



# Shedding Light on the Battlefield: Tactical Applications of Photonic Technology

By Joseph N. Mait

Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. Military applications of optical technology have a long history. For over 300 years, telescopes and binoculars have extended the range of a commanders vision. Periscopes allow submariners to view surface activities while submerged and, during World War II, the Norden bombsight provided American bombardiers accuracy that, although crude by todays standards, was unparalleled for its time. Since the invention of the laser in 1960 and the light emitting diode in 1965, advances in electronics have spilled over into optics and brought opto-electronics to the battlefield. Shortly after its invention, the laser was used to guide munitions in Vietnam. Night vision technology also made its first battlefield appearance in Vietnam. More sophisticated infrared imaging gave coalition forces in Operation Desert Storm a critical advantage in night operations. Advances in optics have enhanced air operations with cockpit head-up displays based on the principles of holography. Communication systems also continue to benefit from advances in optics. The term photonics derives from the photon, the elementary particle of light. In electronic systems, the electron carries information. In photonic systems, it is the photon. The term...

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