

Enhancing peace keeping operations with NLWs

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Human Factors

Military units when engaged in peacekeeping operations need to have more behavioral alternatives than the use of lethal force or threatening to do so at one extreme of the spectrum of violence or verbal communication at the other end. This capability gap could be filled with non-lethal weapons. To that end an experiment was conducted with Dutch marine squads. Three conditions were tested; 1) marines who have received a special Non Lethal Weapons (NLW) training (batons + flash bang grenades) and have access to these NLWs, 2) marines who have received a special NLW training and have standard weapons, and finally 3) marines who have not received a special NLW training and make use of standard weapons. The marines were confronted with a peace keeping scenario in an urban environment. The effectiveness of the marine squads (finding concealed weapons and arresting a suspect) was the focus of the experiment. Self reports, observations and group discussions were used for data collection. The results will be presented and discussed.