

# Antipersonnel Obstacle Breaching System

By Mr. Bobby Skinner

**T**he Antipersonnel Obstacle Breaching System (APOBS) will soon be available for light engineer unit training. The training strategy can be found in Department of the Army Pamphlet 350-38, *Standards in Weapons Training*. The strategy is designed for all 21B combat engineers in light engineer platoons to fire one live APOBS annually. Other light units (11B infantryman, 19D cavalry scout, and 18C special forces weapons sergeant) will fire a live APOBS while training at the National Training Center or Joint Readiness Training Center.

The APOBS is a two-soldier, portable, linear demolition charge that is used against antipersonnel mines and wire obstacles. It consists of five major components: a rocket motor, a fuse, a 25-meter line charge consisting of 60 grenades and detonating cord, a

20-meter line charge consisting of 48 grenades and detonating cord, and a container for shipping or storage. The APOBS has two molded plastic prepackaged backpacks to hold the line charges. The 65-pound backpack contains the front 25-meter line charge and the line-charge connector and has a provision to hold the rocket launch rod. The 55-pound backpack contains the rear 20-meter line charge. The two users open the backpacks, connect the two line charges, emplace the rocket on the launch rod, aim, and ignite the rocket motor, which launches and carries the two connected line charges across the obstacle to be breached. A drogue parachute, attached to the end of the 20-meter line charge, provides stability during flight. When the 45-meter line charge is directly over the obstacle, the fuse ignites the detonating cord, which

activates the grenades. The APOBS can be fired in either command mode or delay mode. The system includes a tool kit with spare parts, a screwdriver, ear plugs, and a field card that provides technical data.

The US Army Engineer School Standards in Training Commission Manager can be contacted at 573-596-0131, ext 36243 or DSN 676-6243. 

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APOBS