



JOINT IED DEFEAT ORGANIZATION

5000 ARMY PENTAGON
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Teams Trained for Multiagency, Multinational Afghanistan Counter-IED Strategy

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Arlington, Va. – October 13, 2009 – The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) is providing battalion-level units operating in the Afghanistan theater of operations with specialized counter-IED teams through its “Tidal Sun” pilot training initiative. Continuing to lead Pentagon efforts to strengthen irregular warfare capabilities for conventional forces in Afghanistan, the JIEDDO Joint Center of Excellence (JIEDDO JCOE) is spearheading this training effort, unveiled in late September.

As a part of JIEDDO JCOE’s lead role in training to attack insurgent networks, Tidal Sun trains select groups of warfighters in areas critical to improvised explosive device (IED) forensics and technical intelligence. The initial phase of Tidal Sun included approximately 40 soldiers and Marines, aiming to provide battalions with trained Counter-IED Teams consisting of five or six specialists.

“Tidal Sun is a focused and intense effort,” said Marine Corps Col. C.J. Mahoney, JIEDDO JCOE chief of staff. “Our goal is to create teams of counter-IED experts, where the IED is their dedicated focus and not a peripheral task. They won’t be pulling gate guard duty on the side.”

JIEDDO JCOE, located within the Army’s premier National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, Calif., hosted explosive investigation experts from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) to train counter-IED on techniques such as tactical site exploitation, post-blast investigative techniques, weapons technical intelligence and more.

Military officers from the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia are also on hand to observe and train, as well as to provide a Coalition perspective and national-level expertise. “This high level of interagency and international collaboration is one of our keys to success. In order to get out in front of the insurgents, we need expertise that doesn’t necessarily reside in the Department of Defense,” Col Mahoney said.

“What is unique about Tidal Sun is that it’s a deliberate operation to bring together what we think are key analytical capabilities,” said Command Sergeant Major Todd M. Burnett, JIEDDO’s senior enlisted advisor. “These teams will be able to pick up the pieces, find traces of explosive elements, find fingerprints and put their findings in a detailed analytical document.”

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The Counter-IED Teams trained through Tidal Sun will examine explosive signatures, chemical traces and blast patterns to determine an overview of how an IED attack unfolded. This data will be analyzed at the team-level and sent to the relevant agencies and military components for external analysis.

“You might think of it like the technical investigation that goes on after a car accident,” Mahoney continued. “Our counter-IED teams will take the pieces and make something meaningful of it with the training and expertise Tidal Sun provides. It will save lives”

The Tidal Sun training program and the Counter-IED teams it continues to develop are built on the requirements of Afghanistan’s Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Paladin, said Burnett. Paladin was created by the Army in 2007 to stem the rise of IED attacks in the region.

“We don’t ever want the explosion to happen. We want to get as far left of the blast as possible,” said Burnett. “But, to do that, we need to exploit all the information we can from an IED attack. Tidal Sun and the Counter-IED teams enable us do that in a very robust, coherent and comprehensive way.”

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About JIEDDO

The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Organization (JIEDDO) is the Department of Defense's lead counter-IED organization, dedicated to winning the fight against IEDs using all available resources. Working hand-in-hand with military, government, academic, industry, and international partners, JIEDDO is rapidly finding, developing, and delivering emerging capabilities to counter the IED threat.

Information: <https://www.jieddo.dod.mil/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/JIEDDO>

About Training Support

JIEDDO institutes counter-IED training programs for all four service’s combat training centers, inserting tactical realism into pre-deployment training. The organization also funds training and facility upgrades for individual and unit training for 35 coalition nations. These programs include: electronic warfare training, pre-deployment conferences, a senior mentor program, training devices, home station training support and mission readiness exercises.

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