



M1 ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANK

Mission

To provide heavy armor superiority on the battlefield

Entered Army Service

1980

Description and Specifications

The M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank closes on and destroys enemy forces on the battlefield using mobility, firepower, and shock effect. There are three variants in service: M1, M1A1, and M1A2. The gun on the M1A1 and M1A2 – combined with the 1,500 hp turbine engine and special armor – make the Abrams tank particularly suitable for attacking or defending against large concentrations of heavy armor forces on a highly lethal battlefield.



M1A2 Abrams

The M1 has a crew of four. The driver sits centered in the hull and forward of the turret, while the loader, gunner and tank commander occupy the turret, with the loader situated to the left of the main gun and the gunner and tank commander sitting in tandem on the right side. The driver's hatch has three periscope vision blocks which provide for forward vision.

The engine is mounted in the rear of the vehicle with the exhaust coming out from a louvered grill centrally mounted in the rear of the hull. The M1 utilizes a torsion bar suspension with seven pairs of cast aluminum road wheels and two return rollers. The drive sprocket is to the rear, an idler compensation wheel is located forward, and there is a gap between the first and second pair of road wheels. The M1 has armored skirts running the full length of the track.

	M1/IPM1	M1A1	M1A2
Length:	32.04 ft	32.25 ft	32.25 ft
Width:	12 ft	12 ft	12 ft
Height:	7.79 ft	8.0 ft	8.0 ft
Top speed:	45 mph	41.5 mph	41.5 mph
Weight:	60 tons	67.6 tons	68.7 tons
Main armament:	105mm	120mm	120mm
Crew:	4	4	4

The M1 Abrams tank is the namesake of the late General Creighton W. Abrams, former Army Chief of Staff and commander of U.S. military forces in Vietnam from 1968-1972.

Manufacturer

General Dynamics Land Systems

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Minnesota National Guard Public Affairs at public.affairs@mn.ngb.army.mil or go to www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/press_room/fact_sheets/military_equipment.php for a list of equipment used by the Minnesota National Guard.