

16. IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DISPOSAL (IEDD)

1. General

Clearance of booby traps/IEDs is probably the most dangerous of all clearance operations and therefore is only to be undertaken by those personnel, who are properly trained and certified. The drills described below are for non-demining operations only. Booby traps will be treated as UXOs.

Building/vehicle clearance operations and disposal of vehicle traps, letter bombs, culvert bombs are only to be handled by specialized EOD personnel with IEDD qualifications. Even though there is a variety of booby traps, to simplify their classification they are divided into two categories: explosive and non-explosive. The explosive booby traps are in turn sub-divided into two following categories:

- *Electric*: Booby traps that function based on the connection/disconnection of an electrical circuit to achieve detonation;
- *Non electric*: Booby traps that are mechanically operated (for example pull, tension release, pressure release, pressure, tilt, vibration or time), and have no electrical components.

2. Responsibility

The following personnel have certain responsibilities when dealing with Booby-trap:

- *Deminer*: Locating and marking suspected booby traps;
- *Section Leader*: Categorization of booby traps;
- *Team Leader*: Positive identification and final disposal technique.

3. Clearance drill and Site layout

The clearance drills and site layout for booby trap clearance are the same as for mine clearance.

4. Methods of clearance

The method of clearance during booby trap operations is chosen by the appropriate deployed Team Leader/ Site Supervisor. The following methods of clearance may be used:

- destruction in situ;
- pulling;
- neutralization and disarming (Render Safe Procedure only by EOD personnel);
- others such as; fire, water, armored vehicles and mechanical dispose devices (only by EOD personnel).

Before choosing a clearance method, careful consideration must be given to all aspects of the operational requirements and options for the safest method. Some of these considerations are:

- Why is the booby trap placed there?
- Is it a known type of booby trap?

- Who placed it (known methods)?
- Any secondary hazards?
- What is the amount of allowed acceptable damage?
- Method of disposal option?

5. Destruction in situ

Involves the initiating of an explosive charge as close as possible to the booby trap's main charge. If this is not possible, then a charge should be placed next to the mechanism. This method will disrupt the mechanism, blocking the main charge from means of ignition.

6. Pulling

This drill does not differ from normal pulling drill. This is the safest method of clearance. However, when placing the pulling tool, care must be taken not to disturb the trap. Care must be given to the selection of the pulling site, as it could also be mined or booby-trapped.

Note: Before approaching or pulling the item, always be aware of a time fuse that could be attached to it.

After explosives disruption, and/or the hook and line method has been utilized, a minimum soak-time of 2 minutes must be observed.

The method, described above, will be repeated, if needed.

7. Safety

The following safety precautions must be adhered to during booby trap clearance:

- Never move or touch the object;
- Always treat with suspicion any object that appears to be out of place or artificial in its surrounding;
- Before approaching suspicious objects, examine them from all angles and check for an alternative means of firing;
- Only one person must work with a booby trap;
- Never apply force. If application of the force is necessary, then stop;
- Do not touch tripwires until both ends have been checked and any devices have been located and identified. Taut tripwire can be pulled or tension released!
- When tracing a tripwire, check for further traps and tripwires located along or around the tripwire;
- Treat all parts of a trap with suspicion, as each part may be set to activate the trap;
- Mark all traps until they are cleared;
- Destroy all electrically activated traps in situ;
- After pulling a booby trap, wait for minimum 2 minutes before leaving the safe area.

8. Report

Record and report all IEDs with a new device report in accordance with the relevant SOP.