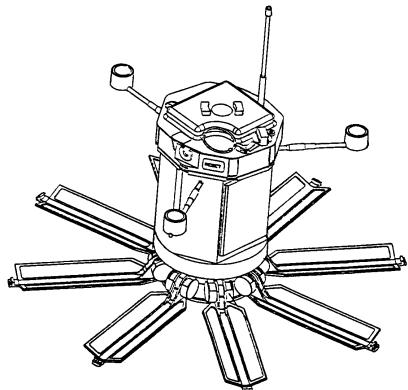


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FM 20-32



Mine/Countermine Operations

Headquarters,
Department of the Army

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No. 20-32**

**Headquarters
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Washington, DC, 29 May 1998**

MINE/COUNTERMINE OPERATIONS

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Preface

Field Manual (FM) 20-32 provides United States (US) armed forces with tactical, technical, and procedural guidance for conducting mine and countermine operations. It applies to all elements of the combined arms team for maneuver and engineer staff planning and coordination. The manual is presented in three parts—mine operations, counteroperations, and special-mining operations.

The guidance provided focuses on individual skills of emplacing and removing mines, team and squad tasks, platoon and company organization and planning, and battalion/task force (TF) organization and coordination for successful obstacle reduction and breaching operations.

The provisions of this publication support existing doctrine established by FMs 5-34, 5-100, 90-7, and 90-13-1. It also contains new and improved techniques for emplacing row mines; marking, reporting, and recording minefields; reducing simple and complex obstacles; and emplacing a standard-pattern minefield. This manual reflects new doctrine from FMs 5-10, 5-71-2, and 5-71-3.

This publication implements the following International Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) between North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces:

- STANAG 2036. *Land Minefield Laying, Marking, Recording, and Reporting Procedures*. Edition 5.
- STANAG 2889. *Marking of Hazardous Areas and Routes Through Them*. Edition 3.
- STANAG 2990. *Principles and Procedures for the Employment in Land Warfare of Scatterable Mines with a Limited Laid Life*. Edition 1.

NOTE: US policy regarding the use and employment of antipersonnel land mines (APLs) outlined in this FM is subject to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Executive Orders. Current US policy limits the use of non-self-destructing APLs to (1) defending the US and its allies from armed aggression across the Korean demilitarized zone and (2) training personnel engaged in demining and countermine operations. The use of the M18A1 claymore in the command-detonation mode is not restricted under international law or Executive Order.

All references to US employment of non-self-destructing APLs (such as row mining) in this manual are intended to provide doctrine for use in Korea only. This information is provided in bold lettering throughout the manual. Detailed doctrine on APLs is also provided to ensure that US forces recognize how the enemy can employ these weapons.

As the US military seeks to end its reliance on APLs, commanders must consider the increased use of other systems such as the M18A1 claymore, nonlethal barriers (such as wire obstacles), sensors and surveillance platforms, and direct and indirect fires.

This publication includes the following appendixes:

- Appendix A. Installation and Removal of US Mines and Firing Devices.
- Appendix B. Controls and Components of Special-Purpose Munitions.
- Appendix C. Threat Mine/Countermine Operations.
- Appendix D. Air Volcano.
- Appendix E. Safety and Training.
- Appendix F. Mine Awareness.
- Appendix G. Countermine Data.
- Appendix H. Metric Conversion Chart.

The proponent for this publication is Headquarters, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Forward comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 to Commandant, US Army Engineer School, ATTN: ATSE-DME-MWF, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-5000.

Unless this publication states otherwise, nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter provides the mechanics and characteristics of antitank (AT) mines and munitions, antipersonnel (AP) mines and munitions, and antihandling devices (AHDs). The information contained in this chapter also provides a foundation for the rest of the manual.

Land-based mines and munitions are hand-emplaced, remote-delivered, ground-delivered, or air-delivered:

- Hand-emplaced mines and munitions require manual arming and are labor-, resource-, and transport-intensive.
- Remote- and air-delivered mines and munitions require less time and labor; however, they are not as precisely placed as hand-emplaced mines and munitions.
- Ground-delivered mines are less resource-intensive than hand-emplaced mines. They are not precisely placed; however, the minefield boundaries are.

Soldiers can surface lay or bury mines and munitions and can place AHDs on hand-emplaced AT mines.

NOTE: Some countries employ AHDs on AP mines, but US forces are not authorized to employ AHDs on any type of AP mine.

MECHANICS OF MINES

CHARACTERISTICS AND FUNCTIONING

A land mine is an explosive device that is designed to destroy or damage equipment or personnel. Equipment targets include ground vehicles, boats, and aircraft. A mine is detonated by the action of its target, the passage of time, or controlled means. There are two types of land-based mines—AT and AP. Mines generally consist of the following parts (Figure 1-1, page 1-2):

- Firing mechanism or other device (sets off the detonator or igniter charge).
- Detonator or igniter (sets off the booster charge).
- Booster charge (may be attached to the fuse or the igniter or be part of the main charge).
- Main charge (in a container; usually forms the body of the mine).
- Casing (contains all the above parts).

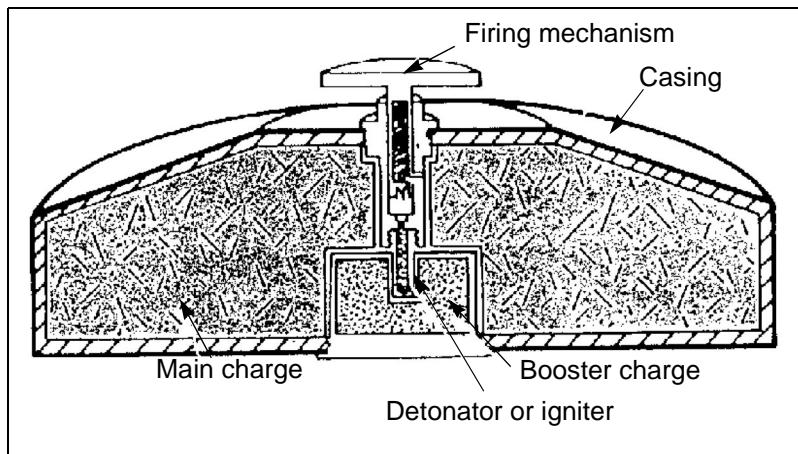


Figure 1-1. Mine components

COMPONENTS AND INITIATING ACTIONS

A firing mechanism prevents the mine from exploding until it makes contact with, or is influenced by, its target. Once a mine has been armed, the firing mechanism may be actuated by the following methods (Figure 1-2):

- Applying pressure (including tilt rod).
- Pulling a trip wire.
- Releasing tension or breaking a trip wire.
- Releasing pressure.
- Passage of time (time-delay mechanism).
- Impulses.
 - Electrical.
 - Vibration.
 - Magnetic-influence.
 - Electromagnetic-frequency.
 - Infrared-sensored.
 - Acoustic.

To arm some mines, you must position the igniter, set the mechanism properly, and disengage the safety device (usually by removing a safety pin). The fuse is the initial component in the firing chain; it has a low-explosive (LE) powder but is highly sensitive. The fuse is actuated by an initiating action. Although mines are issued with a standard fuse, alternate fuses are issued separately for some mines.

The four main fuse types are shown in Figure 1-3, page 1-4.