

Work on Laser Weapons Is Confirmed by Air Force

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., June 12 (Reuters) — The United States is developing weapons that use powerful laser beams at Kirtland Air Force Base near here, the Air Force confirmed yesterday.

A spokesman said: "The Air Force weapons laboratory has a project entitled 'Aerospace Laser Weapons Technology' to explore the feasibility or potential utility of using laser for various functions within advanced weapons concepts applicable to the Air Force."

The confirmation of laser weapon development was made after increased speculation that such weapons were being studied. The Air Force has not denied published reports that a drone aircraft had been shot down with a laser radiation device and that lasers had punched fist-sized holes in armor at several hundred yards.

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