



“Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight hundreds of battles without disaster.”

Sun Tzu

Volume 6, Issue 5

May 01, 2015

Inside this issue:

[Current Events](#) 1

[C-IED Technology Technology](#) 2

[MCoE C-IED Training](#) 2

[C-IED Training](#) 3

[C-IED Trng \(con\)](#) 4

[Team Contacts Information](#) 5

[Links of Interest](#) 5

[Tm Lead Notes](#) 5

Special points Of Interest:

[RESOLVE](#)

[Training Highlight](#)

[C-IED @ Ft Benning](#)

[Team Lead Comments/Hot Topic](#)

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

In the recent battle to remove the grip of Islamic State from the city of Tikrit, Iraqi Security forces faced the task of clearing the path of improvised explosive devices to gain access and defeat IS. Many of the structures were rigged with IEDs and many of the streets as well. Prior to allowing anyone to return to their homes, the explosive ordinance personnel and engineers must take on the task of clearing each area to ensure the safety of the population.

Prior to conducting combat patrols, each element must rehearse actions on a potential IED threat to ensure everyone understands their roles and what is expected of them. Key to transitions through a potential threat area is making sure that our Warfighters stay in the swept or cleared lanes. Hand held detector operators clear and mark the

path for others to follow. During your rehearsal also plan for battery exchanges in your enablers and operator switch procedures. Once a threat has been identified, by both recognizing ground sign and confirmation with a hand held device or other enabler; make sure everyone conducts a visual sweep of their immediate area (0/5/25m) to look for secondary devices. While each individual is conducting their sweep, machine gunners, designated marksman and/or snipers can be conducting the 200 meter check to prevent hostile elements from conducting an ambush. Knowing your area and the threats can aid your unit in preparing for the fight and not becoming the victim of a complex attack.

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 Detectors (HHDs) 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.



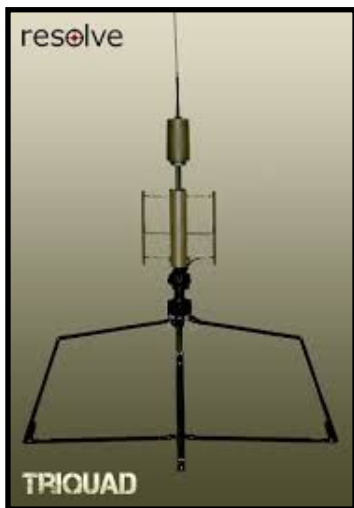
Bulldozer modified with metal plates contains barrels of explosives



IEDs planted inside buildings and along the streets of Tikrit

Technology

When it comes to defeating radio controlled improvised explosive devices (RCIEDs), Electronic Warfare (EW) has come a long way. A very versatile system is what every unit wants. A system called RESOLVE might just be what the doctor ordered. Made in the United Kingdom, this system can be used in one of the following configurations: man pack, vehicle mounted, remote and fixed site. The system can easily be changed into each of the configurations in a moments notice. ([Learn More](#))



C-IED Training Support Spotlight

3-1 CAV, 3ABCT, 3rd ID Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB)

SITUATION: IED attacks are a constant and ever evolving global threat for Soldiers. For this reason, the EIB committee selected IED tasks as part of the Expert Infantryman Badge training and testing.

WHO: 3-1 CAV, 3ABCT, 3rd ID

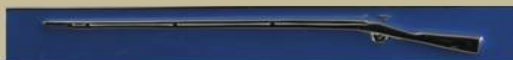
WHAT: Expert Infantryman Badge Testing

WHEN: 9-20 March 2015

WHERE: TBB Voyager

SUMMARY: 350 candidates received instructions on how to Identify Components of an IED, Send a UXO Report, How to React to an IED Dismounted, and Treat a Casualty after an IED blast. Three non-pyrotechnic devices were used to simulate the blast.

FUTURE: The MCoE C-IED Team continues to assist leaders and future leaders to improve training to prepare their Soldiers for the IED threat in the operational environment.



C-IED Training Opportunities at the MCoE



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
- Atmospheric
- 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.
- You will now find material related to the MCoE's C-IED Training Team, AtN, and DCT-MI.

The MCoE C-IED Team is constantly searching for better ways to train the Force on topics regarding C-IED. In many cases we find a lack of “awareness” regarding the numerous assets available to the Leader and Trainer right here at Fort Benning. This month, we’d like to reacquaint the reading audience with the **Advanced Situational Awareness (ASA)** training program.

Threats to individual security and organizational effectiveness are problems that persist in the complex operating environments we face. The question that must be answered is, “How do we effectively prepare our force to face these hybrid and insider threats in today’s fiscally constrained environment?”

Training Soldiers to be aware by observing, interpreting, and analyzing the human and environmental terrain in which they conduct operations is a critical aspect of operational security and effectiveness. Increased awareness is the key to a Soldier’s capacity to observe effectively, analyze thoroughly, predict accurately, and act decisively to avoid, mitigate, or defeat potential threats.

The U.S. Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) is addressing this need with a unique course called Advanced Situational Awareness (ASA) that trains Soldiers in the art and science of observing humans and their surrounding environment. The ASA course grew from the recognition that Soldiers needed additional training to enhance their awareness, sharpen their mindset, and increase their ability to secure themselves and their units in the complex environments of Iraq, Afghanistan, and even on the home front.

The Threats

Hybrid or asymmetric threats are a diverse, dynamic combination of regular forces, irregular forces, and criminal elements unified to achieve mutually benefitting effects. Hybrid threats will continue to exist no matter if our Soldiers are participating in a Counterinsurgency (COIN) operation, a Decisive Action operation, or simply living their daily lives in the United States while facing threats from terrorist groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).



Insider Threats are defined in AR 381-12, Threat Awareness and Reporting Program, as “person(s) with placement and access (Insider) who intentionally causes loss or degradation (Threat) of resources or capabilities, or compromises (Threat) the ability of an organization to accomplish its mission through espionage, international terrorism, or the unauthorized release or disclosure (Threat) of information about the plans and intentions of U.S. military forces.” Insider threats to our individual and unit security have come from within our ranks as well as from within the ranks of our partnered forces over the last several years in both Iraq and Afghanistan..

Modern Situational Awareness

The roots of modern Situational Awareness training in the military began with U.S. Marine Corps General James Mattis, who determined that Marines needed a set of skills once embodied by the ‘hunters-turned-Marines’ of former generations. Successful hunters are keenly aware of the details in their surroundings and are alert to unusual environmental changes. Under General Mattis’ guidance, the Marine Corps implemented the Combat Hunter program in August 2007.

Although there are similarities to the USMC Combat Hunter program, the Army developed the 50-hour ASA basic course and implemented it in late 2011. The Army has institutionalized ASA in its officer and NCO development courses for our infantry, cavalry, and armor soldiers, and throughout the training continuum at the MCoE. ASA training supports warrior tasks and battle drills, the Maneuver Leader Development Strategy (MLDS), and ongoing efforts to codify and integrate the human dimension in all we do. The U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) established the requirement for ASA as part of the solution to the insider threat in Afghanistan through FY14 and has included ASA in its Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF) training guidance for FY15.

C-IED Training Opportunities at the MCoE (cont)

Adaptive Leaders – Sharpened Mindset

The ASA course has continued to evolve and improve to meet the needs of the soldier. This latest evolution began in May 2014, with the Army shifting the course to more closely align with the Army Learning Model (ALM) described in TRADOC Pam 525-8-2, The U.S. Army Learning Concept for 2015. By decreasing the volume of lectures and slides, implementing more practical exercises, enabling individual learning opportunities through after-class assignments, and broadening the ‘scenario aperture’ beyond an Afghan-centric model to scenarios and looks from different areas around the globe, ASA continues to improve its learner-centric education and training model.

The course develops adaptive, thinking Soldiers and leaders capable of meeting the challenges of operational adaptability in an era of persistent conflict. The course combines the ALM principles of self-development, institutional instruction, and operational experience to deliver an exciting, interactive, “hands-on” course that educates and trains students in a classroom, through numerous practical exercises (Keep-in-Memory (KIM) games, observation exercises, ground sign awareness (GSA)) and with a complex, interactive, ‘free-play’ outcomes-based field training exercise supported by trained Threat Emulators.



It educates and trains Soldiers on the human sensory system (five senses & the brain), the six domains of human behavior (Heuristics, Biometrics, Kinesics, Proxemics, Geographics, Atmospheric), principles of ground sign awareness (human pace, sign recognition), enhanced observation (why we see things, why we don’t see things, signatures & cues), how to establish a baseline (an initial set of critical observations to confirm the norm of an area), critical thinking (problem-solving, anomaly-detection), decision-making (legal/moral/ethical, OODA loop(Observe-Orient-Decide-Act), ASA algorithm), how to think like the enemy, and how to employ this knowledge and experience in order to be ‘left-of-bang.’ Students are evaluated on their teamwork, their participation and effort through all of the practical exercises, their ability to articulate observations and reasoning behind their decisions, and their situational awareness knowledge through a final written exam.

Measuring Benefit to Soldiers

It is difficult to quantify the benefit that the ASA education and training has had on the force but numerous mid and post-deployment After Action Reviews (AARs) indicate that this training is saving lives. One battalion interviewed in the fall of 2014 while deployed to Afghanistan received ASA training in pre-deployment and insist they have used their ASA skills on a tactical level in numerous situations. Soldiers at all levels (PFC through 1LT) had very positive remarks about the ASA course’s overall practical application and stated that ASA better prepared their less experienced Soldiers for understanding observation techniques while out on patrol, in Guardian Angel roles, and in conducting Entry Control Procedures (ECP) operations. The more senior leaders (E6 through E7) said the training provided them with a systematic approach to problem solving; one platoon sergeant stated that, “All Soldiers in the Army should attend this course as early as possible.” Another NCO stated, “One unintentional side effect of the ASA training was the way it professionalized our younger Soldiers in a way we didn’t expect.”

Summary

The skills taught by the Army’s ASA course require no technology and are low-cost, perception-enhancing abilities that provide Soldiers an ability to predict a threat and act decisively. In the current uncertain and unstable security environment and in a time of fiscal constraint, the affordability of ASA and the unparalleled dividends it pays in survivability and lethality make it a program that should be proactively enhanced and promulgated throughout the force.

For more information see the ASA page here [ASA Webpage](#), call (706) 544-6398, or email matthew.a.wright.mil@mail.mil and vern.l.tubbs.ctr@mail.mil.



Quick Links:

[RFMSS](#)
[Homepage](#)

[Waterborne IEDs](#)

[DHS IED Fact Sheet](#)

[ROC-IED Training Link](#)

[MCoE C-IED Smart Guide & Apps](#)

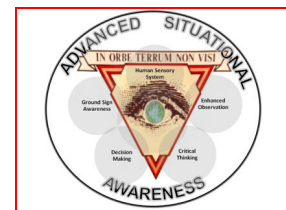
[Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned](#)

[CREW Training](#)

[Attack the Network Homepage](#)

[West Point Negotiation Project](#)

[Militant Organizations Profiles](#)



Select emblem above for more information on ASA training



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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>
- **TRIPwire (DHS site)** @ <https://tripwire.dhs.gov/IED/appmanager/IEDPortal/IEDDesktop?nfpb=true&pageLabel=LOGIN>

(Users should be aware of Registration requirements, CAC authorization for access, and site maintenance down times)

Team Lead Comments

The team here at the MCoE strives to deliver the best training available regarding all aspects on C-IED. We also constantly seek out what we deem as the most effective training applications and solutions, especially when it comes to any associated cost for running and sustaining the program.

Readily available, easily understood, and painless to employ solutions are not only the best types of enablers when it comes to delivering effective training, but it also helps the MCoE and the Army in general provide relevant training to address this serious and enduring threat, despite the limitations encountered in a budget constrained environment.

We've taken a good portion of this month's publication to highlight an enabler employed here at the MCoE that not only helps us in our day to day work with students, but provides the Force with the very foundation (Situational Awareness) in the architecture of a sequential and progressive learning format and delivery.

We will continue to identify these solutions on a monthly basis, and should the reading audience have suggestions or comments, they should feel free to send their material to the POCs identified in our publication. We also handle RFIs from the community of interest in as expeditious a manner as possible.

The C-IED Team is on-call to support any requesting unit. To request training assistance, contact Mr. Tom Dale at 706-545-6577, or Mr. Jerry Niggemann at 706-545-1619. or gerald.e.niggemann.civ@mail.mil.



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