

Psychological Effects of Non-Lethal Weapons: a New Approach for Defining more Effective Uses

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In this paper, we study a new way of defining more effective and relevant uses of non-lethal weapons (NLWs), according to two criteria:

- The first one deals with the operational situation on a theatre and is already taken into account by the doctrines and concepts;
- The second one is more original and deals with psychological effects of NLWs.

Emotional aspects (fear, anger, panic...) and cognitive aspects (knowledge, belief, intention, desire...) are analyzed in terms of *psychological objectives* of the manoeuvre together with the operational objectives. Then they are characterized as input of a generic method in order to determine which NLWs should be used in these very circumstances. Both technical knowledge about NLWs and experimental knowledge about individual and collective psychology allow to combine these various data in order to achieve missions in situations such as violence management, peacekeeping operations, crowd control... As a result, we obtain more accurate recommendations in order to intervene with safety and control in such situations.

This generic method not only permits to draw more relevant tactics, but also helps to define appropriate rules of engagement and to improve training. Moreover, this study should allow to determine *new innovative concepts and techniques* by the analysis of specific expected psychological effects.

Keywords: emotion, cognition, psychological effects, non-lethal weapons