

ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY, AIR FORCE, COAST GUARD



**AIR LAND
SEA
APPLICATION**

NLW

**TACTICAL EMPLOYMENT OF
NONLETHAL WEAPONS**

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MULTI-SERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

FOREWARD

This publication has been prepared under our direction for use by our respective commands and other commands as appropriate.



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PREFACE

1. Scope

This publication describes multi-Service tactics, techniques, and procedures (MTTP) for consideration and use during the tactical employment of nonlethal weapons (NLW) in support of warfighting personnel conducting training and tactical operations. This publication—

- a. Provides an overview of NLW and its relationship to deadly force.
- b. Provides NLW system description.
- c. Describes the capability requirements of NLW.
- d. Discusses fundamental concepts and training requirements involved with NLW.
- e. Discusses the tactical employment considerations of NLW.
- f. Discusses lessons learned from previous NLW use.

2. Purpose

- a. This publication provides a single-source, consolidated reference on the tactical employment of NLW and supporting systems.
- b. This publication is not intended to restrict the authority of the commander from organizing the force and executing the mission in a manner deemed appropriate.

3. Application

- a. This publication provides commanders and their staffs unclassified guidance for NLW employment and planning. Commanders and staffs can use this publication to aid in the tactical employment of NLW during exercises and contingencies.
- b. The United States (U.S.) Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard approved this multi-Service publication for use.

4. Implementation Plan

Participating service command offices of primary responsibility will review this publication, validate the information and reference, and incorporate it in service manuals, regulations, and curricula follows.

Army. The Army will incorporate the procedures in this publication in U.S. Army training and doctrinal publications as directed by the Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Distribution of this publication is in accordance with (IAW) initial distribution number (IDN) 115757.

Marine Corps. The Marine Corps will incorporate the procedures in this publication in U.S. Marine Corps doctrinal and training publications as directed by the Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC). Distribution of this publication is IAW Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication System (MCPDS).

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5. User Information

a. TRADOC, MCCDC, NWDC, Air Force Doctrine Center (AFDC), USCG, and the Air Land Sea Application (ALSA) Center developed this publication with the joint participation of the approving service commands. ALSA will review and update this publication as necessary.

b. This publication reflects current joint and service doctrine, command and control organizations, facilities, personnel, responsibilities, and procedures regarding NLW employment. Changes in service protocol, appropriately reflected in joint and service publications, will likewise be incorporated in revisions of this document.

c. We encourage recommended changes for improving this publication. Key comments to the specific page and paragraph and provide rationale for each recommendation directly to—

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NLW

Tactical Employment of Nonlethal Weapons

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tactical Employment of Nonlethal Weapons (NLW)

Today's world events mandate a need to project nonlethal force across all levels of war to enable our warfighters and leaders to effectively deal with a host of traditional as well as nontraditional threats. Now more than ever, the minimal level of tolerance for collateral damage and loss of human life, coupled with the tendency for the typical adversary to exploit the rules of engagement (ROE) to his benefit, necessitates an effective and flexible application of force through nonlethal weapons. Much like a rheostat switch in which power can be dialed up or down as desired, NLW provide tools to allow a commander to employ sufficient force to accomplish an objective without requiring the destruction of an enemy or the habitat. The intent of employing NLW is not to add another step in the progression of escalation with an adversary, but to add another tool to use anywhere along that continuum. This publication provides initial guidance for employing NLW in a tactical environment.

Overview of NLW

Chapter I describes the background, definition, and the concept description of NLW. This chapter discusses the development and employment of NLW, and explains the relationship of NLW to deadly force capabilities. The final portion of the chapter reviews policy per Office of Secretary of Defense instructions on employing NLW.

Purpose, System Description, and Organization

Chapter II describes the purpose of NLW and gives a general description of currently available commercial or government off-the-shelf equipment and munitions. The chapter also addresses organization structure, to include system location/distribution, personnel requirements, and mission requirements/tactical structure.

New Capability Requirements

Chapter III describes the applicability of NLW across the range of military operations. Additionally, this chapter discusses the core capabilities as stated in the Joint Mission Area Analysis (JMAA) as described in the Department of Defense Joint Concept for NLW.

Training With the NLW Capability Set

Chapter IV describes training requirements, topics, methods, locations, and a program of instruction from the Interservice Nonlethal Individual Weapons Instructor Course currently available for NLW options. This chapter also addresses additional training available from civilian law enforcement agencies.

Employment of NLW Capabilities

Chapter V establishes the fundamental understanding of the force continuum needed to employ NLW. It outlines employment prerequisites, mission-planning factors, and personnel requirements needed to employ NLW options. It further delineates NLW tasks according to the JMAA and provides considerations for preparation for unit tactical operations. This chapter also discusses employment objectives for NLW and ROE development. This chapter ends with multiple examples of service-specific crowd control formations used by units equipped with NLW.

Lessons Learned

Chapter VI focuses on NLW lessons learned from recent military operations. The chapter discusses how nonlethal technology has changed the way forces are looking at their adversaries in using NLW. It also covers the use of NLW along the force continuum in conjunction with ROE and the media.

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Chapter I

Overview of Nonlethal Weapons

1. Background

a. In today's operational environment, United States (U.S.) forces regularly perform missions that were almost inconceivable a few decades ago. In this new environment, lethal firepower or the threat of its use may no longer be the default solution to all crises or problems. Senior leaders face a new level of public and media sensitivity and scrutiny concerning the proper role of the military as an instrument of national power. Field commanders must understand these sensitivities and attempt to achieve an appropriate military force. Junior leaders must apply the resulting decisions wisely, often in changing situations filled with uncertainty and danger.

b. Throughout history, changes in culture and technology have influenced the character of military force and the manner in which it is employed. These changes are an attempt to maximize military force in the force continuum. In the complex and changing political and social domain of the modern world, nonlethal capabilities may offer the opportunity to increase or maximize the military as an instrument of national power.

c. Nonlethal weapons (NLW) must now be considered an integral part of joint operational capabilities. Joint forces anticipate that NLW technology will advance and provide additional options for force commanders.

2. Definition

a. Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 3000.3, Policy for Nonlethal Weapons, 9 July 1996, defines NLW as "weapons that are explicitly designed and primarily employed so as to incapacitate personnel or materiel while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury to personnel, and undesired damage to property and the environment." Furthermore, "unlike conventional lethal weapons that destroy their targets principally through blast, penetration, and fragmentation, nonlethal weapons employ means other than gross physical destruction to prevent the target from functioning. Nonlethal weapons are intended to have relatively reversible effects on personnel and materiel."

b. The term "nonlethal" does not mean zero mortality or nonpermanent damage; these are goals and not guarantees of these weapons. NLW can add flexibility to combat operations and enhance force protection by providing an environment in which friendly troops can engage threatening targets with reduced risk of noncombatant casualties and collateral damage.

3. Concept Description

Nonlethal capabilities within the context of the service capability sets (see Appendix E) may provide armed forces additional offensive and defensive tools to assist in the incapacitation and destruction of an enemy, capture of important intelligence sources, crowd control, civil disturbances, enforcing mandates, and force protection in accordance with the specified rules of engagement (ROE) for a specific operation. These operations include small-scale contingencies (SSC), military operations other than war (MOOTW), stability and support operations (SASO), and civil disturbances. The U.S. Army's Task Force (TF) FALCON in Kosovo and U.S. armed forces located at Camp X-RAY in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba are superb examples of the use of NLW to prevent escalation within an operation.