Recovery of Obliterated Markings and Forensic Approaches to Tracing



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Obliterated Weapon Markings



United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH

Introduction: International Tracing Instrument

para. 7:

“The choice of methods for marking small arms and light weapons is a national prerogative. States will ensure that, whatever method is used, all marks required under this instrument are … easily recognizable, readable, durable and, as far as technically possible, recoverable."

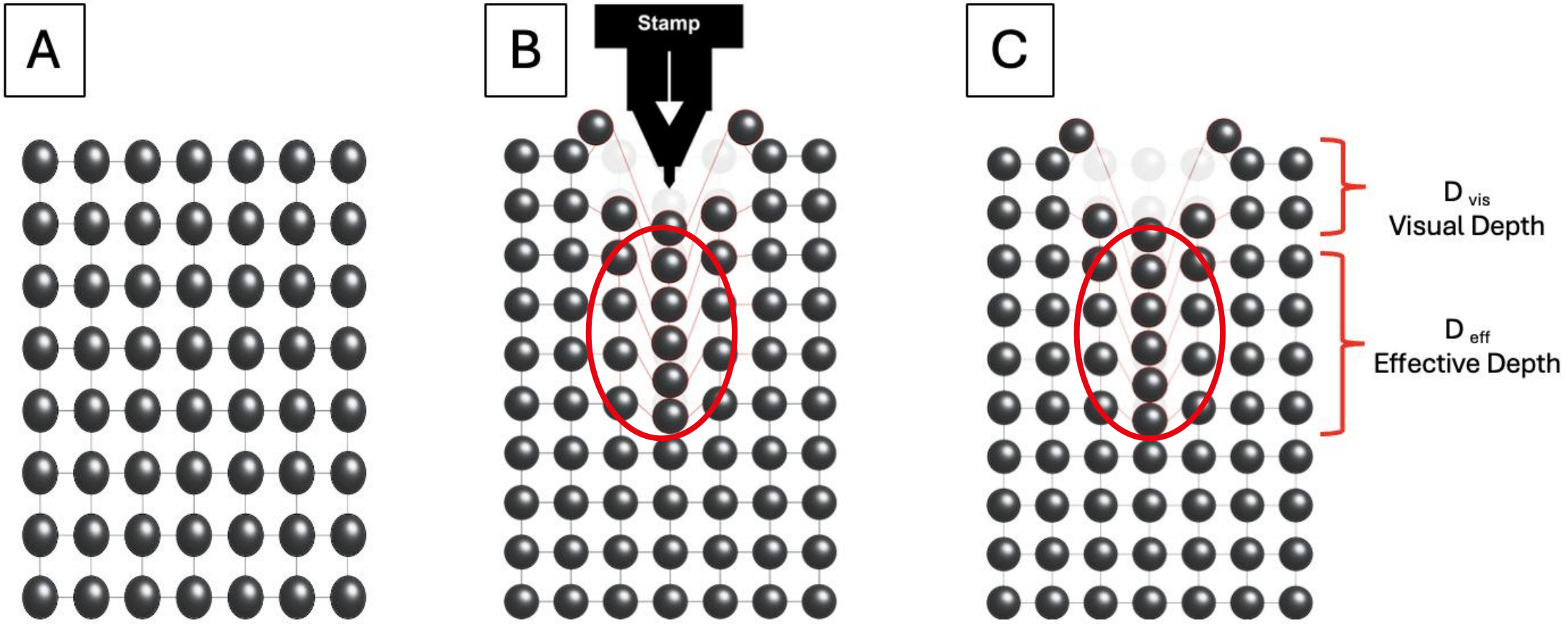
Introduction: International Tracing Instrument

para. 8:

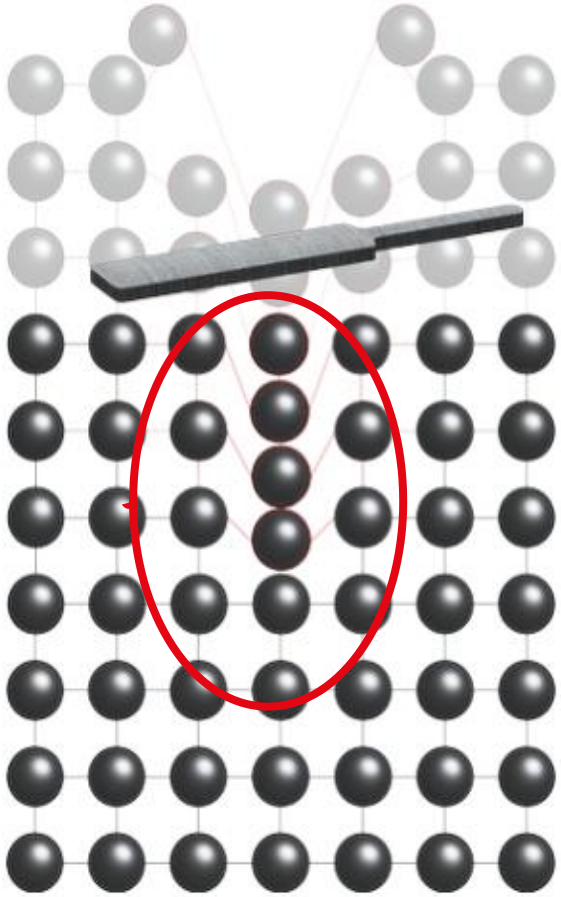
"For the purpose of identifying and tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, States will: …

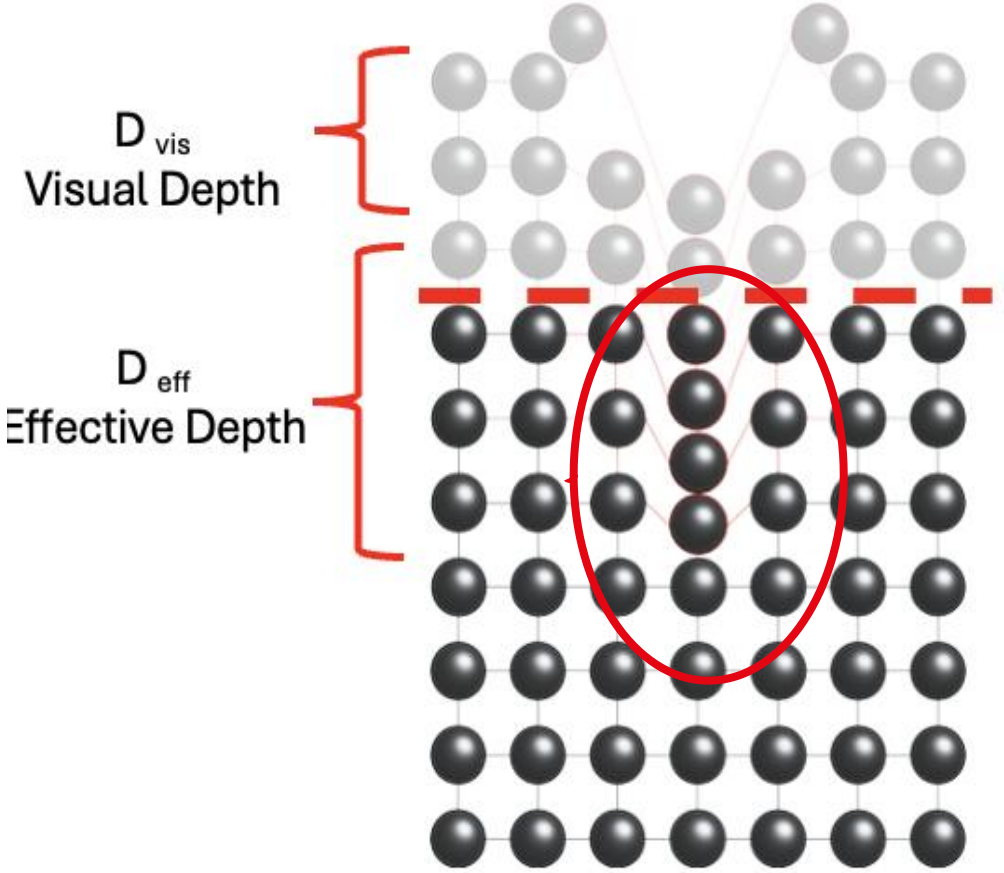
(e) Encourage manufacturers of small arms and light weapons to develop measures against the removal or alteration of markings."

Firearm Marking: Stamp & Dot Peen

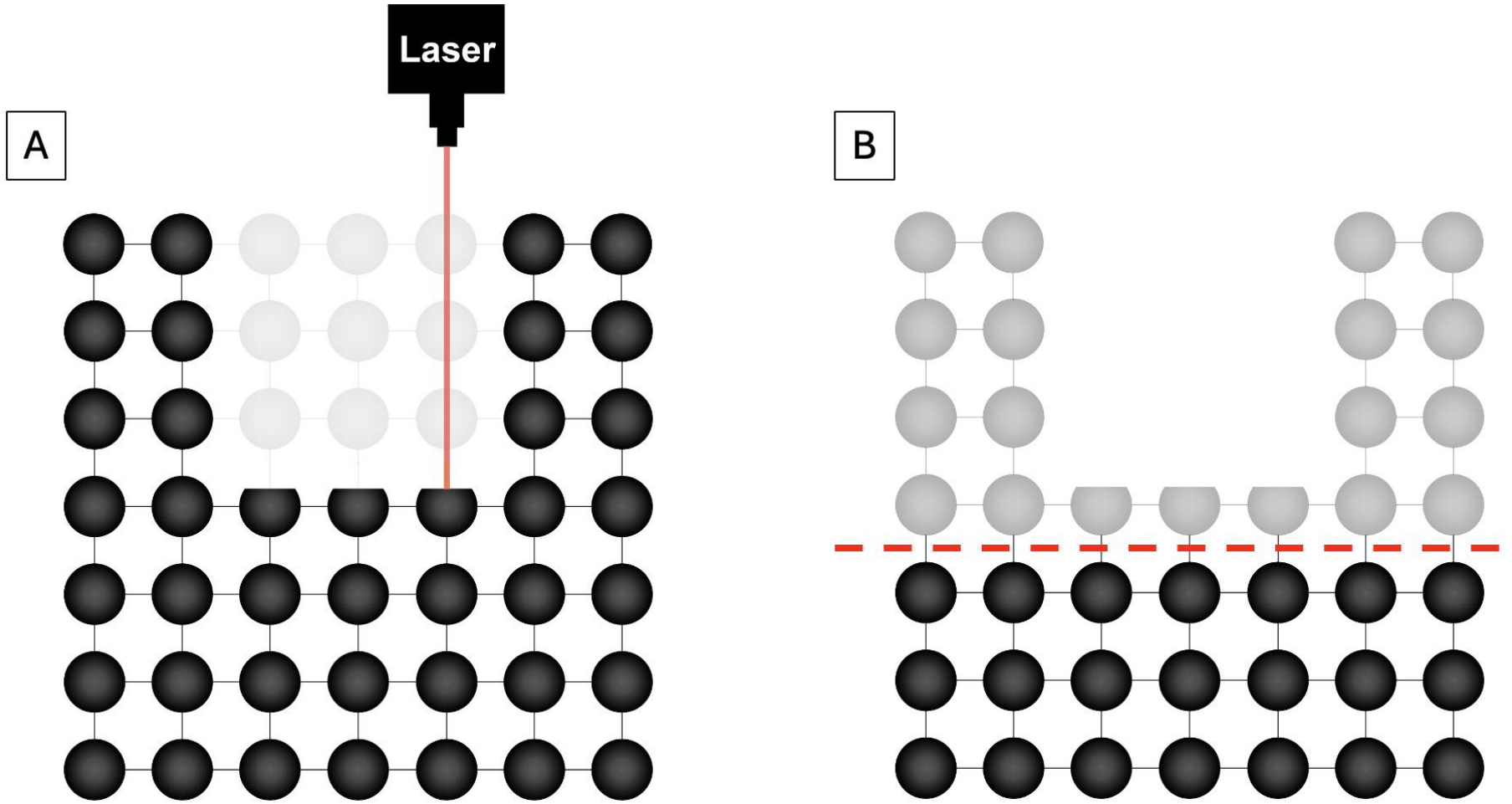


Mark Obliteration

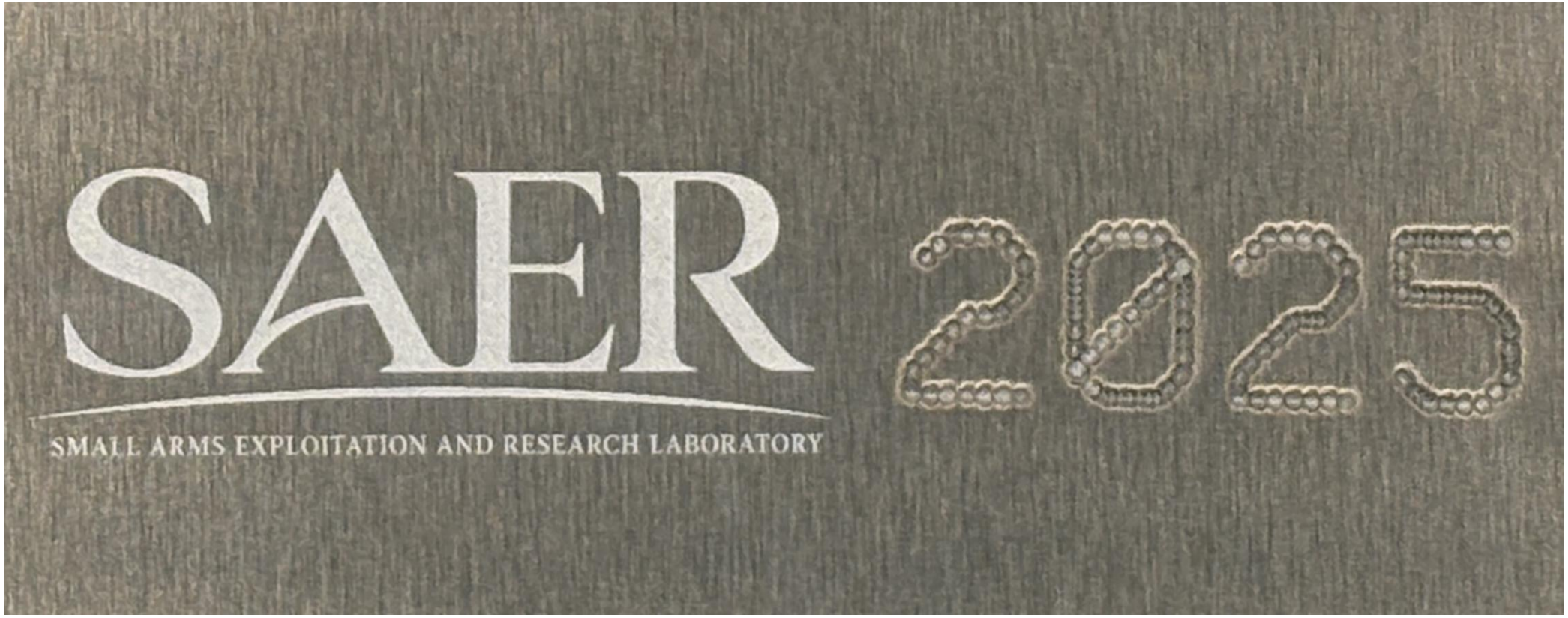




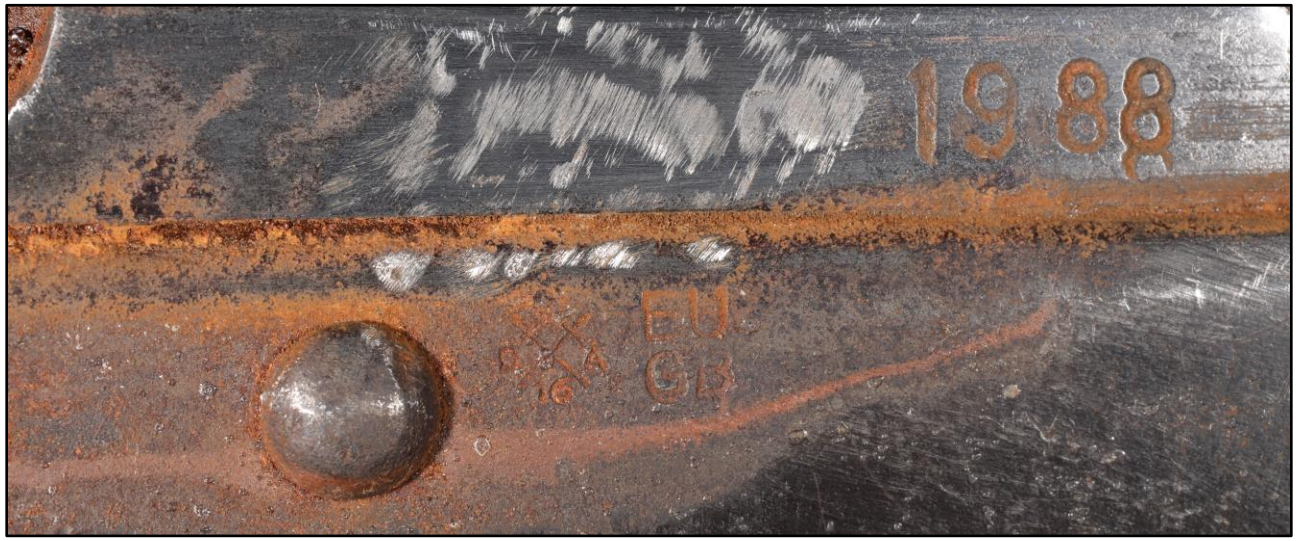
Laser Engraved Marks

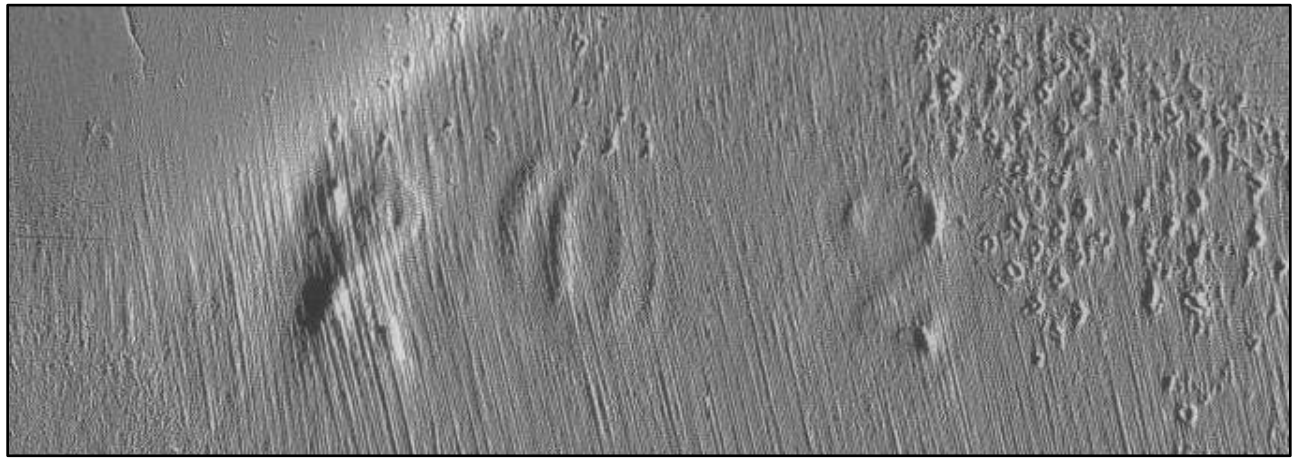


Proposed Intervention 1: Hybrid Marking for SALW



Proposed Intervention 2: Non-Destructive Recovery Techniques



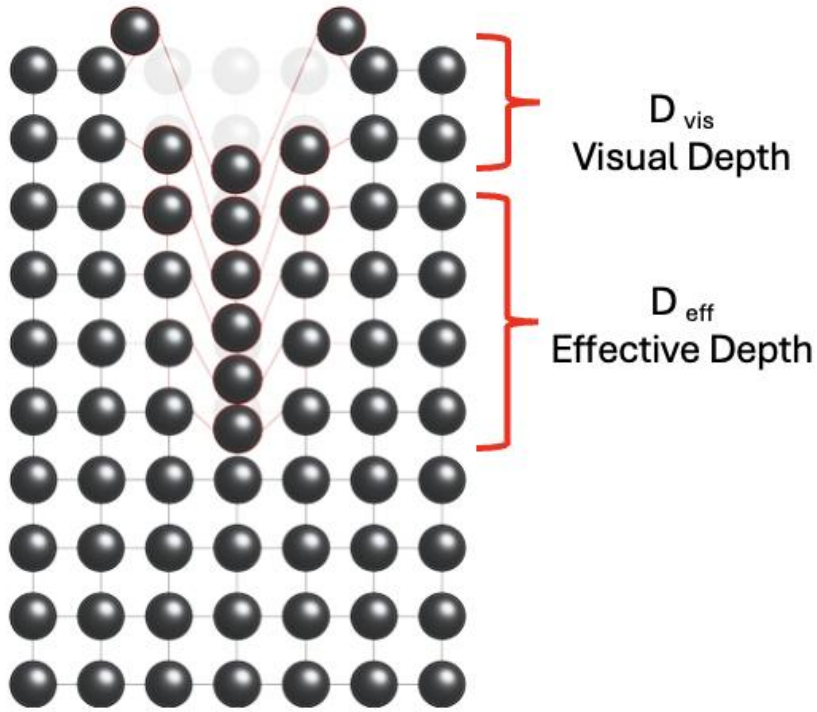


Proposed Intervention 3: Establishment of Effective Depth

There is currently a disparity across guidance documents on depth of mark application.

0.2mm vs 0.0762mm

Academic research is ongoing to establish a robust "Effective Depth" for SALW marking.



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