**RPG-7** (& close derivatives)

**TYPE:** ROCKET LAUNCHER

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**Technical Information**

- **Calibre:** 40 mm
- **Length:** 1,494 mm
- **Weight (unloaded):** 2.83 kg
- **Barrel length:** 120 mm
- **Sighting systems:**
  - Fore: blade, retractable
  - Rear: U notch, retractable
- **Removable optical sight**
- **Operating system:** Single shot
- **Muzzle velocity:** 84 m/s

Introduced in 1962, the RPG-7 is one of the most widely distributed light weapons. The weapon bears little resemblance to any other weapon, although it might sometimes be confused with its predecessor, the RPG-2, particularly without optical sights. The weapon is a front-loaded rocket launcher that accommodates an ever-growing variety of ammunition, ranging from high-explosive anti-tank to anti-personnel rockets. The latest generation of warheads for the RPG-7 include tandem rockets, which explode in two stages to defeat modern reactive armour.

**PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

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<th>Region</th>
<th>State forces</th>
<th>Non-state/illicit</th>
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- **Optical Sights**
  - May not be fitted
  - **With optical sights attached**

- **Profile**
  - With optical sights attached
  - Without optical sights

**Variants and their distinguishing features**

RPG-7 variants are visually very similar. The best method of identification is by consulting markings. Reference should be made to the left-hand side of the pistol grip for manufacturer’s markings and model designations.

**Points to include when recording information about the weapon:**
1. Serial number, including all prefix and suffix characters
2. Characters adjacent to fire selector
3. Any other engraved/stamped information on weapon

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- **Compiled by the Small Arms Survey with the technical assistance of the National Firearms Centre, Royal Armouries, United Kingdom. For further information or if you have identification queries, contact weaponsID@smallarmssurvey.org or call: +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at www.smallarmssurvey.org/weaponsID**

**WARNING:**

Make a full and informed appraisal of the local security situation before conducting any research related to small arms and light weapons.