



### **D35 Front Line Forensics: Expeditionary Forensic Facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan**

*Edmund D. Tamburini, MFS\*, United States Army Central Identification Lab, 4930 North 31st Street, Building 925, Forest Park, GA 30297; and Robert C. Gaffney, MFS, MBA\*, United States Army Central Identification Lab, Investigative Support, 4930 North 31st Street, Forest Park, GA 30297-5205*

After attending this presentation, attendees will gain knowledge about the use of forensics and biometrics to identify, arrest, and bring to justice terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing information and knowledge on the impact of forensics in the global war on terrorism. Forensics is used on a daily basis to identify terrorists, develop methods to protect individuals, and deter terrorists.

The concept of battlefield forensics is not new to the Global War on Terror or the military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. This concept dates back to WWII when a mobile lab was used throughout North Africa, Italy and France to investigate fraud, homicides, and war crimes. Since World War II, the U.S. Army developed several "stationary" criminal laboratories in Japan, Germany, and the United States. These stationary labs were consolidated into one crime laboratory for all military services at USACIL, Forest Park, GA in 1996.

The U.S. Marines recognized the value of forensics in identifying snipers and bomb makers during the insurgent phase of the War in Iraq. This led to the development by the U.S. Army and Navy of the Joint Expeditionary Forensic Facilities (JEFF) with the mission to use ballistics, latent print, and DNA analysis to identify sniper and IED threats.

The JEFF labs returned to the World War II concept of mobility. To remain effective, the labs had to be near the conflict and move as the insurgency moved to other areas of the country. The labs also serve to assist Iraq into returning to a "Rule of Law."

There are presently six JEFF labs operating or under construction in Iraq and Afghanistan. They provide a scientific and methodical approach for evidence exploitation while providing general support to theater by providing customers with specific forensic applications or full spectrum forensics analysis.

This presentation will provide the audience an overview of battlefield forensics and how forensics has become an integral part of the military mission. The labs have provided a comprehensive program for oversight of forensics collection, handling, analysis, intelligence reporting, case development, storing, and disposition. They also provide standards for supporting Iraqi and Coalition Forces for intelligence, investigative, and judicial processes. The presentation will also provide information on situations that are unique to the battlefield forensic lab.

A case study of the use of forensics in a battlefield environment will also be presented.

**Battlefield Forensics, Terrorism, Criminal Investigation**