



USBTA
UNITED STATES BOMB TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



COMPANY OVERVIEW



VISION

Connect every bomb technician with tomorrow's capabilities.

MISSION

To strengthen the bonds of the bomb disposal community by establishing a network of trust, awareness, and collaboration.

The USBTA leverages the latest technologies to deliver advanced training programs for active bomb technicians. Through training and technology collaboration, we bring technicians together with industry leaders to gather direct end-user feedback, ensuring products are optimized for field performance. At USBTA's explosive laboratory, we conduct research on explosive characteristics and emerging threats to further enhance expertise, training, and operational support for bomb technicians. As a charitable organization, USBTA supports bomb technicians and their families through scholarships, wellness programs, and outreach efforts.

BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Knudsen
Sean Dennis
Jon Vaala
Chris Hall
Scott Weimer

ADVISORS

Eugene "Gene" Squires
Mr. Kevin Miles
Dr. John "JD" Olive
Thomas Vail
Eric C. Correll
Dave Grotkin
Eric Gahagan

STAFF MEMBERS

Sean Dennis
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Vandiver Hood
Jennifer Hutcherson
Nicole Motsek
Korrin Swinton
Dr. Joe Brady
Deletria Battle
Joe McClure
Alicia Colley
Shajahan Jagtiani
Paul Perricone
Amber Lowe
Carol Finkle
Col (Ret) Gerardo Meneses
Shirley Short
Scott Fulkerson
Peter Nagel, P.C.

MEMBERSHIP

The USBTA currently has 5,000+ members, with a target audience of approximately 8,000 current military and public safety bomb technicians. The three tiers of membership include: active and former military and public safety bomb technicians; subject matter experts in the field of rendering safe explosive devices; and academia (physicists, chemists, engineers, etc.).

SCAN HERE TO
BECOME A MEMBER



EDUCATE, TRAIN, NETWORK
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TO OUR EOD/BOMB TECHNICIAN COMMUNITY

After over eight years supporting this incredible community, the United States Bomb Technician Association (USBTA) continues to see tremendous growth and success. Thank you for your generosity and support in 2024. As we reflect on this year of training and service to this community, we celebrate many new milestones for the USBTA.

Our Bomb Disposal Technology and Training Center at the Maryland Technology Center, Indian Head, MD, opened Phase 2 and Phase 3, now providing 30,000 square feet of space to collaborate, train, research, and evaluate emerging technologies with additional office, conference, classroom, and warehouse space. The facility has been certified as a federal meetings facility with the ability to host meetings for all government agencies, with appropriate information and physical security protocols in place. Additionally, the USBTA was selected by the Maryland Department of Commerce as one of 16 MD Global Gateway Soft Landing partners. This program offers international companies a cost-effective opportunity to explore the U.S. market. Participating international companies gain access to vital resources, expert guidance, and state-of-the-art facilities to establish their presence and navigate market entry, fostering domestic and international collaboration in the areas of energetics, technology, safety, and innovation, and serve as a catalyst for technological innovation and global business partnerships.

The USBTA maintains close collaboration with local, state, and federal government leaders.

Our annual EOD Week on the Hill was three packed days with over 100 attending the USBTA State of the Association event and supporting the EOD Caucus' "EOD Day on the Hill," where over 150 people gathered to highlight the efforts of military and public safety bomb technicians. Winners of the USBTA Top Tech and annual EOD Team of the Year winners from each military branch were recognized, and the week ended with a technology expo at the Maryland Technology Center where over 20 industry partners showcased their newest tech to 160 attendees.

Some additional highlights in 2024 include:

- Hosting seven hands-on training exercises involving new and emerging technologies for more than 400 bomb technicians.
- Membership numbers surpassed 6,000
- Partnered with NAVEODTECHDIV to host the first-ever EOD Technology & Bombing Prevention Summit with over 600 attendees and 44 companies, held at National Harbor.
- Five scholarships were provided in partnership with the College of Southern Maryland to support students' tuition and support for the STEM program
- The USBTA signed an MOU with AUKUS Forum, the Australian organization spearheading economic and technological exchanges under the AUKUS Pact, a tri-lateral security partnership among the U.S., U.K. and Australia to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific that is secure and stable.

We are proud to support the military EOD and public safety bomb technician community. Our community is stronger, more informed, and better prepared due to supporters like you. No words can be used to adequately thank our industry partners, volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and countless others who have given their time and expertise and continue to breathe life into this organization to ensure continued growth.

Sincerely,



Sean Dennis, President, CEO, and Co-Founder
United States Bomb Technician Association



BOMB DISPOSAL TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING CENTER

Located in Indian Head, Maryland, the Maryland Technology Center (MTC) serves as a state-of-the-art hub for innovation, training, and collaboration.

Operated by the United States Bomb Technician Association (USBTA) and their partners, the facility supports mission-critical efforts across federal, state, local, and industry sectors.

The MTC features modern infrastructure, including 3 classrooms, 2 warehouses, 3 conference rooms, and specialized laboratories such as an energetics lab, inert materials lab, 3D printing lab, and a fabrication lab—providing the ideal environment for advanced training, research, and operational support.

2X

Growth in Facility Utilization from
2023-2024

20,984

Training Hours Delivered

2,623

Facility Users

15,000 SQ. FT.

Exterior Training Area

30,000 SQ. FT.

Total Interior Space



October 2021
12,600 sq. ft.



April 2024
12,600 sq. ft.



November 2024
9,800 sq. ft.

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3



EXTERNAL USERS OF USBTA FACILITIES

- ACMI Global
- ADS Inc
- Applied Research Associates
- AUKUS Forum
- Charles County Military Alliance Council
- CISA Office for Bombing Prevention
- Department of Homeland Security
- Detectachem
- Evans & Chambers LLC
- Global Military Products
- MedEng
- MithixPro
- Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head
- Pendar
- Supernova
- X-Bow Systems Inc

CONTINENTAL TRAINING



630

Participants

230

Agencies and Squads

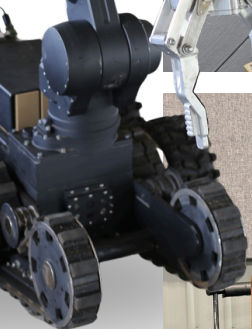
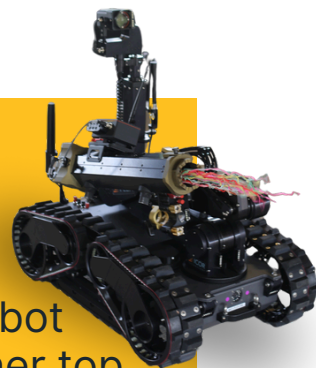
2,000

Training hours



NATIONAL ROBOT RODEO

The 2024 National Robot Rodeo brought together top EOD teams from across the country for a week of hands-on testing, training, and tactical competition. Hosted in Valparaiso, Indiana, this premier event provided participants with the opportunity to engage with 20 emerging technologies while showcasing their technical skill and problem-solving capabilities.



"We're looking for innovative solutions. The rodeo brings industry to the table to showcase how new and emerging technologies can meet their needs. It gets us close to the producers."

-Col. Kurt Muller
Director, Readiness
Directorate, Air Force
Civil Engineer Center
(AFCEC)

At the 2024 Robot Rodeo, First Place was awarded to the USMC 2D EOD Company from Camp Lejeune, NC, followed by the USAF 125th EOD in Second Place, and USMC securing Third Place.

The NRR is sponsored in partnership by, 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 EOD Technology Center at Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (EODTECHCEN / NSWC IHD), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and the United Kingdom Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (UK-Dstl)



CRITICAL SKILLS CHALLENGE

In 2024, USBTA hosted its 6th Annual Critical Skills Challenge in Orlando, Florida. Bomb technicians from military and public safety agencies competed in ten scenario-based events designed to simulate real-world threats. The competition tested technical skills, decision-making, and the use of advanced EOD technology. The top three performers will be recognized by Congress in May 2025.



EODC Connor MacGillivray (USN) earned first place, followed by EODC Luke Ostrowski (USN) in second, and Deputy Kevin Schroeder of the Riverside County Sheriff's Office in third.

Throughout the year, USBTA conducted a series of Technology Training Exercises (TTE) across the country, providing critical hands-on training for military and public safety bomb technicians. These exercises were developed in alignment with the National Guidelines for Bomb Squads to support ongoing proficiency and operational readiness. Training topics included homemade explosive identification, stand-off disruption techniques, advanced x-ray applications, UAV (drone) operations, and other mission-essential skills.

2024 USBTA EVENTS

Throughout 2024, USBTA supported and participated in the following major training events across the country:

USBTA EVENTS

Operation City of Palms

Ft Myers, FL | Jan 30 – Feb 1, 2024

Operation Big River Crossing

West Memphis, AR | Oct 8-9, 2024

Critical Skills Challenge USBTA Top Tech

Orlando, FL / November 18-22, 2024



TRAINING

OPERATION BIG RIVER CROSSING

OPERATION BIG RIVER CROSSING

OPERATION BIG RIVER CROSSING

Operation Big River Crossing was a 2-day emerging technology exercise that focused on advancements as they related to Counter-Improvised Explosive Device defeat. The event brought together 32 military EOD and public safety Bomb Technicians where they explored some of the newest technology to enhance their bomb disposal skills.

We were honored to be joined by EOD Caucus Co-Chair Representative Rick Crawford (AR-1) along with staff members from Senator John Boozman's (R-AR) and Senator Tom Cotton's (R-AR) offices. They had the chance to see firsthand the technology advancements in protective equipment, radiography, disruption techniques, robotics, and more.

Representative Crawford (AR-1) observing the first field demonstration of SmartRayVision 3D imaging real-time x-ray system



TECHNOLOGY TRAINING EVENTS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (TTE-CI)

In 2024, the USBTA was excited to work with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) with participation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Hazardous Device School (HDS) along with various bomb squads across the country to present Technology Training Events for Critical Infrastructure. OBP spearheaded these events involving members of the counter-improvised explosive device industry, military, and public safety bomb technicians to perform tasks in Critical Infrastructure environments.



These events met formal training requirements for Bomb Technician proficiency, as outlined in the National Guidelines for Bomb Technicians and provided the opportunity to use and evaluate energetic tools, x-ray equipment, robotic platforms, unmanned aerial systems and other technologies involved in bomb disposal and hazardous materials. These events utilized real-world venues, such as SATSOP Nuclear Plant to provide realistic technical evaluations and simulate site-specific challenges that mirror critical infrastructure locations around the United States.

OBP TECHNOLOGY TRAINING EVENTS

Operation Emerald Coast

Hurlburt Field, FL | April 30 – May 3, 2024

Operations Meltdown

SATSOP Richland, WA | August 13-15, 2024

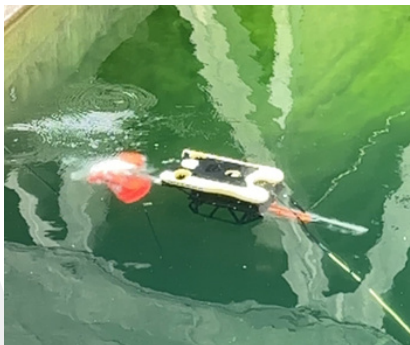
NSSE TTE-CI

USSS Academy, MD | October 22-24, 2024



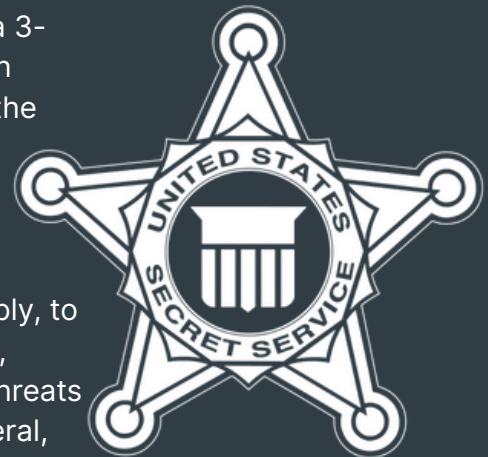
SATSOP NUCLEAR PLANT, WA

CISA OBP, FBI, USBTA, and Washington State Police conducted a 3-day TTE-CI at the retired nuclear plant SATSOP in Elma, WA in August 2024. This event showcased 31 different technologies to 63 participants stationed at 21 different units from across the country. Bomb technicians from both military and public safety were able to join together on teams to work on challenging tasks in a unique environment.



CISA OBP, FBI, US Secret Service, and USBTA conducted a 3-day TTE-CI at the James J. Rowley USSS Training Center in South Laurel, MD in October 2024. This event focused on the challenges bomb technicians face when assisting and responding during National Special Security Events.

These events include the 2025 Presidential Innauguration, political party conventions, United Nations General Assembly, to name a few. Every year the USSS, along with multiple local, state, and federal agencies, conduct these events where threats of IEDs are very real. At this event teams representing federal, state, local, and military focused on the emerging threats and challenges of response with large crowds in major public access areas.



NATIONAL SPECIAL SECURITY EVENT (NSSE) TTE-CI

EOD TECHNOLOGY AND BOMBING PREVENTION SUMMIT

"Thought the summit was phenomenal, was at the DSI one several weeks before and thought that in his year of going to these events, ours was by far the best. We had a little bit of everything – R&D, Technology, Various speakers...which attracted a diverse crowd and brought tremendous value to the event for that reason"

-John at Terrogeance Global

The USBTA in partnership with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center hosted the first annual EOD Technology & Bombing Prevention Summit at the Gaylord Convention Center in National Harbor, MD December 2-5, 2024. This landmark event united professionals and experts dedicated to enhancing security and resilience worldwide. The summit showcased 44 innovative vendors, hosted 600 plus attendees, and had over 100 distinguished speakers who covered a vast array of topics.



600+
Attendees



44
Industry Booths



103
Guest Speakers



COLLABORATION BREEDS INNOVATION



Day one focused on a general session with all attendees receiving expert updates on the Israeli Conflict, worldwide threat briefings, a panel on EOD Current and Future state and the technology gaps, Industry pathways to work with the government, and several others

Day two and three provided breakout sessions covering a vast array topics with the over 100 distinguished speakers spread out over the 8 breakout rooms.

TOPICS INCLUDED

- Emerging challenges to threat detection in multi-domain operations
- Artificial Intelligence for EOD
- Embodied systems for remote touch operations
- Counter-UAS
- USS Cole post blast forensics
- Utilizing additive manufacturing for energetic and non-energetic applications
- FBI tool characterization
- NATO EOD Update
- BMAP in Austin, TX: innovation and bombing mitigation
- Human behaviors during an explosive incident
- Bombing prevention training workshop – empowered trainer program
- Resource gaps in bombing prevention
- ATF – The Cartelization of Mexico
- Current trends in explosives research and development
- Humanitarian demining
- Diagnostic testing of X-Ray systems
- Machine learning for radiography applications
- Metro Nashville Police – Christmas Day Nashville bombing
- DHS Science & Technology briefings
- National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center
- Counter-IED systems panel and discussion

And MANY MORE...

EVENTS LIKE THIS DON'T HAPPEN WITHOUT GREAT SPONSORS

- ADS, Inc
- Charles County Economic Development
- Charles County Military Alliance Council
- Field Forensics
- G.S. Proctor and Associates
- Logos
- Med-Eng
- NP Aerospace
- Scanna
- SmartRayVision
- Van Scoyoc Associates
- WesBanco Bank, Inc

"I've never seen this level of collaboration and information sharing in one place. The 2024 EOD Technology and Bombing Prevention Summit brought together more than 600 —bomb technicians, public safety professionals, federal leaders, and global partners—for real conversations, real technology, and real progress. It was more than a summit—it was a moment of unity and engagement for our entire community."

-Eric Gahagan



EOD WEEK ON THE HILL

3 ACTION-PACKED DAYS

Over 100 attendees participated in the USBTA State of the Association event, engaging in discussions, demonstrations, and strategic planning for the future of the EOD community.

EOD DAY ON THE HILL

More than 150 attendees gathered in support of military and public safety bomb technicians, strengthening awareness and advocacy on Capitol Hill.

EOD CAUCUS RECOGNITION

Members of the EOD Caucus honored USBTA's Top Tech winners, each services EOD Team of the Year winners, and annual EOD award winners from across the Department of Defense, highlighting excellence and achievements across the field.

USBTA TECHNOLOGY EXPO

With over 20 industry exhibitors and 160 attendees, the Technology Expo showcased cutting-edge tools and innovations shaping the future of EOD operations.



The USBTA has been fortunate to have worked closely with many from our Federal, State and Local leaders in 2024. Their continued support has assisted the USBTA in moving forward in establishing many DOD, Federal and Industry partnerships which has created more jobs and business opportunities in Southern Maryland/Charles County/Town of Indian Head. The USBTA facilitated and sponsored meetings, collaboration events and discussions involving our local and state leaders.



GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL

\$1,250,000

**Maryland Economic Development Corporation
(Secure Meeting/Office Space)**

\$300,000

**Maryland Legislative Bond Initiative
(Phase 3 Construction)**

\$200,000

**Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
(Phase 3 Construction)**

\$33,750

Charles County Charitable Trust

\$963,000

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant

FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Congressional Caucus
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- CISA Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP)

STATE & LOCAL PARTNERS

- Charles County Board of County Commissioners
- Charles County Economic Development Department
- Charles County Military Alliance Council (MAC)
- Charles County State Legislative Delegation
- Energetics Technology Center (ETC)
- G.S. Proctor and Associates
- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Maryland Department of Commerce
- National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB)
- Rural Maryland Council (RMC)
- Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland (TCCSM)
- Van Scoyoc Associates
- College of Southern Maryland (CSM)
- WesBanco

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

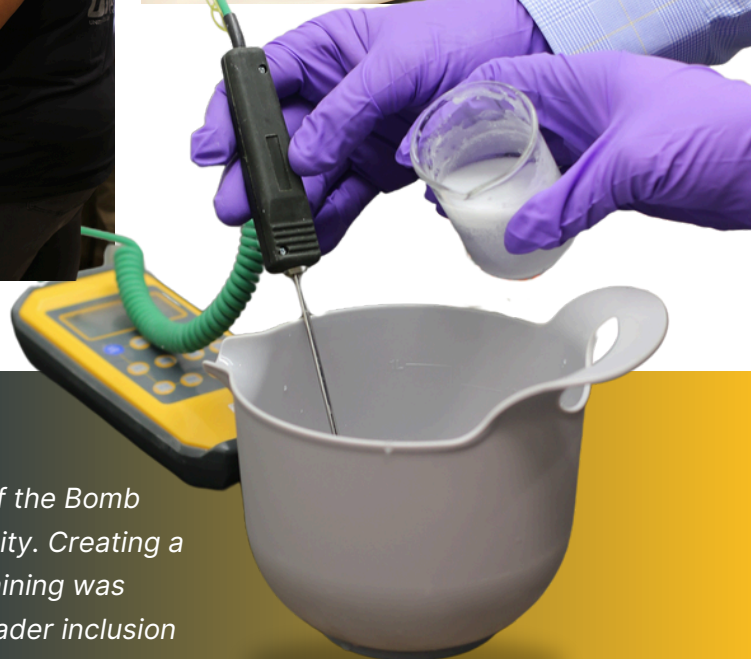
2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, USBTA's R&D department advanced explosive chemistry research through detailed testing of 2,4-Dinitrophenol, capturing blast pressure and detonation data using advanced lab tools.

The team also led homemade explosives (HME) training for D.C.-area bomb squads and supported instruction at multiple USBTA and OBP events, reinforcing technician readiness.

A major milestone was launching the first Bomb Threat Management Workshop at Bowie State University, expanding training access to HBCUs.

USBTA further strengthened industry partnerships to accelerate the development of technologies that enhance safety and performance for EOD professionals nationwide.



"The highlight of 2024 was spearheading the launch of the Bomb Threat Management Workshop at Bowie State University. Creating a space specifically for HBCUs to access this level of training was both meaningful and necessary. It's a step toward broader inclusion and stronger support for underrepresented communities."

— **Deletria Battle**, USBTA Research Chemist

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, USBTA was proud to collaborate with over 40 industry partners whose technologies and expertise played a vital role in advancing the capabilities of the EOD community. These partners, recognized across six levels contributed to training events, technology demonstrations, and operational support throughout the year. Their continued investment in innovation and public safety directly supports USBTA's mission and the broader bomb technician community. We are grateful for their commitment and partnership in driving progress across the EOD field.

PREMIER 1

Detectachem Pendar ADS MED-ENG MithixPro

PREMIER 2

Scanna MICRO-X Field Forensics NP Aerospace

PREMIER 3

ARA Logos Imaging Ideal Blasting Inert Products LLC
Vidisco USA Zero Point Carbon Fire Dynasafe Rothenbuhler

PLATINUM

NOVO ICOR Technology Inc. SLB AeroVironment QinetiQ CAT-A
ACMI Boston Dynamics SmartRayVision 908 Devices Red Wire Apparel

GOLD

Peraton/ Remotec Power Hawk Technologies

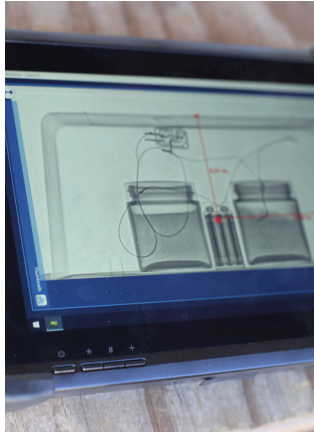
BRONZE

Jeral Innovations LLC Chemring Alakai Defense Fenix Insight
Ideal Products VideoRay Terrogence Paratore Enterprises

Interested in partnering with USBTA?

Join a network of industry leaders supporting innovation, training, and advancement in the EOD community.

Contact us at info@usbta.us to learn more about partnership opportunities.



THANK YOU

On behalf of the United States Bomb Technician Association, thank you for being a part of this mission.

This report showcases the innovation, collaboration, and dedication that drive the mission of the United States Bomb Technician Association. From scenario-based training to cutting-edge technology integration, each page highlights the work being done to strengthen and advance the EOD community. Together, we train. Together, we grow. Together, we protect.



Contact Us



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