



## DEFENCE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE WEBSITE ORDNANCE INFORMATION SHEET

**ALL UXO MAY BE HAZARDOUS IF DISTURBED  
DO NOT TOUCH – TAKE A PHOTO – MARK THE LOCATION – CALL THE POLICE**

### AIRCRAFT PROJECTILE – 30MM HIGH EXPLOSIVE INCENDIARY

#### Description

- ☛ The 30mm High Explosive Incendiary (HEI) is a projectile fired by the automatic guns of numerous Australian/Allied aircraft. These munitions have been used from WWII to the present.
- ☛ Australian aircraft fitted with the 30mm gun included the CAC Sabre (1950s-60s; 2 x 30mm Aden cannons), Dassault/GAF Mirage (1960s-80s; twin 30mm DEFA cannons), Eurocopter Tiger (2000 to Present; 30mm cannon in chin turret) and BAE Hawk 127 (2000 to Present; 30mm Aden cannon).
- ☛ The 30mm projectile is also used by other Allies' equipment exercising in Australia e.g. US and Singaporean AH-64 Apache helicopter with their LW30mm M230 Chain Gun, 30mm Mk44 Bushmaster II on the US Navy San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, Freedom-class and Independence-class Littoral Combat Ships and the Singaporean Army Bionix II armoured fighting vehicle (30mm Mk44 Bushmaster II).
- ☛ The HEI projectile is designed to damage its target in one or both of two ways: via a high-explosive charge and/or via its incendiary (fire-causing) effects.
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by air forces for aircraft firing practices or air force bases – typically on or just below the ground surface.

#### Technical Data

A variety of differing models have been used in Australia – both Commonwealth and US designs. Despite minor differences, they are all approximately the same in their appearance, composition and method of operation.

- ☛ Mmunition length : approx. 195-200 mm (Australia/Commonwealth/NATO variants)
- ☛ Projectile length : approx. 85-90 mm
- ☛ Projectile diameter : maximum diameter 30 mm
- ☛ Total weight : Mmunition – approx 490-500 grams, Projectile – approx 250 g.
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : Contains a simple explosive fuse which can be easily detonated.
- ☛ Filling : approx 25-50 g high explosive and an incendiary composition.
- ☛ Identification :
  - The body of the munition is usually plain brass however the projectile may have one or more bands of colour (depending on the specific type of munition).
  - Red or yellow bands/stripes were most often used to denote HE munitions however other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

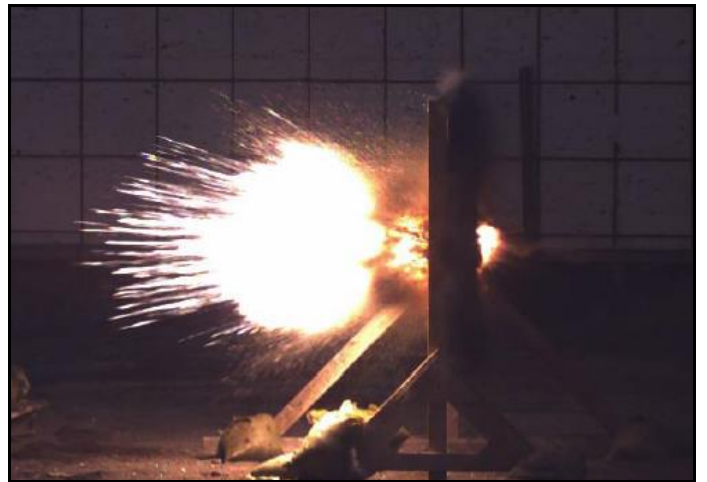
**Images**



**Figure 1 - Size comparison of common conventional rifle ammunition and 30mm aircraft ammunition**



**Figure 2 - ADF personnel service a Tiger helicopter's 30 mm cannon**



**Figure 3 - Effects of 30mm HEI-T projectile**



**Figure 4 - 30mm practice round found on Quail Island, NT fired from a Mirage fighter**



**Figure 5 - Expended 30mm projectiles on an air force firing range awaiting collection**