

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TECHNICAL MANUAL

PROCEDURE FOR DESTRUCTION OF TOW HEAVY ANTITANK/ASSAULT WEAPON TO PREVENT ENEMY USE

Headquarters, Department of the Army
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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Section I. GENERAL

1-1. Scope

This manual is for the guidance of those whose duty it is to render inoperable or to destroy equipment and associated classified documents which are in imminent danger of capture by an enemy. The instructions contained herein are in accordance with the requirements of all international agreements concerning destruction of equipment to prevent enemy use, agreements which were in effect on the effective date of this manual or any changes thereto.

1-2. Reporting of Equipment Publication Improvements

The reporting of errors, omissions, and recommendations for improving this publication by the individual user is encouraged. Reports should be submitted

on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications) and forwarded directly to Commanding General, U.S. Army Missile Command, ATTN: AMSMI-NPM, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35809.

1-3. Authorization

a. Destruction of TOW missile equipment will be ordered when the equipment is subject to capture or abandonment in a combat zone.

b. Only divisional or higher commanders have the authority to order destruction of equipment. They may, however, delegate this authority to subordinate commanders when the situation demands it.

1-4. Reporting Destruction

Destruction of equipment will be reported through command channels.

Section II. PRIORITIES FOR DESTRUCTION

1-5. General

a. Priority must always be given to the destruction of classified equipment and associated documents.

b. When lack of time or stores prevents complete destruction of equipment, priority will be given to the destruction of essential parts, and the same parts will be destroyed on all like equipment.

1-6. TOW Equipment Installed in Vehicles

TOW equipment installed in vehicles should be destroyed in accordance with the priorities for the equipment itself, taking into account the relative importance of the installed equipment and the vehicle itself. A list of those manuals which contain destruction procedures for TOW vehicles can be found in appendix A.

1-7. Repair Parts

The same priority for destruction of repair parts of a major item necessary to render that item inoperable must be given to the destruction of similar repair parts in storage areas.

1-8. Priorities for Destruction of TOW Weapon System Equipment

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Parts</i>
TOW guided missile equipment	1	Missiles
	2	Optical sight
	3	Missile guidance and battery assembly
	4	Traversing unit
	5	Launch tube
	6	Tripod

Section III. DEGREE OF DAMAGE

1-9. Choice of Methods

Choose methods of destruction which will cause such damage that it will be impossible to restore the equipment to a usable condition within the combat zone by repair or by cannibalization.

1-10. Classified Equipment

Classified equipment must be destroyed in such a

degree as to prevent duplication by or revealing means of operation or function to the enemy.

1-11. Associated Classified Documents

Any classified documents, notes, instructions, or other written material pertaining to function, operation, maintenance, or employment, including drawings or parts lists, must be destroyed in a manner to render them useless to the enemy.

CHAPTER 2 METHODS OF DESTRUCTION

2-1. General

Several methods of destroying designated equipment in the field are available, depending upon facilities and equipment at hand and the local topography of the destruct area. General information on employing these methods is contained in the following paragraphs. Where destruction of ammunition is involved, instructions in TM 9-1300-206 must be followed.

2-2. Fire

Burning is a good method to use in conjunction with other methods of destruction. Damage by fire alone may not always be as extensive as expected. Portions of electrical equipment, metals with low melting points, pneumatic tires, and technical manuals can be destroyed effectively by burning. Burning may be accomplished by using gasoline, oil, incendiary grenades, flamethrowers, blowtorches, welding torches, or other flammable items. Rags, clothing, paper, or canvas should be packed under and

around items to be destroyed and then soaked with a flammable material. Ignition of flammable material may be accomplished by an incendiary grenade from a safe distance, a burst from a flamethrower, a train of combustible material, or other appropriate means.

NOTE

The way in which a demolition charge is placed can make the difference between minor damage or complete destruction.

2-3. Demolition (Explosives)

Explosive demolition is the most effective method for the destruction of equipment. This method of destruction requires careful training and planning, especially when warheads and missile motors are involved, because many high velocity fragments will result. Place demolition charges on the launch containers as shown in figure 2-1. Precautions must be taken to protect friendly troops from fragments and blast. Refer to TM 9-1300-206 and FM 5-25 for the observance of safety precautions when using explosives or ammunition.

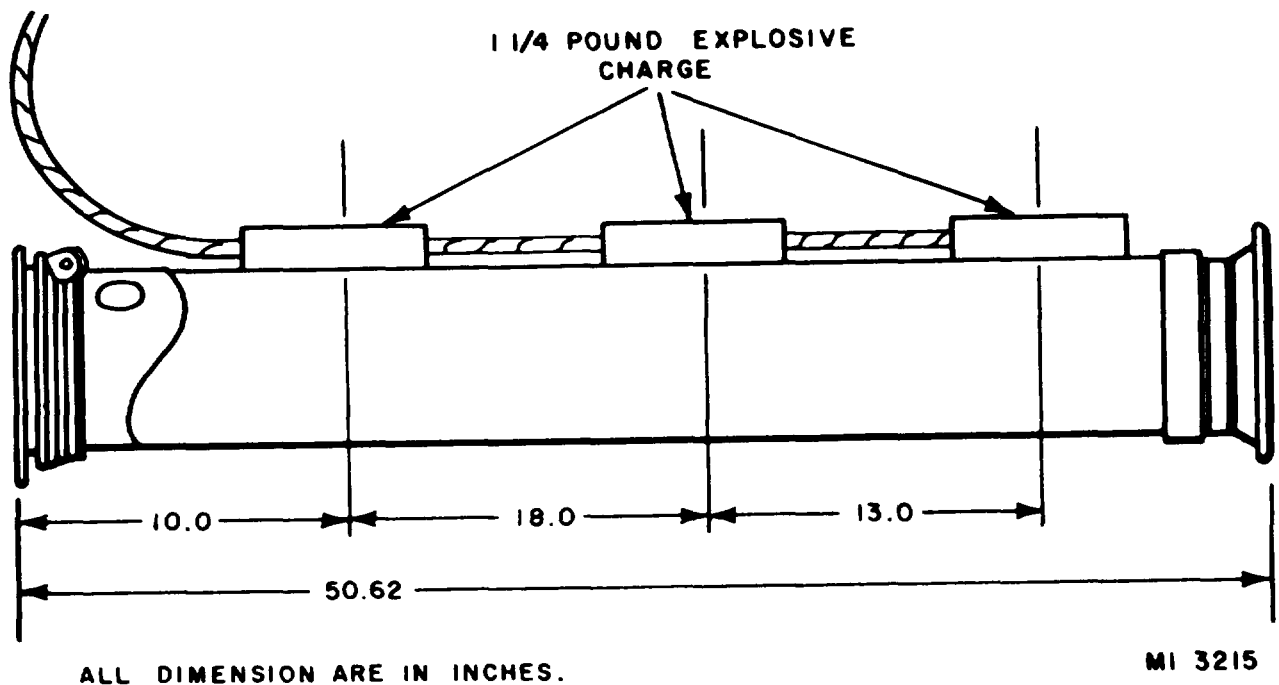


Figure 2-1. Placement of explosive charge on launch container.

WARNING

Firing artillery from ranges of 500 yards or less must be done from cover. Cover must also be taken when firing rifle grenades or rockets.

2-4. Gunfire

Gunfire as a method of destruction is usually used as a last resort because of the danger to personnel. Artillery, rockets, rifle grenades, machine guns, or tank guns may be used to accomplish destruction.

2-5. Improper Operation

Major damage to equipment can be accomplished by deliberate improper operation of the equipment. Engines can be operated without lubricating oil or with the addition of foreign material to the crankcase and transmission.

2-6. Use of Natural Surroundings

The disposal method of destruction includes burying items in the ground (except explosive items), submerging them in water, or scattering them so widely as to prevent or substantially delay the recovery and utilization of essential parts. Burying may be accomplished by digging holes or utilizing

gullies, ravines, and crevices whenever possible. Total submersion in lakes, streams, or other bodies of water provides concealment of equipment. Scattering vital parts through dense foliage over a wide area will hinder the enemy. In the event that the area is recaptured, effort should be made to retrieve concealed items.

2-7. Firing the Missile

The simplest and most effective method of destroying the missile is to launch it into enemy-held territory. The launching should be accomplished so that missile detonation hinders the enemy in every way possible without endangering the equipment or lives of friendly troops.

WARNING

Due to the presence of explosives, mechanical means of destruction, such as the use of sledgehammers, axes, and crowbars are not to be used.

2-8. Safety Precautions

Destruction of ammunition and explosives will never be attempted by inexperienced or untrained Personnel. The number of personnel engaged in such operations will be kept at a minimum consistent with safety.

APPENDIX A REFERENCES

1. General

Applicable publication indexes should be consulted frequently for latest change or revisions to the publications listed in this appendix and for new publications relating to the materiel covered in this manual.

2. Publications Indexes

Index of Administrative Publications	DA Pam 310-1
Index of Army Motion Pictures and Related Audio-Visual Aids	DA Pam 108-1
Index of Blank Forms	DA Pam 310-2
Index of Doctrinal, Training, and Organizational Publications	DA Pam 310-3
Index of Technical Manuals, Technical Bulletins, Supply Manuals (types 7, 8, and 9). Supply Bulletins. and Lubrication Orders	DA Pam 310-4
Index of Modification Work Orders	DA Pam 310-7

3. Technical Manuals

Operator and Organizational Maintenance Manual: Training Set, Guided Missile System M-70 (TOW Heavy Antitank/Assault Weapon System)	TM 9-6920-470-12
Operator and Organizational Maintenance Manual: Battery Charger PP-4884 (X0-1)/T(TOW Heavy Antitank/Assault Weapon System)	TM 9-6130-470-12
Operator and Organizational Maintenance Manual for TOW Heavy Antitank/Assault Weapon System	TM 9-1425-470-12
Equipment Serviceability Criteria for TOW Heavy Antitank/Assault Weapon System	TM 9-1425-470-ESC
Operator's Manual for Carrier, Personnel, Full Tracked, Armored M113A1 (2320-968-6321)	TM 9-2300-257-10
Operator's Manual for Truck, Utility ¼-ton, 4x4, M151 (2320-542 -4783)	TM 9-2320-218-10
Organizational Maintenance Repair Parts and Special Tools List for: Launcher, Tubular, Guided Missile, M-200 Charger, Battery PP-4884 (X0-1)/T: Mounting Kit, Vehicle Guided Missile System M233E1: Mounting Kit, Vehicle. Guided Missile System M225: Mounting Kit. Vehicle, Guided Missile M236 (TOW Heavy Antitank/Assault Weapon System)	TM 9-1425-470-20P
Organizational Maintenance Repair Parts and Special Tools List for: Training Set, Guided Missile System M-70 (TOW Heavy Antitank/Assault Weapon System)	TM 9-6920-470-20P

4. Forms

TM 38-750, The Army Maintenance Management System (TAMMS), lists the various forms required in maintenance. In addition, the following forms pertain to this materiel:

Recommended Changes to Publications	DA Form 2028
Report of Packaging and Handling Deficiencies	DD Form 6

5. Other Publications

Accident Reporting and Records	AR 385-40
Administrative Storage of Equipment	TM 740-90-1
Army Safety Program	AR 385-10
Care, Handling, and Preservation of Ammunition	TM 9-1300-206
Explosives and Demolitions	FM 5-25
Explosives: Malfunctions Involving Ammunition and Explosives	
Reports Control Symbol AMC-132 (MIN)	AR 75-1
First Aid for Soldiers	FM 21-11
safeguarding Defense Information	AR 380-5
Firing Guided Missiles and Heavy Rockets for Training,	
Target Practice, and Combat	AR 385-62
Security Classification of Missile and Large Rocket Systems	
and Components	TB 9-380-101

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-32, Section II (qty rqr block no. 104) Organizational Maintenance requirements for the Tow Weapon System.

LOT 3