DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TECHNICAL BULLETIN

OPERATOR/MAINTENANCE INFORMATION ON CARTRIDGE, 120MM: TPCSDS-T, M865

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Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC
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REPORTING OF ERRORS

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SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide supplemental operator/maintenance level information on cartridge 120mm: TPCSDS-T, M865. The cartridge includes the Standard Sabot (old) round, the 1-inch Shorter Sabot round, the new Alliant form, fit and function (F3) design round, and the new Olin F3 design round. These rounds are designed for firing in the 120mm smooth bore M256 cannon mounted on the MIA1 General Abrams Tank and associated NATO 120mm tank systems.

2. General. This bulletin contains data that will be incorporated into the following ammunition and weapon technical manuals:

a. TM 43-0001-28 Army Ammunition Data Sheets, Artillery Ammunition for Guns, Howitzers, Mortars, Recoilless Rifles, Grenade Launchers, and Artillery Fuzes.

b. TM 9-1300-251-20 Organizational Maintenance Manual Artillery Ammunition for Guns, Howitzers, Mortars, Recoilless Rifles, and 40mm Grenade Launchers.

c. TM 9-1300-251-34 Direct Support and General Support Maintenance Manual, Artillery Ammunition for Guns, Howitzers, Mortars, Recoilless Rifles, and 40mm Grenade Launchers.

d. TM 9-2350-264-10 Tank, Combat, Full Tracked 120mm Gun, MIA1 (2350-01-087-1095) General Abrams.

SECTION II. INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES TO BE INCORPORATED INTO OPERATOR/MAINTENANCE TECHNICAL MANUALS

3. General. The information in the following paragraphs will be incorporated as changes to the ammunition chapter of the effected manuals.

4. Description and Tabulated Data.

a. Description. The cartridge, 120mm: TPCSDS-T, M865 (fig. 1) contains a propulsion system consisting of a stub metal case with combustible sidewall, granular propellant, and electric M125 primer, while the projectile consists of the subprojectile and aluminum sabot. The core is a one-piece steel design with a tail cone assembly which is assembled into the sabot by means of threads. The tail cone contains nine holes or six slots which in conjunction with the conical shape provide stabilization. Reduced range is achieved by the aerodynamic blocking effect of the holes or slots. The tail cone assembly also contains a tracer. The aluminum sabot is composed of three 1200 noninterchangeable segments with internal screw threads matching those on the outer diameter of the subprojectile. The sabot has a silicone rubber seal at the rear to prevent gas leakage. The weight of the complete cartridge is approximately 19.0 Kg (41.9 lb) and the weight of the subprojectile is approximately 3.2 Kg (7.1 lb).

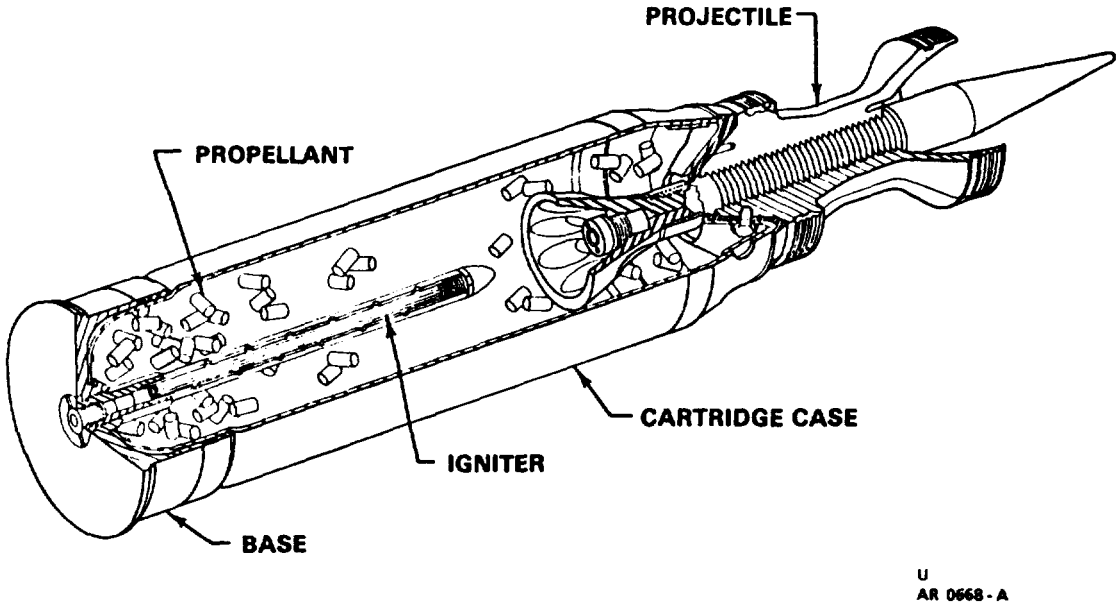

Figure 1. Cartridge, 120MM: TPCSDS-T, M865.