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Improvised Munitions Combined With INTERPRETING AMMUNITION MARKINGS AND COLOR CODES

TM 31—210

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TECHNICAL MANUAL

IMPROVISED MUNITIONS HANDBOOK



Synopsis

Improvised Munitions Combined with INTERPRETING AMMUNITION MARKINGS AND COLOR CODES

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Purpose and Scope

In Unconventional Warfare operations it may be impossible or unwise to use conventional military munitions as tools in the conduct of certain missions. It may be necessary instead to fabricate the required munitions from locally available or unassuming materials. The purpose of this manual is to increase the potential of Special Forces and guerrilla troops by describing in detail the manufacture of munitions from seemingly innocuous locally available materials. Manufactured, precision devices almost always will be more effective, more reliable, and easier to use than improvised ones, but shelf items will just not be available for certain operations for security or logistical reasons.

Therefore the operator will have to rely on materials he can buy in a drug or paint store, find in a junk pile, or scrounge from military stocks. Also, many of the ingredients and materials used in fabricating homemade items are so commonplace or innocuous they can be carried without arousing suspicion. The completed item itself often is more easily concealed or camouflaged. In addition, the field expedient item can be tailored for the intended target, thereby providing an advantage over the standard item in flexibility and versatility.

The manual contains simple explanations and illustrations to permit construction of the items by personnel not normally familiar with making and handling munitions. These items were conceived in-house or, obtained from other publications or personnel engaged in munitions or special warfare work. This manual includes methods for fabricating explosives, detonators, propellants, shaped charges, small arms, mortars, incendiaries, delays, switches, and similar items from indigenous materials.

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Book 2 INTERPRETING AMMUNITION MARKINGS AND COLOR CODES

United States Army Combined Arms Support Command

INTRODUCTION

It is essential that an ammunition specialist be able to identify ammunition. Before you can do this, however, you must learn how to

interpret ammunition markings and color codes. You may not be aware of it, but you have already been exposed to the use of marking and color code systems to identify items. There are the markings on products in stores, for example. The label on a container tells you what is in a container, the amount, and who made, it. Traffic lights, fire engines, and police cars are examples of color coding. Ammunition markings and color coding work in much the same way. You will know a great deal about an ammunition item if you understand the marking and color code systems. Stock Numbers, 1. Department of Defense Identification Code, 2. Department of Defense Ammunition Code, 2. Nomenclature, 2. Supplementary Information, 2. Abbreviations, 3. US Army Model Numbers, 3. Model Numbers of Other US Services, 3. Additional Data, 3. Lot Number, 5. Markings on Ammunition Items, 5

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