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Overview



A U.S. Marine fires a Mk 19 40 mm grenade launcher in Quantico, Virginia in September 2000.

The Mk 19 is a belt-fed, blowback-operated, air-cooled, crew-served, fully-automatic weapon that is designed not to cook off. It fires 40 mm grenades at a cyclic rate of 325 to 375 rounds per minute, giving a practical rate of fire of 60 rounds per minute (rapid) and 40 rounds per minute (sustained). The weapon operates on the blowback principle, which uses the chamber pressure from each fired round to load and re-cock the weapon. The Mk 19 can launch its grenade at a maximum distance of 2,212 meters (2,419 yd), though its effective range to a point target is about 1,500 meters (1,600 yd), since the large rear leaf sight is only graduated as far. The nearest safe distance to launch the grenade is 310 meters in training and 75 meters in combat. Though

Mk 19



A Mk 19 40 mm grenade launcher mounted on an M3 tripod

Type	Automatic grenade launcher
Place of origin	United States
Service history	
In service	1968–present
Used by	See <i>Users</i>
Wars	<div><div>Vietnam War</div><div>Sino-Vietnamese War</div><div>Cambodian–Vietnamese War</div><div>Sino-Vietnamese conflicts, 1979–1991</div><div>Third Indochina War</div><div>Soviet–Afghan War</div><div>Persian Gulf War^[1]</div><div>War in Afghanistan</div><div>Iraq War</div><div>2006 Lebanon War</div><div>Kurdish–Turkish conflict (1978–</div></div>

the Mk 19 has a flash suppressor, it serves only to save the eyesight of its operator, not concealing the weapon's position. For night operation, a picatinny rail quadrant sight can be added for thermal and night vision optics.

The Mk 19A is a man-portable crew-served weapon that can fire from a tripod-mounted position or from a vehicle mount, with the latter being the preferred method, as the weapon alone weighs 77.6 pounds (35.2 kg). The primary ammunition for it is the high-explosive dual-purpose M430 grenade. On impact, the grenade can kill anyone within a radius of five meters, and wound them within a radius of 15 meters. It can also punch through 2 inches (5.1 cm) of rolled homogeneous armor with a direct hit (0-degree obliquity), which means it can penetrate most infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers. It is especially effective when used against enemy infantry formations. The ammunition comes in cans that hold a 32- or 48-grenade belt weighing 42 and 60 pounds (19 and 27 kg), respectively. Due to its low recoil and comparatively light weight, it has been adapted for use on many different platforms, including small attack boats, fast attack vehicles such as the Humvee (HMMWV), AAV and Stryker, military jeeps, and a large variety of naval mounts.

The Mk 19 automatic grenade launcher replaced the earlier Mk 18 hand-cranked multiple grenade launcher. The 40 mm ammunition used (40×53 mm) is not interchangeable with that used in the M203 (40×46 mm). The M203 ammunition develops a lower chamber pressure, and resultant lower muzzle velocity and range, compared to ammunition loaded for the Mk 19. The Mk 19 fires from an open bolt. The rounds are mechanically fed onto the bolt face with the pull of the charging handles. When the trigger is pressed, the bolt closes, and the firing pin is released. The recoil blows back the bolt, feeds a new round onto the bolt face, which pushes the expended casing off the bolt face.

Production of the Mk 19 is managed by Saco Defense Industries (now a division of General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems).

In November 2014, General Dynamics entered into an agreement with Advanced Material Engineering Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Singapore Technologies Kinetics, to manufacture 40 mm high-velocity airburst ammunition for the U.S. military. The 40 mm airburst grenade uses a programmable, time-based fuse that computes and programs the

present^{[2][3]}
Mexican Drug War
2013 Lahad Datu standoff
Syrian Civil War^[4]
Yemeni Civil War (2015–present)
Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen
Russo-Ukrainian War

Production history	
Designer	<u>Naval Ordnance Station Louisville</u>
Designed	1966
Manufacturer	<u>Saco Defense Industries</u> (now a division of <u>General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems</u>), <u>Combined Service Forces, MKEK</u> ^[5]
Unit cost	\$20,000 ^[6]
Produced	1968–present
Variants	Mk 19 Mod 0, Mk 19 Mod 1, Mk 19 Mod 2, Mk 19 Mod 3, Mk 19 Mod 4
Specifications	
Mass	77.6 pounds (35.2 kg) (empty, without accessories)
Length	43.1 inches (1,090 mm)
Barrel length	16.25 inches (413 mm)
Width	9.46 inches (240.4 mm)

detonation time into it, which counts down once fired to zero to detonate at the intended target point. The airburst ammunition is compatible with the Mk 19, which would give it greater effectiveness and lethality, particularly against concealed and defilade targets.














The U.S. Army plans to introduce several new features to the Mk 19 in an upgrade package that could be introduced by late 2017. Initiatives include: increased muzzle velocity through a less resistant barrel; increased cyclic rate from an improved profile for the vertical cam to reduce the force needed to charge the weapon; enhancing reliability with a redesigned round-positioning block to decrease the chance of misfires; increased durability and shortened re-assembly time after maintenance from a new cocking cam and lever; and an updated mechanical sight utilizing up-to-date ammunition ballistic data to aid accuracy.^[9]












The Mk 19 is used as part of the Şahin counter unmanned air system (C-UAS) developed by Aselsan, which entered service with the Turkish Armed Forces in July 2022 and uses Atom 40 mm ammunition to detect and destroy mini and micro UAVs out to 700 meters.^{[10][11]}

Height	7.8 inches (199 mm)
Cartridge	40×53 mm
Action	Blowback (advanced primer ignition)
Rate of fire	360–390 rpm (cyclic) 40 rpm (sustained) 60 rpm (rapid)
Muzzle velocity	750–790 feet per second (230–240 m/s) (average)
Effective firing range	1,500 m (1,600 yd)
Maximum firing range	2,212 m (2,419 yd)
Feed system	32- or 48-grenade belt

Users

GDOTS has built nearly 35,000 Mk 19 Mod 3 systems for roughly 30 customers since 1984.^[12] Users of the Mk 19 include:

-  Afghanistan: Unknown numbers were given to the Afghan army at an unknown period of time, captured and in use by the Taliban.^[13]
-  Argentina: Argentine Marines.^[14]
-  Australia^[15]
-  Brazil: Used by the Brazilian Marine Corps.^[16]
-  Chile: Used by the Chilean Army and the Chilean Marine Corps.^{[17][18]}
-  Egypt: Manufactured locally by Helwan.^{[19][20]}
-  Georgia^[21]
-  Iran^[22]
-  Iraq: Used by Iraqi special forces on Humvees.^[23]
-  Israel:^[15] Adopted by the Israeli Defence Forces (under the name "Maklar", for *mikla rimonim* or "grenade machinegun"), to be fielded in infantry and mechanized units. The Mk 19 was formerly manufactured locally.^[19]
-  Kosovo:^[15] Kosovo Security Forces.^[19]
-  Lebanon^[24]
-  Malaysia^[15]

-  Mexico.^[15]
-  Morocco: Moroccan Army.^[25]
-  Poland.^[26]
-  Portugal: Used by the Portuguese Army.^[27]
-  Saudi Arabia.^[28]
-  Spain.^[15]
-  Sweden: Designated *Grsp 92*.^[15] Used by Kustjägarna and Amfibiebataljonen.^[29] and also by the 31st Airborne Battalion.^[30]
-  Taiwan.^[1]
-  Turkey: Produced under licence by MKEK.^[5] Used by Turkish Land Forces.^[31]
-  Ukraine.^[32]
-  United States.^[15] Currently in widespread use throughout the U.S. Armed Forces.



U.S. Navy sailors fire a Mk 19 40 mm grenade launcher during a training exercise in March 2003.

Mk 19 in use by Polish Land Forces



A Mexican Army Chevrolet Silverado equipped with a Mk 19 at a military checkpoint in March 2009

See also

- AGS-17
- AGS-30
- AGS-40

- UAG-40
- List of grenade launchers
- Mk 47 Mod 0 Striker, U.S. military successor in limited service
- U.S. Navy equipment designations
- XM174 grenade launcher, predecessor used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War

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