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Marines Play with Chemical Irritants

Posted by Catherine MacRae Hockmuth at 9/18/2007 1:40 PM CDT



What looks like horseplay to you and me is actually training in the effects of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), a new nonlethal spray being wielded by military police (MP) for riot control. These MPs are learning how to use it and what to do when it gets used against them. Hopefully, the rioting masses won't learn these self-defense tricks.

At first it feels like sweat rolling down your face, producing a burning sensation, causing your eyes to slam shut. Then your hands unwillingly move to your face making the irritation increasingly worse. Once you feel like the pain couldn't get any worse, your chest tightens causing a shortness of breath, eventually forcing you to your knees in pain.

According to Cpl. Brandon Smith, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, being sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) can feel like "turning a stove on and putting your face on the burner. Only then can you feel the effects of being sprayed with OC."

Photo Credit: U.S. Marine Corps

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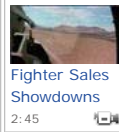
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