



Eastern National Robot Rodeo (ENRR)

September 14-18, 2020; Indian Head, Maryland



Description

The use of advanced robotics in public safety and military bomb squad communities has grown significantly over the past few decades. As technology increases, bomb technicians need to better understand capabilities and limitations of these systems in order to align industry research and development (R&D) with needs of responders based on real world applications. The ENRR brings together experienced operators from military and public safety bomb squads to evaluate new and emerging robotic capabilities in real world operating environments. In partnership, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC); the Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Office for Bombing Prevention (DHS CISA OBP); the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head EOD Technology Division (NSWC IHEODTD), and the United Kingdom Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (UK-Dstl) is sponsoring the 5th annual ENRR. The event is hosted at the NSWC IHEODTD, the city of Indian Head and Charles County, Maryland with support of the United States Bomb Technicians Association (USBTA).

The ENRR exposes active members of military and public safety bomb squads to new products and technology, while providing real-time feedback (i.e., as part of an Operational Evaluation) to event facilitators sponsors and supporting vendors. Dr. John Olive, Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Subject Matter Expert said *“The ENRR allows us to identify potential operational requirement gaps through challenging, real world scenarios, and provides exposure to available robotic technologies.”* This multi-agency event provides an

opportunity for participants to network with other bomb technicians and exchange information on tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Scenarios

Participants will have an opportunity to utilize various robotics technology in a myriad of complex urban scenarios designed to replicate commonly encountered threats across the nation. This includes the following:

- *IED and VBIED Disablement*
- *CONOPS – Joint (DoD – Public Safety) Event*
- *TTPs – Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures*
- *Transportation – Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*

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Ian Summerhayes, Dstl, EOD Robotics & Autonomous Systems (RAS) Technical Lead, *“The ENRR and CAPEX event enables Dstl and UK MOD to observe, ‘test drive’ and understand the utility of the latest EOD robotic technologies in real world scenarios and challenging environments. In addition, user feedback helps identify technology shortfalls supports future requirements development & where to focus research effort to fast track capability to front line commands.”*

MSgt Justin Frewin, USAF EOD Equipment PM, *“The opportunity to bring military EOD and public safety bomb technicians into a combined training event is crucial to generating innovation and development of new technology within the robot manufacturing community.”*



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Events

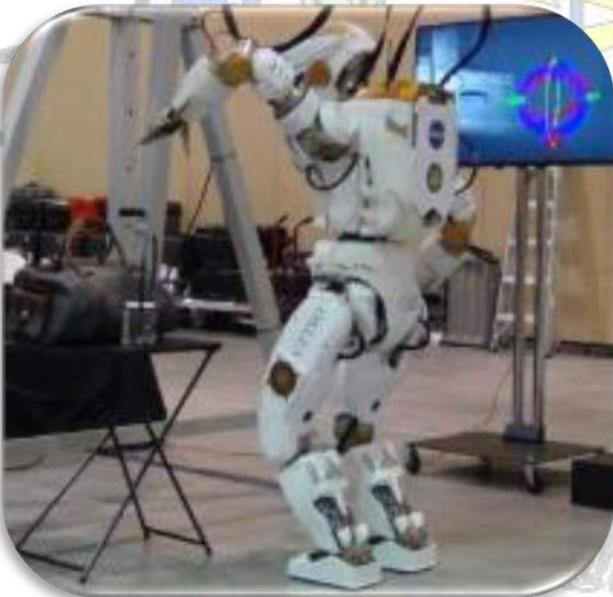
The Eastern National Robot Rodeo is a multi-day, multi-event technical competition. Potential scenarios and demonstrations:

- Vehicle-Borne IED
- Robot Mounted X-Ray Systems
- Multi-Robot Operations
- Clandestine Lab
- Zero Visibility Operations
- Disruptor Operations
- Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)
- Counter UAS
- CBRN Response
- Autonomous Navigation
- Subway/Tunnel Operations (Subterranean)

2019 Eastern National Robot Rodeo

Winning Teams

- First Place: Volusia County FL Sheriff's Office
- Second Place: US Army EOD Team
- Third Place: (Tie) UK EOD Team and 628 CES/CED Charleston AFB, SC (US Air Force)



Benefits

- Exposure to new and emerging robotics technologies
- Challenging operational environments
- Vendor engagement – direct feedback from teams and sponsors
- Identification of new technology requirements/needs
- Modeled after real-world events and scenarios
- Allows teams to push capability boundaries
- Provides networking opportunities
- Identification of robotic capability shortfalls
- Enables early development of training techniques when using new technologies

Additional Information

<https://www.usbta.us/events> or <https://www.usbta.co/events>