

„Effectiveness and risk during application of NLW from the medical point of view“

Prof. E. David, Universität Witten-Herdecke

The recent way of military conflicts raises the necessity of using non-lethal options in order to save lives of non-combatants. This implies a biological and medical problem:

To consider the efficiency and the dangers or the advantages and disadvantages of those options several methods have already been realized and even more are heavily discussed.

Well known are mechanical options like batons, rubber balls, airbags, man-traps, iron-traps and others. Their efficacy is dependent of the circumstances and reaches from ineffectiveness to lethality. The physiological condition of the concerned persons plays an important role.

The assessment of different types of accidents represents a medical task.

The psychological effects of different options must not be underestimated. During high emotional stress the effectiveness of the methods may be reduced. This comes true the more sensory skills (blinding, acoustic, vibrating, pain or terrifying effects) are applied. Suicide-bombers for example may not be stopped by the above mentioned options.

In that situation only a massive blocking of the enemy's physiological functions is required.

Two options are recommended:

- 1) Narcosis and
- 2) Electrical stimulation of muscles.

Both options are under consideration. The first in terms of medical narcosis, for example used during the terroristic occupation of the North-West Theatre in Moscow. The latter is used for example as a taser.

The specific problem in Germany are the different laws and standards for police and military.

Under the eyes of medicine both have to be considered equally.