

CHAPTER 2

UTILIZATION OF GRENADES

The hand grenade is an extremely effective and versatile device that is easily carried. The tactical employment of the hand grenades is limited only by the imagination of the user. Its versatility makes its use suitable for all operations. This chapter addresses the fundamentals that will develop a soldier's skill and confidence in hand grenade use. These fundamentals include proper carrying, gripping, and throwing techniques of hand grenades. They provide the foundation upon which the soldier's hand grenade skills will build.

2-1. HAND GRENADE CARRYING

The carrying of hand grenades is one of the most neglected aspects of hand grenade training. Experiences of American infantrymen, both in combat and in training point out the need for specific training in carrying hand grenades and the integration of this type of training into tactical training exercises. Commanders should make every effort to issue training hand grenades for wear and use during all training activities. The soldier must be as confident in carrying and using hand grenades as he is with his rifle and bayonet.

a. Precautions. Before attaching a hand grenade to the ammunition pouch, take the following safety precautions.

(1) Check the grenade fuze assembly for tightness. It must be tightly fitted in the grenade fuze well to prevent the grenade from working loose and separating from the grenade body. The fuze should never be removed from a grenade unless the the grenade is being used as a booby trap with some other firing device.

(2) If the grenade safety lever is broken, do not use the grenade. A broken safety lever denies the thrower the grenade's most critical safety mechanism.

(3) Do not bend the ends of the safety pin back flush against the fuze body. This practice, intended to preclude accidental pulling of the pi, makes the removal of the safety pin difficult. Repeated working of the safety pin in this manner will cause the pin to break, creating a hazardous condition.

b. Ammunition Pouch. The prescribed manner of carrying hand grenades is on the ammunition pouch, using the carrying straps, which are designed specifically for this purpose. Grenades are attached to the ammunition pouch in the following manner:

(1) New-style ammunition pouches (Figure 2-1). Open the web carrying sleeve on the side of the ammunition pouch and slide the grenade into the sleeve with the safety lever against the side of the ammunition pouch. Be sure the pull ring is in the downward position. Wrap the carrying strap around the neck of the fuze and snap the carrying strap to the carrying sleeve.

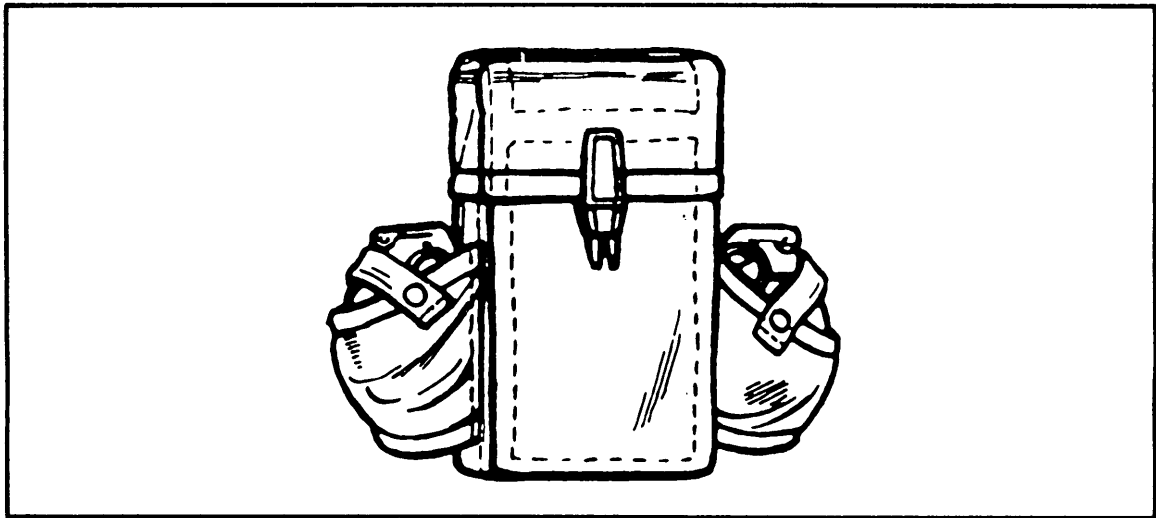


Figure 2-1. New-style pouch.

(2) Old-style ammunition pouches (Figure 2-2). A small strap is sewn to each side of the ammunition pouch. Slip the safety lever over this strap and push the grenade down until it is firmly seated against the side of the pouch. Ensure the pull ring is in the downward position, wrap the carrying strap around the fuze, and snap the carrying strap. Periodically check the grenade to ensure the fuze is tight and the carrying strap is secure.

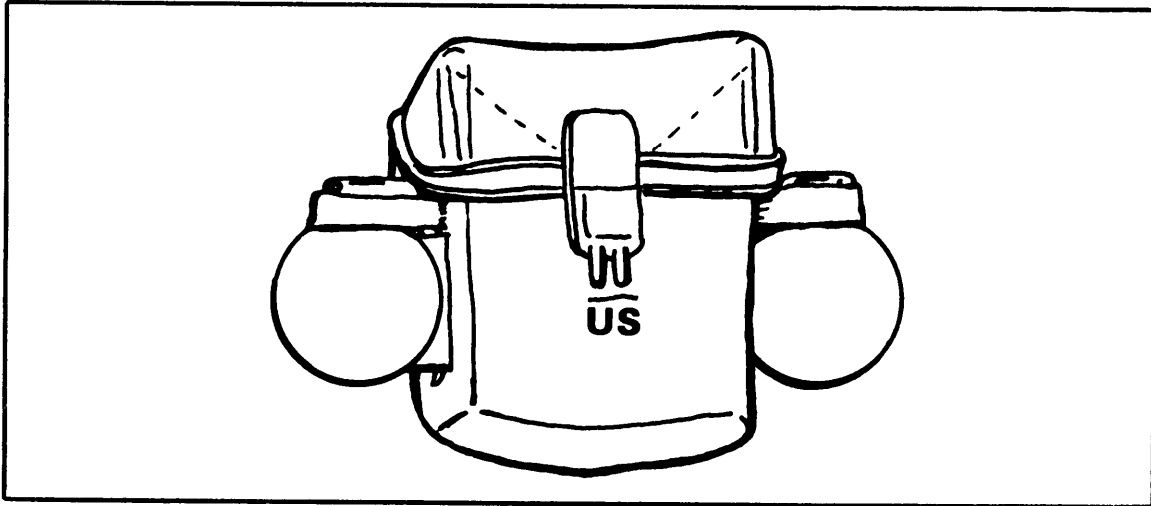


Figure 2-2. Old-style pouch.

2-2. HAND GRENADE GRIPPING

The importance of properly gripping the hand grenade cannot be overemphasized.

- a. Safety and throwing efficiency are obtained when the grenade is held in the throwing hand with the safety lever placed between the first and second joints of the thumb (Figure 2-3).
- b. For right-handed personnel, the grenade is held upright with the pull ring away from the palm of the throwing hand so that it can be easily removed by the index finger or middle finger of the free hand (Figure 2-3).

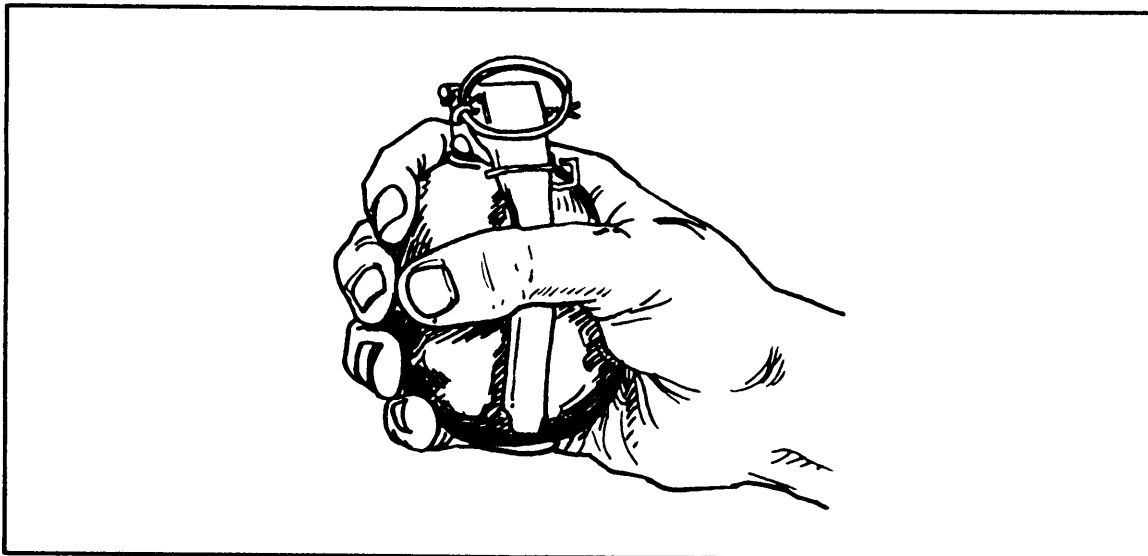


Figure 2-3. Right-handed grip.

c. For left-handed personnel, the grenade is inverted with the fingers and thumb of the throwing hand positioned in the same manner as by right-handed personnel (Figure 2-4),

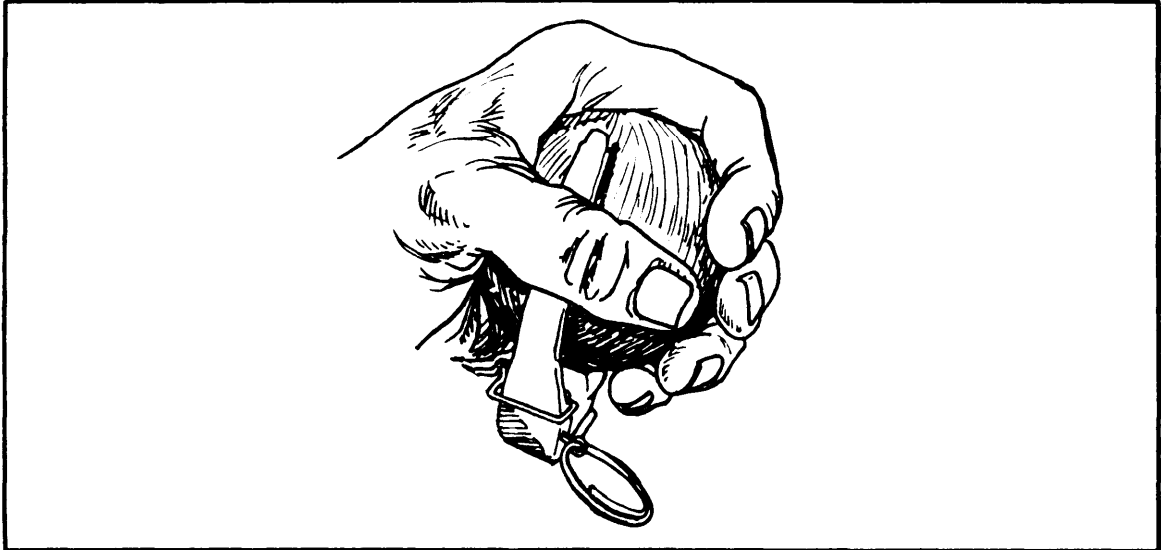


Figure 2-4. Left-handed grip.

WARNING: LEFT-HANDED PERSONNEL MUST MAKE SURE THEY HOLD SMOKE GRENADES AWAY FROM THEIR FACE

d. The M24-series of riot control hand grenades have an arming sleeve, which serves as the safety lever on other grenades. When throwing these grenades, the arming sleeve is held in place by applying constant pressure with the thumb of the throwing hand (Figure 2-5). The safety pin is pulled by the free hand.

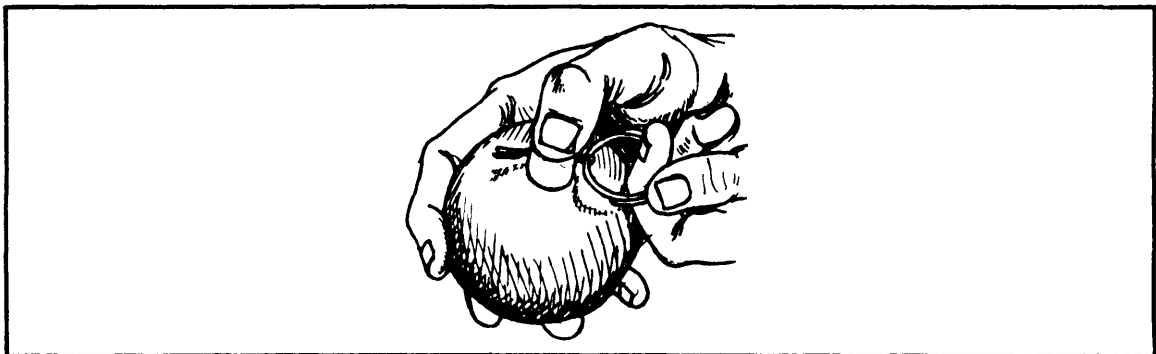


Figure 2-5. M24-series grip.

2-3. HAND GRENADE THROWING

Since few soldiers throw in the same manner, it is difficult to establish firm rules or techniques for throwing hand grenades. How accurately it is thrown is more important than how it is thrown. If a soldier can achieve more distance and accuracy using his personal style, then he should be allowed to do so.

a. There is, however, a recommended method of grenade throwing. Practice will develop throwing proficiency. In observing the target, minimize exposure time to the enemy (no more than 2 seconds).

(1) Quickly observe the target to mentally establish the distance between the throwing position and the target area.

(2) Properly grip the grenade in throwing hand and remove the safety clip.

(3) Grasp the pull ring with the index or middle finger of your nonthrowing hand. Remove the safety pin with a pulling, twisting motion. (If the tactical situation permits, observe the safety pin's removal.)

(4) Quickly look at the target and throw the grenade using the overhand method so that the grenade arcs, landing on or near the target.

(5) Allow the motion of your throwing arm to continue naturally once the grenade is released. This follow-through improves distance and accuracy and relieves the strain on your throwing arm.

NOTE: There will be times when underhand or sidearm throws become necessary in combat. These throws may be practiced with training grenades; however, the live fragmentation grenade must be thrown overhand in a training environment.

b. In training, throwing positions are used for uniformity and control and to familiarize soldiers with the proper manner of throwing grenades in combat if the situation gives you a choice.

(1) Standing (Figure 2-6). This position is the most desirable and natural one from which to throw grenades. It allows an individual to obtain the greatest possible throwing distance. The standing position is normally used when occupying a fighting position or during

operations in fortified positions or urban terrain. Throwing from this position is accomplished as follows:

(a) Assume a natural stance with your weight balanced equally on both feet. Using the proper grip, hold the grenade shoulder high.

(b) Throw the grenade with a natural motion, using the procedure described in paragraph 2-2a.

(c) Seek cover to avoid being hit by fragments. If no cover is available, drop to the prone position with your helmet facing the direction of the grenade's detonation.

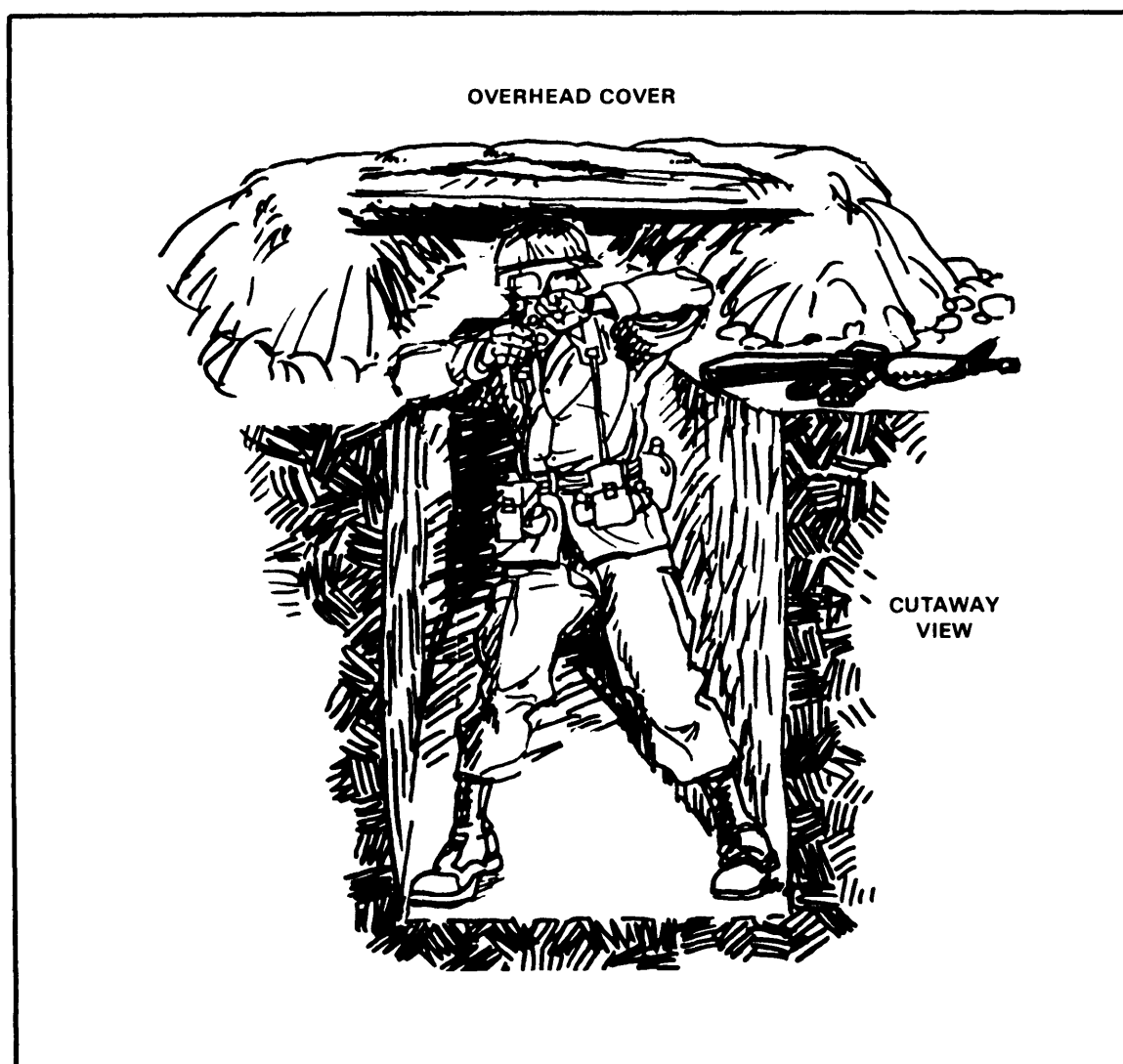


Figure 2-6. Standing.

(2) Kneeling (Figure 2-7). this position reduces the distance that a grenade can be thrown. It is used primarily when the soldier has only a low wall, a shallow ditch, or similar cover to protect him. Throwing from this position is accomplished as follows:

(a) Using the proper grip and with the grenade held shoulder high, kneel in the most comfortable manner.

(b) Throw the grenade with a natural throwing motion. Push off with your trailing foot to give added force to your throw.

(c) When the grenade is released, drop to the prone position or behind available cover to minimize exposure to fragmentation.



Figure 2-7. Kneeling.

(3) Prone (Figure 2-8). This position reduces both distance and accuracy. It is only used when an individual is pinned down by hostile fire and is unable to rise to engage his target. There are four steps in the process of throwing from a prone position.

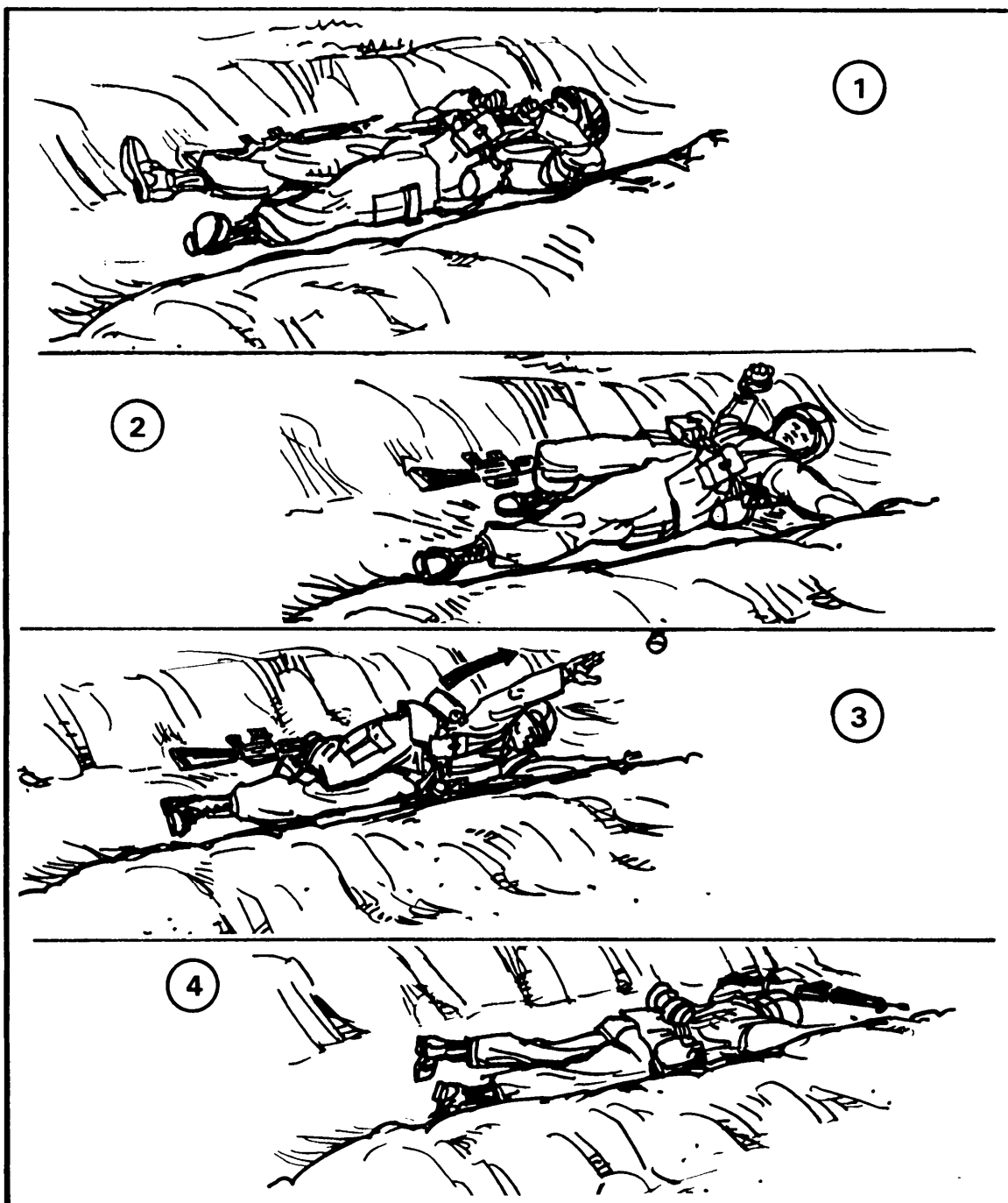


Figure 2-8. Prone.

Step 1. Lie on your back with your body perpendicular to the grenade's intended line of flight. Hold the grenade at shoulder level as in the standing position.

Step 2. Cock your right leg (left leg for a left-handed thrower) with your foot braced firmly against the ground. After removal of the safety pin, hold the grenade away from your body with your arm cocked for throwing.

Step 3. With your free hand, grasp any object that is capable of giving you added leverage to increase your throwing distance. In throwing the grenade, push off with your rearward foot to give added power to your throw.

Step 4. After throwing the grenade, roll over onto your stomach and press yourself flat against the ground.