US Army deploys the M111 - The hand grenade that goes through walls

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Farewell to shrapnel, welcome overpressure. After decades of waiting, the Pentagon updates its close-range arsenal with the **M111 Offensive Hand Grenade (OHG)**, a weapon designed for the challenges of modern conflicts between buildings and corridors.

A historical (and technological) breakthrough

The approval of the M111 marks a fundamental milestone: it is the **first new-generation lethal grenade** introduced since the Vietnam War. Developed by the *Capabilities Program Executive Ammunition and Energetics (CPE A&E)* in collaboration with the Picatinny Arsenal, this hand grenade is not just an update, but a true change in military philosophy.

The M111 fills the gap left by the **Mk3A2**, the offensive grenade introduced in 1968 and hastily withdrawn in the '70s when it was discovered that its casing contained **asbestos**, not exactly an ideal risk for the health of soldiers in the field.

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How it works: The power of Blast Overpressure (BOP)

Unlike classic "fragmentation" grenades (like the famous M67), the M111 does not aim to hit the enemy with hundreds of metal fragments. Its strength lies in the **blast overpressure (BOP)**.

- **Plastic casing:** At the moment of detonation, the body of the grenade is literally vaporized.
- **Lethal shockwaves:** The energy is released in the form of a violent pneumatic shockwave.
- **Zero stray shrapnel:** By eliminating metal fragments, the risk of collateral damage to civilians or sensitive infrastructure is drastically reduced.

> ***The tactical advantage:*** *In a closed environment, air pressure propagates everywhere. While a fragment can be stopped by a couch or a table, the shockwave of the M111 "bypasses" obstacles, saturating rooms and corridors.*

Designed for the cities of the future

Urban combat is dirty, chaotic, and confined. The M111 has been optimized precisely for these scenarios:

1. **Effectiveness indoors:** Perfect for room clearing where precision lethality is essential.
2. **Safety for operators:** The lack of shrapnel allows soldiers to operate at slightly closer distances compared to traditional grenades without risking friendly fire.

3. **Standardized training:** The M111 (and its inert training counterpart, the **M112**) uses the same 5-stage fuse as the classic M67. This means soldiers do not have to learn new movements: muscle memory remains the same.

The introduction of the M111 confirms the direction taken by the US Army: **cleaner technology, more targeted effects**. In a world where the battlefield is increasingly often a metropolis, having a weapon that takes down the enemy without taking down the entire building is not just an advantage, it's a necessity.

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