
Defense Report

AUSA



The Bradley Fighting Vehicle—The Troops Love It

Just like its partner-in-combat the M1 Abrams tank, the Army's new M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle is rolling off the assembly line in growing numbers and finding an enthusiastic welcome in the units where it is being assigned. From the battalion commanders down to the squad leaders who fight from the Bradley there is high praise for its speed, agility, firepower and protection from artillery fragments and small caliber weapons.

Also, just like the Abrams tank, the Bradley has been subject to a great deal of uninformed and polemical criticism leading to its current less-than-optimal press image. In truth, the Bradley, now fielded in 17 battalions, is a very successful piece of equipment. It does what it was intended to do and does it very well. It deserves more objective treatment by the press and other critics who do not understand its function.

The Bradley exists to provide infantrymen and cavalry scouts a protected fighting platform on the battlefield where they function as partners of a combined-arms team, closely integrated with tanks, artillery, aviation and air defense weapons. For the first time our infantry soldiers can move into a new dimension—aboard a protective vehicle from which they can fight the enemy, with the firepower, agility and speed which assures continuous effectiveness on a modern battlefield.

This is not just a matter of getting the infantry to the battle. It is the demand that infantry and tanks fight together, that both be there offering their strengths and protecting the other's weaknesses.

The Abrams tank and the infantry troops fighting from the Bradley have already demonstrated conclusively that we have the best combined arms team in the world. It is a team with unprecedented firepower, mobility and shock action and a team with the best protection for all its members.

The media and Congressional critics of the Bradley could make a more valid assessment of its capabilities if they would go out to the field and talk with the squad leaders and platoon sergeants who ride it, drive it and shoot it.

Those real experts will tell you that the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle is a winner.