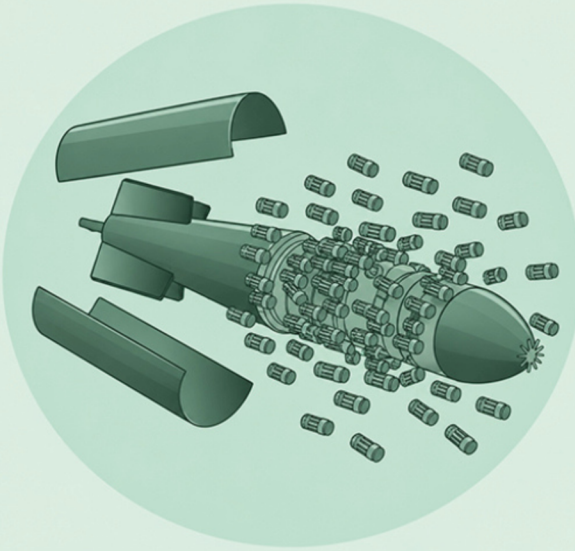


1

Large numbers
Cluster munitions contain dozens or hundreds of submunitions that are ejected from a carrier and dispersed over an area, each of which has the potential to fail. This radically increases the potential number of unexploded munitions left on the ground after an attack.



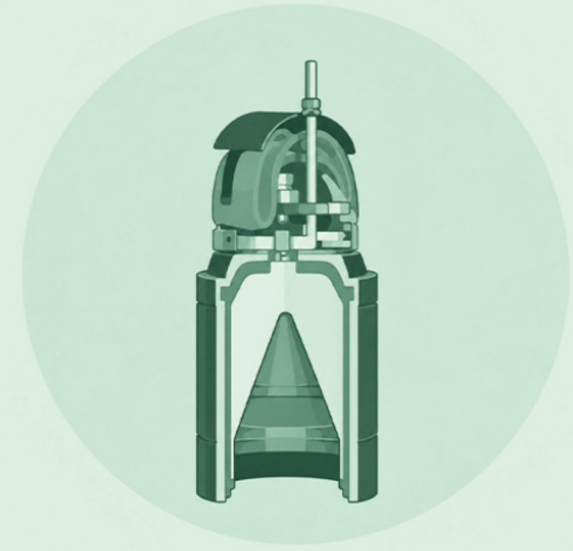
2

Small objects
Submunitions are typically small and lightweight.



3

Compromise technology
The small size of submunitions and their fuzes imposes design constraints and trade-offs that make them prone to failure, including the need for numerous miniature and delicate components with tight clearances.



4

Vulnerability
Due to the compromised technology, submunitions are more vulnerable than larger unitary munitions to operational and environmental factors. Among the many reasons why submunitions can fail are the manner of deployment, damage during ejection and descent, ground and weather conditions, and impact at an unintended angle.



5

Sensitive fuzing
Due to their low weight and relatively low velocity, submunitions have substantively less force of impact than larger unitary munitions. Their fuzes therefore need to be highly sensitive.



