

Military Non-Lethal Solutions for Medium to Long Ranges

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Abstract

Over the years, there has been a significant increase in peacekeeping missions around the globe. Often these operations have such a character that in many situations, the use of lethal weapons may not be the optimal choice. Norwegian participation in peacekeeping operations has increased in recent years, and there are currently more than 800 Norwegian soldiers serving abroad, most of them operating in Kosovo or Afghanistan.

Based on experience from previous and current peacekeeping missions the Norwegian Armed Forces have formulated a set of requirements for future acquisitions of non-lethal weapons. Prominent among the desired capabilities is Riot Control at long ranges, minimum 50 m effective range against individuals and 100 m against groups of people. There is also a wish to avoid introduction of new hardware, e.g. kinetic ammunition in existing calibres will be preferred over new special purpose weapons.

The range requirements did not match our previous test results very well, as 25-35 m seem to be the maximum useful range of many existing anti personnel alternatives. So accordingly we initiated a new round of trials, looking for better medium to long range options. The paper will present results from these trials.

Keywords:

Peacekeeping operations, non lethal weapons, military requirements, long range.