

THIS WEEK IN THE ARMY

IRVEY: DAY LENDERS

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Table with 2 columns: Topic and Page Number. Topics include 'oll', 'olutions', etc.

JOHN HARMAN

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[FIVETHINGS]

EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Vehicle-Mounted Laser

It may not be sharks with laser beams attached to their heads, but the Army has succeeded in mounting a laser on a massive truck so that it can blast incoming missiles and drones out of the air.

In several weeks of testing that ended Dec. 10, a vehicle-mounted high-energy laser from Boeing has successfully engaged more than 90 mortar rounds and several in-flight unmanned aerial vehicles.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command reports its High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator recently underwent the tests at the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility, White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Here's what you need to know:

1 What it is. The HEL MD is a 10-kilowatt solid-state laser mounted on an eight-wheel, 500-horsepower truck from Oshkosh. The laser provides 360 degrees of protection with a rotating, dome-shaped turret that extends above the roof of the vehicle when it engages targets, at the speed of light — 186,000 miles per second.

2 A range of targets. The HEL MD is being developed to show directed energy force protection capabilities against rockets, artillery, mortars, unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles. Mortars travel at low velocities for short ranges in high-arching trajectories. These weapons, as well as UAVs, are representative of the threat encountered by U.S. and allied forces on the battlefield.

3 Series of tests. This was the first full-up demonstration of the HEL



U.S. ARMY SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND/ARMY FORCES STRATEGIC COMMAND

The Army's High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator can fire at incoming missiles and drones from its perch on a large vehicle.

MD in the configuration that included the laser and beam director mounted in the vehicle. A surrogate radar supported the engagement by queuing the laser. Tests in 2011 demonstrated the system's ability to acquire, track and target moving projectiles. This phase of testing was to confirm the capability of a mobile solid-state laser weapon system to counter mortars; UAVs; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance sensors mounted on the UAVs.

4 The back story. Boeing credits the development of the Army laser to its previous work on an Air Force program that began in the 1990s. The Airborne Laser Test Bed, mounted on a 747-400 aircraft, tracked an in-flight ballistic missile with a low-energy laser and destroyed it with a

high-energy laser. Eventually, technical problems preceded the program's cancellation in 2011.

5 More and more powerful. The recent testing of the HEL MD used a 10 kw class laser. In the future, a stronger 50 kw laser will be integrated into the HEL MD platform. The 50-kilowatt laser is scheduled to be upgraded to a 100-kilowatt class laser in subsequent demonstrations. The supporting thermal and power subsystems will be also upgraded to support the increasingly powerful solid-state lasers. These upgrades are meant to increase the effective range of the laser or decrease required lase time on target.

— Joe Gould

[WHATTHEYSAY]

'[Soldiers] now are terrified that anything they do can get them relieved.'

A senior NCO, speaking on condition of anonymity about the screenings of soldiers in "positions of trust" that have many fearing for their jobs. Page 22

[WHATYOU SAY]

'A national disgrace to treat the brave me women of our armed forces with such app disregard.'

Kimberly Burkel Whigham, on the poor conditions at the Fort Polk 1-509th Infantry

11,000

Retired military personnel members who were forced to switch from the man Prime to Tricare Stand



560

Gallons of eggnog away Afghanistan this holiday can also expect turkey, more. Page 10

600 FEET

Altitude of two plumbe Knights jumpers whose tangled together, when his lines hoping to save Page 21



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CrossFit tips for the technique in your work



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Video games on our list this holiday season. Pa