

**Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program (JNLWP)
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MEDIA RELEASE

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DoD Provides Opportunity for Media to Experience the Effects of Non-Lethal Capability

Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. – Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate hosted an opportunity yesterday for members of the media to get up-close and personal with the Department of Defense's non-lethal, counter-personnel, directed energy weapon the Active Denial System 1 and System 2.

The Active Denial System works by emitting a directed beam of millimeter wave energy which creates an intolerable heating sensation on an adversary's skin, causing an instantaneous repel effect.

The media day allowed members of both print and broadcast media outlets to interact with experts who helped develop and design the technology and those who conducted the human effects testing of the system. Attendees were also offered the opportunity to voluntarily experience the effect of ADS in an actual target engagement scenario.

"We want to take every opportunity to familiarize the public with this capability and to provide accurate information about its safety and effectiveness," said Marine Col. Kirk Hymes, Director, Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate. "It was important that the members of the media and other defense officials were able to judge for themselves the effectiveness of the weapon and see first hand how safe it is. We can give hundreds of briefings and slide presentations, but there is nothing like seeing for yourself how very effective this capability really is."

More than 12 years of research has gone into the development and testing of this millimeter wave technology. In 2001 the technology was designated as an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration or ACTD, which is a Department of Defense initiative to expedite the transfer of advanced technologies to our warfighters.

The final phase of the ACTD, the Extended User Evaluation (EUE), concluded in September 2007. Under Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate sponsorship, the Air Force is leading a joint effort to bridge the transition from the ACTD to the establishment of a formal program of record.

According to Hymes, ADS has the potential to fill a capability gap identified by our commanders in the field. "Our warfighters have identified a need for additional non-lethal capabilities because distinguishing between combatants and non-combatants on the modern battlefield can be very difficult," said Hymes. "We need discriminate, non-lethal weapons with longer ranges and universal effects. This is exactly what we get with ADS."

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The ADS has undergone thorough treaty and legal reviews to ensure the system is compliant with applicable arms control treaties and agreements. It has also undergone three Military Utility Assessments where it was evaluated in a variety of operational scenarios ranging from checkpoint support to facility, perimeter, and harbor security.

“The long range and universal effect of ADS make it very versatile and there are numerous military applications where it could be employed,” according to Hymes. “Most of our current counter-personnel non-lethal weapons, such as bean bag rounds, utilize kinetic energy. This means that the size and body mass of the target can change the effect of the weapon.”

Kinetic non-lethal weapons can also cause injuries if used when a target is at very close range. The ADS, on the other hand is safe and effective at 50 feet and 500 yards. The range, safety, universal effect, and tremendous repel capability make the ADS a very versatile non-lethal weapon with a great deal of military utility,” Hymes continued.

For more information on the Active Denial System visit <https://www.jnlwp.com/activedenialsystem.asp>.