships but have also conducted small transits between islands in them.

The Naval Infantry is ... capable of landing both from the sea and from the air. In recent years, these formations have been appreciably strengthened, and they are expanding their functionality. There are five brigades and a separate regiment of “Black Berets” in the Russian Navy’s composition today....