The IED and VBIED Threat (Improvised Explosives Device) (Vehicular Borne IED)

Characteristics of an IED

The IEDs employed have had one or more of the following characteristics:

- Command detonated – either by wire or remote device
- Time delay fuse - IEDs could also be time delayed to detonate.
- IEDs may be emplaced in the following areas:
  - Emplaced along MRS and ASRS.
  - Emplaced along unimproved roads in medians.
  - Concealed in non-threatening packaging.
- Do not approach or tamper with a suspected IED. Call EOD.

Common Roadside IED

Common roadside IEDs are explosives, usually an artillery or mortar round(s) placed near the road at the designated kill point. They may be hastily camouflaged with dirt, rocks, trash, or of items that are common along the road. Early in the operations, these devices were command detonated with usually an attack of small arms fire or RPG rounds.

Types of Explosives Used

The most common explosives used are military munitions, usually 122 mm or greater mortar/tank/artillery.

- This is the easiest to use since there are so many munitions available in the ITO and they provided a ready made fragmentation effect.
- Allows for relatively easy “daisy chaining”

Other types include putting PE4,TNT, or other explosive in container such as oil/paint cans.

Remote Control Devices

Remote control devices of every sort are showing up. They include Car Alarms, key fobs, Door Bells, Remotes for toy cars, Garage Door Openers, Cell Phones, FRS and GMRS two-way radios.

The adaptation of using radios, cell phones and other remote control devices has given the enemy the standoff ability to watch forces from a distance and not be compromised.

The enemy has continued to improve there techniques, and more sophisticated and destructive devices are being discovered.

Emplacement TTPs

1. Camouflaging devices with bags of various types to resemble the garbage along the roadways or burying these devices in the roadbed.
2. Using a decoy device out in the open to slow or stop convoys in the kill zone of the actual device that is obscured along the route of travel.
3. Throwing devices from overpasses or from the road-side in front of approaching vehicles or the middle of convoys, usually done by makes of all ages.
4. Emplaced in potholes (covered with dirt).
5. Employed along MRS and ASRS (targeting convoys).
6. Employed along unimproved roads (targeting patrols).
7. IEDs often used in conjunction with RPG/SA fire as a distraction to divert attention of Coalition Forces (create a kill zone for subsequent attacks by RPG/SA fire).
8. VBIEDs used to gain access/close proximity to compounds/buildings.
9. Worn by attacker (suicide vests), possibly employed by women to gain proximity to Coalition Forces.

IEDs can be disguised to look like any object and to function through a multitude of actions. An IED is only limited by the Bomber’s imagination and capabilities. IEDs are unpredictable and extremely hazardous to all, including the Bomber.

CALL EOD – Do Not Be A Bloody HERO.
Vehicle Borne IEDs

Vehicle borne IEDs come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. From a simple passenger car, to a large delivery or sewage truck. There have even been instances of what appeared to be generators, donkey drawn carts, and ambulances used to attempt attacks on Coalition Forces and the New Iraqi Government. To include using vehicles that are familiar to coalition forces.

VBIEDs have increasingly used larger amounts of explosives, and the explosive charge has ranged anywhere from 100lbs to well over 1000 pounds. And has included things such as mortar rounds, rocket motors, rocket warheads, PE4 explosives, and artillery rounds.

A growing technique is to have multiple vehicles involved. The lead vehicle is used as a decoy or barrier buster, once it has been stopped or neutralized and the coalition forces start moving to inspect or detain – the main VBIED comes crashing though and into the crowd and detonates. Thus increasing their casualty ratio.

Service members need to stay alert to signs and indicators to prevent the VBIED from reaching its destination. Of these are fake markings and plates, official symbols in the wrong location, drivers that are not familiar with the vehicles controls, and drivers that seem to be agitated or lost in their directions.

IED Actions on the Scene

1) Immediately establish a security perimeter
   - Clear the area of all civilians and soldiers
     - Airspace included
   - Request Local MP support
   - Search for secondary devices
   - Request Local MP support
2) Gather as much info as possible.
   - What does the object looks like?
   - Where is the device?
   - Who first identified the object?
     - Let them tell their story
3) Notify EOD
   - Request an expanded perimeter
   - EOD will conduct analysis/diagnostic
   - Remote Reconnaissance/Disruption
   - Use EOD UXO/IED 9-Line

The enemy has increased its use of false IEDs to draw personnel into the kill zone. Using collapsing circuits, and using booby traps to catch personnel attempting to disarm IEDs.

REMEMBER – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DISARM AN IED YOURSELF.

Why are VBIEDs more dangerous?

8ft wide by 3ft deep hole left by vehicle IED. The auto disintegrated upon detonation.

Suspected 155mm artillery rounds as the main charge, unknown number of rounds used.

Wires connected to battery running back to the charge in the trunk, under the rear seat, and to the switch above the drivers sun visor. This VBIED was captured intact.

After ramming though the serpentine barrier, this VBIED detonated when the vehicle became disabled in gunfire. The vehicle vaporized.

Countermeasures

1. Use counter-recon and route security patrols along highly traveled MSR’s and other convoy routes. Aggressive patrolling can mitigate the threat; devices have been encountered that the perpetrator had not had time to finishing emplacing.
2. While traveling in a convoy, watch the sides of the roads for objects that look out of place and stay alert.
3. Increase the knowledge of Coalition forces on IED awareness and minimize knowledge of operations to non-Coalition personnel.
4. Assume any manmade object encountered can contain an IED. Do not drive over or step on sandbags, garbage bags, burlap material, boxes, or garbage in the road while on patrol.
5. Upon discovering an IED, assume it can be remote detonated. Be aware of any suspicious individuals in the area and secure a safe distance around the device.
6. IEDs have been found that were targeting vehicles traveling in either the left or right lanes on the highways; drive aggressively and keep vigilance when driving for the above mentioned objects.
7. IEDs currently used to target an initial Coalition activity (ex: convoy or patrol); future incidents could target a secondary activity (ex: first responders-MPs, EOD) as the devices and employment TTPs gain complexity.

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Key to Defeating the IED Threat

1. Let them know that you are ready: The enemy is looking for an easy mark. He wants to get away. Show him that you are not an easy target.
2. Vehicle Dispersal: 75 m to 100 m or greater, makes it more difficult to correctly target the convoy – this results in late or early detonation and the likelihood that the enemy will not get away.
3. Know the Indicators: Bags, piles of rocks, piles of dirt in or beside the road. If you don’t like what you see, trust your instinct, stop, turn around, and go another way. Report observation through the chain of command. Let the experts check it out.
4. Vary the Route and Time and Speed of Travel: We know the enemy is watching us and attempting to determine our patterns; make every attempt to vary this pattern; never take the same route twice in two days. The enemy placed the IED there for a reason, and he is targeting you!
5. Always have front and rear security out:
   - Let them tell their story
   - Request EOD
   - Remote Reconnaissance/Disruption – Use EOD UXO/IED 9-Line

LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS.

Fake Ambulance, had over 1000 pounds of explosives inside it.

Single vehicle, well over 1000 pounds of explosives. Was a white sewage pumping truck. Explosives hidden inside the tank.

Delivery truck that detonated right outside the camp.

LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS.