A Peek Inside the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate's Chemical Weapons Program

"We need something besides tear gas, like calmatives, anesthetic agents, that would put people to sleep or in a good mood."
- Susan LeVine, JNLWD Research Director, 1999.

General Dynamics (Primex)
Redmond, Washington
Aerosol generating payload cannister for 81mm chemical mortar round.
DAAE30-99-C-1072, DAAE30-01-G-1048

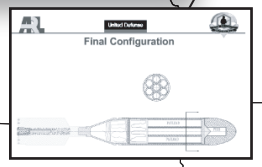
Advanced Polymer Laboratory
University of New Hampshire
Microencapsulation of chemical agents for long-range uses, mortar design assist.

United Defense LP (UDLP)
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Combustible component "non-lethal" 81mm round. Competitor of Armtec Defense
DAAE30-01-M-1289, M67854-99-C1031

M2 Technologies, Inc.
West Hyannisport, Massachusetts
Mortar frangible case cartridge, engineering, and prototype selection and assembly
DAAE30-01-C-1077, M67854-99-C1035, etc.

Chemical Warfare

JNLWD's chemical weapon is designed to work in 81mm military mortars (the M252) that are usually used for explosives. It will fly 2.5 km and can carry a chemical payload designed to incapacitate victims, causing permanent effects on at least 1% of those exposed, half of whom will die. It is for use across the "full spectrum of force"; but incapacitating "potentially hostile civilians" is a priority. Development of the weapon is working on parallel tracks. One, less secret, track is making the mortar round. More quietly, and behind secrecy law, the Directorate is seeking to use powerful, mind-altering chemical weapons for the payload.



Applied Research Laboratory
Pennsylvania State University
For JNLWD: Assess anti-personnel ability
For DOJ: Assess specific incapacitants
For TACOM: Assess mortar technicalities

US Army TACOM
Picatinny, New Jersey
Contracting office for mortar device development, funded by JNLWD.

US Department of Justice
Washington, DC
JNLWD co-sponsor, funds work on central nervous system depressants, pepper gas (OC) - calmative mix.

US Army SBCCOM
Army Research Lab
Aberdeen, Maryland
Identify chemical payloads
Mortar aerodynamic testing

Armtec Defense Products Co.
Coachella, California
Molded fiber "non-lethal" 81mm mortar round. Competitor of UDLP.
DAAE30-02-Q-0314

US Department of Energy
Los Alamos, New Mexico
Prototype payload unit fabrication.

US Department of Energy
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Designs case cartridge, technology cooperation with M2 Technologies.

Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate (JNLWD)
Quantico, Virginia

Run by the US Marine Corps.

Research budget projections for crowd control, incapacitants* and 81mm mortar:

2002: $ 1.64 million (US)
2003: $ 2.25 million
2004: $ 1.63 million
2005: $ 3.25 million
2006: $ 3.25 million

*** Plus supplements from other agencies.**

US Army TACOM contracts
Contracts/Research with JNLWD

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