



U.S. ARMY

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M50A1 ONTOS

THE THING

Officially known as the Rifle, Multiple 106-mm, Self-propelled, M50, the Ontos was the primary tank-destroyer used by the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War.

VIETNAM

QUICK FACTS ON THE M50A1

Weight	Around 19,000 lbs.
Dimensions (L, W, H)	12.6', 8.5', 7.0'
Range	Around 115 miles
Crew	3
Variants	3
Number Produced	297
Country of Origin	United States

A SHORT HISTORY

Designed to be an air-deployable tank-destroyer, the M50 Ontos designed in the early 1950s. It was an evolution from the M56 Scorpion that had been designed in the late 1940s. Limitations in payload of early transportation aircraft meant that the design envelope for Ontos was relatively limited. It could not exceed 20 tons in weight. To accomplish this, a lighter engine was necessary thus, unlike many other self-propelled systems, Ontos used a V6 engine. The U.S. Army ordered 297 of these gun systems in 1955, however issues that plagued the Ontos were so great that the Army cancelled its order. However, the Marine Corps subsequently purchased all 297 vehicles instead.

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