



Ordnance & Explosives (OE) Glossary

Adapter Booster – Devices that contain the explosive component between the primer and the main charge and adapt various diameter fuzes to various munitions.



WWI Adapter Booster

Anomalies – An anomaly is a reading from a magnetometer taken during a geophysical study that can result from scrap metal or ordnance.



Geophysical Study on James River Beachfront

Booster Cup – A metal cup holding the explosive component between the primer and the main charge in some munitions.

Bulk explosives – Crystalline TNT.

Burn Trenches – Trenches dug for the express purpose of being loaded with retrograde explosives or ordnance, which were burned, and then buried as a means of disposal.

Burster Tubes – A tube that holds an explosive charge. It is found inside some types of projectiles and is used to rupture the projectile case and disburse its contents.

Fuze Adapter – Devices that adapt various diameter fuzes to various munitions.

Grenade (Detonators and Fuzes) – Grenades are projectiles of a size and shape convenient for throwing by hand or projecting from a rifle.



Grenade Fuze and Detonator

Kickout Area – Area surrounding ordnance disposal pits and trenches that contain OE fragments from prior mass detonation.

HE (High Explosive) – An explosive which when used in its normal manner detonates, rather than burns.

Misc. Munitions Pounds – This is the weight of items that may have contained a small amount of internal explosive residue such as primers, detonators, tracers, grenade fuzes, small arms, cartridge cases, and small arms projectiles. All such items were disposed of explosively to ensure any hazard associated with the item(s) was removed.

Mortars – a type of projectile. However they are different from Artillery

Projectiles in several ways. They do not have a cartridge case that contains the propellant. They have a shorter range than artillery projectiles.

They are commonly loaded with High Explosives (HE), White Phosphorus (WP) Smoke or illuminating mixtures.



Mortar Fuze

Mortar Fuzes – A device with explosive components designed to initiate a mortar by actions such as impact, mechanical time, or a combination of these.



British MK 146 Fuze

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Non-OE Related Scrap
– Miscellaneous materials not related to OE (metals, construction debris, etc.)



Non-OE related scrap on the James River Beachfront

OE (Ordnance and Explosives) – Ammunition, ammunition components, chemical or biological warfare material, or explosives that have been abandoned, expelled from demolition pits or burning pads, lost, discarded, buried, or fired.



20 mm

OE Scrap – This is primarily shrapnel or fragments but also includes burnt ordnance items



OE Scrap

that once contained explosive fillers, detonators, primers, etc. Before an item can be called OE scrap it must go through an inspection process to ensure it does not contain any explosive residue.

Projectiles – Munitions that are launched.



170 mm Projectile

Smokes – Projectiles or grenades that produce smoke rather than explode.

UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) – Military munitions that have been primed, fuzed, armed or otherwise prepared for action, and have been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to the public, operations, or material and remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause. UXO contains explosive filler or propellant.

75 mm MK 1 Shrapnel Rounds – A round of ammunition that is loaded with steel balls and equipped with a timed fuze designed to light an expelling charge prior to impact. The expelling charge then causes the case to rupture or separate, scattering shrapnel (the steel balls) over a wide area.

Ordnance and Explosives Warning

If you find an unknown object that you think might be ordnance, ammunition, or explosives:

- ◆ DO NOT TOUCH IT.
- ◆ DO NOT MOVE IT.
- ◆ DO NOT DISTURB IT.
- ◆ Mark and note the location.
- ◆ Call 911 and report location and description

Department of Defense Experts will be called to inspect and remove any suspicious material.

Point of Contact:

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