

**Report on the deployment of
Orthochlorbenzylidenmalononitril, CS irritant gas,
as a Non-Lethal-Weapon, NLW,
for the Improvement of the Protection
of Austrian Federal Army Property**

Military ammunition and arms warehouses are under continuous threat from criminals and terrorists seeking to obtain weapons. As an example, on September 17, 2006, 82 assault rifles, 2,150 rounds of ammunition, three pistols, ten night-vision binoculars, and three laser pointers were stolen in a burglary from a Swiss army barracks in Marly near Freiburg.

The vast extent of this type of facility in Austria and their territorial distribution result in high personnel costs for patrols. Video security and alarm systems require an immediate, personnel-intensive follow-up by on-duty forces due to the brief duration of these crimes. This brevity combined with the broad extent of the sites make it difficult for the necessary reinforcements to be brought in on time.

The Austrian Federal Army's solution to this problem is detecting such attacks by means of highly sensitive alarm systems and simultaneously warding off the intruders by means of non-lethal weapons. For this task, the NLW used involves the controlled release of CS irritant gas from automated deterrent systems. After a warning to the criminals, these systems release the maximum permissible amount of the CS irritant gas in relation to the size of the room and continue to dispense it to the maximum allowable limit against the eventuality of an exchange of air or hydrolisation.

The release of CS irritant gas as a NLW extends the intervention time by approximately thirty minutes, so that forces can be alerted and deployed from a greater distance. The advantage is comprehensive protection with fewer security personnel.

That the use of CS irritant gas within health-related limits for the protection of objects and tangible assets is legally permissible under specific conditions will be explained in detail.