CLAIMS:

1. A fuze mechanism for a hand grenade comprising:

a fuze case connected at an upper end to a fuze holder whilst a lower, opposite end projects near to a centre of a shell of a hand grenade, wherein the fuze case contains a percussion primer and a pyrotechnic delay charge is disposed inline between the percussion primer and a detonator charge; and

a sliding sleeve and an annularly shaped booster charge connected to a lower end of the sliding sleeve are disposed to slide co-axially along the fuze case, wherein the annularly shaped booster charge is not in line with the pyrotechnic delay charge and detonator charge;

whereby in an unarmed position, the booster charge is laterally or radially misaligned with the detonator charge and in an armed position, the booster charge is laterally or radially aligned with the detonator charge; wherein setting the sliding sleeve in the unarmed and armed positions is synonymous with putting the grenade in corresponding unarmed and armed states.

2. The fuze mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a tension spring disposed coaxially inside the sliding sleeve, with the tension spring biasing the sliding sleeve in a direction from the unarmed position to the armed position.

3. The fuze mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the sliding sleeve has a hole formed near an upper end of the sliding sleeve for the hole to cooperate with a projection formed on a striker lever, so that engagement of the projection in the hole restrains the sliding sleeve in the unarmed position.

4. The fuze mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the striker lever comprises a strike point for activating the percussion primer and the striker lever is released by contact with an arming handle.

5. The fuze mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a lock sleeve disposed co-axially around the fuze case to threadedly connect the fuze case to the fuze holder.

6. The fuze mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the fuze case further comprises a shoulder, which cooperates with the sliding sleeve to locate booster charge with respect to the fuze holder.

7. The fuze mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the lower end of the sliding sleeve comprises an annular ring, which has an inside diameter that is threaded to cooperate with a stepped cylindrical lock nut, and the booster charge is secured between the annular ring and the stepped cylindrical lock nut.

8. The fuze mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the stepped-down portion of the cylindrical lock nut does not have any transverse hole formed therein.

9. The fuze mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the stepped-down portion of the cylindrical lock nut has one or more transverse holes formed therein.

10. The fuze mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the fuze holder has a threaded neck for connection to a mouth of the grenade shell.

11. The fuze mechanism according to claim 10, further comprising an open tubular housing which open end is located at the mouth of the grenade shell and is held in position by packing of an explosive charge in the grenade shell, such that the tubular housing surrounds and protects the lower end of the fuze case, including the booster and detonator charges.

12. The fuze mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the sliding sleeve has a hole formed near an upper end of the sliding sleeve for the hole to receive a ball, such that the ball is kept in the hole by a striker lever in an unarmed state and the ball is released when the striker lever is being pivoted out in an armed state.

13. The fuze mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the sliding sleeve has a hole formed near an upper end of the sliding sleeve for the hole to be tight fitted with a pin, and the pin is operated to be released by a flexible link connecting the pin to an arming handle.

14. The fuze mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the sliding sleeve has a hole formed near an upper end of the sliding sleeve for the hole to be tight fitted with a pin, and the pin is operated to be released by a flexible link connecting the pin to a striker lever.

15. A method for mechanically interrupting an explosive chain in a fuze for a hand grenade, the method comprising:

connecting an upper end of a fuze case to a fuze holder, with the fuze case containing a percussion primer, a pyrotechnic delay charge and a detonator charge; and

mounting an annularly shaped booster charge to a lower end of a sliding sleeve and arranging the booster charge and sliding sleeve to slide coaxially along the fuze case, wherein the annularly shaped booster charge is not in line with the pyrotechnic delay charge and detonator charge; whereby in an unarmed state, the booster charge is laterally or radially misaligned with the detonator charge and in an armed state, the booster charge is laterally or radially aligned with the detonator charge.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprises biasing the sliding sleeve to slide along the fuze case with a tension spring.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein putting the grenade in the unarmed state comprises compacting the tension spring and restraining the sliding sleeve to the fuze body by a releasable projection, ball or pin.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein putting the grenade in the armed state comprises releasing the sliding sleeve under the influence of the tension spring by releasing a projection, ball or pin that restrains the sliding sleeve to the fuze body.