determine the maximal amount of time that a blast sequence can be initiated in the charge prior to the jet impact with elements within the ERA of Fig. 9B. In Fig. 9C, the screen is positioned, for example, within the elements that compose the charge. As the jet moves through the elements that compose the charge, it triggers a blast sequence prior to the jet arrival to a designated location within the charge.

It should be noted that such a technique may also be used to trigger the prior art ERA module 20 (of Fig. 2) causing it to explode before the shaped charge jet impacts the front steel plate that sandwiches the high explosive. It should also be noted that utilizing the triggering mechanism using the triggering screen 241 (as shown in Fig. 9a), can dramatically improve the likelihood of the ERA module of Fig. 2 to defeat the jet. Fig. 9a shows a screen 241 which is positioned some distance in front of the front plate 21 of the ERA 20. The detonators are indicated in Figs. 9a, 9b and 9c as numeral 243. The blast circuits are not shown in the figures for the sake of brevity, as they are conventional.

It should also be noted that the triggering screen 241 discussed above may be augmented or replaced by other means known in the art to generate a blast sequence before the impact of the incoming jet and predetermined elements in the ERA.

As shown in Fig. 9, the triggering screen 241 may be divided into two or more separate screens 241a and 241b. Whichever of divided triggering screens is operated first may initiate detonation from a particular location on the reactive armour. Thus missile strikes from different directions may be defended against by different blast wave vectors.

Reference is now made in greater detail to Fig. 9a shows in a cross-sectional form a typical reactive armor module to which is added the triggering screen 2 as discussed above for triggering detonator 243 to detonate the explosive layer 23. The triggering screen 241 is located a predetermined distance behind the strike face 2410 in space 2412. Space 2412 is of a predetermined size and located between strike plate 2410 and steel front plate 21. The steel front plate 21 is located in front of explosive layer 23 which in turn is placed in front of rear steel plate 22.

The space may be of any size and may be empty or may be filled, say with polymer. As discussed, the screen 241 is connected to detonator 243 and the distances

Claims:

1. Reactive armour comprising:

an explosive reactive armour module comprising a protective cover, a first triggering screen behind said protective cover, and an explosive layer; and

at least one explosive module separate from said reactive armour module, said explosive module comprising a first shaped charge and being placed in proximity to said reactive armour module and to said explosive layer, said explosive module being connected to said first triggering screen for detonation; wherein said explosive reactive armour module comprises a second shaped charge.

2. The reactive armour of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second shaped charges comprises at least one cavity or at least one groove.

3. The reactive armour of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising a layer of rigid particles, the particles arranged to form a particle cloud for disrupting an incoming jet.

4. The reactive armour of any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least some of the rigid particles in the particle layer comprise a rigid core surrounded by a relatively less rigid shell.