



The Russian BMPT Terminator is Going Into Limited Production to Test “Brigades of the Future”

OE Watch Commentary: The Soviets and Russians have long sought to effectively combine tanks and infantry fighting vehicles in the same permanent companies or battalions. According to *Izvestia*, the Russian Defense Ministry is considering forming regiments and brigades “with enhanced combat capabilities.” The combined arms battalion and battalion tactical group have a long history. The differences in gunnery qualifications and maintenance stood in the way. On the battlefield, tanks tended to outdistance the following infantry fighting vehicles, leaving the tanks exposed to ATGM fire. The Russians have been developing the BMPT “Terminator” Armored Tank Support vehicle for decades, but never had the funds to enter full production. The “Terminator” is designed to stay with the tanks and destroy enemy ATGM systems and other threats during armor attacks. (For background on the development of the Terminator system, see also “A New System Preserves Armor Dominance of the Future Battlefield: The BMPT Terminator-2,” *Armor*, April-June 2015 at <https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-monographs/195073>.) Next year’s tests of the “armored attack forces” will test Russian concepts of modern armor attack and true combined arms. Artillery, air defense and aviation interface will certainly be part of the tests’ final determination. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**



“In general, the idea of combat modules of tanks, BMP’s, and BMPT’s in the same subunit has already been advocated for a long time. We have to see how this will look in practice. There possibly will be tank, motorized rifle, and [tank] support platoons in one company, or these will be companies as part of a battalion task force.”



Continued: The Russian BMPT Terminator is Going Into Limited Production to Test “Brigades of the Future”

Source: “Броня по выбору: Минобороны объединит «Терминаторы» и «Бережки» (Armor of choice: the Ministry of Defense will combine Terminators and Berezhki),” *Izvestia*, 5 October 2020. <https://iz.ru/1069405/roman-kretcul-aleksei-ramm/bronia-po-vyboru-minoborony-obedinit-terminatory-i-berezhki>

Terminators, Proryv's, and Berezhok's will be united. The Defense Ministry considering forming regiments and brigades “with enhanced combat capabilities. These will be based on existing units that will be rearmed with new armored vehicles: T-90M tanks, BMP-2M infantry fighting vehicles with the Berezhok turret, and Terminator tank support fighting vehicles (BMPT). The vehicles will be concentrated in several force elements [formirovaniyeto create “armored attack forces” capable of radically altering the battlefield.

A final decision on establishing the new regiments and brigades will be made after special test exercises are conducted... Commander-in-Chief Ground Troops Oleg Salyukov announced earlier that maneuvers involving the Proryv T-90M, Berezhok BMP-2M, and Terminator BMPT will be held next year. Their role ...will be determined by the results of the vehicles' combat training employment. The Army already has called the future force elements “brigades of the future.”

The modernized T-90M is the most state-of-the-art tank of those in Russia's inventory. In terms of its characteristics, it comes close to the advanced Armata T-14 tank, which now is being tested. The T-90M is only slightly inferior to Armata in running characteristics and armor protection while having the same firepower. The modernized version received the improved 2A46M5-01 gun, a more powerful diesel engine, the Kalina automated fire control system, and the remotely controlled Kord-MT anti-aircraft machinegun. The vehicle's protection was increased substantially during modification. In particular, splinter screens of kevlar fabric have been installed inside the fighting compartment and the bulk of munitions had been moved outside to a special box behind the turret.

The BMP-2M is considered an in-depth modernization of the BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicle developed back in Soviet times. However, this is an entirely different vehicle. It received a new 400-hp turbocharged UTD-23 engine, hydraulic shock absorbers with enhanced energy absorption capacity, and reinforced road wheels, and the rubber block tracks serve longer and do less damage to roads. Sights with night and thermal imaging viewing channels have been mounted for the commander and gunner-operator. The weapons and observation devices are stabilized and can automatically hold a target in the sight day and night as well as in movement.

The chief advantage of the BMP-2M is the Berezhok [unmanned] combat turret, which gives the vehicle considerable fire capabilities. It includes a 30-mm automatic gun, 7.62-mm machinegun, as well as automatic grenade launcher. In addition, four Kornet-E anti-tank missiles are mounted on it. They can hit ground and airborne targets at a range up to 10 kilometers and are capable of penetrating all armor protection.

The Terminator BMPT belongs to a fundamentally new class of vehicles, and there are no analogues of it... The military are determining the most appropriate role and place for it in the armored combat formation. The vehicle is armed with two 2A42 30-mm autocannon, two AGS-17 automatic grenade launchers, and four Ataka guided missiles with supersonic flight speed. All this is mounted on a T-72 chassis, so the BMPT is not greatly inferior to tanks in protection.

Military expert Viktor Murakhovskiy believes that the firepower of the new regiments and brigades will be substantially superior to that of current tank and motorized rifle units. “Combat capabilities are considerably higher both for the BMP-2M with Berezhok module and the T-90M tanks than for previous modifications, and the BMPT generally is a new kind of vehicle. In general, the idea of combat modules of tanks, BMP's, and BMPT's in the same subunit has already been advocated for a long time. We have to see how this will look in practice. There possibly will be tank, motorized rifle, and [tank] support platoons in one company, or these will be companies as part of a battalion task force. We have not had such composite force elements, in contrast to certain foreign states. For example, the Bundeswehr has composite battalions where there are motorized infantry and tank subunits.”

According to Murakhovskiy, concentrating the newest vehicles in the same regiments and brigades is enormously more effective than evenly distributing vehicles throughout the Ground Troops. This will permit assembling an armored strike force on an important axis that can decide the outcome of battle. “How to employ these forces must be studied in practice. That is how it always has been when we received new equipment or new forces structures were tried: tactical live-fire exercises were held in a varying situations, actual combat capabilities were determined, and so on.”....