

STATEMENT BY

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Mr. Chairman, Congressman Young and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. On behalf of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, my testimony today as the Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) will focus on the threat we face, the steps we have taken to counter this threat and the challenges that remain, such as command wire detonation, deeply-buried IEDs and suicide bombers.

The various enemy networks that produce, emplace and strategically benefit from IEDs will continue to adapt in response to our actions. We must continue to seize the initiative through a focused and aggressive effort to place effective capabilities in the hands of our warfighters. Further, we are working hard to make tomorrow more risky than today for everyone in the enemy IED networks. We will make it more dangerous for all those in the IED chain from supplier to bomb emplacer to the cameraman who records attacks for the Jihadist websites.

I will talk first about current trends in Afghanistan and Iraq, followed by major accomplishments and the way ahead for JIEDDO.

Current Trends in Theater

To target our efforts to the situation on the ground and provide context for our ongoing mission, JIEDDO has developed and maintained a set of metrics to track trends in IED usage and effectiveness.

In Afghanistan, an emboldened and aggressive enemy has substantially increased his use of IEDs. The number of devices employed against U.S. forces in Afghanistan more than doubled over the last half of FY07. In general, the technology used in Afghanistan to initiate IEDs has been less advanced than Iraq. However, the cell phone

network architecture in Afghanistan is growing dramatically, so we expect the technological sophistication in the IED arena may increase in the coming year.

In contrast, FY07 brought a dramatic downward trend in IED incidents in Iraq. While the average monthly number of IED incidents remained steady in the first half of 2007, the second half of the year saw a significant decline in incidents. Notably, the number of IED incidents during the month of December was the lowest in over two years.

We cannot attribute this downward trend to any one reason, but we can point to five major contributing factors that have had a positive impact. These are not provided in priority order because it is difficult to determine whether one factor may have had more impact than another.

First, the decision of many local factions to end support of insurgents and terrorists and shift their support to coalition forces had a substantial effect on regional security as it relates to IED activity. Nowhere has this been more dramatic than in Ramadi where local tribal leaders of the recently-created Al Anbar Salvation Council aligned themselves with, and offered support for, coalition efforts. As a result, the use of IEDs in the Ramadi region has dropped significantly.

Second, the sustained security presence of coalition forces throughout Baghdad has resulted in growing local support. The number of tips submitted by the populace in Baghdad reached an all-time high during FY07, indicating a growing confidence in coalition and Iraqi forces to provide security and remove IED-related threats from the city.

Third is the success of brigade- and regimental-level operations against IED networks in capturing or killing network members before they can attack.

Fourth, attacks on IED networks have proven effective in removing the enemy's tools from the battlespace. Using fused intelligence, top-tier training and data models provided by JIEDDO funding, warfighters found more than twice as many weapons caches in FY07 than FY06.

Last, improved tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP); troop proficiency; and the continued employment of protective technologies have led to a reduction of the enemy's effectiveness as evidenced by a very high return-to-duty rate.

The combined effect of these five factors is that the enemy must work harder to achieve his desired results, and coalition forces regain the offensive while the enemy is forced on the defensive.

Initiatives

Our current and future initiatives are organized along three Lines of Operation: Attack the Network, Defeat the Device and Train the Force.

Attack the Network

Attack the Network efforts include actions and activities against IED networks designed to reduce their operational effectiveness and to disrupt the enemy's chain of IED activities. These efforts are accomplished through intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, information operations, counter-bomber targeting, technical and forensic exploitation of devices, disposal of unexploded and captured ordnance and persistent surveillance.

A major component of our Attack the Network activities is the Counter-IED Operations Integration Center (COIC), which became fully operational this year. The COIC's unique ability to fuse multi-source intelligence in support of tactical unit targeting, especially for conventional forces at the battalion and brigade level, provides an unprecedented real-time network attack capability for our warfighters. Part of this capability is reach-back training, which teaches units the COIC's analytical methodology, data sharing strategy, exploitation tools integration and architecture support, and means to access COIC support in both training and operational environments. Training is conducted at the COIC, at the unit's home station and during Combat Training Center (CTC) rotations. Once deployed to theater, Division Support Teams work with units in their respective area of operations to facilitate the COIC reach-back process.

The Human Terrain System, a comprehensive civil affairs initiative sponsored by JIEDDO and operated by the Army, addresses cultural awareness at operational and tactical levels by providing knowledge to understand and influence the social, ethnographic, cultural, economic, and political elements of the indigenous populations among whom our forces operate. The core component of this system, used largely at the brigade or regiment level, is the Human Terrain Team. These teams, comprised of social scientists, military personnel and cultural experts, are focused on broad-scope, long-term operational goals. They give commanders additional non-lethal options to achieve their operational objectives.

Supporting counter insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan by fusing TECHINT, HUMINT, SIGINT, IMINT and MASINT intelligence, JIEDDO's C-IED Targeting Program (CITP) is a key FY08 initiative that creates a dedicated fusion system

that helps us understand IED networks. The program has been particularly effective in identifying and measuring identifiers of homemade explosives and precursors utilized in-theater. Today, CITP identifies indirect observables of the home-made explosive manufacturing process and provides this information to forward deployed forces. These observables can be used by soldiers in the field for operational detection and are being integrated into training for deployed units.

Defeat the Device

Defeat the Device efforts work to enhance commanders' freedom of action for safe operations and to reduce the effects of IED detonation at the point of attack. These include route clearance, device neutralization, explosive detection, military explosive ordnance disposal, and vehicle and personnel protection.

In FY07, JIEDDO funded over 14,000 radio jammers for Army and Marine Corps units, bringing the total number of IED jammers purchased to over 37,000. Known collectively as the Counter Radio-Controlled Electronic Warfare (CREW) system, these vehicle-mounted, man-portable or fixed-site devices prevent radio-controlled IEDs from detonating. Continued fielding and enhancements of CREW systems during FY07 influenced the enemy to employ other initiation methods, resulting in a 60% drop in radio initiator use in theater.

Looking ahead through FY08, JIEDDO is funding and developing the Desert Owl and Copperhead initiatives to combat the growing use of command wire IEDs by terrorists and insurgents. Both systems use unique radar for command wire detection, complemented by advanced image-processing algorithms.

Also set to be fielded in FY08 is the Xbot, a small man-portable, remote-controlled robotic platform that allows ground forces to investigate suspected IEDs from a stand-off position. This decreases the chance of IED-related casualties and opens the possibility for exploiting the device for biometric or forensic data.

Train the Force

Train the Force initiatives are developed to increase the situational awareness of our forces and to instruct our warfighters on the proper use of emerging C-IED techniques and technologies. This includes, but is not limited to, multi-echelon and multi-component training, training on new equipment, information management and dissemination, strategic communications, doctrinal and institutional training changes and unit mission rehearsals at Service combat training centers.

As the core training component of JIEDDO, the Joint IED Center of Excellence (JCOE) at Fort Irwin works to ensure that deploying warfighters have the opportunity to train with C-IED tactics and equipment currently found in-theater and in conditions that mirror those found in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In concert with its Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps IED Centers of Excellence, the JCOE responded to FY07 theater requirements to formally train deploying units on search techniques, provide Army and Marine Corps units with CREW training surrogates, tailor Train-the-Trainer courses to deploying explosive ordnance disposal units and provide substantial improvements to home station C-IED training.

The JCOE's forward-looking focus for 2008 emphasizes network attack in conjunction with the COIC. The strategy expands training and integration of biometrics,

search techniques, weapons intelligence, explosive ordnance disposal and the use of military working dogs at the tactical level.

Training continues in the field with initiatives like the Marine Training and Advisory Team (MTAT). The MTAT is a team of former special operators provided by JIEDDO to embed with units during combat operations in order to observe and collect best practices and TTPs. This information is then used by MTAT members at home to advise Marines undergoing pre-deployment training at the regimental and battalion level. Individuals on the MTAT are on a constant, staggered rotation to theater. The team provides real-time feedback and mentoring through to the battalion commander.

The Joint Expeditionary Team (JET) provides a pool of deployable, broadly-based C-IED experts capable of engaging wide-ranging problem sets. Currently, the primary focus of JET is to work on closing the training gap between theater best practices and pre-deployment preparation. They accomplish this through a robust deployment rotation combined with enduring training institution relationships.

Interagency Coordination and Industry Outreach

The past year saw a great deal of outreach and collaborative efforts by JIEDDO with our government, military and industry partners.

We conducted two Technology Outreach Conferences with over 600 industry, military and government participants. The purpose of the conferences was to bring all interested parties up-to-speed on current and planned initiatives, as well as to solicit input and solutions.

Along with twelve interagency partners, JIEDDO planned and executed the largest scale homemade-explosive (HME) manufacturing test in the history of the United

States in FY07. The resulting intelligence and sensor data was disseminated to our partners in the IED fight.

JIEDDO worked closely with the military Services to determine the final disposition of several C-IED initiatives following their successful operational assessment. JIEDDO is transitioning eight C-IED initiatives to the Services; finalization is anticipated in 2008. These initiatives, begun at JIEDDO, will become long-term programs of record to provide an enduring C-IED capability for the warfighter.

We have also worked closely with Service laboratories and research and development centers to explore technologies to defeat EFPs and large underbelly IEDs and recommend armoring solutions for the MRAP program. As IEDs continue to evolve, so will the configurations and capabilities of these vehicles.

JIEDDO is currently working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to carry out the President's Transition Objectives, including the future institutionalization of JIEDDO functions. We have identified our core and enduring IED defeat capabilities developed in the current conflicts. These Attack the Network capabilities – and concurrently developed and implemented training capabilities – provide the proactive means to win the Global War on Terror, defend the homeland, and assist other nations facing the perils of IED attacks. Institutionalizing JIEDDO will expand the synergies that exist today within the organization to the greater DoD community.

FY09 Budget

The long-term threat posed by IEDs requires an unrelenting effort by our government to enable our warfighters to maximize their offensive and defensive capabilities for the Long War. Defeating the strategic influence of IEDs requires a

comprehensive approach to find and develop capabilities to defeat the device, attacks the networks, and to train our forces prior to and while deployed.

To achieve this goal, the Joint IED Defeat Fund seeks \$496.3 million in FY09 base funding. The funding requested in the President's Budget is for those personnel and operating expenses that are recognized as enduring capabilities of JIEDDO. This includes the staff and infrastructure costs of the headquarters as well as the personnel and facility costs of the COIC and the Joint Center of Excellence. Funding for emerging requirements from theater will be requested in the 09 supplemental request.

Conclusion

Looking forward, we will aggressively continue to develop new, innovative ways to rapidly find, develop and deliver emerging capabilities to counter IEDs for the Long War – that is, for the long-term fight we face against any and all enemies of our nation willing to use IEDs to further their strategic goals. We will remain focused on the warfighter by providing the tools that enable the Services to deploy forces that are highly trained and superbly equipped for the C-IED fight.