

INTRODUCTION

The rifle, bayonet, and hand grenade are the soldier's most lethal basic weapons. Historically, hand grenade training has received less emphasis than marksmanship and bayonet training. The hand grenade must receive greater emphasis in training programs and field training exercises. The proper use of hand grenades could determine the fate of individual soldiers or the success of the mission.

Leaders at all levels should study the employment of grenades in conjunction with the unit mission and implement a training program that supports that mission. Once soldiers can safely arm and throw live fragmentation grenades, units should integrate the use of grenades into collective tasks rather than training it as a separate event. Hand grenades must be integrated with the other available weapon systems to enhance the unit's combat power on the modern battlefield. Hand grenade training must be conducted in the same manner in which we plan to fight.

We cannot let the danger associated with hand grenades deter our training efforts. Proper control and safety procedures while using hand grenades will allow us to conduct this training in a safe manner. Train soldiers to standard, and safety will be inherent.

Hand grenades include more than the casualty-producing instruments of war. The hand grenades that support signal, screening, and crowd control efforts cannot be forgotten. The current inventory provides a specific hand grenade for most circumstances. Soldiers must be familiar with current grenades, their characteristics, and how each is best employed.