



OCHR NEWS

DON Civilians Help Create Navy's First Laser Weapon

Department of the Navy (DON) civilians from Office of Naval Research (ONR) and Naval Sea Systems (NAVSEA) commands have developed the DON's first solid-state laser capable of shooting down drones and disabling small boats. The Department's Laser Weapon System (LaWS) will be the first high-energy laser deployed for field use by the armed services. LaWS is part of the new generation of electrically powered solid-state laser weapons developed by civilians that give sailors and marines flexibility when dealing with various threats.

"Taking LaWS to sea in a first-time-ever operational mode represents the advent of a new age in weaponry. With little-to-no logistics tail and a negligible cost-per-shot, laser weapon systems will revolutionize modern warfare," said Dr. Tom Schriempf, technical director, NAVSEA's Directed Energy & Electric Weapon Systems Program Office.

"This new kind of weapon will give our warfighters options like no other system before," said Peter A. Morrison, program officer, ONR's Solid-State Laser Technology Maturation Program. "I like to use the five Ds when describing its myriad of capabilities: deter, disable, damage, defeat and destroy. The solid-state laser can vary the power and accomplish each of these, independently or sequentially."

DON civilians contributed to this cost-saving technology with the help of others civilian research partners from the Secretary of Defense's High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Data shows that one shot of directed energy costs under \$1 using LaWs. By comparison, current short-range air-defense interceptor missiles cost up to \$1.4 million each. Learn more about the LaWS at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVVQmQQZXo>.

###