

fagot anti tank missile

fagot anti tank missile is a prominent wire-guided missile system developed to counter armored threats on the battlefield. Designed primarily to destroy tanks and other armored vehicles, the Fagot missile has undergone several upgrades since its introduction, enhancing its range, accuracy, and lethality. It remains a significant asset in modern military arsenals due to its portability, ease of use, and effectiveness against a variety of targets. This article explores the history, technical specifications, operational use, and tactical advantages of the Fagot anti tank missile. Additionally, it covers its deployment in different armed forces and its role in contemporary warfare. The following sections provide a detailed overview of the missile's design, guidance system, warhead capabilities, and the strategic impact it has had on anti-tank warfare.

- History and Development
- Technical Specifications
- Guidance and Targeting Systems
- Operational Use and Deployment
- Advantages and Limitations
- Global Operators and Variants

History and Development

The Fagot anti tank missile, also known by its NATO reporting name AT-4 Spigot, was initially developed by the Soviet Union in the 1960s. It was created to address the need for a portable and effective anti-tank weapon capable of engaging armored vehicles at medium ranges. The missile entered service in the early 1970s and quickly became a staple in the arsenals of Warsaw Pact countries and their allies.

Over the decades, the Fagot missile system has undergone continuous improvements to enhance its capabilities. These upgrades have focused on extending the missile's range, improving its guidance system, and increasing the penetration power of its warhead. The system was designed to be operated by a two-person team and mounted on various platforms, including tripods, vehicles, and helicopters, making it highly versatile in different combat scenarios.

Technical Specifications

The Fagot anti tank missile system comprises several key components: the missile itself, the launcher, and the guidance unit. The missile is typically about 1 meter in length and

weighs approximately 6.2 kilograms, allowing for ease of transport and deployment by infantry units.

Missile Design

The missile features a dual-stage solid-fuel rocket motor, which provides the necessary thrust to reach targets up to 2,000 meters away. Its warhead is a high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) type, designed to penetrate up to 400 millimeters of rolled homogeneous armor (RHA), sufficient to defeat most main battle tanks of its era.

Launcher and Mobility

The launcher is a reusable tube that houses the missile before launch. It is lightweight and can be carried by soldiers or mounted on vehicles. The reusable nature allows for cost-effective training and repeated use in combat situations.

- Length: Approximately 1 meter
- Weight: 6.2 kilograms (missile only)
- Range: Up to 2,000 meters
- Penetration: Up to 400 mm RHA
- Warhead: Tandem HEAT (in advanced variants)

Guidance and Targeting Systems

The Fagot missile employs a wire-guidance system, which involves the operator manually steering the missile toward the target by transmitting commands through a thin wire trailing behind the missile. This method allows for precise control and reduces the risk of electronic jamming compared to radio-guided systems.

Manual Command to Line of Sight (MCLOS)

Originally, the missile used the MCLOS guidance method, which required significant operator skill to track the target and keep the missile on course. Operators had to visually follow both the missile and the target, making this approach demanding in high-stress environments.

Semi-Automatic Command to Line of Sight (SACLOS)

Modern versions of the Fagot missile have incorporated SACLOS guidance, which simplifies the operator's task. The system tracks the missile automatically and the operator only needs to keep the crosshairs on the target. The missile's guidance unit then adjusts its flight path accordingly, improving accuracy and hit probability.

Operational Use and Deployment

The Fagot anti tank missile has seen widespread use in various conflicts worldwide, demonstrating its effectiveness against a range of armored threats. It is commonly deployed by infantry units to provide them with a portable anti-armor capability without requiring heavy equipment.

Infantry and Vehicle Platforms

The missile can be launched from shoulder-fired launchers or mounted on light armored vehicles, helicopters, and other platforms to increase mobility and tactical flexibility. Its portability makes it ideal for rapid deployment in diverse combat environments.

Combat Performance

In combat, the Fagot missile has proven effective against main battle tanks, armored personnel carriers, and fortified positions. Its tandem warhead versions can defeat explosive reactive armor (ERA), a common defensive feature on modern tanks.

Advantages and Limitations

The Fagot anti tank missile offers several advantages that make it a valuable asset on the battlefield, but it also has limitations that affect its operational use.

Advantages

- **Portability:** Lightweight and easy to carry by infantry units.
- **Versatility:** Can be used from various platforms including vehicles and helicopters.
- **Effective Range:** Capable of engaging targets up to 2 kilometers away.
- **Guidance System:** SACLOS improves accuracy and reduces operator workload.
- **Cost-Effective:** Reusable launcher reduces training and operational costs.

Limitations

- **Manual Guidance Requirement:** Operator must maintain line of sight throughout missile flight.
- **Wire Guidance:** Limits the missile's range and exposes it to potential wire breakage.
- **Vulnerability to Countermeasures:** Although less susceptible to jamming, it can be affected by smoke or obscurants.

- **Slower Speed:** Compared to newer fire-and-forget missiles, the Fagot travels slower, allowing targets a chance to evade.

Global Operators and Variants

The Fagot anti tank missile has been adopted by numerous countries across the globe, often produced under license or integrated into various military platforms. Its continued use attests to its reliability and effectiveness in anti-armor roles.

Notable Operators

Countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa have employed the Fagot missile extensively. Some NATO countries have also evaluated or operated the system due to its robust design and proven combat record.

Variants and Upgrades

Several upgraded versions of the Fagot missile exist, featuring improved range, tandem-charge warheads for defeating reactive armor, and enhanced guidance systems. These upgrades have kept the missile relevant in modern combat scenarios where armored threats continue to evolve.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Fagot anti-tank missile?

The Fagot anti-tank missile, also known as the 9M111 Fagot, is a Soviet-era wire-guided anti-tank missile designed to destroy armored vehicles and fortifications.

When was the Fagot anti-tank missile first introduced?

The Fagot missile was first introduced in the early 1970s by the Soviet Union as a replacement for earlier anti-tank guided weapons.

What is the effective range of the Fagot anti-tank missile?

The Fagot missile has an effective range of approximately 75 meters to 2,500 meters, allowing it to engage targets at medium distances.

How is the Fagot missile guided to its target?

The Fagot missile is wire-guided, meaning the operator steers the missile to the target using a joystick while the missile is connected by a guidance wire.

What types of targets is the Fagot anti-tank missile designed to defeat?

The Fagot missile is primarily designed to destroy main battle tanks, armored personnel carriers, and fortified positions.

Which countries have used the Fagot anti-tank missile?

Besides the Soviet Union and Russia, many countries including former Warsaw Pact states, Middle Eastern nations, and others have used the Fagot missile in their armed forces.

What are the main components of the Fagot missile system?

The main components include the missile itself, a launch tube, a guidance system with a joystick, and a targeting scope.

How does the Fagot missile compare to the Konkurs missile?

The Fagot missile is an earlier generation system with a shorter range and smaller warhead compared to the Konkurs (9M113), which offers improved guidance and penetration capabilities.

Is the Fagot anti-tank missile still in use today?

While largely replaced by more modern systems, the Fagot missile remains in use in some countries due to its reliability, ease of use, and availability of stockpiles.

Additional Resources

1. "The Fagot Anti-Tank Missile: Development and Deployment"

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the Fagot anti-tank missile system, tracing its development from inception to widespread military use. It covers the technical specifications, design philosophy, and operational history of the missile. Readers will gain insight into how the Fagot has influenced modern anti-tank warfare.

2. "Cold War Weaponry: The Fagot Missile in Context"

Set against the backdrop of the Cold War, this book explores the strategic role of the Fagot missile within Soviet and Warsaw Pact arsenals. It examines the geopolitical tensions that drove its development and the impact it had on NATO defense planning. Detailed analyses of military exercises and combat deployments are included.

3. "Anti-Tank Guided Missiles: From Fagot to Modern Systems"

This text traces the evolution of anti-tank guided missiles, using the Fagot as a pivotal starting point. It highlights technological advancements, improvements in guidance systems, and changes in battlefield tactics. The book serves as a bridge between early

missile designs and contemporary anti-armor solutions.

4. *"Engineering the Fagot: Design Challenges and Innovations"*

Focusing on the engineering side, this book delves into the challenges faced during the creation of the Fagot missile. It discusses materials, propulsion systems, and guidance technology in detail. The narrative includes interviews with engineers and designers who contributed to the project.

5. *"Fagot Missile Systems in Combat: Case Studies and Analysis"*

This volume compiles various case studies where the Fagot missile was employed in combat scenarios. It evaluates the missile's effectiveness against different types of armored targets and terrain. Tactical lessons learned and adaptations made by military units are thoroughly analyzed.

6. *"The Soviet Anti-Tank Arsenal: Fagot and Beyond"*

Examining the broader Soviet approach to anti-tank weaponry, this book places the Fagot missile within a larger arsenal. It compares the Fagot to other Soviet missiles such as the Konkurs and Metis, highlighting their respective roles and capabilities. The book also explores export and proliferation issues.

7. *"Missile Guidance Systems: The Technology Behind the Fagot"*

An in-depth technical exploration of the guidance mechanisms employed by the Fagot missile. Topics include wire-guidance technology, command link communication, and the challenges of target acquisition. The book is ideal for readers interested in missile electronics and control systems.

8. *"Infantry Anti-Tank Weapons: The Role of the Fagot"*

This book focuses on the Fagot missile's integration into infantry units and how it transformed anti-tank tactics at the squad and platoon level. It covers training methods, deployment strategies, and battlefield coordination. Real-world examples illustrate the missile's impact on infantry operations.

9. *"The Legacy of the Fagot Missile in Modern Warfare"*

Exploring the enduring influence of the Fagot missile, this book discusses how its design and operational principles have shaped current anti-tank missile systems worldwide. It also addresses modernization efforts and adaptations for contemporary conflicts. The narrative highlights the missile's place in military history.

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