

PSDB update on UK less lethal technologies

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Abstract

Continuing our policy of openness and to ensure results can be shared as widely as possible the presentation will cover current and previous work that PSDB have conducted into less lethal technologies.

PSDB has had a structured programme in the area of less lethal technologies since 2000, this work is being conducted at the request of the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers and the Northern Ireland Office.

Outcomes from the PSDB evaluation into commercially available impact rounds, long range chemical delivery devices, water cannon, electrical devices and distraction and distortion devices against the UK operational requirement will be discussed. The presentation will also cover outcomes from independent medical assessments into the M26 and X26 taser, 12 gauge drag stabilised impact round and Somati RCV9000 water cannon.

The use of chemical incapacitant sprays by UK police will be covered together with the development of technical performance specifications for CS and PAVA sprays. The likely health effects of these sprays will also be included.

The presentation will also examine the current use and effectiveness of less lethal weapons used by UK police forces.

The development and introduction of the International Less Lethal Weapons Database will be covered. This database is being developed by PSDB in collaboration with the European Working Group on Non-Lethal Weapons and the International Law Enforcement Forum. The database will provide easy and convenient access to information regarding less lethal weapons via the Internet.

Keywords: United Kingdom, Taser, Baton round, Medical assessment, Database