

# Safety Bulletin



## Laser Safety OND SB11-006



In recent weeks there has been an upturn in “Laser Fratricide” mostly Blue on Green near Iraqi checkpoints; although, there have been reported cases of White on Green. These incidents have resulted in personnel being “dazzled” with a green beam designator or laser pointer. Most injuries were minor with no long term damage to personnel. Many of these lasing incidents have been quick and not directed at a specific individual but at a vehicle or the convoy in general. Units are encouraged to discuss laser safety with their Iraqi counterparts as part of protecting the force. Control measure points to discuss with U.S. and Iraqi forces include:

- Laser pointers are considered non-lethal weapons. Always keep lasers on safe or properly stored when not in use
- Never intentionally point the laser at anyone except an aggressor and never shine laser pointers at someone’s face if they are closer than 50 meters
- Include proper laser use and safety precautions when briefing the ROE and EOF procedures during patrol and convoy briefs
- Preferred method of use is mounted on the individual or crew served weapon
- Ensure laser operators are trained on proper use and familiar with hazards and controls
- Ensure troops are trained on preventing laser injuries and actions to take when lased while dismounted and operating vehicles
- Ensure Soldiers utilize proper eye protection during use
- Primary use for lasers is EOF purposes, secondary use for TC’s/patrol leaders is to identify targets, IEDs or designate sectors of fire
- Include information on laser hazards and provide control measures to mitigate those hazards in Unit SOPs
- Seek medical aid if you think that you have been exposed

Other factors that affect lasers injury prevention include viewing distance. Laser beams spread with distance resulting in decreased possibility of injury. Glare also decreases with distance. The typical diameter of a laser beam may be less than one meter at one kilometer and it can be expected that an individual may see a continuous glare from a laser well beyond the injury distance.

The laser is an invaluable non-lethal weapon. Commanders and leaders must ensure personnel are thoroughly familiar with laser hazards, control measures, and the proper employment of these devices. We cannot afford to have personnel injured by improper use or misuse of this equipment.

### Additional Information:

USD-N FRAGO 11-1

Annex A Laser Injury Vision Screening Tool  
Annex F, Appendix 3, Tab F, Laser Incident Reporting Form  
Annex, Appendix, 3 Tab F Medical Treatment and Reporting of Laser Eye Injuries

Also see “Laser Safety Fact Sheet 2011” on the USD-N Safety Portal

### Medical POC:

SIPR: [david.c.schnabel@usdn.4id.army.smil.mil](mailto:david.c.schnabel@usdn.4id.army.smil.mil)

NIPR: [david.c.schnabel@usdn4id.army.mil](mailto:david.c.schnabel@usdn4id.army.mil)

AVOID EXPOSURE  
LASER LIGHT  
IS EMITTED FROM THIS APERTURE

