

**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

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**40-MM
GRENADE LAUNCHER,
M203**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER, M203

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PREFACE

This manual provides technical information on and training and combat techniques for the M203 grenade launcher. Intended users include leaders and designated grenadiers, who will use this information to successfully integrate the M203 into their combat operations. This manual discusses gunnery training and train-the-trainer and includes an appendix on the 40-mm grenade launcher, M79.

The tactical positions shown in this manual were drawn to enhance the reader's understanding of related subject material and are *not* tactically correct.

Unless stated otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns in this publication do not refer exclusively to men.

The proponent of this publication is the United States Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Commandant, United States Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5595 or send an email to doctrine@benning.army.mil.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the training strategy and combat conditions for the 40-mm grenade launcher, M203. (Appendix A discusses the M79 model.)

1-1. TRAINING STRATEGY

An effective overall training strategy produces well-trained grenadiers and trainers by integrating resources into an effective year-round training program. Beginning with IET and continuing both in other institutions (NCOES, IOBC, and IOAC) and in the unit, such a program trains and sustains the individual and collective skills needed to perform the wartime mission. Specific training strategies are implemented by institutional and unit training programs, and supporting training strategies are implemented through the use of other resources such as publications, ranges, ammunition, training aids, devices, simulators, and simulations. The year-round program includes periodic preliminary marksmanship training followed by zeroing and range qualification firing. Other key elements of the program are training for the trainers and refresher training for nonfiring skills. The example in Figure 1-1 on page 1-3 shows the flow of unit sustainment training.

a. **Institutional Training.** Training strategy begins with combat arms initial-entry training (IET), which trains soldiers in the standards of M203 gunnery tasks. Soldiers graduate with basic and advanced M203 skills that include maintaining the M203 and using it to hit a variety of targets. Other institutional training programs, such as NCOES, IOBC, and IOAC, reinforce these skills. Related soldier skills are integrated into tactical training (STP 21-1-SMCT).

b. **Unit Training.** Training continues in units, where, in addition to sustaining proficiency in skills gained in institutional training, leaders and soldiers develop and sustain new skills such as suppressive and supporting fire. These skills are integrated into collective training exercises to develop combat readiness. Preliminary marksmanship training is conducted before firings and as other opportunities arise. (Appendix B discusses an M203 unit training program.) To be effective, a unit training program focuses on three battlefield variables:

- (1) **Target.** Is the target moving or stationary, single or multiple?
- (2) **Grenadier.** Is the grenadier moving or stationary? Is he kneeling, prone, or standing?
- (3) **Conditions.** Is visibility full or limited? Must soldiers wear protective masks or not? Is it day or night?

c. **Initial and Sustainment Training.** A task that is taught correctly and learned well is retained longer, so initial training is critical. In addition to being more easily sustained, well-trained skills are also easier to regain if not used for some time. Retraining may be needed, however, if too much time elapses, if training doctrine changes, or if personnel turnover is high.

(1) **Collective Training.** Collective training exercises progress from drills (squad, section, and platoon) to STXs, and then to live-fire tactical exercises (LFXs). Drill books