



## DoD Non-Lethal Weapons Program Media Release

*Non-lethal weapons provide our operating forces escalation-of-force options, minimizing casualties and collateral damage.*

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### Marine Corps Evaluates Escalation of Force-Mission Modules

By Jennifer London  
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*Marines practice escalation-of-force procedures for riot control with equipment from the Escalation of Force-Mission Module (EoF-MM) at the 25 Area Combat Town at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Marines, assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group participated as part of the recent Marine Corps' limited user evaluations for the EoF-MMs.*

*U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Whitney N. Frasier*

In an effort to improve the non-lethal weapons operating forces use, the Marine Corps recently held limited user evaluations for their Escalation of Force-Mission Modules (EoF-MM) at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Yorktown Naval Weapons Station's Cheatham Annex in Yorktown, Va.

"Non-lethal weapons provide our operating forces with escalation-of-force options when lethal force is not the best first response," said Colonel Tracy J. Tafolla, Director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate (JNLWD.) "These capabilities assist our operating forces in discerning intent, delaying and deterring individuals, and discriminating targets in a variety of missions ranging from full-scale combat to humanitarian relief—all while minimizing casualties and damage to property."

The Department of Defense defines non-lethal weapons as "weapons that are explicitly designed and primarily employed so as to incapacitate personnel or materiel, while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury to personnel and undesired damage to property and the environment. Non-lethal weapons are intended to have reversible effects on personnel and materiel."

Many of the non-lethal weapons, devices and munitions U.S. operating forces are using in Iraq and Afghanistan come from non-lethal capability sets. The EoF-MM is the Marine Corps' version of the non-lethal capability set.

EoF-MMs are versatile packages of mission-specific equipment designed to provide troops with non-lethal counter-personnel and counter-materiel capabilities in missions ranging from humanitarian relief to combat operations. The modules include both commercial and government-off-the-shelf non-lethal weapons, devices and munitions, such as protective gear, acoustic hailing devices, translation devices, non-lethal munitions, optical distracters and vehicle-stopping capabilities. The equipment comes in easily transportable, weatherproof military containers. Combining the non-lethal tools into a set provides a variety of non-lethal capabilities in a one-stop shop.



*The non-lethal equipment in Escalation of Force-Mission Modules (EoF-MMs) comes in easily transportable, weatherproof military containers.  
JNLWD photo by Don Sheridan*

The Marine Corps developed the EoF-MMs based on tasks that Marines typically face during irregular warfare missions. These Marine Corps sets, in the final stages of development, include four mission-specific modules: checkpoint, crowd control, convoy operations and dismounted patrolling missions. The sets have similar goals: to deny, move, disable or suppress adversaries (counter personnel) or to stop, deny access to, disable or divert vehicles or vessels (counter materiel) while having reversible effects and to expand the Marine's range of escalation-of-force options.

During the limited user evaluations, operating forces trained with, employed and evaluated the EoF-MM in relevant operational scenarios. The Marines were the first to formally evaluate the EoF-MM.

Marines from 2nd Platoon, Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group participated in the evaluation at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Marines from 3rd Platoon, 2nd Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Marine Corps Security Force Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in the evaluation at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station's Cheatham Annex in Yorktown, Va.

The first three days of the evaluations involved training the Marines on how to use the components of the EoF-MM.

During the evaluations' remaining two days, operating forces employed and evaluated the EoF-MM in both daytime and nighttime settings and in relevant operational scenarios. Scenarios included securing a facility, manning an entry control point, searching and classifying a suspect, manning a vehicle control point, and conducting convoy operations.

"The nature of non-lethal weapon employment usually necessitates a compressed planning phase due to the uncertain operating environment, which can quickly escalate, said Captain Michael A. D'Eredita, 3rd Platoon commander for the 2nd FAST Company. "Members of the platoon were able to quickly locate the required gear, issue it to the user and prepare for employment in a matter of minutes."



*Marines open the Escalation of Force-Mission Modules (EoF-MMs) and prepare to practice escalation-of-force procedures for riot control at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station's Cheatham Annex in Yorktown, Va. The Marines, assigned to 2nd Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Marine Corps Security Force Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, trained as part of the recent Marine Corps' limited user evaluations for the EoF-MMs.*

*JNLWD photo by Don Sheridan*

The 3rd Platoon found the equipment in the EoF-MMs to be useful in situations they could potentially face during operational missions.

"The gear in the EoF-MMs greatly enhanced the capability and survivability of our entry control points and vehicle control points, helping to identify and control possible threats," said Capt. D'Eredita.

"The acoustic hailing devices used in conjunction with the voice translating devices, especially in hands-free wireless mode, were unlike anything I have ever seen or used in theater," said Capt. D'Eredita. "These devices could greatly increase the effectiveness of Marines operating check points in non-English speaking areas of operation."

The information collected during the evaluations will be used to ensure that the EoF-MM equipment meets the prescribed operating forces requirements.

"The evaluations were very useful in helping us refine and finalize the composition of the EoF-MM, with the ultimate goal being to provide the Marines with the best available mix of capabilities to assist them in the execution of escalation-of-force procedures," said Scott Pipenhagen, Marine Corps NLW Central Action Officer. "We received a lot of good feedback from the Marines involved in the evaluations, and as a result, a number of changes to the modules were incorporated."

Infantry Weapons Systems Product Group, part of Marine Corps System Command, coordinated and sponsored the evaluation. Service and government agency representatives, including staff from the JNLWD, also attended and observed the evaluations and evaluated the EoF-MMs. Navy representatives attended the second limited user evaluation, and the Navy has expressed interest in fielding similar modules to Sailors in the near future.

The Marine Corps is preparing to acquire approximately 50 EoF-MMs and hopes to move quickly to get those modules fielded. The Marine Corps plans to provide the first EoF-MMs to an expeditionary brigade that will soon deploy to Afghanistan. Currently, some Marine Expeditionary Units have older versions of the EoF-MMs, called Force Protection Capability Sets, which the Marine Corps plans to soon replace with EoF-MMs.

For more information on non-lethal weapons, visit the JNLWP website at <https://www.jnlwp.com>.