

## Asymmetric & Irregular Warfare

Asymmetric or “irregular” warfare is war between two or more agencies whose relative military power, strategy and/or tactics differ significantly. Asymmetric warfare has been defined as “leveraging inferior tactical or operational strength against the vulnerabilities of a superior opponent to achieve disproportionate effect with the aim of undermining the opponent’s will.

Asymmetric warfare can include:

- Non-state agencies attacking an established government for political purposes
- Non-state agencies attacking an established government for criminal activities
- Non-state agencies attacking a local population for religious reasons

Other terms that describe this type of action are: insurgency, civil disturbance and terrorism.

Recent military engagements have made it apparent that US military forces need new or revised weapon systems that can provide an alternative response to asymmetric warfare.

Technologies include:

- Active Denial System – An example of the use of directed energy as a weapon that can be used for counter personnel and crowd control in the asymmetric warfare environments.
- Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Remnants – The laser ordnance neutralization system (LONS) is a system that has shown capability of using laser energy to unexploded ordnance with stand off ranges.
- Sense-Through-Wall Technology – This technology will support tactical expeditionary urban operation by determining enemy positions without exposure in asymmetric warfare environments.

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