



RKG-3 Near-Ambush Awareness

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RKG-3 Overview

Basics

- RKG-3s are conventional, hand-thrown anti-armor munitions
- RKG-3s have the potential to exploit vulnerabilities in armored vehicles
- RKG-3s are logistically available



RKG-3/RKG-3M

Specifications

- Hand-thrown
- Drogue-stabilized shaped charge that detonates on contact
- Conventional anti-armor weapon for direct attack
- Handle and body may be stored separately



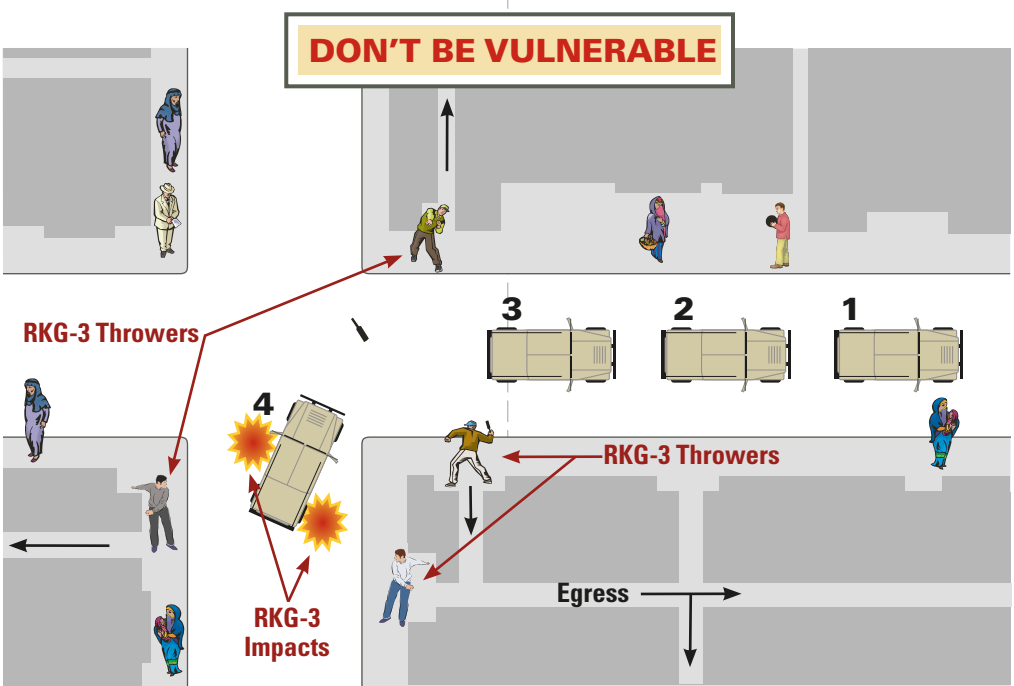
Cross-sectional view

- Uses shaped charge to penetrate up to 125 mm (4.9 inches) of rolled homogenous armor (RHA)
- By design, RKG-3 is *not* an anti-personnel device



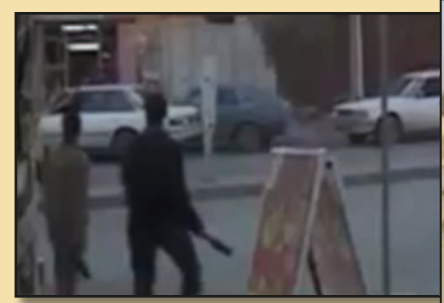
**If found: Report unexploded ordnance (UXO)
 DO NOT MOVE GRENADE!**
 Leave it in place because the firing pin is held apart from the detonator by spring tension, awaiting movement or impact.

Example of Vehicle Isolation



Enemy TTP

- Enemy will often employ RKG-3s simultaneously
- Used in settings vulnerable to ambush (i.e., choke points, elevated positions, crowded areas, obstructed visibility, screening, multiple egresses, etc.)
- Most frequently used in urban settings
- The trailing vehicles of the convoy are common targets (see illustration on the left)



Stills from http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7crpa_compilation-rkg3-in-iraq_news

The Threat

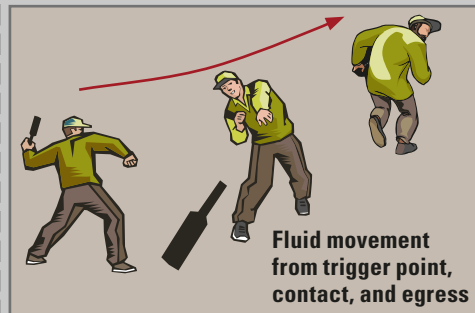
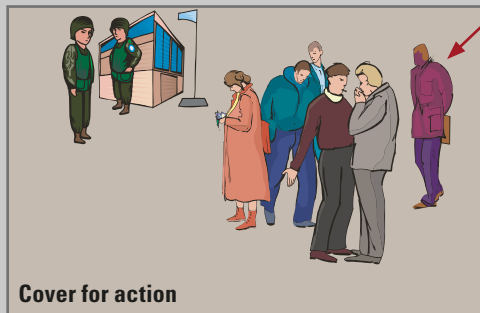
- Think like the enemy:
What would I do to kill me today?
- These TTP and the advice provided are not limited to a near ambush involving a specific munition; instead, they should be used to get ahead of the constant evolution and/or recurrence of enemy ambush techniques
- For this publication, a near ambush is an ambush initiated within 10–20 meters

Additional resources and references

- Army Soldier Handbook No. 21-76 (SH 21-76), *Ranger Handbook*, Ranger Training Brigade, April 2000.
- Army Field Manual No. 3-21.8 (FM 3-21.8), *Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad*, U.S. Army, March 2007.
- <http://www.ngic.army.smil.mil/xml/products/2009/03/1131/ngic-1131-7178-09.htm>
- <http://army.daiis.mi.army.smil.mil/org/aawo/awg/default.aspx>
- <http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/rkg-3>
- Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned: <http://www.mccl.usmc.mil>
- Center for Army Lessons Learned: <http://call.army.mil>

Fundamentals of an Ambush

A **near ambush** uses specific techniques to gain close access to a target and provide egress for those conducting it. Some of the fundamentals of an ambush include:



TTP for Counter-Ambush

- Maintain 360-degree security
- Cover dead space and areas of limited visibility
 - Use available assets such as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to provide view of dead space
 - Maintain mutual support between vehicles
- Dismount personnel when encountering suspect areas to:
 - Increase situational awareness and options for counter-ambush
 - Reduce enemy ability to get close to target
 - Reduce the risk of catastrophic casualties caused by targeting of armored vehicles
 - Increase positive contact with the local population
 - Enhance ability to identify and defeat threats
- Vary speeds, routes, and patterns
- Transition gunners from crew-served weapons to individual small arms to:
 - Target specific threats in crowds
 - Provide psychological threat with immediate capacity to administer precise, lethal force
- Use observation techniques
 - Beware of inconsistencies (people, actions, inaction, etc.)
 - Profiling based on previous experience and intelligence
 - Do not look for what belongs, look for what does not belong
- Evaluate your own vulnerabilities: Do not be a soft target!

Assess the Likelihood of an Attack

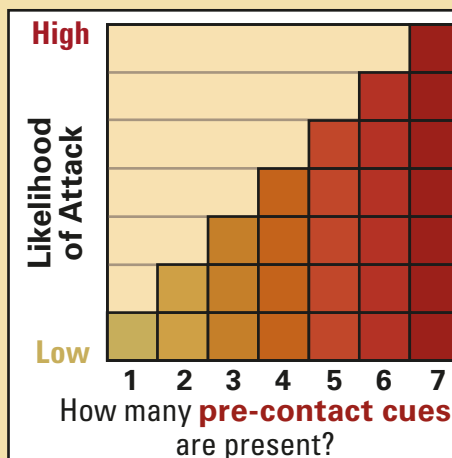
Think ahead

- Understand that the threat will adapt to any of your countermeasures and will change strategy and delivery
- Remember that the threat and indicators of it are evolving constantly; only your vigilance will overcome the threat's ability to improvise—**Complacency Kills**
- While looking for the current threat, also prepare for the next evolution of threats
- The pre-contact cues are not set in stone; instead, they are constantly evolving

Intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB) planning considerations

- Identify chokepoints/channelization along intended routes/locations of previous attacks

- Identify areas that may have crowds or traffic congestion
- Identify possible threat observation points, ingress/egress points, and concealment
- Conduct pattern analysis of historical attack sites and frequency of attacks



Pre-contact cues

- People moving into positions of advantage against convoy
- Hands moving underneath clothing
- People occupying potential observation points
- Unusual changes in population presence
- Changes in appearance of people on street (clothing or demeanor)

The cumulative addition of each cue should give you a heightened sense of awareness to the possibility of attack.

THINK AHEAD!