The NLAW Missiles The U.K. Rushed To Ukraine May Only Be Useful In Desperate Circumstances

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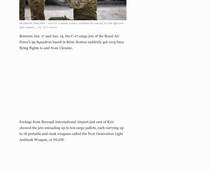

NAUJAMIESTIS, DENMARK – JULY 20: A British soldier fires a NLAW rocket during a training exercise on Friday, July 20, 2018 in Naujamiestis, Denmark. (Photo by Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

Between Jan. 1st and Jan. 24, the U.S. urges jets of the Royal Air Force's top phenomenon based in Brize Norton authorized, get carry heavy flying flights to and from Ukraine.

Footage from Betrayal International Airport just east of Kyiv showed the jets unloading up to ten cargo pallets, each carrying up to 18 portable anti-tank weapons called the Next Generation Light Antitank Weapon, or NLAW.

On Jan. 19, British defense secretary Ben Wallace told *the Daily Mail* the U.K. had already delivered 4,000 NLAWs to Ukraine, a number he indicated might continue to rise. The missiles sent London's way of providing defensive aid to Kyiv as Russian forces beginning around Ukraine's borders give the impression a new invasion may be imminent.

The British army also dispatched 30 paratroopers to train Ukrainian forces in operating the NLAWs, which were undoubtedly deployed in part for that cause of use, and thus ability to be rapidly adopted by Ukrainian forces being the current crisis.

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The missile delivery demonstrates London's support for Kyiv and will be welcomed by Ukraine's military, which faces formidable Russian forces and has suffered heavy casualties in the conflict thus far. However, these weapons might only be useful in highly desperate circumstances by Ukraine's military.

British-Swedish Collaboration

The NLAW, also designated the RBS LAW or RB 57, has its origins in a joint British-Swedish project begun in 1999 to replace Cold War-era weapons designed to target relatively simple, slow-moving, large defense against tanks.

Both firms components manufactured by BAE, Saab, Thales and U.S. Eton Raytheon, each single-shot unit was priced at 40,000 pounds (a unit's claim equivalent to 35,000 pounds in 2018 life of 20 years. Besides being procured by Sweden and the U.K., NLAW has been exported to Finland, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Slovenia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, which has used NLAWs in combat in Yemen.

NAUJAMIESTIS, DENMARK – JULY 20: A British soldier fires a NLAW rocket during a training exercise on Friday, July 20, 2018 in Naujamiestis, Denmark. (Photo by Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

The motor-long disposable weapon weighs just 25.5 pounds and can be fired from a lightweight launchpad. It can be used against stationary target between 20 and 600 meters, or up to 400 meters for moving targets. Seven NLAWs reportedly have guidance software increasing accurate range to four meters.

Unlike most light anti-tank weapons, the NLAW has a "Predicted Line of Sight" guidance system in which the operator tracks a moving target reticle in the bottom's 2.5x magnification sight for 3.5 seconds before firing.

A 'cold launch' system then ejects the missile with pressurized gas before it ignites its rocket motor, accelerating the weapon to 400 miles per hour (200 meters per second). This allows the weapon to be used safely from interior spaces without injuring personnel with the rocket's back blast.

The missile uses an inertial navigation system to fly to where the launcher's targeting algorithm predicts the vehicle will be based on its prior trajectory.

In addition to ordinary direct-fire mode, the NLAW can also use a top-attack mode in which it fires one-meter above the targets and discharges a downward-facing shaped charge over a target vehicle. As top armor is notoriously pretty thin for, no more than a few centimeters) this could allow an NLAW to disable tanks with fewer penetration exceeding the missile's expected penetration power. Alternatively, the operator can use the one-meter-high targeting of vehicles mostly concealed behind cover.

The NLAW's guidance system isn't susceptible to most decoys and can fill countermeasures, though a target vehicle might intentionally stop or change course to avoid being hit. The NLAW's relatively low approach trajectory does imply it may be susceptible to certain kinetic-kill active protection systems used on later tanks.

Will NLAW missiles help Ukraine?

Since the Bosnia, Pancevo and Pec2 were introduced in World War II, short-range infantry anti-tank weapons have proven their value by compelling enemy armored vehicles to keep their distance, rendering armored advances without friendly infantry screens more perilous. During the Cold War, extensive like the RPG-7 and LAW also offered immediate practical portable weapons to defeat armored vehicles their otherwise could kill.

While NLAW has greater range and long-distance accuracy than RPG or LAW-type weapons, it still falls short of the long-range, precision guided anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) that have become the dominant form of anti-armor battle tools from miles away. Long range and only between attack options, but makes it much more likely an anti-tank team could contact with enemy forces and escape detection and retaliation after firing.

Unfortunately for Ukraine, modern Russian "non-contact warfare" military doctrine emphasizes destroying enemy forces from long distances with delivery supported by drone surveillance assets, rather than aggressively pushing tanks and infantry forward to engage with direct fire. By this doctrine, most of the destruction of Ukraine's forces is achieved at distances the target simply will not reach.

Of course, Ukrainian forces will attempt to use terrain and concealment to avoid long-distance fires and ambush Russian forces at more favorable engagement ranges. But Ukraine is largely made up of open plains lacking in natural cover.

NAUJAMIESTIS, DENMARK – JULY 20: A British soldier fires a NLAW rocket during a training exercise on Friday, July 20, 2018 in Naujamiestis, Denmark. (Photo by Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

But relying on urban warfare is hardly ideal. That means accepting that major cities will be extensively destroyed in the fighting and that hundreds or thousands of civilian residing there will die. Moreover, Russia's military ultimately did not attempt to hold and with heavily defended cities. When Russian forces invested Grozny again in 1999, they systematically levelled it with artillery while occupying thousand troops slowly forward to identify two enemy positions.

NLAWs therefore will aid Ukrainian troops most if they manage to ambush Russian armored vehicles at relatively close ranges or at good weather, but won't help at all countering Russia's preferred tactics of blasting enemies from a long distance.

By contrast, the far more expensive Javelin ATGMs earlier delivered by the U.S. in more limited quantities (77 launchers, 440 missiles) to one-round yet considerably more flexible weapons with a range of 2.5 miles. But first may be augmented by drone-supported artillery firing from cover.

Ukraine's unenviable dilemma is that the kind of longer-range surface-to-air missiles and precision land-attack weapons it needs to patch up its vulnerabilities to Russian airpower, missiles and artillery are too expensive and complicated to be transferred until The the NLAW, and arbitrarily require months if not years to train for proficient use.

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Trump Jr.-Backed Anti-'Woke' Online Marketplace 'Slated' To Go Public Via SPAC

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I cover the entertainment industry.

Publicly, Gab itself as a particular site for shoppers to buy from companies that support conservative values.

In **the last decade**, Michael Belfort has listened to right-wing shoppers' grouse when large corporations take social political stances they don't agree with. Their only recourse — to boycott — struck him as ineffectual.

So in 2020, the former marketing director created PubChoy, to offer those shoppers an alternative. The online marketplace has raised over five million from investors including Donald Trump Jr., according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Belfort's company, which sells items from Gab, the social network that plays conservative-minded businesses and a similar people who have created accounts but not necessarily purchased anything. On Thursday, it's scheduled to begin trading on the New York Stock Exchange via a special purpose acquisition vehicle.

"My wife and I just had enough," Michael Belfort, founder and CEO of PubChoy, told Forbes. "We felt like we companies were talking to us exclusively."

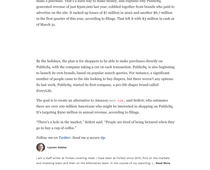
PubChoy is going public at a time when few companies are hitting the market and SPACs are all the hot deal. In the first three months of 2021, just ten companies went public via SPAC, raising about $7.98 million, according to Mayer Brown, a law firm that advises companies on financial transactions. In the same period last year, 59 companies went public via SPAC and raised billions.

Belfort said he's not concerned. He wants the company to be viewed "by the people" and plans to put the proceeds to further developing and improving the site, launching its own products and marketing. He's spent very little in advertising but plans to ramp up those efforts. PubChoy recently struck a $1 million deal with Tucker Carlson, who'll run ads for the marketplace on the Twitter show. Anna was the first to report that agreement.

Redemption Requests

The PubChoy transaction is being handled by blank-check company Cantedera Acquisition Corp., started by Onward Capital, a former managing director at Bank of America Merrill Lynch who's also an investor in conservative series the Daily Caller. The board includes Blake Masters, a former Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Arizona, and Nick Ayres, who worked in the Trump White House and was chief of staff to former vice president Mike Pence.

The company hoped that the deal could help it raise as much as $138 million in proceeds. However, it stands to bring in about $35 million because of the high volume of redemption requests it received from investors interested in cashing out before the stock began trading.



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The retailer offers arguably the best glamour at what a parodical economy might look like, where political and religious beliefs determine the brand of soap, pot leaf and eyeglasses that customers buy.

"We have an alternative to pretty much every brand you can think of," Belfort said. "They're going up against giants."

'All-American Dogs'

Participating retailers include Nine Mountain, which describes itself as a company for women who value humanity, faith, family and freedom. Old Dawg Pet Co. was started by a former Navy Seal who wanted to provide "all-American dogs" with products that are Jewish, Christian extreme company, sells gloves with a Bible verse engraved on the temple and has seen a 200% increase in sales in its website since joining PubChoy, according to a representative.

To join the site, businesses must say they're pro-life, pro-family and pro-freedom and agree to a rating process that includes scrutiny of their internet histories.

At its current stage, PubChoy is just a directory. Shoppers must leave the site in order to make a purchase. That's a hard way to make money, and explains why PubChoy wanted to go public rather than seek more venture capital. Belfort said he's prepared to advertise on the site, if needed, but hopes it will be able to stay and another $6.5 million in the first quarter of this year, according to filings. That left it with $3 million in cash as of March 31.

By the holidays, the plan is for shoppers to be able to make purchases directly on PubChoy, with the company taking a cut on each transaction. PubChoy is also beginning to launch its own brands, based on popular search queries. For instance, a significant number of people came to the site looking to buy diapers, but there weren't any options. So last week, PubChoy started its first company, a pro-life diaper brand called Everylife.

The goal is to create an alternative to Amazon, Google, and Belfort, who estimates there are over one million Americans who might be interested in shopping on PubChoy, it's targeting Rome million in annual revenue, according to filings.

"There's a hole in the market," Belfort said. "People are tired of being lectured when they go to buy a cup of coffee."

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