



# Homeland Security

## VBIED Search Procedures

### STUDENT GUIDE

#### Contents:

- Definitions
- VBIED Tactics
- IED Components
- Explosive Effects
- Vehicle Inspections
  - Do's and Don'ts
  - Potential Threat
  - Driver Interview
  - Search Procedures
  - References



BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CARD					
Threat Description	Explosives Capacity	Mandatory Evacuation Distance	Shelter-in-Place Zone	Preferred Evacuation Distance	
Pipe Bomb	5 lbs	70 ft	71-1199 ft	+1200 ft	
Suicide Bomber	20 lbs	110 ft	111-1699 ft	+1700 ft	
Briefcase/Suitcase	50 lbs	150 ft	151-1849 ft	+1850 ft	
Car	500 lbs	320 ft	321-1899 ft	+1900 ft	
SUV/Minivan	1,000 lbs	400 ft	401-2399 ft	+2400 ft	
Small Delivery Truck	4,000 lbs	640 ft	641-3799 ft	+3800 ft	
Container/Water Truck	10,000 lbs	880 ft	881-5099 ft	+5100 ft	
Semi-Trailer	60,000 lbs	1570 ft	1571-9299 ft	+9300 ft	

Office for Bombing Prevention



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## **Terrorism:**

The use of violence or threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.

-Webster's New International Dictionary

(Numerous other definitions that include intimidation of a government or society or populations.)



**Improvised Explosive Device (IED):** A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract. It may incorporate military stores, but is normally devised from nonmilitary components.

-Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI) Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Lexicon 4<sup>th</sup> Edition October 2012  
(Unclassified//For Official Use Only)

## **Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED):**

An IED delivered by or concealed in a ground-based vehicle.





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## VBIED Tactics Methods of Initiation

### COMMAND

Someone is initiating the device at his/her chosen time.

### TIMER

VBIED is preset to detonate at a certain time. Driver may or may not be aware of this.

### VICTIM OPERATED

Booby trap designed to explode when the target is at the vehicle. Could be rigged to ignition, transmission, door light or any switch in the vehicle.

### Combination

Most common is suicide with a remote as back-up. Could also be command with a timer; in case vehicle gets out of range.

Historically VBIED's span many decades in the United States





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A power source is a device that either stores or releases electrical, mechanical or chemical energy to initiate an IED.

An initiator is the first explosive in the explosive train of an IED. Once energy is put into the system, an initiator is required to start the actual explosive event. An initiator is usually made out of a small quantity of sensitive explosives. This provides a strong, but small explosion that in turn causes a larger quantity of explosives, the main charge, to react and explode.

The explosive or the main charge consists of either explosive or combustible material.

Switches are used for the arming and firing sequences of the IED. There can be multiple switches that act as either the arming or firing circuit in the IED. This is done to create safeguards for the bomber.

## IED Containers.

In an IED, the container or containers may be used to:

- Camouflage the IED,
- Provide a method of transport or placement,
- Increase the damage caused by the device (for example, through fragmentation),
- or
- Any combination thereof.





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## EXPLOSIVE EFFECTS

*An explosion of an IED results in the release of tremendous energy in a short space of time. Three effects are created:*

**Blast:** Broken, crushed, or deformed items

**Thermal:** Burned, charred, or deformed items

**Fragmentation:** Shrapnel from bomb parts or debris

### Response Considerations

Response Teams and personnel should be aware of the additional threats posed by secondary devices and multiple simultaneous devices.










### Evacuation Considerations

Communicate the need for evacuation to those in the immediate area of the suspected IED

Determine the approximate “evacuation distance.” Refer to the **Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card**

Conduct evacuation away from the threat. Evacuation should always take place in a direction consistently away from the threat

Prevent others from approaching

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## VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

### *Safety First*

**Turn engine off**

**Do not wear loose or dangling jewelry**

**Wear brightly colored vests to be seen easily**

**Position yourself so that you are visible to traffic**

**Always establish eye contact with driver before approaching the vehicle**

**Ensure the engine is off and the brake is set prior to inspecting a vehicle**

**Use caution when inspecting engines, exhausts, radiators, and other components. They may be hot.  
Wear gloves for extra protection**

**Do not reach through fan blades. Fans may turn on even though the engine is not running**

**Do not smoke while inspecting**



**Be Professional**

**Be assertive while questioning an individual and inspecting vehicles**

**Be aware of all current situations:**

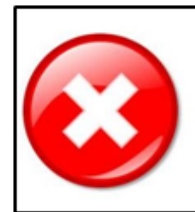
Threats to your company

National Terror Advisories

Available local support

**Maintain cultural awareness**

**Establish a thorough inspection technique to ensure no areas are missed or duplicated**



**Do Not let your guard down**

**Do Not allow yourself to become vulnerable with respect to other vehicle occupants.**

**Do Not inspect a vehicle with the engine running**

**Do Not perform a search that exceeds the scope of your authority.**

**Do Not touch or move objects of concern**



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## S. I. N.

*SIN is an acronym to help you remember what to do in the event a potential threat is discovered*

**S**ecure the vehicle with appropriate perimeter. Using the stand-off card as a guide.

**I**solate the vehicle and deny entry.

**N**otify chain of command and response team.

**The vehicle inspection has two critical elements:  
the interview of the driver and the inspection of the vehicle.**

### Typical Q & A

There are four types of questions

Relaxant - Relate to direct involvement from the subject and designed to elicit a psychological reaction from the guilty: What's the purpose of your visit? What are you carrying?

Control - Designed to evoke a known lie, a probable lie, or an emotional response and used as a gauge to determine truth or deception: Have you ever smuggled anything? Have you ever had explosive or any other illegal devices in your possession?

Symptomatic - Used to determine whether an outside influence is bothering the subject: Is something wrong? Are you worried that your vehicle will be inspected?

Neutral - Should not cause the subject any concern and are designed to give some indication of the individual's physiological norm: What is your name? Where do you live? How long has your trip been?

### Look for obvious signs of stress:

Shaking

Nervousness

Sweating

Goose bumps

Overly Tense

Shift in attitude



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## VEHICLE INSPECTION

### Vehicle Approach

- ☐ Look for unusual items hanging from:
  - Undercarriage
  - Bumper
  - Grill
- ☐ Vehicle is low to ground or sags in trunk area.
  - Could be indication that it is loaded with explosives
- ☐ Observe overall shape of vehicle to ensure no irregularities

### Interview

- ☐ Car off, keys on dash
- ☐ Ask for pertinent paperwork (license, bill of lading)
  - Always look for behavioral cues
- ☐ Open all interior compartments. Including center console and glove compartment.
- ☐ Open all doors, trunk, hood and gas cap.
- ☐ Guide driver to safe area to stand.
  - Safe for you and for them
- ☐ While all of these are occurring, a second security professional can be sweeping the undercarriage.

### Undercarriage

- ☐ Tool marks
- ☐ Misaligned straps
- ☐ Unusual wiring
- ☐ Fresh paint
- ☐ Unusually clean area
- ☐ Anything taped/attached to vehicle frame
- ☐ New welds
- ☐ Gas tank filler tube is connected properly
- ☐ Exhaust pipes connected to muffler





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## VEHICLE INSPECTION

### Front of Vehicle

- ☐ Check windshield
- ☐ Check the headlight wiring
- ☐ Look for fresh bodywork
- ☐ Inspect the bumper
- ☐ Inspect area between front grill and radiator
- ☐ Ensure hood fits flush with front quarter panels
- ☐ Check weight and operation of hood
  - Search for scuff marks
  - Search for missing paint or hand prints on the hood
  - The driver should know about any repairs made to vehicle



If  
Suspicious  
Item is  
found :

S.  
I.  
N.

### Engine Compartment

- ☐ Check battery box for anything unusual
- ☐ Look for odd or additional wires from battery
- ☐ Feel radiator for cold spots
- ☐ Check windshield washer container for false compartment
- ☐ Inspect the air cleaner
- ☐ Inspect firewall for modifications
  - Look for new welds, shiny bolts
  - Observe a clean engine in dirty car



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## VEHICLE INSPECTION

### Drivers Front Side

- ☐ Driver's side quarter panel / fenders
- ☐ Look inside wheel well
- ☐ Search Driver's Side Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps

### Drivers Side

- ☐ Swing door to test weight
- ☐ Check rocker panel
- ☐ Check interior in a quartered/halved fashion
  - This depends on if the vehicle is a 2 or 4 door
- ☐ Check compartments
- ☐ Inspect for new welds
- ☐ Check ceiling depth
  - Check for taped items
  - Look for anything out of the ordinary

If  
Suspicious  
Item is  
found :

S.  
I.  
N.

### Driver's Side Interior

- ☐ Observe everything within view (packages/devices)
- ☐ Smell for strange odors
- ☐ Feel for unusual lumps or bulges in front and/or rear seat
- ☐ Check center console for false compartments
- ☐ Check roof lining for bulges, rips or repairs
- ☐ Stress cracks in windshield (no stone impact mark)
- ☐ Inspect dash for new, damaged or scratched screws
- ☐ Look for plugged vents in the dash
- ☐ Check for a thick floor
- ☐ Ensure no lights are on when vehicle is off
- ☐ Check under floor mats for wires and switches
- ☐ Check under seat
- ☐ REPEAT this for each area that has a door.



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## VEHICLE INSPECTION

### Drivers Back Side

- ☐ Driver's side quarter panel / fenders
- ☐ Look inside wheel well
- ☐ Search Driver's Side Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps
- ☐ As you move to the car rear check the gas cap area

### Car Rear Area

- ☐ Look for new bodywork
- ☐ Look at the back of the bumper
- ☐ Check the license plate (hidden comp./registration current)
- ☐ Move trunk lid to test weight
- ☐ Check the taillight wires
- ☐ Observe everything within view (packages/devices)
- ☐ Smell for strange odors
- ☐ Check for an unusually thick floor
- ☐ Inspect spare tire compartment

If  
Suspicious  
Item is  
found :

S.  
I.  
N.

### Passenger's Rear Side

- ☐ Check side quarter panel / fenders
- ☐ Look inside wheel well
- ☐ Search Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps
- ☐ As you move up the car check the gas cap area



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## VEHICLE INSPECTION

### Passenger's Side

- ☐ Swing door to test weight
- ☐ Check rocker panel
- ☐ Check interior in a quartered/halved fashion
  - This depends on if the vehicle is a 2 or 4 door
- ☐ Check compartments
- ☐ Check ceiling depth
  - Inspect for new welds
  - Check for taped items

### Passenger Side Interior

- ☐ Observe everything within view (packages/devices)
- ☐ Smell for strange odors
- ☐ Feel for unusual lumps or bulges in front and/or rear seat
- ☐ Check glove box for false compartments
- ☐ Check roof lining for bulges, rips or repairs
- ☐ Stress cracks in windshield (no stone impact mark)
- ☐ Inspect dash for new, damaged or scratched screws
- ☐ Look for plugged vents in the dash
  
- ☐ Check for a thick floor
- ☐ Check under floor mats for wires and switches
- ☐ Check under seat
  
- ☐ **REPEAT this for each area that has a door.**

### Passenger's Front Side

- ☐ Passenger's side quarter panel / fenders
- ☐ Look inside wheel well
- ☐ Search Passenger's Side Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps

If  
Suspicious  
Item is  
found :

S.

I.

N.





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## Vehicle Inspection Guide

September 2012



Homeland  
Security





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TC 3-90.119 U.S. Army IED Defeat Training; U.S. Army (2009)

Transportation HAZMAT Placards; US Department of Transportation (DOT)

Vehicle Inspection Guide (VIG), TSWG (2013)

### More Info

TRIPwire

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc\\_1184339971040.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1184339971040.shtm)

National Terrorism Advisory System

<http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/ntas.shtm>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Update via e-mail

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/subscriber/new>

The Homeland Security Digital Library

<https://www.hsdl.org/>

Red Cross - Preparing for the Unexpected- Terrorism (To share with concerned citizens)

<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/AreYouReady/Terrorism.pdf>



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