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Frame of reference and Evaluation of Operational Value of Non-lethal Weapons (NLW)

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The Royal Netherlands Defence Organisation is changing rapidly the last few years from an organisation that can carry out conventional warfare tasks to more humanitarian, peace enforcing and peace building tasks. Increasingly, the Dutch Defence Organisation has discovered that it is not prepared completely for the tasks of the future.

The Netherlands Ministry of Defence has assigned TNO to start a study program into the suitability of Non-lethal Weapon applications for the Dutch Defence Forces. As an aspect of this program also the development of a practical Evaluation & Test facility for NLW concepts, possibly implemented in the Dutch Defence Organisation, has been started and will be used prior to future military operations or in the process of material procurement.

This study describes a frame of reference and gives the first step in development of a practical tool to assess the operational value of Non-lethal Weapons (NLW). This value is related to the consequences for the Defence Organisation in terms of organisational aspects, command and control aspects and training and education. The intention is that different levels of decision making within the Defence Organisation could be supported with the methodology described in this study.

In the presentation an illustration is given of the way we proceed in evaluation of the NLW effectiveness at different levels. A Multi-Criteria Analysis method is proposed and at detailed level different technical studies should give input for individual scores at a direct criterion. Thus, different alternatives for a NLW deployment in a single scenario can be evaluated and also policy with respect to material procurement can be supported. In the near future, still some elements of the total frame of reference have to be filled in more detail.