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FIELD EVALUATION OF CHEMICAL AGENT GRENADES

As part of the Chemical Agents Program conducted by the I.A.C.P. for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice, a field evaluation of commercial riot control agent grenades was conducted during March 1969. Facilities at Fort Belvoir and the Fairfax County Police Department in Virginia were used to evaluate several selected characteristics of 13 chemical agent grenades currently available for police use in the United States.

GRENADES EVALUATED¹

	GREWADES EVALUATED	·	
Designation	Model/Catalog <u>Number</u>	Quantity	Agent
PYROTECHNIC			
Brunswick Skitter Grenade	5001	24	CS
Federal Pocket Grenade	109	24	CS
Federal Spedeheat Grenade	555	24	CS
Federal Triple Chaser	515	24	CS
Lake Erie Continuous Discharge	2CS	24	CS
Penguin CN/Smoke Grenade	G3	24	CN
EXPULSION			
AAI Multipurpose Grenade	MPG 120	24	CS .
Federal Blast Dispersion	. 514	24	CS
Federal Disintegrating	520	24	CS
Lake Erie Jumper Repeater	1 CS	24	CS
Lake Erie Mob Master	7 CS	24	CS
Lake Erie Model 34	4 CS	24	CS
Penguin Baseball Grenade	G-1CS	24	CS

No attempt was made to define and evaluate *every* important characteristic of these munitions. In fact, effective airborne concentration, which is perhaps the most critical feature of all, cannot be measured or even estimated without elaborate and expensive laboratory testing facilities. What was intended here was the collection of certain observable performance data that relates to the tactical use of chemical agent grenades. Much of the information developed by this project was previously unavailable, incomplete or conflicting.

The procedures employed in this evaluation were simple and well within the ability of any law enforcement agency to duplicate. Although the expense of munitions generally precludes extensive field testing and evaluation by all but the largest departments, the procedures suggested in this report can serve as a guide for the development of at least minimal evaluation programs to assist law enforcement personnel in selecting riot control chemical munitions.

¹The Lake Erie Blast Dispersion grenade, which has been discontinued by the manufacturer, was not evaluated. The new Lake Erie Mighty Midget and Northrop Rubber Ball grenades were not on the market at the time the other munitions were purchased during February 1969 and consequently were also not included in this evaluation series.

PYROTECHNIC GRENADES

Pyrotechnic or burning dissemination is achieved by mixing a granulated chemical agent with an appropriate fuel. Upon ignition, the fuel burns and vaporizes the agent. The agent vapor exits from the grenade with the smoke from the fuel combustion and is quickly cooled and condensed into submicron particles that drift with the smoke until ultimately dissipated.

For grenades employing burning dissemination, three major characteristics were examined. Buring time, functioning, and temperature were evaluated for the three standard burning grenades, the multiple unit Triple Chaser, and two miniature grenades (Figure 1).

Burning Time. A standard stop-watch was used to measure the elapsed time between the first appearance of smoke and the termination of smoke emission under internal pressure. The continued smouldering or smoke drift from exit ports was not included as burning time. When actual burning time was compared with the emmission time specified by the manufacturer, it was evident that all but one of the large pyrotechnic units burned for considerably longer than predicted.

A longer burning time could be either an advantage or a liability, depending upon the tactical situation. The extended burning period will permit more time for the return of the grenade by members of the crowd, but on the other hand, the more quickly a grenade burns, the more frequently it will have to be replaced on a release line when a given concentration is being maintained. In any event, manufacturers should make a greater effort to provide reasonably accurate statements regarding the burning time of their pyrotechnic grenades.

Functioning. None of the pyrotechnic grenades failed to function, but 17 out of 144 (12%) of the units tested functioned improperly. Eleven of the malfunctions resulted in the grenade "flaming", a condition in which fire instead of smoke is ejected from the exit ports. The flame typically burns with great intensity, often extending out for distances up to 12 inches from the grenade.

Five of the 24 Federal Triple Chaser grenades failed to separate completely into three sections in the normal manner, although this malfunction did not interfere with the normal burning of at least two of the sections. One of the Brunswick Skitter grenades was projected about 50 yards through the air after release, apparently as the result of a clogged or partially blocked exit port.

Temperature. The heat generated by burning grenades is of interest from two points of view. First, if the grenade remains cool enough to handle and also functions for any length of time, it can easily be picked up and thrown back at police or away from the target area. Secondly, grenades that emit flame during functioning present a potential fire hazard when used where combustible materials are present.

In order to determine how long grenades could be held after ignition, they were approached from upwind and picked up both with gloves and with bare hands. The most difficult grenade to handle was the Federal Spedeheat, which has exit ports on all surfaces and heats up rapidly as a result of the geometry of the burning mixture. Personnel highly motivated or whose hands were protected with heavy insulation could probably handle grenades for periods substantially exceeding the times reflected in Figure 1. Because it burns quickly and remains in motion, the Brunswick Skitter grenade is difficult to pick up while functioning and return is unlikely. The Federal Triple Chaser discourages return by the violent nature of its separation, although once separated the individual sections can be returned in the same manner as other burning grenades.

As an indication of their tendency to start fires, six of each of the grenades were discharged in a container of shredded newspaper. Those grenades that, as a result of their normal functioning, caused the newspaper to burn three or more times were rated "probable" in terms of fire potential. Those grenades that, as a result of their normal functioning, ignited the paper less than 3 out of 6 times were rated "possible" and those grenades that failed to ignite the paper or did so only when malfunctioning, were rated "unlikely" to start fires. It should be stressed, however, that any pyrotechnic grenade can cause fires — none are completely fireproof!

Fire Potential in Combustible Material		Probable \$11.30	Probable \$11.30	Probable \$ 9.95	Probable \$13.75	Unlikely \$ 3.50	Probable \$ 3.75	
Fire Potential in	Combustil Material			Pro		Pro	Unl	Pro
fiter s)	Bare Hand	Range	12-16	15-27	15-20	red I	TED	15-20
Time Hand Held After Ignition (seconds)	Bare	Average	14.5	22.15	16.25	NOT EVALUATED	NOT EVALUATED	17.8
Time H Igniti	With	Glove	20	40	Total burning time		LON	Total burning time
led rly		%	%0	21%	8%	33%	8%	%0
Functioned Improperly		Number	0	5 flame	2 flame	3 flame 5 incomplete separation	1 flame 1 flight	0
Failed to Function		0	0	0	0	0	0	
urning ids)		Range	06-09	137-170	30-53	60-157	11-18	16-21
Actual Burning Time (seconds)		Average	71.95	152	40	103.72	12.86	19.27
Specified Burning	Specified Burning Time (seconds)		25-35	25-30	40	25-35	10-20	16
ied	F.C	Uther	276	179	161	193	22	30
Specified Load Weight (grams)		Agent	104	. 106	69	72	16	20
GRENADE		Federal Spedeheat	DAV Lake Erie Continuous Discharge	Penguin - CN/Smoke	TCM Federal Triple Addrage	Brunswick Skitter Grenade	ADD Federal 109 Pocket Grenade	

FIGURE 1 – Summary of Selected Performance Characteristics of Pyrotechnic Grenades (See text for explanation)

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EXPULSION GRENADES

Expulsion grenades are munitions that employ an explosive force to eject micropulverized agent into the air. This is accomplished either by rupturing or disintegrating the container or by forcing the agent out through exit ports.

Grenades that rupture or disintegrate present some risk of injury when they are discharged near the heads of unprotected personnel. They do release most of their agent loading, but when they explode on the ground a large percent of the agent is "dumped", resulting in a substantial loss in effective airborne concentration.

Those expulsion grenades that do not rupture or disintegrate present less potential for injury, but generally expel less of their loading because of their more complex internal design. An exception is the AAI Multi-Purpose grenade, which releases a high percent of its agent loading.

In this series of evaluations seven expulsion grenades were examined for functioning and fire potential. In addition, three of the grenades that do not rupture or disintegrate were checked for weight loss after release. (Figure 2)

Functioning. Only one of the 168 expulsion grenades failed to function. One Penguin Baseball grenade blew the burster and fuze assembly clear of the grenade body without releasing the agent. One AAI Multi-Purpose grenade malfunctioned as the result of a defective spin weld where the base attaches to the grenade body.

Fire Potential. Although it has been widely assumed that expulsion grenades could be used without risk of fire, it was found during this evaluation that several of the expulsion grenades are capable of igniting combustible material during normal functioning.

Weight Loss. As a general index to efficiency in the release of their micropulverized agent payload, 72 grenades were weighed before and after release with adjustment made for the weight of firing pins, safety levers, and other separating parts. While not exact (since the weight of the expended fuze and expulsion components is also lost) the results suggest that the Lake Erie Mob Master and Model 34 release up to about half of their specified loading and that the AAI Multi-Purpose grenade releases almost all of its agent content. The apparent performance differential between the Lake Erie and AAI systems is somewhat modified however by another characteristic.

When discharged on the ground, the AAI grenade evidences the same tendency to "dump" its payload as the rupturing or disintegrating grenades and, in fact, the manufacturer does not recommened the AAI grenade for any tactical use which would result in a ground release of the unit. On the other hand, the Lake Erie grenades evidence no tendency to "dump" their agent even during ground release. The average weight loss for both the Mob Master and the Model 34 did not vary significantly during air, rolling, or stationary releases. ¹

SUMMARY

The field evaluation of 312 chemical agent grenades resulted in the following conclusions regarding certain of their operating characteristics.

- Only 1 out of 312 grenades failed to function.
- 19 out of 311 grenades (6%) functioned improperly. Pyrotechnic grenades are the most likely to malfunction (8 to 1 in this evaluation).

¹There was, of course, no way of determining what portion of the load became airborne and what portion, if any, was destroyed or decomposed in the expulsion process.

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Catalog Price (Jan. 69)		\$15.00	\$14.25	\$11.30	\$13.75	\$11.30	\$11.30	\$10.95
Fire Potential In Combustible Material	-	Unlikely	Possible	Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible
ed	%	4%						4%
Functioned Improperly	Number	Defective Spin Weld	0	0	0	0	0	1 Fuze-Body Separation
	%			· · · ·			4%	
Failed To Function	Number	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Average Weight Loss		95.2%	54.8%	50.4%	Q	Q	<u>A</u>	ß
Weight Loss After Release (grams)	Range	95.8-122.5	44.3-67.9	16.7-31.4	NOT EVALUATED	NOT EVALUATED	NOT EVALUATED	NOT EVALUATED
Wei After (Average	114.24	54.81	25.21			<u> </u>	
Specified Average Load	(grams)	120	100	50	70	220	220	40
GRENADE	GRENADE		Lake Erie Mob Master	Lake Erie Model 34	Lake Erie Jumper Repeater	Federal Blast Dispersion	Federal Disintegrating	Penguin Baseball Grenade
			SINGLE MULTIPLE			SINGLE		
		EXPELLED FROM EXIT PORT(S)			RUP	TURE/DISIN	TEGRATION	

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FIGURE 2 – Summary of Selected Performance Characteristics of Expulsion Grenades (See text for explanation)

- There is substantial risk of fire with almost all pyrotechnic and some expulsion grenades.
- The specified burning times for several standard pyrotechnic grenades are extremely inaccurate and should be adjusted.
- Pyrotechnic grenades can be handled for a sufficient period of time after ignition to permit their return or diversion by target personnel.
- Expulsion grenades that disintegrate of rupture lose most of their effectiveness when exploded on the ground.
- Expulsion grenades that expel agent from exit ports vary in efficiency. The AAI grenades deliver almost all of their payload while it is estimated that the Lake Erie Instantaneous Discharge munitions expel only about 50%. This differential is significant, however, only in air releases. Ground releases do not appear to affect the efficiency of the Lake Erie grenades, but under similar conditions the AAI grenade is sharply limited in its ability to develop an effective airborne concentration.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

In addition to the specific evaluation of those grenade characteristics that have already been discussed, other data was noted and is summarized in this section for the convenience of those who have not had an opportunity to observe the functioning of some or all of the munitions included in this evaluation.

STANDARD PYROTECHNIC GRENADES

FUZE DELAY

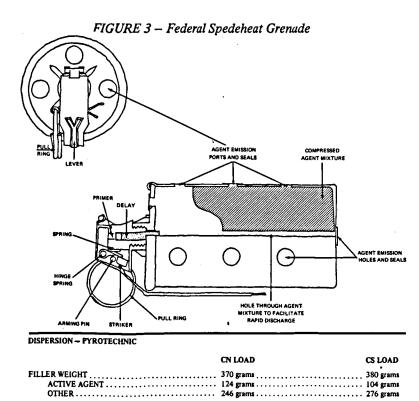
HEIGHT

1 second

CONTAINER BODY MATERIAL

6-1/4 inches with fuze

Aluminum



Federal Spedeheat. The Federal Spedeheat grenade (Figure 3) is a time tested pyrotechnic munition with design features that make it very difficult to handle while it is functioning. Exit ports are located on all surfaces of the grenade body and combustion is vigorous. It functioned very reliably during this evaluation. Fuze timing was dependable, but burning time averaged 71.95 seconds, a considerable increase over the specified 25 to 35 seconds.

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Ye.

2-5/8 inches

at base

SHGTGUN LAUNCH

DIAMETER

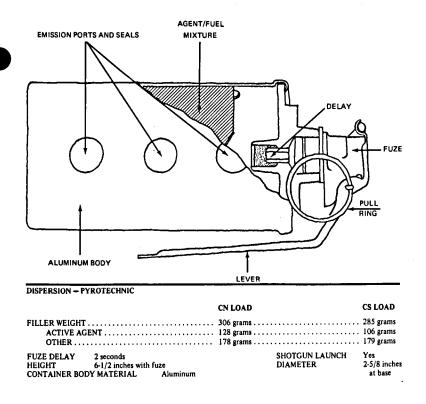
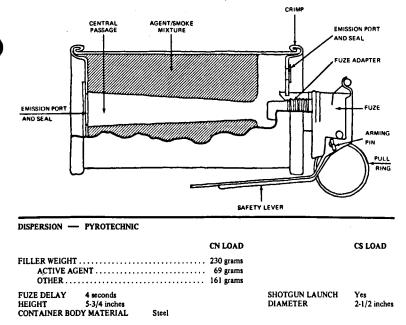


FIGURE 5 – Penguin CN/Smoke Grenade

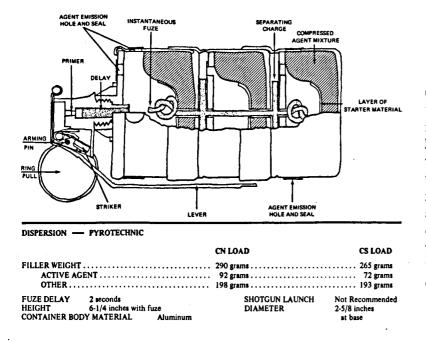


Lake Erie Continuous Discharge. This grenade (Figure 4) has exit ports on all but the base surface and burning of the payload is slower than with the Spedeheat unit. This grenade burns a 285 gram payload in an average of 152 seconds as contrasted with a burning time of 71.95 seconds for the 380 gram payload of the Spedeheat. It is interesting to note, however, that both grenades contain about the same amount of agent. Fuze timing was reliable and all tested units functioned, although the number of "flame" defects was the highest recorded for the three standard pyrotechnic grenades.

Penguin CN/Smoke. The Penguin grenade (Figure 5) burned for the specified period of 40 seconds. With exit ports in the top and base only, this unit was the easiest to handle. In fact, if the paraffin into which the grenade is dipped during manufacture did not heat up, it would probably be possible to handle this unit with bare hands for an even longer period of time. Although all three of the standard pyrotechnic grenades present a substantial risk of fire when used near combustible materials, only the Penguin unit contains a warning to this effect on the label.

MULTIPLE PYROTECHNIC GRENADE

FIGURE 6 – Federal Triple Chaser Grenade



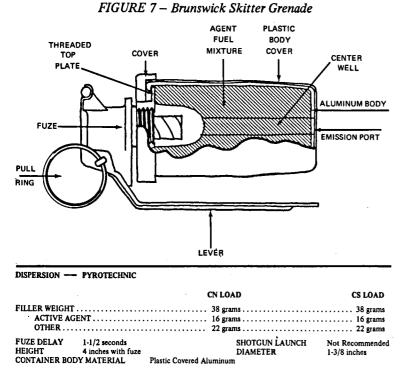
Federal Triple Chaser. This grenade (Figure 6) separates upon ignition into three sections which then burn in the normal manner. The separation is violent and usually accompanied by a visible flash. Each section travels in an unpredictable direction, occasionally ranging up to thirty or forty yards with a total separation distance of up to sixty or seventy yards. Although air bursts usually resulted in the greatest separation distance, even this was not absolutely consistent.

		BURNING TIME (MINUTES/SECONDS)			
SAMPLE	RELEASE	TOP (FUZE)	CENTER	BOTTOM (BASE)	
1	Air	2.00	1.05	1.12	
2	Air	0	1.15	1.25	
3	Air	0.55	1.10	2.00	
4	Air	0.15	0.55	2.00	
5	Air	1.05	1.00	1.25	
6	Air	0.50	1.15	1.52	
7	Ground	.50	1.00	1.00	
8	Ground	.45	0.55	1.25	
9	Ground	.25	1.25	2.00	
10	Ground	.20	0.55	2.00	
11	Ground	.25	1.30	1.50	
12	Ground	.28	1.15	0.50	

As indicated in the following table, the bottom or base section tended to burn for the longest period of time.

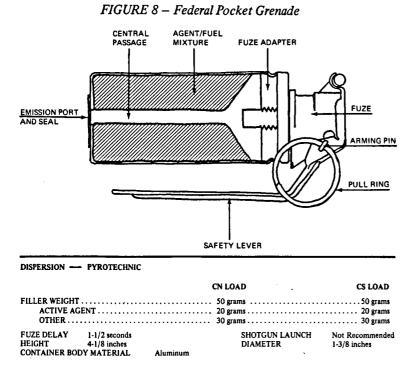
Three of the Triple Chasers "flamed" and five did not separate completely. The failure to separate did not seem to prevent at least one of the attached sections from burning normally. Again, the burning period greatly exceeded the specified period. The violent separation, unpredictable behavior, and relatively low agent loading of the Triple Chaser would suggest that for most situations this grenade should be regarded as a special supplement rather than as a substitute for the standard pyrotechnic munitions.

MINIATURE PYROTECHNIC GRENADES



Brunswick Skitter. This grenade (Figure 7), one of two low-volume units evaluated, performed well and was considered the most unlikely of all the pyrotechnic grenades to start fires in combustible materials. When thrown onto a reasonably smooth surface the Skitter grenade usually remains in motion during a large portion of the burning time. The scooting or spinning action is produced by the rush of agent/ smoke mixture from a single, off-center exit port on the base of the grenade. The motion and rapid emission make it unlikely that this unit will be picked up during functioning, but although this feature was not evaluated, the Skitter grenade probably remains cool enough to handle without gloves.

Both Skitter grenade malfunctions apparently were the result of the plastic outer cover failing to rupture completely over the exit port. In one case, this resulted in the burning of the plastic cover. This grenade did not "flame" in the usual manner, but simply burned its outer protective cover. The second malfunction resulted in the grenade traveling airborne for about 50 yards from the release point. In both cases, the grenades burned and discharged their fuel/agent mixture.



Federal Pocket. This grenade (Figure 8), the second of the two miniature units evaluated, performed well in all aspects observed. There were no failures or malfunctions and the burning time was well within the period specified by the manufacturer. This grenade, like the Skitter grenade, burns rapidly and the agent/smoke is released from an exit port in the base of the grenade. Because the exit port is larger and is centered, the Pocket grenade does not normally move about during functioning.

Although the Pocket grenades were otherwise impressive, they did frequently emit a shower of sparks or flame when discharged and this characteristic undoubtedly was responsible for their tendency to start fires in combustible materials.

STANDARD EXPULSION GRENADES

All of the expulsion grenades functioned well during this evaluation and most of their essential characteristics were discussed earlier.

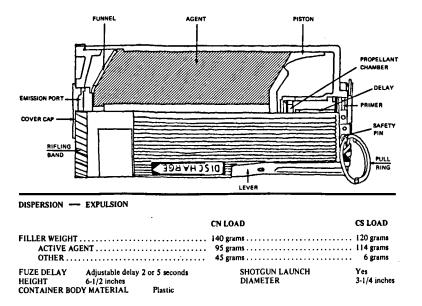
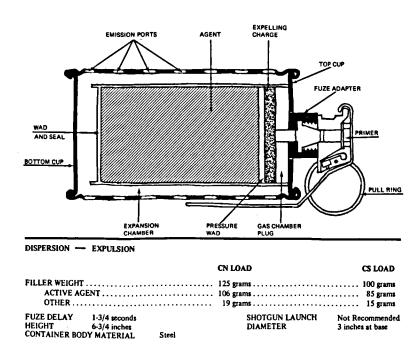


FIGURE 9 - AAI Multi-Purpose Grenade

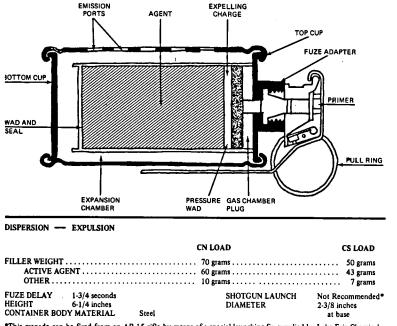
AAI Multi-Purpose. This grenade (Figure 9) was designed expressly for use by civilian police agencies and its design incorporates several features not generally found in traditional munitions. It has, for example, a selector that allows for either a 2 second or a 5 second fuze delay period. It can be hand held and directed during release and it will not start fires in combustible material during normal functioning.

Although the Multi-Purpose grenade is not, as discussed previously, effective in ground discharges, it delivers an impressive 95.2% weight loss during functioning and appeared, during this evaluation, to be one of the units least likely to cause personnel injury or fires.

FIGURE 10 - Lake Erie Mob Master



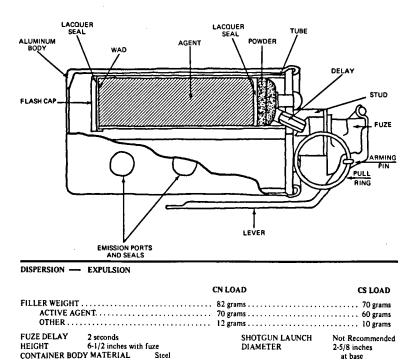
Lake Erie Mob Master and Model 34. These grenades (Figure 10 and 11) employ the same design features and differ only in size and payload. The Mob Master has a reported average loading of 100 grams as compared with a 50 gram loading for the Model 34. Both units employ an internal container that houses the micropulverized agent and an explosive charge. Upon detonation, the agent is blown out through the base of the internal container, into the space between the two containers, and ultimately out of exit ports in the external body wall.



*This grenade can be fired from an AR-15 rifle by means of a special launching fin supplied by Lake Erie Chemical Company.

MULTIPLE DISCHARGE EXPULSION GRENADES

FIGURE 12 – Lake Erie Jumper Repeater Grenade



While this complex design avoids the fragmentation, concussion, and "dumping" characteristics of most expulsion grenades, it does result in the loss of about half of the reported payload. Even so, these grenades and their cousin the Jumper Repeater, are the only expulsion grenades that appear to function with any degree of efficiency during ground release.

For some unknown reason, perhaps the use of black powder in the expulsion charge, both grenades started fires in combustible material during this evaluation.

Lake Erie Jumper Repeater. This grenade (Figure 12) employs the same design features as the Mob Master and Model 34, except that it contains 3 separate internal tubes that discharge at about one second intervals. In this way the release of agent is spread in three bursts over an area of up to about ten feet from the point of release, although the direction of movement during discharge is unpredictable.

From the standpoint of cost effectiveness, it is difficult to understand why the Jumper Repeater would be employed instead of the Mob Master or even the Model 34. This is especially true since the return or diversion of expulsion munitions is seldom a problem and the area coverage achieved by the Jumper Repeater is not substantially greater. Like the Mob Master and the Model 34, the Jumper Repeater grenade employs a steel body in order to adequately contain the internal explosion. Consequently, all three provide heavy missiles that can be thrown back at police after the grenade has functioned.

RUPTURE/DISINTEGRATING EXPULSION GRENADES

FIGURE 13 – Federal Blast Dispersion Grenade

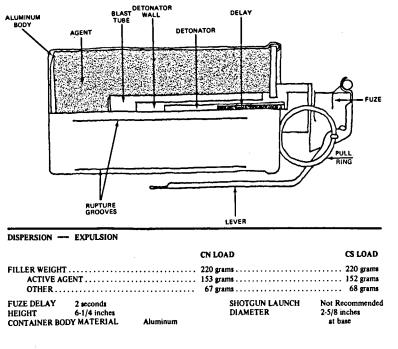
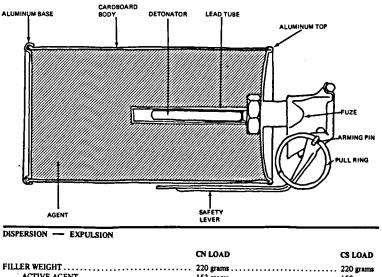


FIGURE 14 – Federal Disintegrating Grenade



 FILLER WEIGHT
 220 grams
 220 grams
 220 grams

 ACTIVE AGENT
 153 grams
 150 grams
 150 grams

 OTHER
 67 grams
 70 grams
 70 grams

 FUZE DELAY
 2 seconds
 SHOTGUN LAUNCH
 Not Recommended

 HEIGHT
 6-1/2 inches
 DIAMETER
 2-3/4 inches

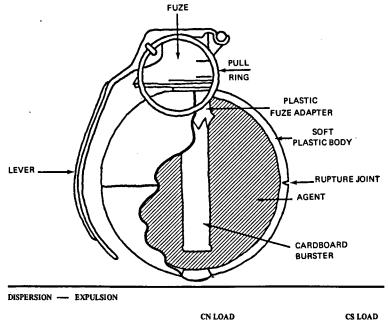
 CONTAINER BODY MATERIAL
 Cardboard
 at base

Federal Blast Dispersion and Disintegrating Grenades. The only major difference between these grenades (Figures 13 and 14) is that the former employs an aluminum container and the latter a fiber body. In functioning, the Blast Dispersion grenade ruptures open along pre-formed grooves in the body and the Disintegrating unit blows the container into small pieces.

Both grenades expel their entire payload during air bursts, but tend to "dump" badly during ground releases. Since these munitions carry by far the largest payloads in the expulsion grenade class, they can be effectively employed whenever fragmentation or concussion risks can be avoided.

The velocity of parts separating from these grenades is unknown, but during this evaluation six of each grenade were detonated on the ground within two to three feet of exposed personnel without injury of any sort resulting. Unfortunately, in the case of the Blast Dispersion grenade, the aluminum body did not impact on personnel and its injury potential remains unknown. However, from general observation of the flight of the lightweight aluminum body, it would appear that injury from a ground or air burst is unlikely unless the detonation takes place very close to exposed skin or the eyes are struck directly by fragments from a nearby release.

FIGURE 15 – Penguin Baseball Grenade

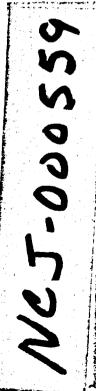


			UN LUAD	CS LUAD
ACTIVE AC	GENT		40 grams	20 grams
FUZE DELAY HEIGHT CONTAINER BO	4 seconds 4 inches DY MATERIAL	Plastic	SHOTGUN LAUNCH DIAMETER	Not Recommended 2-7/8 inches

Penguin Baseball. The Penguin Baseball grenade (Figure 15) employs a cardboard burster to separate a round plastic body and releases about 40 grams of a 50% CS mixture (CS/X5). The separation is violent, frequently flinging the plastic hemispheres up to 30 or 40 yards, and is often accompanied by a visible flash at the moment of discharge. Like other grenades in its class, the Baseball "dumps" badly during ground release, but the violence and noise of the detonation may, in themselves, assist in scattering target personnel.

The weight and shape of the Baseball permit it to be thrown with considerable accuracy and the fuzing is reliable enough to allow air bursts to be achieved consistently with only a minimal amount of practice.





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