

Proposal for a Weapon to Target the Rooftops of Skyscrapers

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I have developed an [Android application](#) to do mortar fire control and I have had it translated into the Ukrainian language. This app is for spherical shells, which are better than conventional fin-stabilized shells in an urban environment. Fin-stabilized shells have a high ballistic coefficient because they are designed to have a long range when fired at low (45° to 60°) angles of elevation. For instance, the Nona, which uses spin-stabilized shells below 50° or fin-stabilized shells above that, was really meant to be a sort of miniature Acacia. It does not work well in urban environments – much to the chagrin of Bashar al-Assad – because its shells cannot be dropped behind nearby buildings.

Spherical shells have a lower ballistic coefficient and thus a steeper angle of descent. Also, they turn over at their apex more smoothly than fin-stabilized shells when fired at near vertical angles of elevation. Spin-stabilized shells are useless above 50° because they continue pointing upwards even as they descend; fin-stabilized shells are useless above 75° because they wobble at their apex when they are moving too slowly for the air flow to catch their fins.

I propose to produce a mortar specifically designed to kill Russian snipers and MANPAD gunners positioned on the roofs of skyscrapers. This is what your target looks like:



These Green Men cannot be killed by helicopter gun runs because of their MANPADs and they cannot be killed with Shmel flamethrowers because they are using the civilians in the building and on the street as human shields. But a purpose-built mortar can rid the Ukraine of this scourge with only two more inventions beyond my fire control software:

1) An arm/disarm switch that arms the shell to explode at rooftop level but, in the event that the gunner misses the rooftop, the switch disarms the shell before it falls to the street. The streets are typically crowded with friendly civilians demonstrating against the Russian presence in their city and it is very important not to drop any shells on them.

2) An optical sight that attaches to the mortar tube and allows the gunner to adjust elevation and windage by dialing in the adjustment on his scope and then holding on the roof line. This is a different procedure for sighting a mortar than the conventional technique of using a forward observer to report where shells landed relative to their target. My Android app can also communicate with a forward observer, but this feature is not helpful when aiming at a rooftop.

I can do (1) with a vertical speed indicator (VSI) similar to the device used on airplanes to maintain level flight through updrafts and downdrafts. It will disarm the shell when the downward speed is great enough to indicate a complete miss of the rooftop. I can do (2) with a 3D printer to make a scope mount with 100-mil indents, a custom-made reticule with 10-mil dashes on the cross hairs and dials incremented in half mils. All that is left for the Ukrainians to do is construct the steel mortar tube – Kron Metals can supply seamless steel pipe – and the spherical steel shells. I can manufacture the sights and the arm/disarm switches here in America and ship them to the Ukraine. The fire control Android app is [already on the market](#).

My arm/disarm switch will have a standard electric connector so it can be plugged into commercially available detonators; the Ukrainian military can then load the shells with high explosive so I need not touch any controlled substances. My contacts in the U.S. military assure me that I will be allowed to test the weapon with smoke shells on high rise apartment buildings in abandoned American military bases. So there is no concern that the weapon will not have been thoroughly tested before it is brought to the front where there are friendly civilians on the streets below where high explosive shells are being dropped.

UTG Leapers (American) and Hawke (British) both face export restrictions that prevent them from shipping military optics to Eastern Europe, but Tristan (Chinese) operates in an entirely free market. So everything is in place if only funding can be acquired. The Ukrainians are poor, but perhaps an army elsewhere can fund this project and then sell retail to the Ukrainians!