



## Science

### **Two Contractors Developing Non-lethal Grenade Systems**

Michael Barkoviak - May 24, 2010 7:13 AM

#### **The USMC has a higher interest in non-lethal projectile use**

The United States Marine Corps has awarded several million dollars to General Dynamics and Metal Storm as the two companies develop a non-lethal system that will give soldiers the ability to fire flash and stun grenades from a longer distance.

The Mission Payload Module should be able to launch grenades up to 500 meters in distance. Ideally, the new system will be able to hit targets before ground troops engage the enemy, military officials note.

Metal Storm [was given a \\$1.5 million government contract](#), while General Dynamics was given \$3 million in funding. Metal Storm is modifying its multi-barreled 40mm Firestorm launcher, while General Dynamics hopes to develop a system able to launch 66mm projectiles.



Metal Storm prototype grenade launch system (Source: Marine Corps Times)

Marine Corps officers have looked for a new system that is able to hit targets with light and percussion-based technology that will stun enemies for up to five minutes. The new system should be mountable on Humvees and mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles, as part of the Marine Corps Transparent Armor Gun Shield.

The machine gunner will be able to easily switch from .50-caliber to nonlethal projectiles depending on the situation.

It will take some time before the new system is expected to roll out, with contractors estimating a 2016 target date.

During protests and other crowd control scenarios, soldiers have had very little non-lethal options to help control the crowd. Further complicating the matter, the USMC and Army had to adjust to a changing role in which they've had to control large crowds and search for insurgents door-to-door.