# M79

#### ■ **TYPE:** STAND-ALONE GRENADE LAUNCHER



Model illustrated: M79, United States

## **Technical Information**

Calibre 40 x 46 mm

Length M79: 737 mm

Weight (unloaded) M79: 1.5 kg Milkor M79: 1.3 kg

**Barrel length** M79: 356 mm

### Sighting systems

M79: fore: blade; rear: folding leaf, adjustable Milkor M79: reflex sight in quadrant

**Operating system** Single shot

**Muzzle velocity** 76 m/s



The United States first deployed the M79 grenade launcher in early 1961. The weapon is easily recognizable due to its upward-curving wooden stock, smooth barrel, and large folding leaf sight that resembles a ladder. The only differing variant of this weapon is the South African Milkor M79, which has a more modern appearance due to the use of composite (rather than wooden) furniture and a side-folding stock (essentially an inverted stock from an R4/R5 assault rifle). Apart from these differences, the weapon operates identically to the original M79.

PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION		
Region	State forces	Non-state/illicit
Western Europe	0	0
Eastern Europe	0	0
Middle East & North Africa	Þ	Þ
Sub-Saharan Africa	•	Þ
Central Asia	0	0
South Asia	Þ	0
East Asia	•	Þ
Pacific	•	Þ
North America	•	0
Central America	•	Þ
South America	Þ	0

• Expect regular use Expect occasional use O Do not expect use

# Variants and their distinguishing features

## VARIANTS

(Model/manufacturer) • M79, United States • KM79, South Korea • Milkor M79, South Africa

The South Korean KM79 is identical to the original USmanufactured M79. Consult manufacturer's markings applied to the left-hand side of the weapon for precise identification.

#### 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

Wooden

► KM79



#### Long, ladder-style leaf sights (deployed)



**STOCK DESIGN** Metal, folding skeletal M79 (shown) Milkor M79

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.