

# ERW REFERENCE CARD

Place of origin Former USSR Name ShOAB 0.5

Type AP pellet fragmentation submunition



ShOAB 0.5 cutaway



ShOAB – 0.5 (Andy Smith)

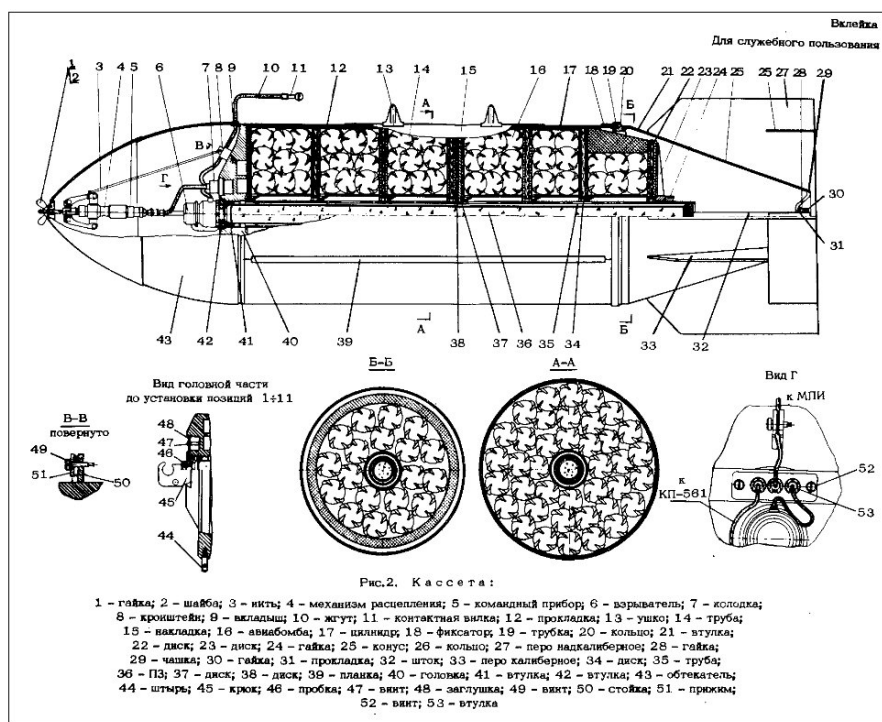
## DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

1. Intended to engage personnel, “soft-skinned” and lightly armoured targets.
2. There are 565 submunitions in a RBK-500 CBU.
3. Spherical shaped, the submunition is normally silver coloured with a cast metal (aluminium alloy) casing in which steel ball bearings are set.
4. Similar to USA BLU-25/B, BLU-36/B and BL-59/B



**Above:** ShOAB 0.5 submunitions recovered in Rasht Valley, Tajikistan, approximately 14 years after being deployed above

**Right:** RBK-500 CBU schematic diagram.



## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Height</b>	-	<b>Explosive</b>	- 0.85Kg
<b>Diameter</b>	- 63mm	<b>Fuze types</b>	-
<b>Width</b>	-	<b>Operation</b>	-
<b>Total weight</b>	- 0.454Kg		-
<b>Hazard radius</b>	- Approx 50 m	<b>Lethal radius</b>	- Approx 20 m

Cube root of explosive weight in kg x 2.2 x 100 metres.

### STATUS

USSR Submunition/bomblet: known to have been used in Afghanistan, Angola, Chechnya and Tajikistan.

### ARMING

1. In RBK cluster bombs, a nose-mounted electromechanical time fuze is used to fire an ejection charge in the nose cone.
2. After submunitions have been ejected from a cluster bomb, their dispersal is random, with the size of the impact pattern increasing with the bomb opening altitude. The forward motion of the bomb creates a cigar-shaped impact pattern of submunitions on the ground, near which the empty bomb container may be found.
3. Occasionally, the cluster bomb will fail to open. When this happens, the submunitions are generally unarmed and well protected, so they will not normally detonate. However, access can be difficult if the submunitions are inside damaged or partially buried cluster bombs and the submunitions themselves may be damaged and in an unpredictable condition.

### DISARMING

1. Don't even think about it.



### WARNINGS

1. May be extremely dangerous if subject to impact of any kind.
2. An empty cluster bomb may indicate the presence of unexploded submunitions nearby.
3. The presence of ejection charges and linear cutting charges should be considered.
4. Unopened cluster bombs require special demolition techniques to ensure the destruction of all submunitions inside. Thermal coatings on CBU casings will reduce the power of demolition charges.
5. Nose fuzes are often badly damaged during impact and may not be identifiable.
6. Tail sections may incorporate powerful springs, which can cause injury.

## RBK 500 CLUSTER BOMB UNIT (CBU)

Designation	Wt	Fill	Lg m	Body Dia	Tailspan	Lug spacing	Status	Remarks
<b>RBK-500 ShOAB</b>	334kg	565 bomblets	1.5	450mm	550mm	250mm	In service	ShOAB 0.5 Anti-personnel bomblets
<b>RBK-500</b>	500kg	Various bomblets	2.5	450mm	n/k	250mm	In service	Multipurpose with several different types of bomblets

(Table modified from Jane's Air Launched Weapons)

	
<p><b>RBK-500 Cluster Bomb Unit (CBU)</b></p>	<p>Standard packing for Russian bombs uses wooden planks held together by steel hoops. The crate opens into two halves along its length, and contains a packing note, normally in a pressed metal tab pinned to one of the wooden planks.</p>

**RBK-500 Dispensers:** RBK-500 can be used to carry various different types of ordnance. The RBK-500 AO-25.RT carries 108 AO-2.5RTM anti-personnel/anti-material (APAM) sub-munitions. That model measures 500 x 2,500mm, weighs 504kg, and has a footprint of 6,400m<sup>2</sup>. The RBK-500 ShOAB-0.5 measures 450 x 1,500mm, weighs 334kg, carries 565 bomblets, and leaves a footprint of 300 x 400m.

Aircraft which carry the RBK-250 and/or RBK-500 include the Su-39 (a newer variant of the Su-25 'Frogfoot') and the Su-34 (a newer variant of the Su-27 'Flanker'). The Mig-29 'Fulcrum,' Su-24, Su-25 'Frogfoot,' Su-27 'Flanker' carry cluster bombs. The strategic bombers Tu-22M3 and Tu-95MS also carry cluster bombs.

The Tu-22M3 can carry 17 RBK-500 dispensers or 33 RBK-250s. If loaded with RBK-500s, each carrying 565 ShOAB-0.5 bomblets, the bomber could drop 9,505 bomblets in each run. Assuming a footprint of 300 x 400m for each RBK-500, such a bomb drop could have a footprint of 2,040,000m square metres, or 204 hectares.

(Information from Mennonite Central Committee <http://www.mcc.org/clusterbomb/report/chapter2.htm>)