

SIMULATION SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a system with an interrogation device for identifying a responder device. The invention furthermore relates to a method for simulating firing, using an identification/simulation system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A laser identification/simulation system with a laser device for identifying a responder device is known from European Patent Application **97 120818.6** (Publication No. **EP 0 859 243 A1**). The interrogation system is designed for transmitting a coded laser beam, wherein the responder device has sensor means for detecting this laser beam and for converting it into electrical signals, which are passed on to an evaluation unit, as well as transmitting means for returning messages in accordance with decisions made in the evaluation unit to receiving means located inside or outside of the interrogation system. This laser device is designed to send a tight directional laser beam and contains chopping means for sending out a laser beam which is not only coded, but also chopped with a

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predetermined frequency. The sensor means of the responder device include means for obtaining an alternating electrical signal from the received chopped laser beam, which is supplied to a pre-amplifier, which is connected upstream of the discriminator.

Such a system is mounted on weapons which are normally carried by soldiers, wherein all participants in an exercise, both persons and objects, are equipped with detectors, which register a possible weapons effect on the participant. The functioning of such known systems, for example the so-called SIMLAS system, results from the technical characteristics of a friend-foe identification system (IFF), which can also be used in accordance with the present invention.

OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is now the object of the present invention to create a simulation system, which is not elaborate and permits dependable aiming, including a lead angle.

In accordance with the invention, this object is advantageously attained by means of a system in accordance with claim 1.

Other advantageous embodiments of the invention ensue from the further dependent claims.

The invention will be explained in greater detail in what follows by means of drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a schematic representation of a transmitting device in accordance with the invention,

Fig. 2 shows a schematic representation of a receiving device in accordance with the invention,

Fig. 3 represents a diagram for explaining some information signals,

Fig. 4 shows an antenna device, and

Fig. 5 represents a diagram for explaining the functioning of the simulation system in accordance with the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The interrogation system 1 in accordance with Fig. 1 comprises a laser transmitter 11, which can be or is mounted on a weapon and which has a laser radiator 12, which can be integrated into the transmitter 11, a device 13, which can be or is mounted on this weapon or on another object of the same system and has an antenna 14, which can be integrated in the device 13, and a central unit 15. Respective auxiliary units 16 and 17 can be connected to the central unit 15. An antenna device 4, or respectively 18, is connected with the respective auxiliary units 16 and 17. The device 17 is preferably an RF system, and the antenna device 18 an RF antenna.

The responder system 2 in accordance with Fig. 2 comprises a laser receiver 21 with at least one laser detector 22, which can be integrated into the receiver 21, a device 23 with an antenna 24, which can be integrated into the device 23, and a central unit 25. Two auxiliary devices 26 and 27 can be connected to the central unit 25. Respective antenna devices 40 or 28 are connected with the devices 26 and 27. The device 27 is preferably an RF system and the antenna device 28 an RF antenna. At least one terminal 19, or respectively 29, can also be connected to the central units 15 and 25, which can be connected with a keyboard and/or a display and/or a headset and/or a microphone, for example.

Three pulses 31, 32, 33 in the range of picoseconds are represented by way of example in Fig. 3, which relates to the device 13 with the antenna 14. This corresponds to an oscillation frequency between 10 and 1000 GHz and a wavelength between 30 to 0.3 mm. The antenna 14 can have relatively small dimensions and can therefore be mounted on the weapon. Signals provided by a terminal 19 lead to the central unit 15 causing a modulation and/or coding of the control signals for the device 13, which operates as a transmitter, in such a way that the pulses 31, 32, 33 are triggered at different intervals, if desired. In the last case these pulses contain the information to be transmitted (for example a request to a responder device to identify itself). By means of a special embodiment and dimensioning of the antenna 14 it is possible to achieve the transmission of short, directed (directional) pulses 31, 32, 33.

The radiating characteristics of the transmitting device 13, 14 can be made directional to various degrees as desired by means of adapting, or respectively changing the antenna. It is possible to achieve an angle of the radiation lobe of approximately 30 mrad by means of a suitable antenna.

The antenna device **4** can be an omnidirectional antenna or can consist of a number, preferably between four and eight, flat-top antennas. Fig. **4** shows in what shape eight flat-top antennas **41** to **48**, for example, can be peripherally arranged on a helmet, while an omnidirectional antenna can be advantageous for a tank or other larger installations.

Fig. **5** schematically represents a firing or transmitting device **51**, which preferably transmits individual electromagnetic or laser pulses **52**, and a responder device **53** with a target **54**. The arrow **55** represents an indication of the relative movement, caused by gravity, of the actual munitions.

For carrying out the invention, neither the transmitting device **1** nor the responder device **2** need to have all the elements represented in Figs. **1** and **2**. Besides the central unit **15** and at least one terminal **19**, only the elements **11**, **12** or **13**, **14** or **16**, **4** or **17**, **18**, are required in the transmitting unit **1** for simulating purposes in accordance with the invention, or respectively in the responder device **2**, besides the central unit **25** and at least one terminal **29**, only the elements **21**, **22** or **23**, **24** or **26**, **40** or **27**, **28** are needed. The elements **11**, **12** or **13**, **14** in the transmitting device **1**, or respectively the elements **21**, **22** or **24**, **23** in the responder device, can be used for aiming a weapon. The elements **17**, **18**, or respectively **27**, **28**, are provided in particular for identification.

The simulation system in accordance with the invention functions as follows:

Persons who are participating in an exercise, for example, can wear at least one of the sensors mentioned, preferably with the aid of a harness system in accordance with European Patent Applications **EP 0 859 243 A1** and/or **EP 0 836 068 A1** and/or **EP 0 836 069 A1**. Otherwise the subject of the present invention, which is also suitable for objects such as rifles, cannon, tanks, etc., can include all means recited in the patent applications in order to realize all functions known from these patent applications in the same or similar manner.

In accordance with a first embodiment of the invention, the pulses **31**, **32**, **33** (Fig. **3**), which are chronologically modulated, are received by the device **23** with the antenna or the sensor **24**, operating as a receiver, and are preferably also amplified in the responder device **2**. From the received pulses **31**, **32**, **33** it is then possible to create information pulses **37**, **38**, **39**, which can be longer than the pulses **31**, **32**, **33** or chronologically offset. The information, which was transmitted in code by means of the spacings d_1 , d_2 between the pulses, is deciphered in the central unit **25** and is supplied in a suitable electrical form to at least one of the terminals **29**. The receiving device **2**, which thus operates as a responder device, can be designed for transmitting electromagnetic echo signals,

for example via the auxiliary unit **26** or **27** operating as a transmitter, which are received by the auxiliary devices **4**, **16** or **18**, **17**, operating as receivers, of the interrogation device **1** in accordance with Fig. **1**, in order to perform a distance measurement between the interrogation device **1** and the responder device **2**. The chronologically modulated pulses are especially used for identification. It is possible to use pulses for the simulation, for example, which are not chronologically modulated. With the electromagnetic radiation from the antenna **14**, the marksman does not aim directly at the target **54** (Fig. **4**), but uses a lead factor, the same as if he were firing actual ammunition. He does pull the trigger, but the electromagnetic radiation is not initially started. First, all the short pulses are transmitted, which are received by the responder device **2** and are transmitted back to the interrogation device **1**, where the distance and, if needed, the movements of the target are measured by means of these pulses. The electromagnetic radiation from the antenna **14** is triggered only after a delay time t and, if the marksman maintains the device actually in the previously calculated position, the electromagnetic radiation hits the sighted target exactly. The invention is based on the knowledge that the pulses are propagated faster to the target than actual ammunition travels between the weapon and the target. The central unit **15** can take the delay times into consideration by means of appropriate calculations. The delay time t can for example lie in the range between 100 and 150 msec.

In accordance with a second embodiment of the invention, a modulated laser pulse, for example in the range of 100 msec, is fired via the laser radiator **12** (Fig. **1**). The modulated laser pulses are detected in the responder **2** by means of the device **21** with the antenna or the sensor **22**, operating as a laser receiver, and are converted into electrical signals. The information, which was transmitted in code, is deciphered in the central unit **25** and is supplied in a suitable electrical form to at least one of the terminals **29**. The responder device can be embodied in such a way, that electromagnetic response signals are transmitted, for example via the auxiliary device **26** or **27** operating as a transmitter, which are received by the auxiliary devices **4**, **16**, or **18**, **17**, operating as receivers, of the interrogation device **1** in Fig. **1** in order to perform a distance measurement between the interrogation device **1** and the responder device **2**. The modulated laser pulses are specifically used for identification. Laser pulses or electromagnetic pulses (for example RF) radiated via the antenna **14**, or radio wave pulses radiated via the antenna **18**, can be used for simulation, i.e. the measurement of the distance, or respectively of movement. With the laser beam from the optical laser device **12**,

the marksman does not aim directly at the target 54, but uses a lead factor, the same as if he were firing live ammunition. He does pull the trigger, but the electromagnetic radiation is not initially started. First, only the special pulses are transmitted, which are received by the responder device 2 and are transmitted back to the interrogation device 1, where the distance and, if needed, the movements of the target are measured by means of these pulses. As with the first embodiment, the laser beam is only triggered after a delay time.^t

Thus, a modulated laser pulse in the range of 100 msec is preferably fired. The marksman does not aim the laser directly at the target 54, but uses a lead factor, as if he were firing actual ammunition. No laser shot is fired when he pulls the trigger. Initially, only the short pulses in the giga frequency range, for example between 10 and 1000 GHz, are transmitted, so that the distance and the movement can be measured by means of these. This information is transmitted back to the marksman by the responder device by means of the same short pulses and is electronically evaluated. The laser shot is fired after a predetermined time, for example 100 msec, so that the laser beam hits the target if the marksman is actually in the previously calculated position.

Flat-top antennas, for example, can be used as antennas 14 and 24, which can be fastened on a helmet. An antenna can for example be embodied in the shape of a trapezoid with a base of 20 to 40 mm, small sides of 5 to 15 mm, and a height of 30 to 50 mm. In place of individual pulses 31, 32, 33, it is also possible to transmit bursts of pulses, which are possibly damped and/or harmonic and/or inharmonic. The laser transmitter can be an 820 nm CW laser with an output in the range of 20 to 60 mW.

Thus, the system in accordance with the invention can also be employed in connection with a method wherein a modulated laser pulse is fired by a laser transmitter not directly on the responder device, but with a lead angle, as if actual ammunition were used, wherein initially no laser shot is fired when the trigger is pulled, but instead only short pulses at first, which are used to measure the distance and possibly also the movement, wherein this information is sent back by the target, also in the form of short pulses, to the laser transmitter and is electronically evaluated, and wherein the laser shot is fired after a predetermined amount of time so that, if the laser transmitter is actually in the precalculated position, the laser beam hits the target. In this case the short pulses used for simulating a shot can be laser pulses, or respectively laser pulses, or electromagnetic pulses, or individual pulses or pulse bursts.

The simulation system in accordance with the invention can also be used for

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simulating a shot with the aid of a transmitting device **1**. Here, for identifying a responder device **2**, a coded beam is transmitted, which is detected in the responder device and is converted to electrical signals, which are supplied to a central unit **25** on the receiving end for transmitting identification messages back to the transmitting device **1** in accordance with decisions made in this central unit **25**, wherein the transmitting device **1** generates electromagnetic pulses or pulse bursts containing coded information in such a way that the response pulses which the responder device **2** transmits back to the sending device **1** on the basis of this information additionally enable a central unit **15** on the transmitting end to calculate from the response pulses the distance between the interrogation device and the responder device, and possibly also a movement of the responder device, in order to simulate from this the conditions which would result, if actual ammunition were used.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system with an interrogation device for identifying a responder device, wherein the interrogation device is designed for transmitting a coded radiation, and the responder device includes sensor means (21, 22, or 23, 24) for detecting this radiation and for converting it into electrical signals, which are passed on to a central unit (25) on the receiving end, and wherein the interrogation device has transmitting means (26, 40, or 27, 28, or 23, 24) for transmitting messages back to receiving means (4, 16, or 18, 17, or 14, 13), which are located inside or outside of the interrogation device, in accordance with decisions made by this central unit (25), characterized in that the transmitting means (26, 40, or 27, 28, or 23, 24) of the responder device (2) are designed for sending response pulses, which have been derived from the received radiation, back to the interrogation device (1), and that the interrogation device (1) includes a central unit (15) on the transmitting end, which is designed for calculating the distance between the interrogation device (1) and the responder device (2) from these response pulses, in order to determine from this the conditions which would result if actual ammunition were used.
2. The system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that, besides means (11, 12; 22, 21) for an identification by means of laser radiation, there are also means (13, 14; 24, 23) for transmitting electromagnetic radiation in individual pulses or short pulses for simulation purposes.
3. The system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that means (13, 14; 24, 23) are provided for using an electromagnetic radiation with individual pulses or short pulses, and that these pulses or short pulses are chronologically modulated for identification.
4. The system in accordance with one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the central unit (15) on the transmitting end is designed to also determine by computation a possible movement of the responder device from the response pulses.
5. The system in accordance with one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that means are provided for transmitting at least a portion of the received coded

radiation, which is transmitted for identification purposes by the transmitting device (1), back to the interrogation device in the form of derived response pulses.

6. The system in accordance with one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the same antenna (18; 28) is used for simulation and identification, or that a radio antenna (18, 28) is used for identification, and an omnidirectional or quasi-omnidirectional antenna (4, 40) is used for simulation.

7. The system in accordance with one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that at least the sensor means (22, 21, or 24, 23) of the responder device (2) are designed to be received in a portable harness system.

8. A method for simulating a shot with the use of an identification/simulation system, having a transmitting device (1) and a responder device (2), characterized in that the transmitting device (1) generates electromagnetic pulses or pulse bursts which contain information which is coded in such a way, that response pulses, which the responder device (2) transmits back to the transmitting device (1) on the basis of this information, are additionally used for calculating from these response pulses the distance between the transmitting device (1) and the responder device in order to determine conditions from this which would result, if actual ammunition were used.

9. The method in accordance with claim 8, characterized in that the response pulses are additionally used for also determining by computation a possible movement of the responder device.

10. The method in accordance with claim 8, characterized in that the lead and/or the lead angle and/or the ballistic angle can be determined as these conditions.