

## NON-LETHAL WEAPONS, MARITIME REQUIREMENTS

### Abstract

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The maritime forces include not only Navy (surface vessels, submarines, aircraft, shore facilities), but also Marines and Coast Guard as well as other law-enforcement seagoing agencies. Most of the worldwide Navies and Coast Guards are entrusted with maritime constabulary roles, as well as domestic and international law-enforcement, not only during contingencies but even during the very daily routine.

While the requirements for ground-based operations (peace support operations, base security, etc) are mostly the same for the Army counterparts, there are unique requirements for:

- Boarding parties (both on vessels and oil platforms);
- Stopping surface vessels (including anything from fast motor boats up to large merchant ships);
- Protecting shore facilities from sea-borne threats;
- Protecting naval vessels while in port, anchored, or in slow motion close to shore;
- Contributing to naval warfare and ship defence, especially during crisis management and standouts (disabling equipment without actual firing).

Those requirements must face, in turn, a different environment:

- Water surface vs. ground (different for most of riot-control agents);
- Water has no defined roads (comparably easy movement around and over/under barriers);
- Ships and oil platforms are already inherently dangerous environments by themselves;
- Ranges required in naval warfare and in maritime constabulary are much larger than for their ground based counterparts.

Both traditional and innovative (Non-Lethal) means were already deployed during real-life maritime operations: a brief descriptions is provided with the aim to underline the likely margins for developing new solutions.

Keywords: naval warfare, maritime operations, coastal surveillance, boarding