

Non-lethal close-in weapon systems and their application during special-purpose antiterroristic operations

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High importance and role of close-in weapon systems (portable and under-barrel grenade launchers, hand grenades) is shown in accomplishing combat missions aimed at annihilation or neutralization of organized militarized groups and separate terrorists under the conditions of limited fire ranges and in the presence of civilian population, in urban terrains, in particular. Based on these tasks the main requirements as to close-in weapon systems are specified.

The necessity of non-lethal munitions for close-in weapon systems is substantiated to provide manpower neutralization (temporary incapacitating) and operational engagement of non-regular armed units with minimum unpremeditated losses in civilian population and minor destructions of infrastructure.

Exemplified are possible design solutions of non-lethal munitions for close-in weapons based on:

- tear gas irritants of riot control weapons, kinetic shock devices, light and sound compounds and devices for manpower incapacitating;
- active chemical compositions to put out of action power units (internal combustion engines) of armored and soft-skinned vehicles used by non-regular armed formations;
- radio equipment generating high-intensity electromagnetic waves to make inoperative mobile radio communication devices used by organized armed groups and terrorists.

The results of laboratory and full-scale tests of separate items of non-lethal close-in weapon systems are provided.

Concrete examples of combat situations during which one or other type of close – in weapons were applied are given ranging from a separate terrorist neutralization to suppression of an armed unit located in the open or sheltered in a structure (building).

Key words: anti-terroristic operations, close-in weapon systems, portable grenade launcher, manpower neutralization, tear gas irritant