

“combines the properties of low sensitive incendiary and explosive charges. This creates a highly effective projectile with a state-of-the-art pyrotechnically initiated fuze and a reliable ignition train after target impact. This highly effective armour penetrating round features delay functioning, fragmentation, fire starting capabilities...”⁷⁰.

While clearly intended as an anti-materiel round, such ammunition could also be used against personnel: such action would however appear to be in violation of several rules of war.⁷¹ These weapons are essentially the “rifle” version of heavy machine guns or light cannons. Unlike machine guns, they are designed as a point and not an area weapon. Countries that manufacture anti-materiel rifles include, among others, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Russia, Switzerland, South Africa and the United States.

Anti-Armour Weapons

These weapons range from hand-held individual weapons to crew-served ones mounted on ground vehicles and helicopters. Those weapons of SALW concern are the light anti-armour weapons, including such rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) as the Russian RPG 7 and 9 and the American M-72. As these systems have or are being replaced in many armies, it can be expected that states will attempt to dispose of older stocks. In the absence of a thoughtful export policy they could eventually end up in undesirable hands. Countries that manufacture light anti-armour weapons include, among others, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States. A number of countries have also developed new systems.

Israel has developed a family of anti-armour missiles including the 2,500 metre range shoulder fired NT-Gill. The anti-armour systems are being developed through a consortium of various European countries in conjunction with Israel’s state owned Rafael Armament Development Authority. A number of European states, including Germany, may be potential customers.⁷²

Russia has continued to improve on its long line of RPGs with the production of the RPG-27 and RPG-29. Primary improvements have centered around the rocket and warhead and

⁷⁰ Advertisement claim by Raufoss Technology AS.

⁷¹ The problem is that any weapon designed as an anti-material weapon could be used against personnel, inadvertently (creating “collateral damage”) or otherwise. Anti-material weapons with potential use against personnel could be anti-armour weapons, anti-aircraft weapons and large caliber direct fire cannon, although their use in this regard would certainly not be “cost efficient”.

⁷² For details see: Christopher Foss, “Israel pitches AT missiles at Europe,” *Jane’s Defense Weekly* (2 September 1998), p. 12.