

Non-Lethal Weapons For Peacekeeping Operations

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Abstract

Over the years, there has been a significant increase in peacekeeping missions around the globe. Often these operations have such a character that in many situations, the use of lethal weapons may not be the optimal choice. Norwegian participation in peacekeeping operations has increased in recent years, and there are currently more than 800 Norwegian soldiers serving abroad, most of them operating in Kosovo or Afghanistan.

The special characteristics of peacekeeping operations require new thinking and new solutions. In our study, using available literature, situation reports and interviews, we have searched for the most common threatening situations that peacekeeping soldiers experience in their missions. We present some actual experiences from the KFOR missions.

There already exist a number of non-lethal weapons and capabilities to meet the requirements of peacekeeping missions. Based on our experience in combination with availability and practical aspects, we have selected a few non-lethal weapons for evaluation in the hope that they may provide better solutions to some of the problems faced by peacekeeping forces. These non-lethal weapons, some of them kinetic weapons currently available to Norwegian peacekeeping soldiers in Afghanistan, have been thoroughly tested and evaluated.

Keywords:

Peacekeeping operations, KFOR, operational experience, kinetic non-lethal weapons