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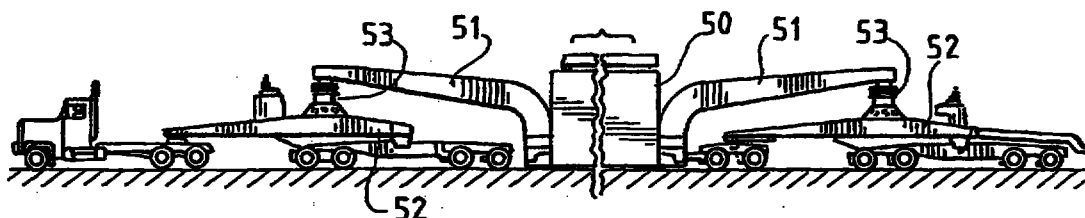
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTAINING AND SUPPRESSING EXPLOSIVE DETONATIONS



(57) Abstract: A mobile apparatus, and method of operation, for controlling and suppressing the explosive destruction of munitions by detonation in an explosion chamber (50). The apparatus comprises a double-walled steel explosion chamber (50) which may be moved by trailer units (52) to a location where the apparatus is to be used. Shock-damping silica sand is introduced into fillable cavities within the walls, ceiling and floor of the chamber (50) prior to use. After use, the sand is removed via dump valves (55) to lighten the chamber (50) prior to transport. The floor of the chamber (50) is covered with an energy-absorbing material (65) such as pea gravel which may be added before use and removed before further transport. A munition (66) to be destroyed is placed within an open-topped steel fragmentation containment unit (67), which in turn is placed within the chamber (50). Vaporizable plastic bags (70) filled with water are disposed about the munition (66) in a spaced array. An array of vent pipes (56) vents the explosion products from the chamber (50) into manifolds (56) leading to an expansion tank (58) for further cooling and environmental treatment.

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