



Cold Weather Tor-M2DT Air Defense System Training for Arctic Duty

OE Watch Commentary: A surface-to-air missile battalion that has been enjoying the balmy weather in Yeysk, near the Crimea, will spend its Christmas much closer to the North Pole. The battalion is being refitted and trained in the new Arctic variant of the Tor-M2 (SA-15 Gauntlet) as the accompanying excerpted article reports. The Tor-M2DT is a short-to-medium range system that carries 16 missiles and can engage out to 12 kilometers with an altitude engagement that can range from 10 meters to 10 kilometers. It can reportedly engage four targets simultaneously while on the move. Its radar is effective out to 25 kilometers. It is designed to defeat cruise missiles, guided bombs, high-performance aircraft, helicopters, guided missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. There are normally 12 launchers in a Tor battalion. Its articulated carrier has proven reliable in the Arctic. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The surface-to-air missile system’s vehicles have a unique all-terrain capability -- they can cross ditches and open water, and can maintain their performance in more than -50° Centigrade [-58° Fahrenheit].”

Source: “Northern Fleet Combined-Arms Formation To Receive First Battalion of Arctic Tor-M2DT Surface-To-Air Missile Systems in November,” *Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation*, 25 October 2018.

Lieutenant General Aleksandr Leonov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Air Defense Troops, announced this during a conversation with journalists. Under the state defense order, the manufacturer will transfer the systems to the Northern Fleet Combined-Arms Formation on the territory of the Air Defense Troops’ 726th Training Center in the city of Yeysk [Ейск] in the Kuban’. Once the systems have been transferred to a surface-to-air missile battalion’s combat crews, the servicemen will have to undergo retraining, perform combat teamwork training, and carry out an operational readiness exercise [boveyye stykovochnyye strelby].

The Tor-M2DT is an Arctic variant of the Tor-M2 system transported on the DT-30M articulated tracked transporter. The surface-to-air missile system’s vehicles have a unique all-terrain capability -- they can cross ditches and open water, and can maintain their performance in more than -50° Centigrade [-58° Fahrenheit]. They are able to engage targets just a few seconds after detecting them.

Surface-to-air missile systems from the Tor-M2 family are currently the most effective means of combating all types of airborne targets, including low-signature unmanned aerial vehicles and precision weapon warheads



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9K331MDT Tor-M2DT air defence system on DT-30PM transporter chassis.

Source: Vitaly Kuzmin Blog, <https://www.vitalykuzmin.net/Military/Victory-Day-Rehearsal-in-Moscow-3May2017/i-fXgTk98>, CC 4.0. (<https://www.vitalykuzmin.net/Copyright-policy>).