

**ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY**

# **NLW**

## **MULTISERVICE PROCEDURES FOR THE TACTICAL EMPLOYMENT OF NONLETHAL WEAPONS**

**FM 90-40  
MCRP 3-15.8  
NWP 3-07.31  
USCG PUB 3-07.31**

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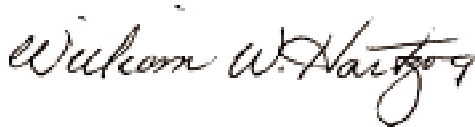
**OCTOBER 1998**

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**MULTISERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES**

## FOREWORD

This publication has been prepared under our direction for use by our respective commands and other commands as appropriate.



**WILLIAM W. HARTZOG**  
General, USA  
Commander  
Training and Doctrine Command



**J. E. RHODES**  
Lieutenant General, USMC  
Commanding General  
Marine Corps Combat  
Development Command



**G. S. HOLDER**  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Commander  
Naval Doctrine Command

# PREFACE

## 1. Scope

This publication describes multiservice tactics, techniques, and procedures (MTTP) for consideration and use during the tactical employment of nonlethal weapons (NLW) in support of warfighting personnel conducting training and tactical operations. This publication—

- a. Provides an overview of NLW.
- b. Provides NLW system description/ interoperability.
- c. Describes the capabilities of NLW.
- d. Discusses training with the NLW capability set.
- e. Discusses the tactical employment of NLW.
- f. Discusses lessons learned from previous NLW use.

## 2. Purpose

a. This publication provides a single-source, consolidated reference on the tactical employment of NLW and supporting systems on the nonlinear battlefield of today. Additionally, it will fill the void that currently exists about MTTP for the tactical employment of NLW.

b. This publication is not intended to restrict the authority of the commander from organizing the force and executing the mission in a manner deemed appropriate.

## 3. Application

a. This publication provides commanders and their staffs unclassified guidance for NLW employment and planning. Commanders and staffs can use this publication to aid in the tactical

employment of NLW during exercises and contingencies.

b. The United States (US) Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard approved this multiservice publication.

## 4. Implementation Plan

Participating service command offices of primary responsibility (OPRs) will review this publication, validate the information, and reference and incorporate it in service manuals, regulations, and curricula as follows:

**Army.** The Army will incorporate the procedures in this publication in US Army training and doctrinal publications as directed by the commander, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Distribution is in accordance with DA Form 12-11E.

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**Coast Guard.** The Coast Guard will incorporate the procedures in this publication in US Coast Guard doctrinal and training publications as directed by the assistant commandant for operations, Director of Operations Policy, US Coast Guard. Distribution of this publication is in accordance with Coast Guard standing operating procedures.

## 5. User Information

a. The TRADOC-MCCDC-NWDC-AFDC Air Land Sea Application (ALSA) Center developed this publication with the joint participation of the approving service commands. ALSA will review and update this publication as necessary.

b. We encourage recommended changes for improving this publication. Key your comments to the specific page and paragraph and provide a rationale for each recommendation. Send comments and recommendation directly to—

### **Army**

Commander  
US Army Training and Doctrine Command  
ATTN: ATDO-A  
Fort Monroe VA 23651-5000  
DSN 680-3153 COMM (757) 727-3153

### **Marine Corps**

Commanding General  
US Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
ATTN: C42  
3300 Russell Road  
Quantico VA 22134-5021  
DSN 278-6234 COMM (703) 784-6234

### **Navy**

Navy Warfare Development Command  
ATTN: N3  
1540 Gilbert St  
Norfolk VA 23511-2785  
DSN 565-0563 COMM (757) 445-0563  
E-mail: ndcjoint@nctamslant.navy.mil

### **ALSA**

ALSA Center  
ATTN: Director  
114 Andrews Street  
Langley AFB VA 23665-2785  
DSN 574-5934 COMM (757) 764-5934  
E-mail : alsadirector@langley.af.mil

**FM 90-40**  
**MCRP 3-15.8**  
**NWP 3-07.31**  
**USCG PUB 3-07.31**

**FM 90-40** **US Army Training and Doctrine Command**  
**Fort Monroe, Virginia**

**MCRP 3-15.8** **Marine Corps Combat Development Command**  
**Quantico, Virginia**

**NWP 3-07.31** **Navy Warfare Development Command**  
**Norfolk, Virginia**

**USCG PUB 3-07.31** **US Coast Guard**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**6 October 1998**

**NLW**  
**Multiservice Procedures for the**  
**Tactical Employment of Nonlethal Weapons**

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **NLW**

### **Multiservice Procedures for the Tactical Employment of Nonlethal Weapons**

No longer can force be viewed as either on or off (lethal force or no force) because whole spectrums of threats are present today. NLWs' options allow force to be viewed as a continuum. Much like a rheostat switch where power can be dialed up or down as desired, NLW provide tools to allow a commander to employ sufficient force to accomplish an objective without requiring the destruction of an enemy or the habitat. The intent of employing NLW is not to add another step in the progression of escalation with an adversary but to add another tool to use anywhere along that continuum. This publication provides initial guidance for the employment of NLW in a tactical environment.

#### **Overview of NLW**

Chapter I describes the concept of NLW and provides the background on development and employment of NLW. The chapter goes on to explain the relationship of NLW to deadly force capabilities. The final portion of the chapter reviews policy per Office of the Secretary of Defense instructions on employment of NLW.

#### **Purpose, System Description, and Organization**

Chapter II describes the purpose of NLW and gives a brief description of the currently available commercial or government off-the-shelf (COTS/GOTS) equipment and munitions. The chapter goes on to explain the currently anticipated distribution of nonlethal equipment for the United States Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force units. The final portion of the chapter addresses personnel requirements, organizational structure requirements, and mission requirements/tactical structure.

#### **Capabilities of NLW**

Chapter III describes capabilities of NLW and missions across the range of military operations. Additionally, a detailed discussion of munitions and nonmunitions capabilities is presented.

#### **Training With the NLW Capability Set**

Chapter IV describes training requirements, methods, locations, and a program of instruction currently available for NLW options.



## **Employment of NLW Capability**

Chapter V describes employment prerequisites, mission-planning factors, and personnel requirements needed to employ NLW options. The chapter also discusses employing NLW as augmentation to lethal weapons and provides logistic and safety considerations.

## **Lessons Learned**

Chapter VI focuses on lessons learned from recent operations. The chapter discusses how nonlethal technology has changed the way we look at our adversary, the force continuum, mission accomplishment, and media interaction.

# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The following commands and agencies participated in the development of this publication:

## Joint

US Atlantic Command, J35/J75, JTASC, Suffolk, VA  
US European Command, J3/J5, APO AE  
US Pacific Command, J3832, Camp H. M. Smith, HI  
US Central Command, J3, MacDill Air Force Base, FL  
US Southern Command, SCJ5-PS, Miami, FL  
US Space Command, SPJ5X, Peterson AFB, CO  
US Special Operations Command, JSOFI, SOFI-D, Fort Bragg, NC  
Joint Nonlethal Weapons Directorate, Quantico, VA

## Army

Headquarters, Department of the Army, ODCSOPS (DAMO-FDT), Pentagon, Washington, D.C.  
US Army Training and Doctrine Command, DCSDOC (ATDO-A), Fort Monroe, VA  
US Army Training and Doctrine Command, DCSCD (ATDO-MM), Fort Monroe, VA  
US Army Infantry Center, DCD, Fort Benning, GA  
US Army Military Police School, ATTN: ATZN-MP-CBI, Fort McClellan, AL  
Manuever Support Battle Lab, Bldg 3200, USAEC, Fort Leonard Wood, MO  
Headquarters, 7th Army Training Center, APO AE 09114

## Marine Corps

Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Joint Doctrine Branch (C427), Quantico, VA  
Marine Corps Detachment Military Police and Chemical School, Fort McClellan, AL  
Special Operations Training Group (G-7), I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA

## Navy

Commander, Navy Warfare Development Command, Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, VA

## Air Force

Detachment, Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center, Langley Air Force Base, VA  
Headquarters Air Combat Command (SFXR), Langley Air Force Base, VA  
Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (DOXT), Hurlburt Field, FL  
Human Systems Center, Brooks Air Force Base, TX

## Coast Guard

Commandant, US Coast Guard, (G-OPD), Washington, D.C.

# OVERVIEW OF NONLETHAL WEAPONS

## 1. Background

a. Today in an operational environment, United States (US) forces regularly perform missions that were almost inconceivable a few decades ago. In this new environment, firepower or the threat of its use may no longer be the default solution to all crises or problems. Senior leaders face a new level of public sensitivity and scrutiny concerning the proper role of the military as an instrument of national power. Field commanders must understand these sensitivities and attempt to achieve measured military force. Junior leaders must apply the resulting decisions wisely, often in situations filled with uncertainty and danger.

b. Throughout history, changes in culture and technology influenced the character of military force and the manner in which it is employed. These changes are an attempt to maximize the utility of military force in a new operational regime. Promising new nonlethal weapons (NLW) proposals represent advances in technology. In the complex and changing political and social domain of the modern world, nonlethal capabilities may offer the opportunity to increase the utility of the military as an instrument of national power.

## 2. Definition

NLW are defined as weapons that are explicitly designed and primarily employed, at a minimum, to discourage or at most, incapacitate personnel or materiel while minimizing fatalities and undesired damage to property and the environment. NLW achieve these benefits by employing means other than catastrophic physical

destruction to incapacitate their targets. The term “nonlethal” should be understood as a function of intent; zero mortality or permanent damage are goals not guarantees of these weapons. NLW add flexibility to combat operations and enhance force protection by providing an environment in which friendly troops can engage threatening targets with limited risk of noncombatant casualties and collateral damage.

## 3. Concept Description

Nonlethal capabilities may provide armed forces with the necessary means to control the flow of refugees, enforce mandates, and protect themselves in consonance with the specified rules of engagement (ROE) for a specific operation. The food relief effort in Somalia is a superb example where use of lethal weapons, with the exception of force protection, was inconsistent with the mission.

## 4. Background on Development and Employment

a. Military forces have long used nonlethal force to influence behavior of people and nations, defeat adversaries with minimum use of lethal capabilities, and weaken adversaries to defeat them with conventional arms. Examples of classic nonlethal means include a show of force; physical obstacles; noise to create or enhance psychological effects; smoke and obscurants to mask operations or defeat homing and guidance mechanisms; and light used to disorient combatants. These classic nonlethal means will remain relevant in future operations and are a part of an evolutionary process of weapons development.