

RSP

October 2011



Senior Airman Robert Lopez, an EOD journeyman with 886th CES, inspects a simulated bomb during an operational readiness exercise at Kapaun Air Station, Germany.

RSP

Volume 3/11 October 2011

National Officers

Richard C. Steen – Commander

Marvin G. Rumbaugh – Vice Commander

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Contributing Editors - Bob Fay, Terry Fitzgerald,

John Flynn, John Gage, Clarence Greenhill,

and David Tipton (Adjutant, VN Vet Chapter)

The National EOD Association, Inc. is a tax-exempt fraternal and professional association of active duty and former U.S. Military EOD personnel. Regular membership is contingent on having attended a recognized EOD school or having served in an EOD Military Occupational Specialty of the armed forces of the United States of America. Associate and Corporate memberships are available to persons and organizations interested in military public safety, or environmental EOD. All members receive the quarterly newsletter "RSP." The Regular and Associate memberships are \$15.00 for one year, or \$40.00 for three years. For active duty EOD personnel in pay grades E5 and below, the membership fee is \$10.00 for one year, or \$25.00 for three years. The Corporate membership fee is \$150.00 per year, and includes 3 memberships and 2 free advertisements per year in the "RSP" newsletter.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear friends:

I am truly honored to be returning from the tremendous reunion in Oregon as your National Commander. The Association owes Stu & Mona Steinberg a large thank-you for a job well done in setting up the convention in Bend. I



I think everyone enjoyed themselves, and Stu & Mona were great hosts. I have only been a member of the Association since 2006 - and that is thanks to Past Commander William Ramsey. Bill was in a small gas & go in Pennsylvania when a friend of mine, who happened to be English EOD, saw the EOD tag on Bill's car, and asked who owned the car with the EOD plate. Bill spoke up and then tried to recruit him into our Association, and gave him an application form. My friend brought me the form, and that was the first time I knew that NATEODA existed. I immediately sent in my application and planned to attend the 2007 NATEODA convention. When I went on the web to sign up, I saw the special announcement for the 1st Vietnam EOD reunion in St. Louis, headed up by Past Commander Joe Jimenez. I attended that reunion in hopes of finding some of the long-lost friends who served with me in Nam from May 67 to May 68. I was lucky enough to reconnect with many old friends and meet Stu Steinberg, who updated everyone on the benefits available to Vietnam Veterans. I'm relating this story to encourage all our members to be proud of being part of the EOD family, and to be more proactive in recruiting new members. We need new members from all branches of the service. I served with the 7th Air Force Mobile EOD team stationed at Tan San Nhut, Saigon but actually spent more time with the Army at Dak To, Duc Fho, and Camp Evans.

I look forward to working with our new Officers and Board of Directors for the next two years. We hope to move our Association forward with an increase in membership and developing missions which we can all participate in and be proud of.

RICHARD C. STEEN

RICHARD C. STEEN, National Commander

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

The election of officers was held at the recent 2011 convention, with the following results: Your new officers are: Richard C. Steen - National Commander; Marvin G. Rumbaugh - National Vice-Commander; Frank A. Martinez - National Adjutant; and Stuart A. Steinberg - Commander of the Vietnam EOD Veteran Chapter and Ex-Officio Director. Robert E. McDaniel continues to serve as National Treasurer. The other directors and appointees remain in those positions. Please offer them all the support you are able.

During the "Time and Place" discussions, convention locations were considered, with the following results: The 2012 convention will be held in San Antonio, TX with George Doyon as Convention Coordinator. The convention for 2013 is planned for Virginia Beach; for 2014 in Rapid City; and for 2015 in Las Vegas.



Bob Maxwell was our guest of honor at the convention. He is a holder of the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in Europe during WWII. While defending a position, he saved his fellow soldiers by covering a grenade explosion with his body - shielded only by a blanket. Though severely wounded, he survived. He continues to work in support of veteran causes. Bob is shown here receiving a certificate of appreciation from Joe Jimenez, our National Commander.

During the awards ceremony, Fred Puckett was awarded the Distinguished



Fred Puckett receiving DSM

Service Medal for long and distinguished service as Acting National Commander, National Vice-Commander, and National Chaplain. The citation was

read by National Commander Joe Jimenez



Joe Jimenez receiving DSM

and was presented by Bob Maxwell. Joe also presented certificates

of appreciation: to Stu Steinberg for his marvelous job as Convention Coordinator; to Greg Walker, the Guest Speaker; to Dick Tobiason for his work with "Honor Flight;" to Dr. Elizabeth Leeburg for her work in support of claims by PTSD and other veterans; and to Bud Engelhardt for his years as National Adjutant. After the change of command, the new National Commander, Dick Steen, presented the Distinguished Service Medal to outgoing National Commander Joe Jimenez, for his outstanding work.

The members voted to donate \$1,000.00 to the EOD Memorial Foundation and \$1,000.00 to the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation. The checks have been sent and a very nice thank-you card has been received from the EOD Memorial Foundation.

We extend a warm welcome to our new members: James Prater, Firman Winfield, Jacob Stern, Richard Meyers, Michael Brown, Kennard Karr, Brennan Fitzgerald, Douglas Ward, Thomas Plandech, and Robert Patenaude.

VIETNAM EOD VETERAN COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Dear Vietnam EOD veterans:

For those of you who attended the convention in Bend, it was wonderful to have you here, in my beautiful high desert. I hope that you got to see a little of the beauty we are so fortunate to have in this country, and I'm glad that some of you got to check out the local trout population. If you did not get to the convention, I hope that we see you next October 2-5 in San Antonio. If you live in the general vicinity of San Antonio, please contact George Doyon, the convention host, at gdoyon@satx.rr.com, or 210-655-3411, if you can assist him in the planning and execution of the convention. It's a lot of work—I'm still recovering—and I know George will appreciate your assistance.

I have had a fair number of awards and recognitions during my career, but being chosen to be commander of the Vietnam EOD Veteran Association is an honor that means as much to me as anything that has happened these past forty years since leaving the Army. I will do my very best to help us move forward and to bring in more of our fellow Vietnam brothers so we can see old

friends and swap war stories at future conventions. During the banquet and awards ceremony at the convention, the point was brought home by our keynote speaker, Greg Walker - a counselor for the Special Operations Command Wounded Warrior Program - that we are a community which has shared a common and heroic history. He pointed out that our heritage is being carried forward today by our younger brothers and sisters in the modern EOD field, and that we have an obligation to ensure that they continue the benevolent and charitable purposes upon which we came together as Vietnam EOD operators - in St. Louis, in August 2007. In a later missive I will send out to you, I will discuss my ideas for VEVA and NATEODA sending out "ambassadors" to talk with today's EOD operators, and the importance of their joining and being active in the national organization. At some point, I intend to send everyone a list of all the Vietnam brothers I have located, with their addresses, phone numbers and email addresses (if they have them). Hopefully - between conventions, you can get in touch with each other and get together locally. To make sure we have your correct email addresses, please send me an email. We need the right information. If you have moved in the past couple of years, or have a new phone number, please let us know so that we can update your contact information. If you don't have email, please send me your contact information. Send it to: P.O. Box 2127, Terrebonne, Oregon 97760-2127.

One of the main projects we have underway is documenting and preserving our history as EOD operators in Vietnam and other locales during the war. Mike Vining and Lew Weinberg, along with Bob Leiendecker, are gathering and organizing Vietnam-related documents and photographs which will eventually be on a searchable website. If you have photographs or documents - such as orders - please let me know so that we can get them digitalized and off to Mike and Lew. I am particularly looking for orders that have people's Social Security numbers - which I can use to locate them through an online database. If you can get your photos and documents to Lew, we will copy them and get them back to you in short order. In October or November, Lew and I will make a trip to the National Archives in Maryland to examine their collection of documents related to EOD and, hopefully, be able to secure a fee waiver for copies of everything they have. This is an important undertaking since the Archives regularly purges documents, and we need to insure that there is a history of who we are and what we did.

For those of you with questions about your entitlement to VA benefits - please feel free to contact me at jackdiamondback@gmail.com, or call me at 541-504-5407. If you have any suggestions that will further the interests of the Vietnam EOD Veterans Association, please let me know.

Stuart A. Steinberg

STUART A. STEINBERG
Chapter Commander

VIETNAM EOD VETERAN ADJUTANT'S NOTES

At its meeting during the NATEODA convention, the Vietnam EOD Veteran Chapter installed their officers. Stu Steinberg was installed as Commander, Roger McCormack as Vice-Commander, and Dave Tipton (who remains in office) as Adjutant. Robert T. Fay, Sr. was presented with the Art Macksey



award for 2011. The award is given annually to a member of the Vietnam EOD Veteran Chapter for outstanding service. Although Bob was not present to receive the award in person, he was connected to the convention electronically and made a gracious acceptance speech. Shown here are Dave Tipton

and Doug Rhodes holding up the plaque. When Doug returns to Huntsville, he will personally present the award to Bob.

Dave

DAVID S. TIPTON, Adjutant

TROOP NEWS

A navy explosive ordnance disposal team detonated a pair of Sea Sparrow missiles jettisoned Aug. 30 by a Navy helicopter crew off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., while hauling the missiles to a ship. The crew of the MH-60S Seahawk helicopter was delivering the two RIM-7P surface-to-air missiles to the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard when the load swung out of control and "struck the fuselage of the helicopter, threatening

the pilots and crew, and the safe operation of the aircraft,” according to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 1. The missiles fell 400 feet into the ocean, ending up 60 feet below the surface, about 1.7 miles east of Camp Pendleton’s Red Beach training area. The EOD team used C-4 explosives to blast the missiles in a controlled underwater detonation. After the detonation, the Navy says its divers inspected the site and found no visible pieces and no dead fish.

Work is underway on the SrA Daniel J. Johnson Memorial at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Crews poured concrete at the site, but not before two members of Vandenberg’s EOD team and base leaders placed unit coins that forever will remain part of the project. It is set to be dedicated around Veterans Day. Base officials said the monument will provide a daily reminder of Vandenberg’s mission to provide combat capability around the world.

The Search Badge was awarded to more than 100 soldiers from



101 and 33 Engineer Regiments, who returned from Afghanistan in March. The ceremony was held at Carver Barracks, during a parade at the base in Wimbish. All of them were volunteers for the search team work. These servicemen and



women have arguably the most dangerous job in Afghanistan – finding improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The badge has a green oval background and carries the word ‘search’ at its base. The eye and flame above it represent the search work. Cpl Lee Murnane was extremely proud to receive the badge after his taskforce uncovered a huge haul of IEDs. He said, “It was an extremely busy tour - especially for the counter-IED task force. We made the biggest find of IEDs in Afghanistan at that time – two IED factories with about 70 explosives in them. We conducted a controlled explosion to dispose of the majority, and also sent some back for analysis.” Speaking at the presentation, the Commanding Officer of 8 Force Engineer Brigade, Brigadier Alistair Dickinson, said: “This recognizes the work of the High Assurance Search Teams and their advisors. To do this all day, every day, for six months demands a certain kind of mettle – a persistent courage. And it is right that their commitment to this dangerous work is recognized.”

The 4th Infantry Division's Chemical Recon Platoon transitioned to a Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) prior to the unit's deployment to Afghanistan. The transition began at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, LA. The training at JRTC consisted of basic forensic and technical exploitation skills. After JRTC, the platoon continued training with counter-IED lessons at Fort Carson, CO. The platoon was taught and evaluated on numerous aspects of scene exploitation, to include: evidence collection, evidence preservation techniques, crime scene photography, post blast analysis, and fingerprint evidence collection. In addition, the platoon received instruction on basic IED components and identification. The platoon was split into two WITs, with Team One located at Forward Operating Base Farah and Team Two with 749th EOD. They have been very successful.



CPO KEVIN AMAIRA TRAINS AT HORSEA ISLAND.

Royal Navy explosives experts are the latest weapon in the fight against deadly roadside bombs in Afghanistan. Chief Petty Officer diver Kevin Amaira and Petty Officer Simon Crew will spend six months backing the British Army by training Afghan forces in bomb disposal. It is the latest step towards transferring combat duties as the troops withdraw from the country. Chief Petty Officer Amaira, 44, will mentor the Afghan

National Security Force EOD teams and deploy with them on patrol. He said: "The main role in Afghanistan is now training and maintaining the Afghan forces. We will be going out there to train their Army on IEDs and Explosive Ordnance Devices. After the first three months, we will be moving out into the field and training them operationally. We will teach them all sorts of things – detection, marking, avoidance, and destruction or exploitation." Petty Officer Simon Crew, 36, will work with the Coalition Force Training Team in Camp Bastion. He said: "There are set procedures: how to react against an IED threat - which is massive out there; going out on patrol; reading signs on the ground; and how not to go through choke points or take obvious risks. It's a standing joke that the Navy is sending divers to the desert."



Sapper Baitey

Sapper Chris Baitey from Houghton-le-Spring is just 22 years old, but he is already on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. He is a member of the Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Task Force, which is specially trained to respond to any bomb finds or explosions wherever UK troops are operating in Helmand. Recently his skills were put to the test when a call came through to say an improvised explosive device (IED) had struck a British vehicle in the Nahr-e Saraj district. Although Sapper Baitey and his team were told no one had been injured, explosive devices were scattered nearby. To get the crew to safety, Sapper Baitey had to conduct a painstaking search of the area and create a “safe lane,” while carrying up to 50kg of equipment in the sweltering Afghan heat. Using the latest bomb-detecting equipment, his team was able to clear a path, allowing a bomb disposal operator to close in on the devices. The trapped crew were recovered once Sapper Baitey had checked the area around the vehicle and methodically cleared the path of secondary explosives. The C-IED Task Force are the only ones trained to seek out and dispose of the deadly devices. When not on task, Sapper Baitey and his team help to train the Afghan National Army so that they too can search routes and compounds for IEDs.

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan – There are many dangers on today’s battlefields, and improvised explosive devices encountered on missions have proven to be one of the most hazardous. U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian



SFC SEAGAR ALL SUITED-UP BY HIS TRUCK

Seager of the Fort Knox, KY-based 703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, attached to Task Force Duke, has been an EOD technician for nine years. "Defuzing IEDs isn't for the faint of heart," he said. But Seager notes that, like many things in life, "it's all about the details." Seager, a native of Aliquippa, PA, explained that once EOD arrives on the scene there are numerous procedures to follow - all critical to the mission's ultimate success.

Establishing security and verifying the location and type of the device through a robot, which can disarm the IED, are just a few. If the robot is unable to successfully disarm the device - which has been the case in many instances - then Seager or one of his team members will attempt to disarm the device

manually. "The most dangerous part of any mission is the unknown," Seager said, "especially if there's a secondary device or if there is a complex attack waiting for you while you're disarming the device." The array of variables that can be present on any mission adds to the sense of the unknown: insurgents close enough to use cell phones as a triggering device; command wires sticking out of the ground; pressure plates that could possibly be stepped on; and other devices that may detonate when approaching are just a few of those many unknown hazards to consider. EOD techs are on call at all hours, and at times missions can last for days without end. Seager said the most frustrating part of being a tech is returning from a long mission, exhausted and hungry, and receiving another call to go out before getting a chance to sit down and eat. "Consecutive missions can be stressful - something that's supposed to be simple but ends up being 20 hours," he said. "With the enemy using every trick in the book to cause harm, EOD is always alert to changing dynamics. New IEDs and technologies are frequently encountered, requiring the techs to learn and constantly improve their skills. There is constant training and improvement - since things are always changing on the battlefield," he said.

TAPS

Marine EOD Technician Sgt. Nicholas Sprovtsoff was killed during combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on 25 September 2011.

Faithful NATEODA member and Vietnam EOD Veteran Babe Fucuals passed away in Dallas, TX on 4 August 2011. He was highly respected by all.

Helen Korsgaard wrote to inform us that Walter Korsgaard had passed away. He will be interred at Arlington.

Navy EOD Chief Nicholas H. Null died when a helicopter carrying SEALs and other servicemen on a rescue mission was shot down on 6 August 2011 in Afghanistan. Null had won two Bronze Star medals, including one with valor, during other deployments.

KIA - SGT Michael Garcia, Team Leader, 705th EOD Company out of Fort Polk, was killed during EOD operations in Afghanistan.

At the end of June, GySgt Ralph E. Pate, Jr. was killed during combat operations. GySgt Pate was married to USAF EOD tech SSgt Kim Pate. SSgt Pate is also deployed.

Technical Sergeant Daniel "P-Nut" Douville was killed on 26 June 2011, while conducting counter-IED safing operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

Bob Fay reported the passing of Jeremiah (Jerry) Hinton, Jr. on 28 September 2011. Jerry was a 20-year EOD MSG USAF and highly decorated with the Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals, two USAF Commendation Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal. He had been a long-time employee of ESSI, Inc.

EOD Veteran Floyd H. Glenn died on 14 July 2011. He was 79 years old.

LTC Bill Downer succumbed to his battle with cancer on 19 July 2011, in Tacoma, WA. Bill was the former Commander of 3d OD BN(EOD) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

MGySgt Dan Baker reported that on 26 June 2011, GySgt EJ Pate succumbed to injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device blast, while conducting operations in the vicinity of Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam.

Walter Korsgaard informed us that retired Colonel Billy C. Sharp passed away. He was a holder of the Master EOD Badge.

John Simpson reported that Ed Spencer (retired from the 53rd EOD in 1979) had passed away. Ed did two tours in Vietnam and served 22 years in the Army EOD program. He did another 20 years with Army Corps of Engineers in Portland, Oregon. He resided in the Vancouver area.

REDUCTIONS

Reductions in force have begun. Army Secretary John McHugh has ordered the Army to immediately start reducing their staffing to help meet plans to eliminate 8,741 civilian jobs by October 2012. (Maybe we'll have real MP's, AP's, and SP's policing our installations again.) The Army is losing \$834 million in operations and maintenance funding as part of those cuts. "It is imperative that these reductions be accomplished as rapidly as possible - but no later than the end of FY 2012," McHugh wrote in a memo. The cuts would amount to about 3% of the Army's more than 290,000 civilian employees. McHugh said Army agencies cannot turn to contractors to replace the civilian employees. An attachment to the memo suggests using reductions in force, total or partial hiring freezes, buyouts, or early retirements to meet these

goals. An execution order issued 4 August said agencies have 30 days to brief Army leaders on how they plan to achieve these cuts, and what progress they've made. Nearly half of the mandated cuts - 4,233 full-time-equivalent employees - will come from the Army's Installation Management Command, which had 35,680 civilian employees in June. McHugh's own office will lose 821 employees. The Training and Doctrine Command will lose 571 employees. The 7th Army in Europe will lose 430 employees. The Army Materiel Command will lose 1,223 employees. And while the Pentagon was just beginning to trim its spending, the debt deal recently approved by Congress raises the possibility of steeper cuts between \$350 billion and \$800 billion over the next decade. This has left even the most veteran Pentagon budget watchers surprised, and Pentagon managers panicky.

EOD needs to act immediately to reduce the impact of the impending cuts, to preserve its core of knowledge and experience. Both the Army and Navy in the U.S. should consider dispersal of units. Air Force and Marine Corps units are already in pretty good positions to avoid cuts. Army EOD units are best used for area support and should always be considered as "engaged." They should normally be employed in general support, and only be used in the direct support role "on order" when needed to support engaged tactical formations. When locating CONUS units, consideration should be given to: areas where disruptive activities may occur; closer relationships with and support of civil law enforcement and emergency management organizations; range-clearance operations; Secret Service support; and intensive preparation for response to weapons of mass destruction and mass casualty in the United States. It would be a wonderful thing if the contraction of our military were accompanied by a reduction in need for EOD services. But the reality is that as we reduce our presence and pressure on enemies overseas, we can expect an increase of attacks from within, and the need for EOD may become very great.

Dana Priest and William Arkin's book, "Top Secret America: The Rise of the New American Security State," is definitely not government-friendly - but raises some interesting points. When IEDs became the greatest cause of casualties in Iraq, the Army set up an IED task force to investigate ways to stop these crude weapons. The Marine Corps also set up a working group. Finally the Pentagon established a Washington-based joint organization - the

Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, to solve the problem of these low-tech terrorist weapons. When JIEDDO was first established under then-Col Votel, it had only a few people and relied on agencies such as NGIC, MCIA, and DIA for intelligence gathering and analytical expertise. It also drew on R&D agencies for help in developing material. It was a small coordination headquarters, and it functioned well and served a purpose. But over the years it grew into an unmanageable organization. It has now crept into every corner where it could insert itself. They replaced Votel with a General Officer for more visibility and clout. They grew into something so big it has difficulty doing anything. JIEDDO is a perfect example of how a crisis task force can become a permanent multi-billion-dollar agency. JIEDDO has grown to about 400 military and civilians, and the JIEDDO budget has increased from an initial \$1.88 billion to \$2.98 billion, and then to \$3.465 billion. It reportedly hired 1,200 contractors. It also oversees more than 300 research projects aimed at stopping IED attacks. Information from the war zone is scarce, but we might begin to wonder if the benefits received from JIEDDO justify the cost. We now have reasonably good robots and jammers that worked pretty well in Iraq. In Afghanistan, the primitive conditions and simple pressure plate mines put us back to the basic work of "check them out on foot." This is virtually unchanged from previous wars and is likely to remain so. The Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), a specialized body tasked with putting a stop to the use of the often remote-controlled roadside bombs, offered a bleak assessment of the situation now facing foreign forces: "During the last 12 months, an unending supply of calcium ammonium nitrate has been used to produce IEDs in Afghanistan, despite a country-wide ban on importing the fertilizer," JIEDDO spokeswoman Irene Smith said. From April to June 3, 485 IEDs exploded or were found in the war-ravaged country, according to JIEDDO - a 14% increase over the same period last year. In June, use of roadside bombs was 25% higher than average. As deep budget cuts loom on the EOD horizon, it makes one wonder if we should be looking to downsize or eliminate organizations like JIEDDO that may have served their purpose, and save some EOD units and their proven ability from downsizing.

TECHNOLOGY

BEDFORD, MA - 22 Aug. (UPI) - The U.S. Navy has ordered more man-transportable robots, together with spares kits, from iRobot Corp. of Massachusetts. The order for more than 100 of the MK 1 MOD 1 robots is worth \$21 million. The company said it is the fourth order it has received from the Naval Sea Systems Command, under a \$230 million indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity award previously given it. Orders under the overall contract stand at \$36 million, it said. "Improvised explosive devices remain one of the biggest threats to our forces overseas," said Robert Moses, president of iRobot's Government and Industrial Robots division. "iRobot's unmanned ground vehicles save lives every day by providing our troops with the ability to identify and dispose of IEDs from a safe standoff distance." The MTRS MK 1 MOD 1 is modeled after the iRobot 510 PackBot. These combat-proven robots perform bomb disposal and other dangerous missions. iRobot has delivered more than 4,000 unmanned ground vehicles to military and civil defense forces worldwide..



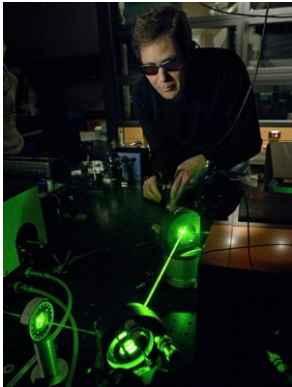
PICATINNY ARSENAL, NJ - Picatinny recently received a patent for a process to safely train soldiers to operate a variety of robots used in Iraq and Afghanistan to detonate IEDs. The Robotic Vehicle Trainer is a realistic video game that simulates combat environments and uses the same controls as actual robots used in EOD. The design was the brainchild of Bernard Reger, Chief of the Combat Support & Munitions Systems Branch, Armament Software Engineering Center, Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, known as

ARDEC. "The virtual environment inserts the student into hazardous environments, enabling familiarization with the robotic vehicle and EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) bomb disposal tools," Reger said. "The U.S. Army will be able to control the intellectual property of this process if it is being used by a contractor in developing robotic vehicle trainers." The virtual operator control unit, which is essentially a video-game controller, is built with exactly the same joysticks, switches, dials and display features as a fielded robot. This allows the soldier to become familiar with the touch and feel of the real controls while in training. The control unit connects to a laptop computer which runs the software application - allowing trainees to use the system

anywhere, from the classroom to the field. Work on this product started in 2003 - as an experiment to insert the Talon robot used by EOD soldiers into a virtual environment, using a popular Army-developed game engine - America's Army. With more than 8 million registered users, America's Army is an interactive, first-person shooter game that allows civilians a taste for the Soldier life. About a year after the video game launched in 2002, ARDEC began to implement practical training applications into the game for soldiers. ARDEC's Armament Software Engineering Center and the Picatinny EOD Technology Directorate worked together over the next few years - to define and refine requirements for a product that could familiarize EOD soldiers with the operation of the Talon robot and explosive disposal techniques. "The patent covers the process by which a robot is assembled in the virtual environment, and by which the soldier has the opportunity to test-drive the robot and its tools," Reger said - adding that the Talon Trainer had been re-branded as the Man Transportable Robotic System EOD Trainer. The same process was applied to other robots, including SWORDS, EOD PackBot, and the CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) PackBot. The Foster-Miller Talon and PackBot are both tracked robots used to disarm improvised explosive devices. Because they are remotely operated and equipped with cameras, they allow soldiers to safely detonate suspicious objects from a distance. "The robotic vehicle trainer gives EOD soldiers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the operation of the robot, without removing critical assets from the field," Reger said. "It also gives them the ability to train in what would normally be a dangerous environment. The trainer could be rapidly updated with new tools and techniques of benefit to the soldier." The trainers familiarize operators with the controls - rather than training them to respond to different EOD incidents and situations. The operators also detonate different types of IEDs, using an assortment of methods. The IEDs are found in realistic locations that soldiers would find when deployed, such as hidden in sandbags or in courtyards.

Researchers at Michigan State University say they have developed a new type of laser that could detect roadside bombs. They are tough to spot because there are so many. Finding and disabling them all is difficult. However, this

laser potentially has the sensitivity and selectivity to canvas large areas and detect improvised explosive devices. Marcos Dantus, chemistry professor and founder of BioPhotonic Solutions, published the new laser's results in a recent issue of Applied Physics Letters. He said: "The detection of IEDs in the field is extremely important and challenging, because the environment introduces a large number of chemical compounds that mask the select few molecules one is trying to detect. The technology must be able to distinguish explosives from vast arrays of similar compounds. Having molecular structure



DR. DANTUS AT WORK

sensitivity is critical for identifying explosives and avoiding unnecessary evacuation of buildings and closing of roads, due to false alarms." Since IEDs can be found in populated areas, the methods to detect these weapons must be nondestructive. They must also be able to distinguish explosives from vast arrays of similar compounds found in urban environments. Dantus' latest laser can make these distinctions even for quantities as small as a fraction of a billionth of a gram. The laser beam combines short pulses that kick the molecules and make them vibrate, with long

pulses that are used to "listen" and identify the different "chords." The chords include different vibration frequencies that uniquely identify every molecule - much like a fingerprint. The high-sensitivity laser can work in tandem with cameras, and allows users to scan questionable areas from a safe distance. This research is funded in part by the Department of Homeland Security.

Science, Engineering and Technology Corporation (SET) has developed a new radar system for the US Army - to help reduce the threat of suicide bombers. The Counter Bomber features three radar detectors, and uses an algorithm to detect possible bomb materials underneath clothing - at a distance of up to 100 yards. The radar automatically detects and tracks the threat, and alerts soldiers by wirelessly transmitting pictures or live video of the threat through a handheld device such as a smart phone. Each radar costs \$300,000, and the US Army has awarded a \$48.2m contract to SET for the system.

AFGHANISTAN

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DWYER, Afghanistan - U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, visiting troops in southern Afghanistan, saw how the art of detecting buried explosive devices has changed little - in some ways - since his Army days, despite the billions of dollars spent by the Pentagon to improve bomb detection. During a visit to Forward Operating Base Dwyer in Helmand province, he witnessed a group of Afghan soldiers training with long, crudely constructed bamboo poles with hooks at one end, scraping through a dirt field to find and destroy improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. The sight reminded Mr. Panetta of when he served as an Army intelligence officer, from 1964 to 1966. "When I was in the Army, you used to do that by bayonet," he said. The bamboo-pole contraption was the brainchild of Marine Gunnery Sgt. Holly. The 10-to-15-foot bamboo poles, referred to as the "Holly Stick," caught on fast among the troops. Since they were put into widespread use in the area, IED "find" rates have increased by 35%, said Col. David Furness. He attributed the improvement to the methodical pace at which the hooks or sickles are used to scrape the earth. Handlers feel for possible IEDs using the hook. A soft patch in the dirt is a sign the earth has recently been moved - an indicator that an explosive device may be buried below. A Pentagon body tasked with developing IED defenses is now making a U.S.-manufactured version of the Holly Stick that will be retractable so it can be carried more easily by foot soldiers, the Defense Secretary was told.

Afghan forces have uncovered more than 4 tons of illegal ammonium nitrate - which is used by insurgents to make homemade explosives and IEDs - hidden in the Lashkar Gah district of Helmand Province. The find is the biggest made



AFGHAN HAUL

in the UK's area of operations since 2006. Sixty troops from BOST 170 (an elite team of the Afghan National Security Directorate) partnered with Task Force Helmand's Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF), were airlifted in two Chinook helicopters to where the intelligence had suggested the cache was hidden. The British forces set up an outer perimeter, allowing the Afghan forces to move in

on the two places believed to house the material. After checking the first site for booby traps and IEDs, the soldiers started digging into the dusty ground and began to uncover bag after bag, filled with the highly explosive chemical. At the second site close by, the team cleared away a section of bush that had been used to hide another pile of bags. In total, the sacks weighed in at 4,150 kilograms. Ammonium nitrate, which is banned in Afghanistan, is the primary ingredient in the explosives used in the country. Afghan soldiers destroyed the whole lot in a controlled explosion, leaving a crater ten meters wide. Captain Gus Precious RM, the Officer Commanding the BRF's Brigade Patrol Troop who helped support the operation, said: "It was the Afghans' willingness to find and eradicate the IEDs, which harm both our colleagues and civilians, that directly contributed to this positive outcome. This amount of ammonium nitrate would have been used to make hundreds of IEDs, and its destruction will significantly affect the insurgents' ability to target Afghan and Coalition forces in Helmand."

ENGLAND

In what may foreshadow similar budget moves in the US, the United Kingdom announced that it will disband four Army explosives teams with counter-WMD expertise. Their responsibilities will be given to the Royal Air Force by year's end. The move, planned as the country implements an 8 percent budget reduction, would eliminate units containing personnel with critical knowledge, according to the newspaper. Cutting the units would undermine protections ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games in London, high-level Army sources said. "They're expecting people to become experts in chemical warfare in 12 weeks when it's taken us 12 years," one insider said. "The Army has got the numbers and the expertise to deal with threats like the Tokyo underground attack or dirty bombs. That is just not what the [Royal Air Force] is about." The Air Force squadron given the mission will be upgraded to a regiment. Conservative British lawmaker Patrick Mercer, a former armed forces member, said disbanding the Army units would represent "a serious blow to our national defenses." The Defense Ministry, though, argued: "We will continue to have a robust and effective capability. Any changes will not affect the Olympics or [WMD] protection."

The Navy will return to Sheppey this week to carry out a thorough sweep of the coastline, after an incredible 26 unexploded munitions were washed up in Leysdown in eight days. The discovery - containing enough explosives to sink



a fleet of fishing boats - is thought to be the largest ever reported on the island. Sheppey Coastguard rescue officer Ian Goodwin says in his 20 years' service, the haul is the largest he has ever known. The first bomb was reported by a member of the public on 24 September. The man used his iPhone to take a photo of the suspicious object at low water and provide a GPS location for coastguards. More were found off Leysdown the following day by coastguards James

Crane, Henry Ranger and Kirsty Redman, and further discoveries were made later in the week. Among the munitions - thought to contain a total 200lb of explosives - were six-inch 10-lb shells, anti-submarine depth charges, and high-explosive mortar shells. All date back to WW II. The Royal Navy's EOD team detonated the bombs. Mr. Goodwin said: "The Royal Navy EOD team from Portsmouth has agreed to come back for two days to detonate the latest finds and do a thorough sweep of the waters in and around Leysdown to see if they can find anything more. He further confirmed that the EOD team was satisfied the bombs did not come from the sunken Richard Montgomery. There is a possibility they could be linked to another wreck - sometimes visible at low water- offshore from the Little Retreat Cafe at Leysdown, but it is not known if this was a military boat.

INDIA

GUWAHATI: A day after serial blasts rocked Mumbai, two powerful improvised explosive devices were recovered in Guwahati and nearby Baksa district today during two separate search operations in the run up to Independence Day. Stepping up security measures, a joint Army and police team recovered an IED containing ammonium nitrate and other chemicals from a mini truck at Saat Mile area under Jalukbari police station here, police sources said. The bomb comprised assorted chemicals weighing 200 to 250 grams, they said, and added that the exact chemicals would be identified after laboratory testing.

Sangakpham - 9 Jul 2011. An IED was recovered today from a scooter. According to a police report, the bomb - weighing about 3.5 - 4.0 kgs - was found inside the tool box of the scooter parked inside a boys' hostel complex. Local eyewitnesses claimed that the scooter had been parked at the site for over 15 days. The hostel cook, Songboi Zou, from the Tuining village of Churachandpur, staked a claim to the scooter after his hand-cart went missing - apparently stolen. The improvised explosive device (IED) was reportedly discovered when some hostellers who took a ride had to open the tool box after the scooter developed a technical snag. A mobile phone handset and wires attached to a container were found inside the tool box. A Manipur police bomb disposal squad, upon realizing that it was a remote-controlled bomb (IED), safely removed the explosive item for disposal. Sangakpham seems to be a frequent target for IED attacks.

IRELAND

An Army bomb disposal team made safe a viable Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Clondalkin on September 26th. The Defense Forces deployed the



team to an address at Greenfort Park, Clondalkin in response to a request by the gardaí, a statement said. The team arrived on-scene at 0025 hours and made the device safe by means of a controlled explosion. The remains of the device were handed over to the gardaí for

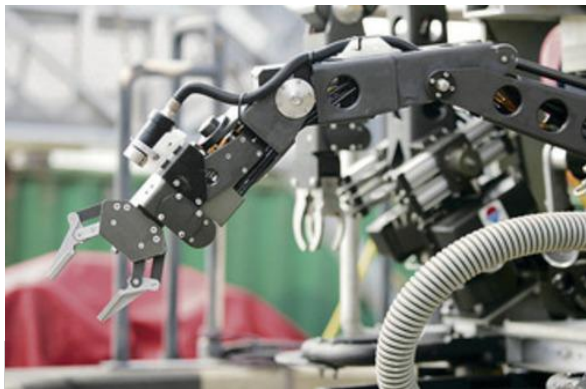
investigation. The callout was the third for Defense Forces bomb disposal teams in the past 24 hours.

PAKISTAN

HANGU: Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Gul Jamal said one Gulab Khan informed the police that a suspicious bottle was placed near the boundary wall of his house in Sifat Banda village. The bomb disposal unit (BDU) was sent to the area. They found the bottle filled with explosive powder, with a detonator. The BDU officials defused the explosives. Police also found an 18-kg explosive device near Ghalmina checkpoint in the limits of Balyamina Police Station. Official sources said the IED apparently was planted to target security forces' convoys and police vans that regularly pass through that area. The police launched a massive search operation after defuzing the IEDs, and arrested

two militants identified as Anwar and Sadaat. The police later arrested two militant commanders in Swat district. Acting on a tip, the police raided a house in Kanju and arrested a militant commander identified as Pai Muhammad, son of Muhammad Ghulam. Meanwhile, the police also arrested another militant commander - Salim in Kabal tehsil. Two of the militants were wanted by the law-enforcement agencies.

HAWAII

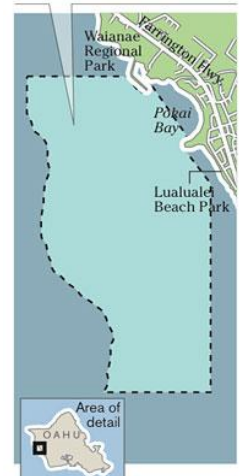


The Army will begin staging a clean-up project off the Waianae Coast on Monday, using a remote-controlled submersible. The Remotely Operated Underwater Munitions Recovery System robot has two arms with grips, to retrieve various underwater munitions. The Army said it will begin a 21-day trial run of the remote-controlled

submersible, designed to remove discarded military munitions from the ocean floor off the Waianae Coast. The area - called Ordnance Reef - is littered with more than 2,000 World War II-era munitions including grenades, bullets, bullet casings and bombs, the Army said. If the trial is a success, full-scale removal operations could begin next year. A government contractor explained the operation at Ford Island: It uses the submersible to pick up the munitions. They would be brought to a barge with equipment to destroy the munitions - in most cases by cutting them up and baking them in a specially designed oven to render explosive material inert. A technician on a boat would control the Remotely Operated Underwater Munitions Recovery System, using the submersible's four cameras. They weigh nearly 2,000 pounds and can operate down to 120 feet, officials said. The Recovery System has two arms with claws, a tray to hold retrieved items and a vacuum to suck up small objects. "If it's successful, then we can use it throughout the world," said Hershell E. Wolfe, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health. The project has an estimated cost of \$2.5 million to \$6 million, including the \$1 million cost of the submersible.

ORDNANCE REEF

The area is on a shallow fringing reef about 2.6 miles by 1.4 miles and was used as a disposal site for discarded military munitions after World War II.



STAR-ADVERTISER

A NEW RIDE



Leonard Hudson emailed us with a picture of his "new ride." He had been looking for an M151 and plans to paint it up as an EOD vehicle - red fenders, EOD team sign, and all. Now Tony Jordan and Bud Engelhardt won't be the only members running around in "old school" EOD vehicles. If you're in Austin Texas, keep an eye out for this great jeep.

THE FIRST RSP OF WW II

As you may know, Bob Leiendecker has been researching and writing a significant work about EOD during WWII. He recently received a letter from MSG Dean Smith that may shed some light on the first Americans who recovered and rendered safe a bomb during that war. To date, credit has been given to LT Draper Kauffman and various other Navy men, but there was no mention of the involvement of the two Ordnance Department civilians. Since the letter shown below is an official document from the period, in which Kauffman gave credit to Mr. J. L. Unertle, this must be what actually happened. Kauffman did a lot during his career for bomb disposal, UDT, and the Navy in general, but the letter brings into question his actual involvement in the "Kauffman bomb." Further research at this point is difficult, since it is likely that all of the players have passed away. The 500 lb. Japanese bomb, which had been dug up by a Mr. Warren and rendered safe by Mr. Unertle (both Army Ordnance Department civilians), had impacted near a downed Japanese aircraft at Schofield Barracks. Both fuzes were unarmed and the arming wire was recovered nearby. The bomb was reported on 15 December '41 and was only partially buried in the ground, with the tail fins still sticking out. Unertle's general ordnance training could have made him able to tell the condition of the fuzes, given the presence of the arming wire and the downed aircraft. At that time Army bombs and fuzes were Army Ordnance items, so he may have had some training on US bombs and fuzes. The letter is one of the more interesting documents concerning our EOD heritage.

C-881/876/MD14
(01459)

C O M F I D E N T I A L

December 22, 1941: Bomb and fuse assemblies were completely stripped, except for Detonator-Booster systems, by following party:

- Lieutenant D. L. Kauffman, U.S.N.R.
- Mr. L. J. Unertle, U.S.A., Ordnance Dept.
- D. F. Winslow, C.G.M. (AA) U.S.N.
- A. N. Shane, B.M. 2/c, U.S.N.

December 24, 1941: Detonator-Booster systems were stripped by Lieut. Kauffman and R. W. Eiggell, C.G.M. (AA) U.S.N.

December 30, 1941: Main filler of bomb was steamed out by Lieut. Kauffman and B.M. 2/c Shane.

5. The bomb, fuses, etc. were taken over by this office for shipment to Washington, D. C., where they will be used for instructional purposes, both by U.S. Navy and U.S. Army bomb disposal schools. Enclosed detailed drawings and pictures were made by draftsmen and photographers of Pearl Harbor Navy Yard.

6. The whole-hearted cooperation of Col. Capron of the U.S. Army Ordnance Department was much appreciated. Lieut. Kauffman states he was greatly impressed by the coolness, courage, and common sense of Mr. L. J. Unertle of the U.S. Army Ordnance Department.

7. The following Navy personnel were highly commended by Lieut. Kauffman for their courage and resource:

- R. W. Eiggell, C.G.M. (AA) Advanced Mine Unit, 14th Naval District.
- D. F. Winslow, C.G.M. (AA) Advanced Mine Unit, 14th Naval District.
- A. N. Shane, B.M. 2/c Temporary Duty, Bomb Disposal, 14th Naval District.

All three of these men have studied German fuses and bomb, and knew that any move they made might set off the bomb, particularly as no prior information was available on Japanese Bombs or Fuses.

Copy to:
CHO
C. Gen., Haw'n Amm. Depot, Ft. Shafter, T.H.
C.O., Army Ord. Depot, Middle & King Sts.
S.O., Dist. Eng., USA, Honolulu, T. H.

T. S. BOYD,
By direction.

C-881/876/MD14
(01459)

C O M F I D E N T I A L

1 January 1942

From: The Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance

SUBJECT: Unexploded Japanese Bomb No. 1, Report on -

1. An unexploded Japanese Bomb was found on December 15, 1941, near Schofield Barracks, Wahiawa, Oahu, T. H., and was defused, stripped and examined.

2. DESCRIPTION:

- Length: Forty-three (43) inches from nose to base plug.
- Diameter: Twelve (12) inches.
- Fuses: Nose and tail, with powder delay. No "Booby Traps".
- Explosives: Main charge, Very Pure "Grade A" T.N.T. Boosters, Picric.
- Weights: Entire bomb assembled, Five Hundred Forty (540) pounds, (approximate). Main charge, One Hundred Thirty-Three (133) pounds (exact).
- Casing without charge, base plug, etc. Three Hundred Forty-One (341) pounds (exact). Base plug, fins, fuses, etc. Sixty-five (65) pounds (approximate).

Interesting features: Everything, beautifully and carefully machined. Main charge cushioned and protected by three-sixteenths (3/16) of an inch, of impregnated cloth. Fuses and bomb assembly very simple and very efficient. Very low per cent of explosive by weight for a General purpose bomb.

3. When discovered, bomb was in a perpendicular attitude, nose six (6) feet down, tail fins showing. It was near a Japanese plane that had crashed and burned; it was assumed to have been dropped from this plane.

4. December 15, 1941: Mr. Warren of the Army Ordnance Department dug bomb up after giving it several jerks from a safe distance.

December 20, 1941: Mr. L. J. Unertle of the Army Ordnance Department removed the bomb to a deboostering barracade and unscrewed fuse assemblies.

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E-mail: frankntinam@frontier.com

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