

- BAN ME THOUT -

BARB

SORTIE 36
JULY '06

3RD QUARTER
NEWSLETTER

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M60 MACHINE GUN

The 7.62-mm M60 machine gun supports the rifleman in offense and defense. It provides the heavy volume of close and continuous fire the rifleman needs to accomplish his mission. The M60 is used to engage targets beyond the range of individual weapons, with controlled and accurate fire. The long-range, close defensive, and final protective fires delivered by the M60 form an integral part of a unit's defensive fires. This chapter describes the weapon and the types of ammunition it uses in detail and provides a table of general data.

Section I. DESCRIPTION AND COMPONENTS

This section describes the M60 machine gun and its components and purposes, and ammunition. The primary use of the M60 is to support the rifleman in both offense and defense. It provides the heavy volume of close and continuous fire he needs to accomplish the mission. It can engage targets beyond the capability of individual weapons with controlled, accurate bursts.

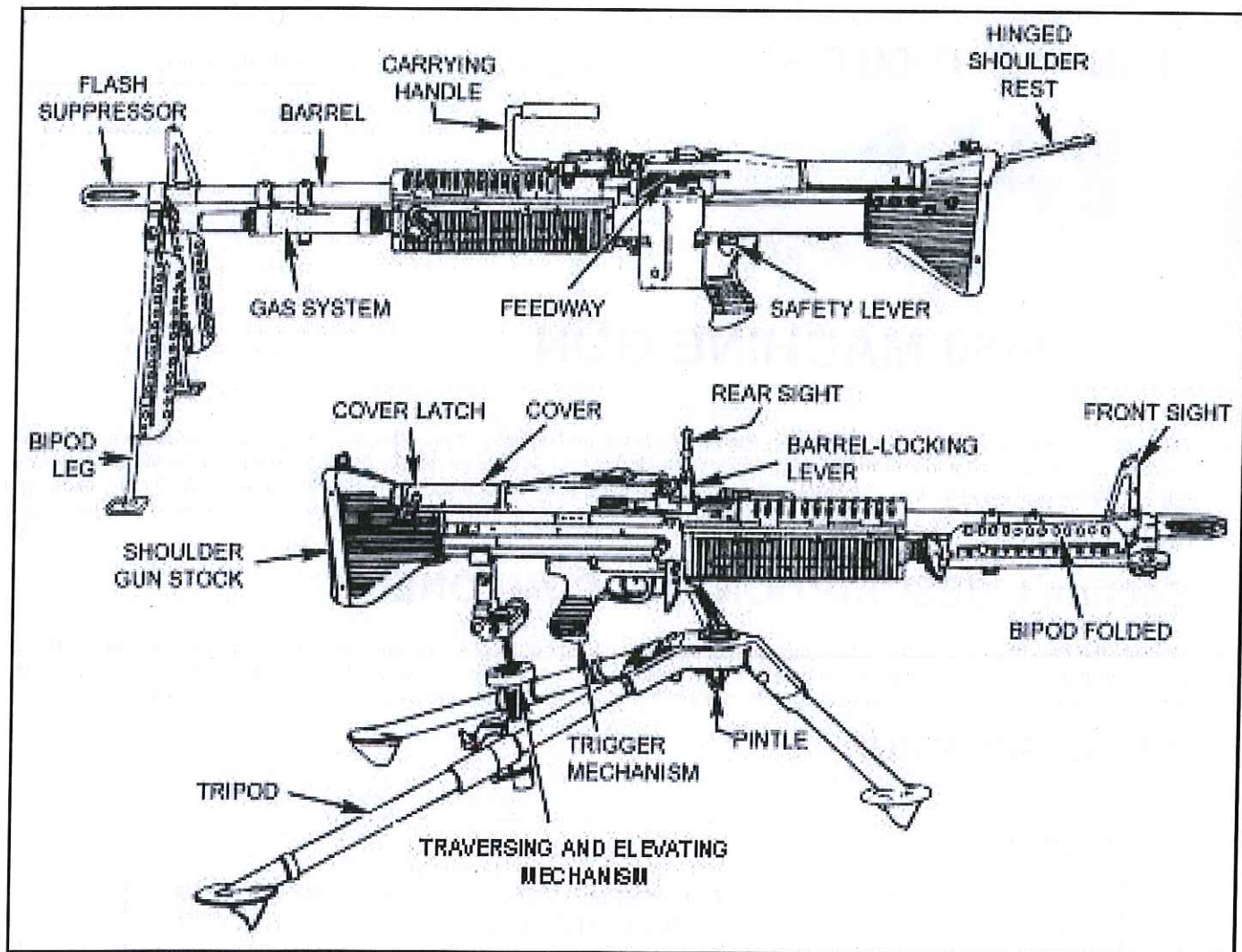
2-1. DESCRIPTION

DANGER

DO NOT INTERCHANGE THE BARREL ASSEMBLY OR THE BOLT ASSEMBLY FROM ONE WEAPON TO ANOTHER. IF YOU DO SO, IT MAY RESULT IN DEATH OR INJURY.

Ammunition	7.62-mm ball, tracer, armor-piercing, blank, dummy. Armor-piercing is not authorized for training.
Tracer burnout	900 meters
Length of the M60	43.5 inches
Weight of the M60	23 pounds
Weight of tripod mount M122 with traversing and elevating mechanism and pintle	16 pounds
Maximum range	3,725 meters
Maximum effective range	1,100 meters with tripod and T&E
Area:	
Tripod	1,100 meters
Bipod	800 meters
Point:	
Tripod	800 meters
Bipod	600 meters
Maximum extent of grazing fire obtainable over level or uniformly sloping terrain	600 meters
Height of the M60 on tripod mount M122	16.5 inches

M60 MACHINE GUN—Continued



Rates of fire:

Sustained.....	100 rounds per minute. 6- to 9-round bursts. 4 to 5 seconds between bursts. Barrel changed every 10 minutes.
Rapid.....	200 rounds per minute. 10- to 13-round bursts. 2 to 3 seconds between bursts. Barrel changed every 2 minutes.
Cyclic.....	550 rounds per minute. Fire continuous burst. Barrel changed every minute.

Basic load of ammunition

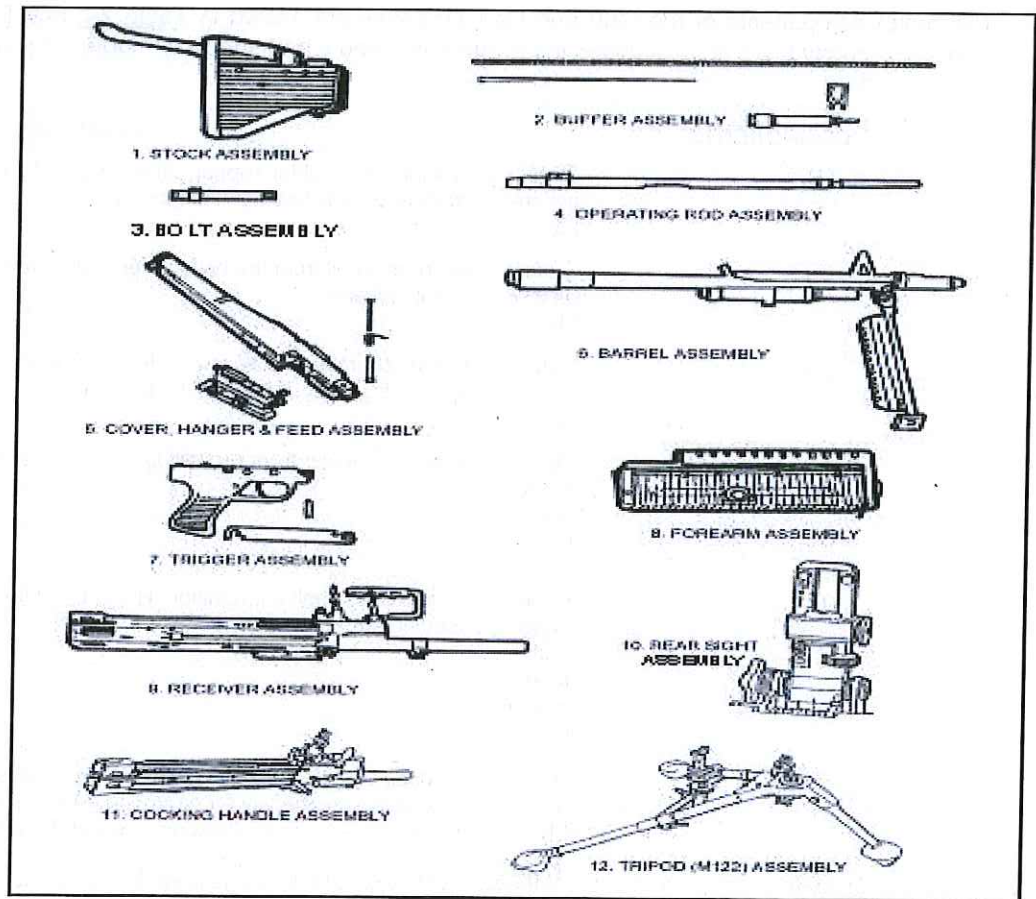
for a three-man crew.....	600 to 900 rounds.
Elevation, tripod controlled.....	+200 mils
Elevation, tripod free.....	+445 mils
Depression, tripod controlled.....	-200 mils
Depression, tripod free.....	-445 mils
Traverse, controlled by traversing and elevating mechanism.....	100 mils
Normal sector of fire (with tripod).....	875 mils

2-2. COMPONENTS

The major components of the M60 and their purposes are shown in [Table 2-2](#) and [Figures 2-2](#) and [2-3](#). The sights and safety lever are discussed in paragraphs a and b and shown in [Figures 2-4](#) and [2-5](#).

COMPONENTS	PURPOSES
(1) Stock assembly	Provides a shoulder support for aiming and firing the M60 machine gun. The stock assembly has a shoulder rest.
(2) Buffer assembly	Absorbs recoil from the bolt and operating rod assembly at the end of the recoil movement.
(3) Bolt assembly	Feeds, chambers, fires, and extracts, using the propellant gases and recoil spring for power. It houses the firing pin.
(4) Operating rod assembly	Transfers power from propelling gases to the bolt and slide assemblies.
(5) Cover, hanger, and feed assembly	Feeds linked-belt ammunition. Holds the cartridges in position for stripping, feeding, and chambering.
(6) Barrel assembly	Houses cartridges for firing, directs projectiles, supports fixed front sight, and provides passageway for operating gases. The bipod supports the M60 in the prone position. The telescopic legs can be adjusted to three different lengths.
(7) Trigger assembly	Controls the firing of the weapon.
(8) Fore-arm assembly	Provides thermal insulation to protect the gunner's hands from heat. Has a slotted top to allow air to circulate around the barrel for cooling purposes.
(9) Receiver assembly	Supports all assembly major components and houses the action of the weapon.
(10) Rear sight assembly	Adjustable for both windage and elevation allowing the gunner to make changes rapidly.
(11) Cocking handle assembly	Pulls the moving parts rearward. Moves in a guide rail fixed to the right side of the receiver.
(12) Tripod (M122) assembly	Together with the tripod, T&E mechanism, and pintle, provides a stable mount and permits a higher degree of accuracy and control.

Table 2-2. Components and purposes.



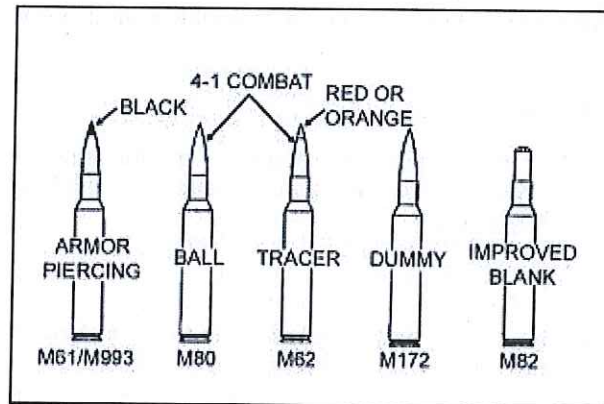
- a. **Sights.** The front sight is attached to the barrel. The rear sight is mounted on a spring-type dovetail base, and it can be folded down when the gun is moved (See [Figure 2-1](#)).
- b. **Safety Lever.** The safety lever is on the left side of the trigger group ([Figure 2-1](#)). It has an "S" and an "F" position. On the "S" position, the bolt cannot be pulled to the rear or released to go forward.

WARNING

Manually return the cocking handle to its forward position each time the bolt is pulled to the rear to prevent damage to the cocking and injury to the gunner.

2-3. AMMUNITION

The M60 machine gun uses several different types of 7.62-mm standard military ammunition. The specific type ammunition and its characteristics are shown in [Figure 2-3](#). Soldiers must use only authorized ammunition that is manufactured to US and NATO specifications. The ammunition is issued in a disintegrating, metallic, split-linked belt ([Figure 2-4](#)).



a. **Classification.** The M60 machine gun ammunition is classified as follows:

- (1) *Cartridge, 7.62-mm Ball M80.* This cartridge is used against light materials and personnel, and for range training.
- (2) *Cartridge, 7.62-mm Armor-Piercing M61.* This cartridge is used against lightly armored targets.
- (3) *Cartridge, 7.62-mm Tracer M62.* This cartridge is used for observation of fire, incendiary effects, signaling, and for training. When tracer rounds are fired, they are mixed with ball ammunition for a mix of four ball rounds to one tracer round.
- (4) *Cartridge, 7.62-mm Dummy M63.* This cartridge is used during mechanical training.
- (5) *Cartridge, 7.62-mm Blank M82.* This cartridge is used during training when simulated live fire is desired. A blank firing attachment is used to fire this ammunition.

b. **Storage.** The ammunition is stored under cover. If ammunition is in the open, it must be kept at least 6 inches above the ground and covered with a double thickness of tarpaulin. The cover must be placed so that it protects the ammunition yet allows ventilation. Trenches are dug to divert water from flowing under the ammunition.

c. **Care, Handling, and Preservation.** Ammunition should not be removed from the airtight containers until ready for use. Ammunition removed from the airtight containers, especially in damp climates, may corrode.

- (1) Ammunition must be protected from mud, dirt, and moisture. If ammunition gets wet or dirty, it must be wiped off before use. Lightly corroded cartridges are wiped off as soon as the corrosion is discovered. Heavily corroded, dented, or loose projectiles should not be fired.
- (2) Ammunition must be protected from the direct rays of the sun. Excessive pressure from the heat may cause premature detonation.
- (3) Oil should never be used on ammunition. Oil collects dust and other abrasives that may possibly damage the operating parts of the weapon.

d. **Packaging.** The ammunition box contains two cartons. Each carton has a bandoleer for carrying purposes. Each carton contains 100 rounds and weighs about 7 pounds. Ammunition in the bandoleers may be linked together, attached to the hanger assembly, and fired from the container; or, the bandoleers may be removed for firing.

Section II. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance contributes to weapon effectiveness as well as unit readiness. Maintenance aspects of the M60 include inspection; cleaning and lubrication; and maintenance before, during, and after firing, and during NBC conditions. Associated tasks essential to maintenance (clearing, general assembly and disassembly, and function checks) are discussed in detail.

2-5. CLEARING PROCEDURES

The first step in maintenance is to clear the weapon. This applies in all situations, not just after firing. The gunner must always assume the M60 is loaded. To clear the M60, the gunner performs the following procedures. (Subparagraph letters are keyed to the lettered callouts in [Figure 2-7.](#))

- a. Moves the safety lever to the "F" position.
- b. With his right hand, palm up, pulls the cocking handle in the rear. Moves the safety lever to the "S" position. Returns and locks the cocking handle in the forward position.
- c. Raises the cover and conducts the *four-point safety check* for brass, links, or ammunition.
 - (1) Checks the feed pawl assembly under the cover.
 - (2) Checks the feed tray.
 - (3) Lifts the feed tray and hanger assembly and inspects the chamber.
 - (4) Checks the space between the face of the bolt and the chamber.
- d. Closes the cover and moves the safety lever to the "F" position. Pulls the cocking handle to the rear position. Pulls the trigger and at the same time eases the bolt forward by manually riding the cocking handle forward.
- e. Places the safety lever on "S" and raises the cover. (If not disassembling the gun, keep the cover down.)

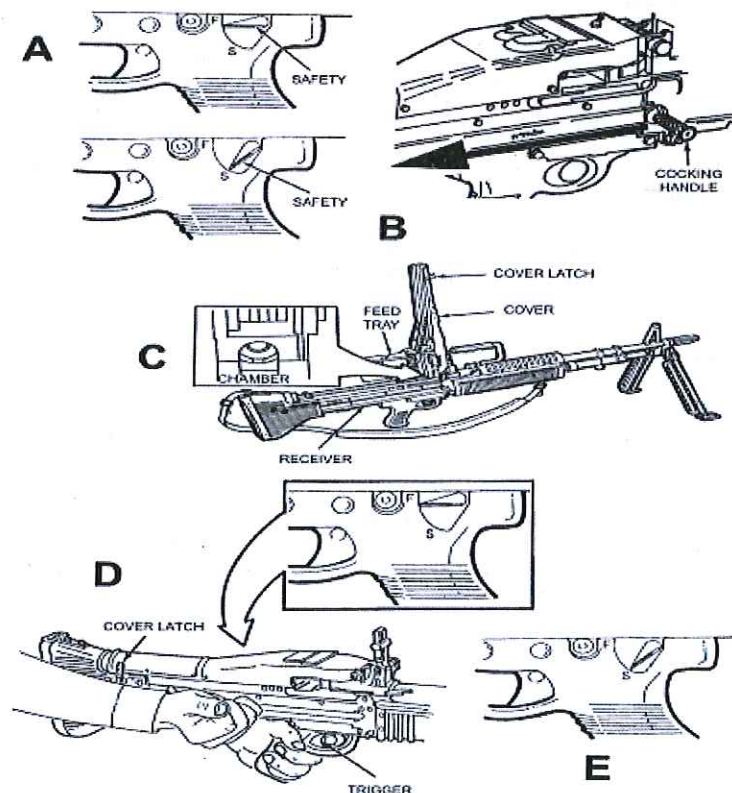


Figure 2-7. Clearing procedures.



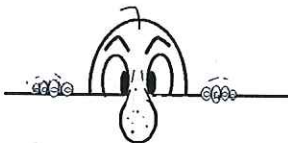
To write your stories . . .
and send them in!

155th Assault Helicopter Company Association

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Durham, N.C. 27712

Kilroy was here.



President: Jim Ferris;

This quarterly newsletter is dedicated to the men of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company and the many other units that served alongside us in and around Ban Me Thout, Central Highlands, II CORP, Republic of Viet Nam. These are stories submitted by those that were there. The horrors, sadness, esprit de corps, camaraderie, humor, fears, loneliness, heroics, bravado—false or real, the confusion and bullshit of war, are all expressed in this quarterly. We hope that some find solace in its content, others find lost friendships, and still others find themselves once again within the pages of this publication and our organization. This is our mission today, and we endeavor to meet this mission with all the compassion and commitment that we gave to those other missions of so many years ago.

The 155th AHCA was founded in Washington, D.C. in November, 1995. Annual membership dues of \$30 are appreciated but not required. The dues help defray costs of this publication's mailings, inventory such as hats, t-shirts, etc. and reunions. Payment by check or money order addressed to the 155th AHCA and mailed to the Treasurer is preferred.

Just a reminder:

The reunion in Savannah is fast approaching. Make your plans now to attend!

We all look forward to seeing you there!

Details are on the web page (address directly below).

**NOTICE: NEW
WEB ADDRESS!**

WE ARE ON
THE WEB AT:
<http://155thahc.com>

Sweat and Sandbags from the Bunker

I wrote the following words last year at this time: "I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to help in the further success of our newsletter. If each of you would sit down and spend a little time writing up a memoir or a story, whether humorous, serious, dramatic, or just to make a comment about something you would like to share with the group, it would be greatly appreciated. None of us ever wanted to run out of ammo! And neither do your editors."

Well, here I am, a year later, I have run out of "ammo".

The question that I ask myself at this point is, "Do we want to continue the newsletter?" It is my understanding that it is enjoyed by all. Yet, we have drained the bucket as far as folks sending in their stories.

We, the editors, have solicited constantly for new material, but receive very limited replies.

We cannot issue that which is not there.

So, here is one more plea. If you enjoy the BARB, as you state that you do, you need to take an active role in providing us with your memories. We all have a multitude of those from that time that we were over there. Send one, then another and keep them coming. Don't be shy. We all served in a common experience. Share your thoughts with the rest of us.

If each of you would write up a story and send it, we would have material for years. Don't forget the pictures as well. Take the time and do it now! E-mail or snail mail it to Les or myself.

Please take this issue with humor. It was done with no malice to anyone. It was created to only make a point. Hopefully, we will have a normal issue next time.

Jeff Schrader



**SPACE
AVAILABLE
FOR
YOUR
STORY!**

Don't Miss It!

Next month's feature will be the Army's FM on how to repair and reassemble a kitchen stove in the field.