

“Non-State OPFORs and Tactical Laser Devices & Weapons” Abstract

This presentation will discuss the use of laser devices and weapons by non-state Opposing Forces (OPFORs) cited in open media sources. It will provide historical background on this emergent threat, affiliated technologies used in a similar manner (white light, mirrors), a strategic overview of concerns stemming from non-state OPFOR use of lasers, tactical use of laser issues, and suggested response measures. Sporadic lasings of civilian jet liners and military aircraft only provide a partial picture of this topic. From an international security perspective the use of lasers (and other forms of directed energy) by non-state OPFORs against Nation-States and their citizens is projected to be the follow-on threat after CBRNE (Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear-large scale Explosive weaponry). This emergent threat is little understood and rarely discussed or analyzed.

Submitted by:

Dr. Robert J. Bunker, Consultant, Counter-OPFOR Program, Less-Than-Lethal Weapons Project, National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-West, a Program of the National Institute of Justice.