Understanding IEDs
UNMAS Efforts in Somalia to prevent and counter the use of IEDs

Justin Smith
UNMAS Somalia Explosive Hazard Management

IED threat mitigation challenges
Somalia

IED Threat Analysis

- IED Threat Evolution – 5 years
- Current IED Threat
Possible Blast Damage - VBIED 1100kg TNT Times Square NYC

Based on the UN Saferguard Explosion Consequence Analysis (ECA)
1100kg TNT equivalence – hemispherical blast effects
IED THREAT OVERVIEW: 2013 – 2018

Fast Facts

- Al Shabaab primary aggressor. Focus on IED attacks since 2013.
- At least 1,757 IED Incidents
- 419 IED dismantled/discovered
- Supply Routes & Mogadishu primarily targeted
- Increase IEDs near urban areas
- At least 1,473 roadside IEDs
- 157 vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIED)
- 128 under-vehicle IEDs (UVIED)
- 26 suicide bomber attacks (PBIED)
- IED numbers have consistently increased since 2013, with a notable spike since the third quarter of 2015.
Main supply routes (MSRs) and key MSR segments in the outskirts of strategic crossroads – Afgooye, Marka, Kismayo, Baidoa, Mogadishu are the primary target areas.

Mogadishu concentrates most of the UV/VBIED detonations due to the status of the city as centre of the government.

Al Shabaab retain considerable freedoms of action and movement across the AOR, enabling the relatively rapid deployment of IEDs to counter security offensives.

This was most recently highlighted by the route clearance operation launched in Sector 4.
UNMAS Support to AMISOM

- Training and Mentorship
- Equipment Support
Training & Mentorship Activities
Equipment Support
Trendline IED Incidents v’s AMISOM Casualty Rate 2015-2018

Complex Attack, Sector 3, FOB
Complex Attack, Sector 1, FOB
Complex Attack, Sector 2, FOB

AMISOM Trained
AMISOM CASUALTIES
Linear (AMISOM CASUALTIES)
Linear (IED INCIDENTS)
Lessons: Need for a Broader Approach

- Increase in IEDs and Civilian Casualties
- Active Conflict Environment – Why is DtN important?
- What Does Degradating the Network (DtN) Look Like within UNMAS?
Civilian Casualties by IEDs: 2013 - 2018

Zobe Junction: 655 killed.
Defeat the Device
- Detect
- Neutralize
- Mitigate
- Exploit

Prepare the Force
- IEDD TTPs
- Training
- Equipment

Degrade the Network
- Predict
- Prevent

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Office on Drugs and Crime

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IED Threat Analysis & Collaboration

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United Nations 
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Member 2018

Active Conflict – Why is DtN Important?
• IED network is largely Somalia-based.

• Long-term smuggling networks with Yemen provide sustainable illegal supply routes for components not available in Somalia.

• Harvesting of ERW and captures of FGS/AMISOM FOBs has provided a robust source of explosives.

• Al Shabaab have access to significant financial flows
Degrading the Network: Reducing ERW
Degrading the Network – Supply Chain
Technical Exploitation in Somalia

Level 1
Field Exploitation

Level 2
National Laboratory Exploitation

Level 3
Detailed Scientific Exploitation