


# Use of white phosphorus at Fallujah

The U.S. Army's *Field Artillery Magazine* confirms that white phosphorus was used in Fallujah during the 2004 offensive. So-called "shake 'n' bake" missions used high explosive and white phosphorus rounds as a potent psychological weapon against insurgents in trench lines and spider holes

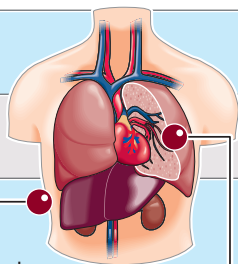


**White Phosphorus:** Known as *WP* or *Willie Pete* – used as incendiary or for signalling and smoke screening

**WP – Incendiary:** Typically fired from 155mm artillery. Spontaneously ignites when exposed to air

**Injuries:** Painful chemical burns. WP is highly lipid (fat) soluble – has rapid penetration once particles are embedded under skin and can burn to bone

Damage to lungs and throat from phosphoric acid in smoke



Fuze

**WP – Smoke:** Typically fired from 120mm mortars. Smoke considered essential for concealment in city fighting

*Burster charge ruptures cartridge*

*Felt wedges impregnated with WP generate smoke*

*Propellant – choice of four charges gives ranges from 200m to 7,200m*

## **Shake 'n' bake mission**

**1 Target:** Mortar crew receives coordinates and plots them on map

**2 Gun up:** Mortar tube elevated and adjusted

**3 Fire:** High-explosive and WP bombs fired alternately

Fins