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Rheinmetall's new family of 60mm mortar ammunition combines outstanding combat effectiveness, long range and full compatibility with existing systems

As indirect fire weapons, mortars play an indispensable role on the modern battlefield, providing light, highly mobile units in particular with organic firepower.

Besides its 120mm and 81mm products, at FIDAE 2012 Rheinmetall is displaying its new family of 60mm ammunition. The Düsseldorf-based Group's latest generation of enhanced-range, enhanced-performance mortar ordnance is designed to meet all current and foreseeable future mission requirements.

This innovative ammunition family is optimized for insensitivity, fulfilling or surpassing all STANAG 4439 requirements. It encompasses service and practice cartridges, including insensitive high explosive (IHE), high explosive (HE), three different types of smoke/obscurant (WP, RP multispectral and TTC) as well as two illumination variants (visible light and infrared).

The new 60mm ammunition is especially well suited for special forces-type mortars with barrel lengths of 640 and 650 mm. It can also be fired from previously fielded standard weapons with barrel lengths of 895 and 1,000 mm. This is also true of long-range systems such as the M6 launcher made by Denel Land Systems. Fired from a mortar with an 895mm barrel, the maximum effective range is approximately 4,000 metres. Moreover, Rheinmetall's new 60mm ammunition family is compatible with all standard weapons systems in this calibre.

The propelling charge system is identical in all variants, and – depending on customer specifications – can be made with either EI or ECL powder in a combustible case. The loading system and firing tables can also be adapted to match customer requirements. The obturation characteristics of the rounds have been improved as well, contributing to the longer maximum effective range. Moreover, the entire ammunition family meets the STANAG requirements for safety and environmental protection.

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