What Are Dismounted Operations in an IED Environment?

DISMOUNTED OPERATIONS ARE MILITARY operations conducted on foot. In an IED environment, the activities of a dismounted soldier would include route clearing, forward observing, stationary overwatch and intelligence gathering with local civilian residents.

Currently fielded IED-detecting equipment available for dismounted operations includes handheld and lightweight IED detectors, EOD robots, interrogation poles, tactical site exploration kits and enhanced optics for dismounts. Explosives-detecting dogs are often included in dismounted operations.

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Attack the Network • Defeat the Device • Train the Force

JIEDDO PROFILE:

Dismounted Operations

in an IED Environment

Why the Focus on Dismounted Operations?

THE COUNTER-INSURGENCY FIGHT IN Afghanistan has required an increase of dismounted operations to reach the population and press the fight in southern Afghanistan. These effective counter-insurgency operations have resulted in increased intelligence and tips from the local population, and in turn, dramatic increases in found-and-cleared IEDs and caches. However, such operations pose a new set of counter-IED challenges.

Because we are taking the fight into former safe havens, the number of IED incidents against dismounted troops has increased by more than 50 percent since last year. And although the number of effective attacks has remained constant, the severity of injuries from these effective attacks has increased. That is why pursuing capabilities to support dismounted operations is a top priority for JIEDDO.

"We are now on the front edge of successful efforts to counter IED attacks against dismounted troops, just as we were for mounted troops a year ago."

— Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, Director, JIEDDO

What Needs to Be Done to Support Dismounted Operations

To counter the threat our dismounted troops face, our latest counter-IED Defeat the Device efforts have IED-detection equipment and a variety of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. This support will improve the warfighter's ability to identify networks and find emplaced devices and processing locations.

Success requires:

- A well-trained force — pre-deployment training
- Availability of detection equipment — handheld IED detectors, EOD robots, bomb-detecting dogs
- Rapidly fielding the latest and best protection equipment — pelvic protection