

M1006 40-MM NON-LETHAL MUNITION

STARS AND STRIPES

Volume 35, No. 004 SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2000 75c

Not your average weapon



Kosovo showdown led to historic use of nonlethal ammunition in field Page 3



The U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) developed the M1006 40-mm Non-Lethal "Sponge Grenade" (center munition in the photo at left) in response to an urgent request from U.S. field commanders seeking non-lethal capabilities for use in Somalia. Utilizing expertise in propulsion and flight ballistics, projectile design, and target effects, ARL was able to demonstrate a prototype design within four weeks. Due to highly favorable user response, the item was transitioned to the U.S. Army Product Manager for Small Arms for type classification. In addition to Somalia, the M1006 has been deployed to Bosnia, and most recently to Kosovo, in support of peacekeeping operations. Reports from the field continue to reinforce the positive influence that non-lethal munitions — specifically the M1006 — have been able to exert. Recently, a heated altercation between Serb locals and U.S. peacekeepers deteriorated to the verge of lethal gunfire. Instead, our troops opened fire with several non-lethal munitions and were able to keep the Serbs at bay. The top MP in Kosovo, Lieutenant Colonel Brown, stated that the non-lethal ammunition prevented his troops from resorting to lethal fire. "The sting ball and foam grenade (i.e., M1006) were the best." Brown went on to say that the Sponge Grenade "hits you hard and backs you down." In addition to military use, both the law enforcement and prison communities have expressed strong interest in the M1006. In response, ARL has licensed the U.S. patent covering the M1006 to a commercial manufacturer of non-lethal products.



Sponge Point Grenade



Providing Non-Lethal Capabilities for Decisive Engagement



The 40-mm Sponge Point Grenade gives the soldier a capability to stun individuals without penetrating the body by delivering a strong blow to the body. This munition fills a wider range of possible non-lethal weapons applications. In crowd control it gives a soldier, convoy, or crowd control formation a non-lethal capability that can be used to break contact, enforce a buffer zone (standoff distance) with a violent crowd, or stun an individual threat for possible detention by snatch teams. It can also provide EPW facilities and U.S. military detention facilities with similar capabilities. The round is designed to be fired at the center mass of the adult subject at ranges between 10 meters and 50 meters.



M1006 Sponge Grenade Design

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Weapons and Materials Research Directorate
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005
AMSRL-WM@arl.army.mil
website: www.arl.army.mil/wmrd

Mr. David Lyon
Advanced Munitions Concepts Branch
lyon@arl.army.mil
(410) 306-0980 or DSN 458-0980

