

Glossary of terms

ANFO	A mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil.
Base Charge	The main high explosive charge in a blasting cap.
Binary Explosive	Two substances which are not explosive until they are mixed.
Black Powder	A low explosive traditionally consisting of potassium nitrate, sulfur and charcoal. Sodium nitrate may be found in place of potassium nitrate.
Black Powder Substitutes	Modified black powder formulations such as but not limited to: Pyrodex, Black Canyon, Golden Powder, Clean Shot, and Clear Shot.
Blasting Agent	A high explosive with low-sensitivity usually based on ammonium nitrate and not containing additional high explosive(s).
Blasting Cap	A metal tube containing a primary high explosive capable of initiating most explosives.
Bomb	A device containing an explosive, incendiary, or chemical material designed to explode.
Booby Trap	A concealed or camouflaged device designed to injure or kill personnel.
Booster	A cap sensitive high explosive used to initiate other less sensitive high explosives.
Brisance	The shattering power associated with high explosives.
C4	A white pliable military plastic explosive containing primarily Cyclonite (RDX).
Cannon Fuse	A coated, thread-wrapped cord filled with black powder designed to initiate flame-sensitive explosives.
Combustion	Any type of exothermic oxidation reaction, including, but not limited to burning, deflagration and/or detonation.
Deflagration	An exothermic reaction that occurs particle to particle at subsonic speed.
Detasheet (Det Sheet)	A plastic explosive in sheet form containing PETN, HMX or RDX.

Detonation	An exothermic reaction that propagates a shockwave through an explosive at supersonic speed (greater than 3300ft/sec).
Detonation Cord (Det-Cord)	A plastic/fiber wrapped cord containing a core of PETN or RDX.
Detonator	A device used for detonating many types of high explosives.
Double Base	A smokeless powder which contains both nitroglycerine and nitrocellulose.
Dud	An explosive device which has undergone a complete arming and firing cycle but has failed to explode. It should be noted that this is a very dangerous situation.
Dynamite	Originally a mixture of nitroglycerine and an absorbent filler now used to designate an entire class of high explosives.
Electric Match	A metal wire coated with a pyrotechnic mixture designed to produce a small burst of flame designed to initiate a low explosive.
Electric Squib	A metal wire surrounded by a pyrotechnic mixture and encased within a metal tube which produces a small jet of flame designed to initiate a low explosive.
Explosion	A rapid expansion of gases resulting from a chemical or physical action that produces a pressure wave.
Explosive	A chemical substance or mixture capable of producing an explosion.
Explosive Compound	A single chemical compound capable of causing an explosion.
Explosive Mixture	A mixture of chemical compounds capable of causing an explosion.
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)	Bomb squad.
Explosive Train	A series of combustible or explosive components arranged in order of decreasing sensitivity designed to initiate explosives.
Firing Train	See "Explosive Train".
Flex-X	See "Det Sheet".

Frag	Any item(s) produced and cast away from an explosion.
Fuel	Any substance capable of reacting with oxygen or oxygen-carriers (oxidizers).
Fuse	A fiber wrapped cord of black powder used to initiate blasting caps or low explosives.
Fuze	A mechanical, chemical, or electrical device designed to initiate an explosive train.
Gunpowder	See "Black Powder".
High Explosive	Generally a chemical substance or mixture capable of detonation.
HMX	Octagen, a high explosive formed as a by product during the manufacture of RDX.
Hoax	A "dummy" device intended to appear as a bomb but not containing an explosive.
Hobby Fuse	See "Cannon Fuse".
Improvised Explosive Device (IED)	A non-commercially produced device designed to explode.
Incendiary	A compound, metal or mixture capable of producing intense heat.
Inert	A simulated explosive or device that contains no explosive, pyrotechnic, or chemical/biological agent.
Initiator	The part of an explosive train which starts the reaction.
Low Explosive	Generally a chemical compound or mixture that can deflagrate without the addition of atmospheric oxygen.
Main Charge	The main or final explosive in an explosive train.
Munitions	Any and all military explosives.
Munroe Effect	The focusing of the force produced by an explosion resulting in an increased pressure wave.
Ordnance	See "Munitions".

Oxidizer	A chemical compound which supplies the oxygen in a chemical reaction.
PETN	Pentaerythritoltetranitrate, a high explosive used in many applications.
Plastic Bonded Explosives (PBX)	A high explosive in a pliable plastic matrix, i.e. C4, Det Flex.
Plastic Explosives	Common term for PBX.
Primary High Explosive	A high explosive sensitive to heat, shock, spark, and/or friction.
Primer	See "Initiator".
Primer cap	A small metal device containing a impact sensitive primary high explosive commonly found in ammunition or used in initiators.
Pyrotechnic Fuse	See "Cannon Fuse".
Pyrotechnic Mixtures	An oxidizer/fuel mixture which produces bright or colored lights, heat, fogs, or acoustic effects.
RDX	Cyclonite, high explosive used in PBX and other applications.
Report	A loud sound produced by an explosion.
Safety Fuse	A water-proof coated, thread-wrapped cord filled with black powder designed to be used to initiate a non-electric blasting cap.
Secondary High Explosive	A less sensitive high explosive initiated by another explosive.
Semtex	Plastic explosive primarily containing Pentaerythritoltetranitrate (PETN) made in Czech Republic.
Shaped Charge	An explosive device which is designed to direct or focus explosive energy into a narrow jet. The created plasma has a synergistic effect increasing the heat and energy on the target area.
Shock Tube	Hollow plastic tube coated with a thin coating of HMX and powdered aluminum used in non-electric firing systems.
Shrapnel	Objects which are attached to the outside or included inside a device to increase the blast damage and/or injure/kill personnel. The device/container walls themselves can also function in this manner.

Single Base	A smokeless powder which contains nitrocellulose but does not contain nitroglycerine or nitroguanidine.
Smokeless Powder	A low explosive used in ammunition as a propellant, which can be single, double, or triple based
Triple Base	A smokeless powder which contains nitrocellulose, nitroglycerine, and nitroguanidine.