



## 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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**On the web:**

<https://www.jnlwp.usmc.mil/>

**Media contacts:** Kelley Hughes +1 (703) 432-0905  
Annette Beacham +1 (703) 432-0916  
Jennifer London +1 (703) 441-8075

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### **Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate Participates in NATO Non-Lethal Weapons Experiment and Demonstration**

By Jennifer A. London

Published March 8, 2011



*During the NATO-sponsored non-lethal weapons experiment counter-vehicle scenario, researchers use an acoustic hailing device and an optical distracter in combination to hail a vehicle.*

*Official NATO photo by Leo van der Horst*

For the past decade, NATO has recognized the importance of non-lethal capabilities and has taken steps to outfit NATO troops with escalation-of-force options. NATO interest has continued to grow, particularly given the operational challenges faced by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the NATO command in Afghanistan. The Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, based at U.S. Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., participated in a NATO-sponsored non-lethal weapons experiment and demonstration, which took place last fall. U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Tracy Tafolla, Director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, and U.S. Marine Corps Major John Gutierrez, Acquisition Concepts Officer for the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, attended the events, held at Camp Rena, Norway.

The series of experiments, called REAL DEAL, assessed a non-lethal weapons experimentation framework, specific technologies and experimentation protocols. The experiments included three scenarios: 1) a counter-vehicle scenario in which researchers used an acoustic hailing device and an optical distracter, both independently and in combination, to hail a vehicle; 2) a vehicle-stopping scenario during which a vehicle lightweight arresting device tangled a vehicle's wheels and deflated the tires; and 3) a counter-personnel scenario in which researchers used an acoustic hailing device and an optical distracter, both independently and in combination, to warn an individual.

As part of System Analysis and Studies-078 (SAS-078), a larger NATO-led non-lethal weapons effort, REAL DEAL focused on testing the experimentation framework developed by SAS-078. Currently, the SAS-078 team is conducting a capabilities-based assessment to understand NATO non-lethal weapons requirements, identify capability gaps and offer potential solutions and recommendations. The Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate serves as the lead for the SAS-078 study, with participation from nine other NATO member nations and three NATO organizations. Once completed, the capabilities-based assessment will be available for NATO member nations to use when making important decisions about non-lethal weapons, as well as, to help promote interoperability and provide a common framework for addressing non-lethal weapons issues across the alliance.



*During the NATO-sponsored non-lethal weapons experiment vehicle-stopping scenario, a vehicle lightweight arresting device tangles the vehicle's wheels and deflates the tires. Official NATO photo by Christian Vinculado Tandberg*

"The NATO capabilities-based assessment will be a critical step in providing escalation-of-force options to NATO's forces around the globe," said Colonel Tafolla, who is also chairman of the SAS-078 Task Group. "NATO forces are engaged in operations ranging from humanitarian relief missions to full-scale combat, and non-lethal weapons can help minimize casualties and collateral damage across the range of military operations."

The same technologies used in the experiment were also part of a demonstration conducted for the NATO-led Defense Against Terrorism initiative (DAT-11). In response to a direct ISAF request to increase its non-lethal capabilities, NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors authorized a Defence Against Terrorism initiative specifically for non-lethal weapons, labeled DAT-11.

U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan under U.S. command have non-lethal weapons. NATO troops serving in Afghanistan, including U.S. troops serving under ISAF, have access to non-lethal weapons only if their individual nations provide them. This inconsistency creates interoperability issues and leaves capability gaps throughout ISAF. Through DAT-11, NATO hopes to see a wider range of non-lethal weapons available to all ISAF troops.

Canada serves as the lead nation for DAT-11. The Initiative is building toward a major international non-lethal weapons

event – the North American Technology Demonstration (NATD) – scheduled for Oct. 25-27, 2011 in Ottawa, Canada. The United States actively supports the initiative through the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program's involvement. To request more information about this event, visit <https://www.jnlwp.usmc.mil/misc/jip/2011%20NATD%20Show%20of%20Interest%20Form.pdf>. For more information about the NATD, visit <https://www.2011natd.ca/>.

Seven countries participated in REAL DEAL and/or associated laboratory experiments, including the United States, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway, as well as the NATO Undersea Research Centre.



*During the NATO-sponsored non-lethal weapon experiment counter-personnel scenario, researchers use an optical distracter to warn an individual.*

*Official NATO photo by Leo van der Horst*

According to John Nelson, a senior international defense analyst who supports the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate's efforts with NATO, the United States observed the experiments and demonstration and also supported the planning and preparations for the experiment. "Several agencies with the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program played a primary role in developing the experiment's protocol," Nelson said. The agencies included the U.S. Army Target Behavioral Response Laboratory, based at Picatinny Arsenal,

N.J., and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio. REAL DEAL and the demonstration required significant information exchange across the NATO alliance, and this will have continuing information exchange benefits with respect to non-lethal weapons performance and human effects data.

"The experiment was worthwhile and allowed participants to view a number of counter-personnel and counter-material concepts and capabilities in the extreme environment of Northern Norway," Major Gutierrez said.



*During the NATO-sponsored non-lethal weapon experiment counter-vehicle scenario, researchers use an acoustic hailing device to hail a vehicle.*

*Official NATO photo by Christian Vinculado Tandberg*

SAS-078 team members are currently analyzing REAL DEAL experiment results and will hold a meeting in January 2011 to review preliminary results and to develop findings and recommendations.

As NATO moves forward with non-lethal weapon efforts, the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program will continue to offer their support to the international community.

For more information on non-lethal weapons, visit the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program website at <https://www.jnlwp.usmc.mil/>.