



Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program

Joint Non-Lethal Warning Munition (JNLWM) Fact Sheet

What is it?

Joint Non-Lethal Warning Munitions (JNLWM) are non-lethal, small arms cartridges capable of projecting clear, unambiguous warning signals out to distances of 300 meters. The JNLWM projectiles are not intended to strike downrange targets but to be employed as warning signals that can enable service members to determine the intent of unidentified vessels, vehicles or personnel.

Two 12-gauge cartridges are being evaluated:

- 100-meter range
- 200-meter range

Three 40mm cartridges are being evaluated:

- 100-meter range
- 200-meter range
- 300-meter range

How Does It Work?

JNLWM cartridges are shoulder-fired with standard military 12-gauge shotguns or 40mm launchers. Each cartridge has a pyrotechnic projectile with a pyrotechnic time delay. The projectile airbursts at a fixed distance downrange to provide a light flash, loud report (bang) and smoke.

Human Effects Testing

Exposure to flash-bang devices may result in startle reactions, innate escape behavior, distraction behaviors from sound, distraction from glare, and aversion reactions from light. All of the intended human effects are temporary, whether the stunning or incapacitation of personnel through impulsive noise (bang), or by integrated illuminance (flash). Flash-bang devices temporarily incapacitate through the induction of temporary flash blindness (or scotoma), temporary hearing loss, and general disorientation that may occur when the senses of sight and hearing are simultaneously overwhelmed.



JNLWM fired from the deck of a ship.
Official Department of Defense Images



40mm non-lethal cartridge



12-gauge non-lethal cartridge

System Evolution

The US Navy awarded contracts for the production of 12-gauge and 40mm cartridges. Final Joint Services qualification 12-gauge testing will be completed in FY06. The 40mm joint Services qualification testing will be completed in early FY07.

Organizations Involved

The following organizations have participated and plan to continue involvement in the JNLWM program:

- Department of Defense
 - US Navy (lead Service)
 - US Army
- Department of Homeland Security
 - US Coast Guard

Approved for Public Release

