As a field commander, staff officer or someone who supports the warfighter, why would you take an elective about non-lethal weapons (NLWs)?

After all, as a senior member of the military or civilian establishment, you are attending Joint Professional Military Education to further your grasp of strategic concepts, national policy formulation/implementation and the operational art. How do rubber bullets, Tasers and directed energy technologies help you do that?

Consider this, NLWs provide commanders:

- Space and time to understand and influence ambiguous or uncertain environments before escalating to lethal means.
- Means to employ military force between the choice of posture, presence or lethal conflict to reinforce strategic or operational mission requirements.
- The ability to assure allies and partners a spectrum of capabilities that can offset adversary actions and means across all phases of conflict.
- A compelling narrative that counteracts adversaries’ propaganda that states when the US asserts its will, we put populations at risk through the indiscriminate use of lethal force.
- The ability to avoid unnecessary casualties in all situations and provides NL means to enable the use of force that is proportional to the need and threat.
- The ability to engage with measured and proportional force to suppress the eruption of disorder while exercising humane measures that facilitate reductions of grievances that help minimize expanded conflict.

This elective provides an innovative approach to how we fight, how we posture our forces, and how we leverage our asymmetric strengths and technological advantages across the full range of military operations.

**Course Description.** This course covers all NLWs and technologies being investigated, developed and fielded by the Department of Defense. The following topics are addressed:

- How NLWs support operational and strategic mission requirements.
- How NLWs can enhance military capabilities to engage in 21st century land, maritime and air warfare.
- The past use of non-lethal concepts and technologies and their future promise.
- Civilian law enforcement uses of “less-lethal” weapons.
- A **range period** to gain first-hand experience on the utility and limitations of NLWs.
- The political, medical, legal, ethical and public awareness issues involved in NLW development and use.

**Class Time:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture/Discussion/Guest Speakers</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Range Period</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table Top Exercises (TTX)</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Briefings</td>
<td>8%</td>
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**Requirements:**

- Approximately 45 to 90 minutes of readings required for each class
- Actively engage in classroom discussion during each class
- Students will break into teams and develop an operational scenario where NLWs would support mission accomplishment.
- Each student team will present a 15-minute presentation on their operational scenario.
- Each student must write a paper on a topic derived from/relevant to the team project.

**Grading based:**

- Class participation: 40%
- Briefing: 30%
- Paper: 30%

**Additional Information:**

The course is taught by Old Dominion University instructors under sponsorship of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, Quantico, VA.

[http://jnlwd.defense.gov](http://jnlwd.defense.gov)

This course has been offered at the Army War College (Carlisle, PA), the Air War College (Maxwell AFB, AL), the Naval War College (Newport, RI), the Joint Forces Staff College (Norfolk, VA), the US Army Command & General Staff College (Ft. Leavenworth, KS), The Air Command & Staff College (Maxwell AFB) and the Marine Corps Command & Staff College (Quantico, VA).

**Course Sponsors:**

- Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program (DoD)
- Old Dominion University
- Alternative Experts (ALEX) Inc.
Example Non-Lethal Technologies

TASER® X26™
Vehicle Stopping

Modular Crowd Control Munitions
Stingball Grenades & Launch Cups

Acoustic Hailing Devices
Ocular Disruption

Millimeter Wave Active Denial System

Non-Lethal Weapons (NLW): Complementing Joint Force Lethality and Agility through Scalable Effects