



Bradley



M2/M3

America's Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle (M2) and Cavalry Fighting Vehicle (M3) was designed as a successor to the M113 APC. With a 25mm Bushmaster chain gun and two-tube TOW launcher it has a greatly increased firepower, and its mobility and protection is better than the M113. It had a long development: first projects were begun in 1964, and it was not until 1983 that the first Bradleys were delivered to US Army units, but the long wait proved worth it when it proved a complete success in its first combat test, the 1991 Gulf War. There is very little difference between the M2 and the M3. The M2 has a crew of three – commander, gunner, driver – can take a fully equipped squad of six infantry into battle, and has firing ports. The M3, designed for reconnaissance missions, has the same crew, carries two observers and four infantry, but also has more ammunition and 12 TOW missiles instead of the M2's seven, and the firing ports are sealed. Improvements have continually been made to

the Bradley since it was first produced, and it is still being improved. The A2 series had better armour, back-up sight for the commander and a ballistic shield, and internal armour for important equipment. This led to increased weight, which in turn led to an uprated engine, drive train, transmission and suspension, and upgraded air cleaners and exhaust system. The A2 versions also had a day/night thermal vision sight and an Integrated Sight Weapon Fire control system. Experience in the Gulf War led to ODS (Operation Desert Storm) upgrades, including a Digital Compass system and Portable Lightweight GPS Receiver. Two other enhancements being put into place are the Battlefield Combat Identification System, currently on use in the Abrams, and a missile countermeasure system to defeat hostile anti-tank missiles. Currently A2 status vehicles are being upgraded to A3, with the addition of digital vehicle electronics, a new ballistic fire control and auto-tracking system and extra roof protection.

SPECIFICATIONS

Designation: Bradley Fighting Vehicles M2/M3
Length: 6.55m
Height: 3.38m
Width: 3.28m
Ground clearance: 0.46m
Ground pressure: 0.7kg/cm²
Combat weight: 36,886kg
Crew: 3+6 (M2) 3+2+4 (M3)
Engine: 8-cylinder Cummins VTA-903T 600hp turbocharged diesel
Gearbox: HMPT-500 General Electric automatic
Range: 483km
Speed: 66km/h
Water propulsion: Vehicle is amphibious when fitted with a flotation screen which can be carried around the top of the hull. Propelled by tracks
Water speed: 7.2km/h max
Armament:
 Hughes M242 25mm chain gun firing at 100/200 rds/min. Usual mix 75AP/225HE
Auxiliary weapons:
 Twin-tube TOW-2 launcher with seven (M2) or 12 (M3) missiles carried. Range 3,000 meters. Can be tracked and guided through all weather conditions and at night. 7.62mm mg mounted co-axially to chain gun
Protection:
 Bradley hull and turret are all welded compound aluminium reinforced with steel plates. 175 Bradleys have been protected from HEAT charges with a set of 105 ERA tiles
Variants:
 ■ Ambulance.
 ■ MLRS M270 multiple rocket launcher uses the Bradley chassis and drive train.
 ■ M6 Linebacker air defence
 ■ M7 FIST replaces M981-V as artillery observer and laser marker
 ■ M4 Command and Control Vehicle still being progressed
 ■ XM5 Electronic Fighting Vehicle System Carrier (electronic technology and intelligence) under trial.

PRODUCTION

1964 First abortive projects started.	1985 Production of M2A1/M3A1.	Tactical Data System and additional radio equipment.
1970 New order issued for a lighter AIFV.	1988 Production of M2A2/M3A2.	1997 Upgrade of A2 vehicles to A3 status begun.
1973 Contract awarded for prototypes from Food Machinery Corps. Proposals from Chrysler and Pacific Car rejected.	1990 Conversion of A1 series vehicles to A2 standard.	■ 85 M3A2 Bradleys have been converted to the M6 Linebacker model. In place of the TOW launcher is a pod with four Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.
1981 Series production started.	1996 Production of M7 FIST version, derived from M3A3. In place of TOW launcher is laser target designator. It is also equipped with Advanced Field Artillery	■ 266 A2s now have two Stinger gunners in the rear with six missiles. This is the Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle.

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