



Russian Combined Arms Armies Plan Electronic Warfare Battalions

OE Watch Commentary: Currently, Russian ground forces' electronic warfare (EW) capabilities reside only at the tactical level through EW companies found at the brigade/division level, and at the operational-strategic level through EW brigades found at the military district (Joint Strategic Command) level. The tactical level EW companies are capable of jamming communications (with the R-934B/ R-378B/ R-330B Mandat/Borisoglebsk-2), interfering with radio controlled artillery fuses (with the SPR-2 Rtut), and jamming GPS signals that are essential for precision weapons (with the R-330ZH Zhitel/Borisoglebsk-2). These systems have varying capabilities to interfere with hostile communications, disrupt precision targeting, and determine the location of the sources of hostile emissions. At the operational-strategic level, Russia's largest and most powerful EW systems such as the Murmansk-BN, Krasukha, Leer-3, Krasukha-2, and Krasukha-4, and Moskva, are found in the ground forces' EW brigades. These systems' capabilities include wide area cellular communications jamming, GPS location spoofing, reconnaissance and communication satellite jamming, and disrupting early warning aircraft.

The accompanying excerpted article, from the 10 October 2018 edition of *Izvestiya*, discusses a large increase in Russian EW capability. Russia's 12 Combined Arms Armies (operational level units) will each reportedly get a dedicated EW battalion. These battalions will have capabilities that could previously be found only in the EW brigades. Namely, RB-341V Leer-3 and the new 'Divnomorye' system, which will reportedly replace the Moskva, Krasukha-2, and Krasukha-4, as explained in the 4 May 2018 edition of *Izvestiya*. This development is in sync with ongoing Russian trends of pushing organic capabilities down to lower level commanders. As the Russian Defense Ministry indicates in the October 2018 *Izvestiya* article, there will be one EW battalion in each of the 12 Combined Arms Armies before the end of the year. It is unlikely that these units will have to be created from scratch. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

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RB-341V Leer-3 ECM system with UAV (Military exhibition in Park Patriot for Minister of Defense, 2015).
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Continued: Russian Combined Arms Armies Plan Electronic Warfare Battalions

Source: Aleksandr Kruglov and Nikolay Surkov, “Пехоты прикроют электронным «зонтиком» (The Infantry Will Be Covered by an Electronic ‘Umbrella’),” *Izvestiya*, 10 October 2018. <https://iz.ru/744402/aleksandr-kruglov-nikolai-surkov/pekhotu-prikroiut-elektronnym-zontikom>

The Russian military intend to substantially increase the Ground Troops’ capabilities in the electronic warfare sphere. For this purpose, a regular EW battalion will be created in every combined-arms army. As a result, formations will gain the possibility of “blinding” an adversary’s radars, jamming their communications, and disrupting the operation of their electronic devices. In the view of experts, this will substantially boost the possibilities for counteracting an adversary’s technical reconnaissance.

*The Defense Ministry has told *Izvestiya* that one EW battalion will appear in each of 12 combined-arms armies before the end of this year. These subunits will be equipped with Divnomorye mobile complexes and RB-34IV Leer-3 systems. The first experimental battalion of this type was created at the 58th Army base in Vladikavkaz. The experiment has been judged successful...*

The Russian Army is now counting on more extensive use of EW equipment. And the creation of EW battalions in every combined-arms army is a part of that trend, military expert Aleksey Leonkov noted. “Previously, such battalions were only at military districts’ disposal; now, their quantity will increase considerably, and they will appear at a lower tactical level,” the military expert explained. “So-called interbranch EW battalions are being created, which it will be possible to rapidly redeploy to the most dangerous zones and to mobilize for various units’ and formations’ purposes. This will expand manyfold the possibilities of electronic concealment. Thanks to modern technology, the troops will be reliably sheltered from an adversary’s reconnaissance equipment by interference.”

Russia is regarded today as one of the world leaders in terms of the EW equipment development level. It is planned that, before 2020, equipment in EW troops will have been renewed by more than two thirds.

Source: Aleksey Ramm and Aleksandr Kruglov, “Помеха для врага (Jamming for the Enemy),” *Izvestiya*, 4 May 2018. <https://iz.ru/733273/aleksei-ramm-aleksandr-kruglov/pomekha-dlia-vraga>

The Electronic Warfare Troops have obtained a multifunction transformer station. The “Divnomorye” mobile complexes jam radars and other airborne electronic systems of aircraft, helicopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles. The station also creates powerful jamming for “flying radars” – the E-3 AWACS, E-2 Hawkeye, and E-8 JSTARS. The system selects the type of jamming and the jamming method depending on the target and, therefore, it has received the nickname “transformer-station” in the troops. In the experts’ opinion, the innovation will bring the Russian EW Troops to a new technological level.

*A Ministry of Defense spokesman told *Izvestiya* that the first Divnomorye complexes will arrive in the troops this year. They have already completed testing and test operation. The training of specialists for work on the new equipment is being conducted right now. The new complex is capable of fending off facilities from radar detection with an “umbrella” in a sector of several hundred kilometers. This is adequate in order to reliably conceal command posts, troop groupings, PVO systems, and important industrial and administrative-political facilities. The station effectively counters airborne and ground detection systems. The innovation can use powerful jamming “to shut down” the hardware of several aircraft radars simultaneously at a range of several hundred kilometers. It is also capable of effectively dealing with spy satellites. They plan that the Divnomorye will simultaneously replace three electronic warfare complexes in the troops: “Moskva”, “Krasukha-2”, and “Krasukha-4”. It is noteworthy that these systems began to arrive in units and subunits just five years ago, in 2013...*

Divnomorye is simultaneously a high-tech command post, an ELINT reconnaissance station, and powerful jamming equipment. The complex consists of a single vehicle on an off-road chassis. The system is deployed into battle order in a total of several minutes. This makes it highly-mobile and practically invulnerable. The complex covertly advances to a favorable position, accomplishes the combat mission, and slips out from under a strike.

Divnomorye’s primary advantage – is complete automation. When a target is detected, the system independently analyzes the signal and determines its type, direction and radiated power. The target’s performance specifications are determined based upon this data. After this, the automated system compiles the jamming plan and independently selects the most effective type of jamming. Then the system affects the enemy radar with powerful noise radiation...



LEFT: 1L269 Krasukha-2 jamming station (ARMY-2018), RIGHT: EW intelligence vehicle 1L265 from 1L267 Moskva-1 system (ARMY-2017)

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