

---ABSTRACT---

When Non-Lethal Weapons are used in some prescribed Military Context, how will the commander know that the desired effect has been achieved? This is particularly vexing if the targets are material or infrastructure. Establishing whether the NLW has achieved the desired effect will be crucial if an escalation to lethal force is to be avoided.

For conventional systems the classical Battle Damage Assessment tools are employed and developed. For a truly effective Non-Lethal System to be employed it will be necessary to perform the equivalent of conventional BDA in the Non-Lethal context.

This topic is considered in more detail by addressing indirect measures of response, and how these can be assembled in real-time to provide information on the state of the particular targets under consideration; whether they are personnel, material or infrastructure. Whether sophisticated Non-Lethal (that is to say, non-kinetic) Systems are ever fielded may not depend on the maturity of the technology, but may depend on whether the real-time effects are reliably measurable.