



Uran-9 Unmanned Ground Vehicle.

Source: Vitaly Kuzmin, <https://photos.smugmug.com/Military/Dress-rehearsal-2018-Moscow-VDay-Parade/i-PCkBKsd/0/f9a51558/L/DressRehearsalMoscow6May2018-101-L.jpg>, Attribution: CC BY 4.0

Russia to Field First Experimental Unit of Combat Robots

By Chuck Bartles
OE Watch Commentary

The accompanying excerpted article from *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the official newspaper of the Russian Ministry of Defense, states that the Russian Federation will form its first experimental unit of unmanned ground vehicles. This unit will have four Uran-9 robotic systems, each consisting of five Uran-9 unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) and one control station mounted on a KAMAZ truck. In total the unit will have 20 UGVs and 4 control stations.

Although the Uran-9 has reportedly been field tested in combat during the Syria campaign, this is Russia's first attempt at forming an experimental UGV unit. In the Russian Armed Forces, the use of new technology or tactics in experimental units is a normal step in the acquisition process before a given technology or tactic is adopted for serial production or regular use. At the end of the evaluation period, if this experimental UGV unit is considered successful, this endeavor could demonstrate that UGVs are not just a niche technology, but capable of functioning en masse to achieve military objectives in the Russian Armed Forces.

The accompanying excerpted article from *Izvestiya*, a large-circulation pro-Kremlin daily newspaper, states the importance of robotics for the Russian Armed Forces. The article mentions that Defense Minister General Sergey Shoygu stated that equipping the Russian Armed Forces with military robotic systems has become a priority direction that will be expanded.

“The Chief of the General Staff of the Ground Troops, Colonel General Vasiliy Tonkoshkurov, reported to Army General Sergey Shoygu that Russia’s army will soon form its first subunit with five Uran-9 robotic systems, or 20 machines.”

Source: Leonid Khayremdinov, “Робототехнический импульс для развития армии (A robotechnical impulse for the development of the Army),” *Krasnaya Zvezda* (newspaper of the Russian Ministry of Defense), 12 April 2021. <http://redstar.ru/robototekhnicheskij-impuls-dlya-razvitiya-armii/>

During his visit to the site he [Defense Minister General Sergey Shoygu] learned that the company has already made and is ready to hand over to the forces the latest batch of five strike robotic systems. Each system comprises one command post, installed on a KamAZ truck, and four machines. Delivery will take place in the very near future.

The Chief of the General Staff of the Ground Troops, Colonel General Vasiliy Tonkoshkurov, reported to Army General Sergey Shoygu that Russia’s army will soon form its first subunit with five Uran-9 robotic systems, or 20 machines. An experimental subunit is currently being set up at one of the Defense Ministry’s science and research centers to work out ways and means of deploying subunits with robotic systems. It will subsequently be used for training the personnel who will be operating Uran-9 robots in regular units....

Source: “Российские евреи поддержали предложение муфтия Гайнутдина о храмах всех вероисповеданий в парке Патриот (Russian Jews supported the proposal of Mufti Gainutdin about churches of all faiths in the Patriot Park),” ИА *IslamNews* (considered a mostly independent news source), 9 December 2020. <https://islamnews.ru/news-rossiyskie-evrei-podderzhali-predlozhenie-muftiya-gaynutdina-o-khramakh-vsekh-veroispovedaniy-v-parke-patriot>

The Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia supported the initiative of the head of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of the Russian Federation to build worship facilities of other faiths in the Patriot Park.... In Russia today there are good, warm relations between representatives of different religions and peoples. And it will be logical and correct that this fact will be reflected in the historical and museum complex.... This can be a good vaccination against the emergence of extremist and xenophobic sentiments.

Continued: Russia to Field First Experimental Unit of Combat Robots

“The Defense Minister [General Sergey Shoygu] stated that equipping the Army with military robot complexes has become one of the priority directions of the department’s work and it will expand the line of those systems.”

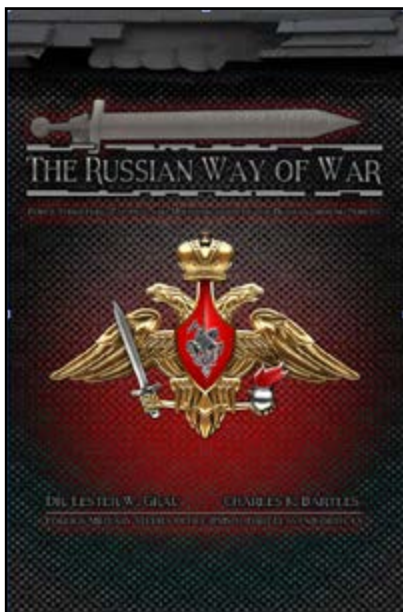
Source: Roman Krezul, Anton Lavrov, “Взошли на дрон: Минобороны наращивает производство боевых роботов (They have ascended to the drone: The Ministry of Defense is increasing the production of combat robots),” *Izvestiya* (large-circulation pro-Kremlin daily newspaper), 10 April 2021. <https://iz.ru/1149325/roman-kretcul-anton-lavrov/vzoshli-na-dron-minoborony-narashchivaet-proizvodstvo-boevykh-robotov>

...Ministry of Defense Head inspected the fulfillment of the State Defense Order for combat robots on Friday, 9 April. The Minister visited 766th Production and Fabrication Directorate (UPTK) and inspected the production and models of robot complexes of the “Uran” line. The “Uran-6” mine-clearing complex, the “Uran-14” firefighting robot, and also the “Uran-9” combat robot are among them. All of this equipment is already being delivered to the troops.

The Defense Minister stated that equipping the Army with military robot complexes has become one of the priority directions of the department’s work and it will expand the line of those systems. Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu during the inspection of the fulfillment of the State Defense Order at “766th Production and Fabrication Directorate (UPTK)” Joint Stock Company, where they are developing and manufacturing various types of robot complexes

“As expected, these will be heavy robots (mine-clearing - Izvestiya) and everything, which concerns the future development of reconnaissance complexes, radiation and chemical reconnaissance robots, and naval surface and submersible robots,” the Military Department Head reported. He ordered the increase of the protection of armored vehicles from the impact of hard electromagnetic interference and radiation. In particular, the engineers need to provide stable communications between the robot and the command and control post in any conditions...

“A large reserve in the production of military robots has been created in Russia, an entire line of ground-based machines has been created,” Vadim Kozyulin, the Diplomatic Academy’s Global Studies and Diplomatic Relations Center Chief, told Izvestiya. “It is important that there is high competition right now already not with foreign projects but of Russian developers amongst themselves. This always yields a good result. It is also that same situation with aircraft. Today Russia is one of three countries along with the US and China, which can provide the navigation of strategic unmanned aerial vehicles using space communications. The lag behind the leading countries in the military sphere on unmanned aerial vehicles began in the post-Soviet years. But the situation began to change several years ago, we overcame the lag in leaps and bounds, and are demonstrating a good rate in the development of new designs. They testify that we have preserved both the engineering schools and engineering cadres, who are prepared for new challenges both in the artificial intelligence sphere, in the cyber sphere, and in others...”



THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR by LESTER W. GRAU and CHARLES K. BARTLES

At any given time, assessments of the Russian Armed Forces vary between the idea of an incompetent and corrupt conscript army manning decrepit Soviet equipment and relying solely on brute force, to the idea of an elite military filled with Special Operations Forces (SOF) who were the “polite people” or “little green men” seen on the streets in Crimea. This book will attempt to split the difference between these radically different ideas by shedding some light on what the Russian Ground Forces consist of, how they are structured, how they fight, and how they are modernizing.

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