Fort Benning

# MCoE IED Defeat

*"Be extremely subtle, even to the point of formlessness. Be extremely mysterious, even to the point of soundlessness. Thereby you can be the director of the opponent's fate."*
**-- Sun Tzu**

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*Inside this issue:*



***Special points Of Interest:***



(CAC login/ Registration may be required for link access)

Tunneling is nothing new in warfare, and neither are improvised explosive devices. Rebels in Syria recently demonstrated yet another tactic that included the use of large quantities of explosive. By tunneling, the rebels were able to place in excess of 60 tons of explosives beneath a Syrian Army base and checkpoint. Tunneling was also used in Afghanistan to aid in the escape of prisoners from a detention facility. Combine the two together, and the results could be devastating.

Syrian Army checkpoint hit by large scale device emplaced by mining.

There are many things to take into consideration while selecting an area for a checkpoint or patrol base. Being at a fixed site can make your unit vulnerable to tunneling if you are not gaining and maintaining situational awareness. Actively patrolling the area surrounding your installation and talking with the local populace could help prevent this type of incident. Units must use all available enablers or assets to keep the enemy from digging in, around, or underneath your position is the key. Once a tunnel is discovered and the decision has been made to enter and clear it, you have to take into consideration that it maybe littered with victim initiated improvised explosive devices (VOIEDs). Based on the size of the tunnel and the possibility of IEDs, even though not directly exposed to the shrapnel from the IED, the over-pressure could severely injure or worse; kill members of your unit. Prior to physically entering the tunnel, if available, use robotics or even a military working dog to conduct an initial assessment. If a device is located, conduct the 5Cs (Confirm, Cordon, Clear, Check, and Control), and call EOD.

Days later a Syrian hotel frequented by forces loyal to President Assad is struck by a device of roughly 60 tons emplaced by mining.

The MCoE's C-IED Team continues to provide quality support to all. Whether it's live, virtual, mounted or dismounted training, we are providing each unit with relevant information and life-saving training. Virtual Battle Space 3 will provide your unit with the opportunity to identify issues prior to conducting live training and missions in an IED-laden environment. Threat and IED Awareness briefings will refresh your Soldiers who have multiple deployments and educate newly assigned personnel. Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) training, Hand Held Detector (HHD) Training, and familiarization of the numerous other enablers will add to your unit's preparation for upcoming training or deployments. The team can also help Units and Commanders identify effective training applications to help support C-IED learning during "white space" times or periods of budgetary restrictions.

# Emerging Technology

Once an improvised explosive device (IED) is discovered and the area secured, your unit should be placing the next call to Explosive Ordinance Detachment. These highly trained technicians have many options at their disposal when it comes to destroying or even disarming the device. One of the options is to detonate the device in place which could cause injuries or collateral damage if the proper precautions are not exercised.

To mitigate any risk of either of these things from happening, a product produced by BlastGard International could possibly be used to cover the device. **BlastWrap®** can be used to reduce the effects of a device or to protect the EOD element while transporting the device to a safer location. This product could be used to protect high value areas or objects, but most importantly our Soldiers. ( Learn More)

2" Thick **BlastWrap®**
9-Pocket Geometry
(10-1/8" Square)

2" Thick **BlastWrap®**
1-Pocket Geometry
(10-1/8" Square)

**The BlastWrap products could be used to line or wrap items (Left), The trash can could be used in places like an airport or a train station (Right).**

# Fort Benning C-IED Training Improvements

Some IEDs are described as new technologies; they actually have a lengthy history.

The very name "improvised" was originally meant as a sort of putdown. An IED was used when you couldn't get something better, not something to be widely emulated. This changed with operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the weapons helped neutralize the Coalition's overwhelming technological advantage.

During 2011 in Afghanistan, they caused just over half of U.S. military deaths. But what has gone relatively unnoticed is that the number of IED attacks outside these two nations has doubled over the past years. The implication is serious. The IED is not disappearing; rather it is proliferating.

This means that as trainers, we need to stop visualizing the weapon as a tool only for insurgents or groups affiliated with al-Qaida or the Taliban. An enduring threat requires an enduring effort and capability to counter it (*this includes replication in training*).

Training must be adaptive and flexible, responsive to changes in the strategic and operational environment, in synch with evolutionary Army developments, and able to transition to new threats on future battlefields. When it comes to IEDs, **The fact is: *Threats evolve- even the improvised ones.***

**Note: The Handheld Detector Lane must be coordinated through Range Control at least two weeks in advance.**


# MCoE C-IED Training "Snapshots"

Future Warfighters at the MCoE are introduced to the basics of C-IED and exposed to various enablers to assist in rapid learning, long term retention, and providing an initial degree of familiarization with capabilities and employment concepts.

**Units who wish to augment their lane training can request a Global IED Threat Update. The following items are addressed inside one of these 2-3 hour sessions:**

- Counter-IED Facts
- IED TTP sharing
- IED types and typical employment methods
- Mounted and Dismounted attack TTPs used in Afghanistan
- Atmospherics
- CREW concepts
- Introduction to Insider Threats
- Where to find additional C-IED training resources.


- The MCoE C-IED Team works hand in hand with the Warrior University to share the Best Practices with the Warfighter. This portal is organized as a professional "home" for Infantry, Armor and Cavalry Soldiers, and leaders to facilitate and foster lifelong professional relationships. The mission of Warrior University is to synchronize and integrate all maneuver training so the right Soldiers receive the right training at the right time, regardless of their physical location.

## Delta Company 1/19th IN BN Virtual Training

**SITUATION:** IED attacks are a constant and ever evolving global threat for Warriors. In response the MCoE C-IED Team is developing training to meet the objectives of TRADOC commanders.

**WHO:** The MCoE C-IED Team and Delta 1/19 IN BN.

**WHAT:** Virtual training on replicated Ft Benning terrain that included various IED types and employment methods for unit to respond to.

**WHEN:** 12 Jun 2014

**WHERE:** Leyte Field C-IED training facility.

**SUMMARY:** The Warriors received a concept of operation brief as well as basic IED defeat cocnepts. This training helps the Warriors visualize and understand IEDs.

**FUTURE:** The C-IED Team continues to assist units in improving their training with virtual scenarios integrated into existing training events that include the most up to date information on IEDs and their threats to Warriors in the operational environment.


MCoE C-IED Team

## 94th Explosive Ordnance Disposal MineHound Lane(Dobbins AFB)

**SITUATION:** Members of the MCoE C-IED Team visited 94th Civil Engineering Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight located at Dobbins Air Force Base. The team went to observe MineHound Lane training and advised on instructing techniques and lane setup.

**WHO:** 94th Civil Engineering Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight and The MCoE C-IED Team.

**WHAT:** MineHound class and lane visit.

**WHEN:** 11 June 2014

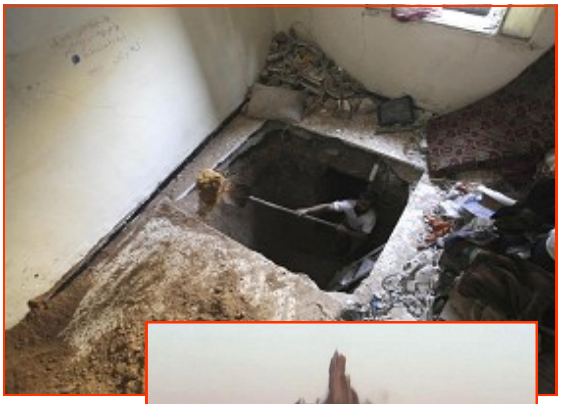
**WHERE:** Dobbins Air Force Base

**FUTURE:** The MCoE C-IED Team continues to assess relevant training strategy from other military agencies and share successful training strategies developed at Fort Benning.

MCoE C-IED Team

## C-IED Team Lead Comments

With the downsizing of forces in Afghanistan, coalition countries are taking the time to capture lessons learned regarding the employment of improvised explosive devices. It cannot be stressed enough that both devices and locations that have worked before will be employed again. With the advent of technological solutions, it's very simple for an opponent to fall back on what Westerners consider outdated technology with regards to devices. An example being the evolution of IEDs initiation means from **Victim Operated** (*the start of the learning curve-which was bad for publicity as it killed indiscriminately*) to **Command Operated** (*better because it allowed the operator to be selective about his target in populated areas and quite possibly showcased a technological capability that helped in recruiting*) back to the relatively simplistic approach of a **Command Wire** (*a simple measure that allows the operator to maintain his selectivity, defeats the superior technological capabilities of the West, but increases the risk of detection*).



Syria currently provides a splendid look at this concept (old and new), due to the wide variety of groups conducting operations employing IEDs as well as the resources available to them. Recent Proxy suicide bombers have been employed using prisoners. The concept is not new, as it was also seen in the fighting in Belfast in the 70s by factions of the IRA. Now borrowing a page from the history books, Syrian insurgents have employed a tactic on several occasions that would have been familiar to any siege warfare specialist of the Middle Ages- sapping/mining (*The act of digging mines underneath an enemy fortification in an attempt to weaken and destroy it*). Rebel groups fighting forces loyal to President Assad dug tunnels in the city of Aleppo and employed an estimated 60 tons of explosives to bring down a hotel known to house soldiers of the Syrian Army. Reports range from 14-50 soldiers killed in the blast. Large amounts of explosives have been identified before in culvert type employments (*made easier by the premade design of the culvert-buried, underneath traffic*). Given that the device was employed inside a formerly well populated city, the term "digging" may not be exactly accurate as preexisting tunnels and sewage ways already in existence, allowing for the rapid transit and positioning of explosives at the target location.

Technology provides rapid access to Situational Awareness but might not answer the question; *What's underneath*?

This exposes one of the less thought of aspects of AREA SECURITY- the 3rd dimension. Warfighters need to be aware of what they might be sitting on when they stop or occupy a position for any period of time. Current detection assets help make employment of such TTPs out in the open and exposed areas very difficult as well as resource and time consuming for an adversary, and increasing the likelihood of detection. Inside urban areas, the environment confuses perceptions (*civilians in close proximity*), limits identification and reaction times, provides the opponent extra dimensions to the battle space, as well as interferes on occasion with technology. Employers of IEDs know this and seek to develop their engagement areas based on these factors. To counter this threat, Warfighters have to be familiar with what's under their boots on the ground, as well as subterranean operations and how the IED and its effects can influence or shape their battle space.

Bottom line- IEDs are placed in locations where human traffic is expected, and older designs of devices are still as deadly as the first time they were employed if the victim is not prepared for any eventuality.

The MCoE's C-IED Team is on-call to support any requesting unit. To schedule training contact, Mr. Tom Dale at 706-545-6577, thomas.l.dale.ctr@mail.mil or Mr. Jerry Niggemann at 706-545-8823. gerald.e.niggemann.civ@mail.mil.

Quick Links:

RFMSS Homepage

Waterborne IEDs

DHS IED Fact Sheet

ROC-IED Training Link

RAPID Reports

Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned

CREW Training

Attack the Network Homepage

West Point Negotiation Project

Commander's Handbook For Strategic Communication and Communication Strategy

**Tom Dale**

# MCoE IED Defeat

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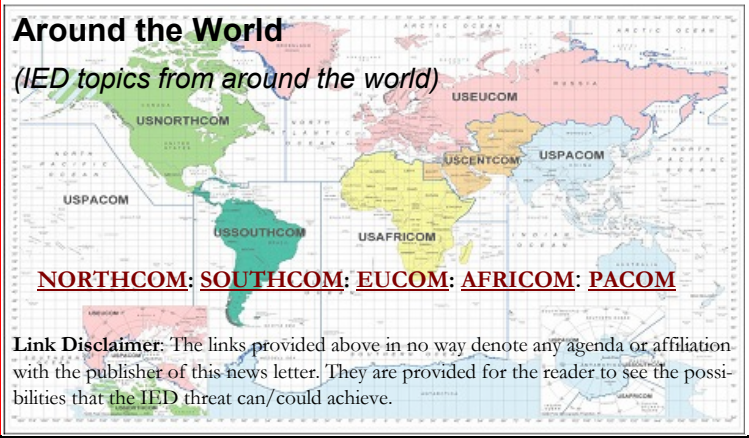
## Links of Interest

- **Joint IED-Defeat Organization** @ https://www.jieddo.mil
- **JKnIFE C-IED Training site** @ https://jknife.jieddo.mil
- **Center for Army Lessons Learned** @ https://call2.army.mil/
- **Combined Arms Center** @ https://ctd.army.mil/external12/BSTPs/ied-tsp/index.asp
- **Directorate for Counter IED (DCIED)** @ http://www.wood.army.mil/dcied
- **Army C-IED Professional Forum** @ https://www.us.army.mil/suite/collaboration/GetDocument.do?doid=17964848

(Users should be aware of site maintenance down times)

## Around the World

*(IED topics from around the world)*




NORTHCOM: SOUTHCOM: EUCOM: AFRICOM: PACOM

**Link Disclaimer**: The links provided above in no way denote any agenda or affiliation with the publisher of this news letter. They are provided for the reader to see the possibilities that the IED threat can/could achieve.

## C-IED Team activity for the Warfighter

- Briefed ARCENT delegation along with General officer staff from Qatar on how to develop effective C-IED training based on their available resources.
- Continue development and training implementation of HHD training enablers (swing boxes).
- Continue support for publication of C-IED training chapter and annex in the Maneuver Leader Development Strategy (MLDS).
- Answering RFIs generated by material/LL inside previous newsletters, latest UGV-HHD capabilities.
- Supporting the revision of TC 3-90.119 U.S. Army Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Training.
- Continue the implementation of relevant C-IED enabler introduction, familiarization, and use during local/MCoE training sessions. Enablers include HHDs, Man Portable Line Charge trainer, CREW/THOR III, SPARK, RHINO, and Cyclone.
- Continue to seek out and identify effective training solutions for the MCoE and TRADOC in a budget constrained environment.