

	Document title:	Humanitarian IEDD Spot Tasks			Document number:	TN003
	Prepared by:	EL	Reviewed by:	AJ/NT	Version and date:	v.01 Sep 19



Humanitarian IEDD Spot Tasks

Technical Note

Contents

	1
SECTION ONE - Introduction	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Scope	3
SECTION TWO – Spot Tasks	3
2.1 Definition	3
2.2 Conditions	3
2.3 Considerations	4
2.4 Reporting	4
SECTION THREE – Case Studies	5
3.1 Case Study 1: Fallujah, March 2019	5
3.2 Case Study 2: Fallujah, July 2019	6
SECTION FOUR – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES	7
4.1 HALO	7
4.2 IMAS	7

SECTION ONE - Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Conflict actors emplace improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in a variety of environments with varying tactical goals. For example, IEDs may be emplaced in rural, semi-rural, or urban environments as part of patterned defensive belts, as components of an ambush or assault. In addition, Humanitarian IED Disposal (HIEDD) operators may encounter components of IEDs which have not been assembled such as may be found in a cache or factory or even deal with components or complete devices which have been moved from their original emplacement location.

As such, an HIEDD operator may be confronted with a task where they may wish to conduct a render safe procedure (RSP) on an IED or IED component which has been discovered outside of a surveyed suspect hazardous area (SHA) or confirmed hazardous area (CHA) otherwise known as a “spot task”. Undertaking such a task should only be done after very careful consideration and programmes should use the following technical note to guide their decision on whether a particular spot task is appropriate to undertake.

1.2 Scope

The purpose of this technical note is to provide guidance to HALO programmes on which circumstances are appropriate for HIEDD Operators to undertake IED spot tasks and what considerations an operator may want to take into account when conducting these tasks.

SECTION TWO – Spot Tasks

2.1 Definition

A spot task in the context of HIEDD is the conduct of an RSP of an IED or IED component which has been located outside of a previously recorded SHA or CHA.

2.2 Conditions

As noted in HALO Global IEDD SOP Part 1 “Task Management,” HALO operates in permissive environments (both in terms of being free from active belligerents and having consent of the relevant local authorities). Specific conditions for a spot task are:

- The devices must fall within the technical capacity of HALO personnel.
- There must be credible information that the device is in fact a “legacy device” and is not part of an active conflict or in use by any parties to the conflict.
- All HIEDD Principles, Mandatory Actions, and Referrals must be followed as per any other IEDD task.

As detailed in HALO Global IEDD SOP Part 5 “IED Disposal,” a referral must be made prior to commencing work on an IED spot task.

Unless referral authority has been specifically delegated for IEDD spot tasks, the decision on whether or not to conduct a spot task rests with the Country Operations Manager.

2.3 Considerations

In addition to meeting the conditions above, the HIEDD Operator may want to take the following considerations into account:

- a) Could this device be part of an SHA or CHA that has not yet been surveyed? If so is there a compelling reason to conduct disposal of this particular device prior to conducting survey such as an immediate threat to life?
- b) Could this device be a “come on” meant to entice the operator into an ambush?

Note, as mentioned previously, HALO only operates in permissive environments and must never work in an area where there is indication that HALO is specifically being targeted

However, this must still be part of the operator’s assessment as the device may have been intended for the response of national security forces or by residual conflict actors in an immediate post-conflict environment. This is why satisfying the conditions of section 2.2 are mandatory prior to beginning work on a spot task.

- c) How will the operator access the device? If it is by any path other than a known safe route such as a frequently travelled tarmac road, the operator must consider conducting manual or mechanical clearance up to the device even if no other devices are expected in the area. The amount of clearance which is appropriate under a spot task (i.e. before it should become a surveyed clearance task) will depend on local circumstances. As a guideline, 10m² of manual clearance and 25m² of mechanical clearance should be the maximum amount of access clearance conducted under a spot task.
- d) What are the capabilities for final disposal in the area? If the operator is relying on security forces to conduct the final disposal after the RSP, have they been informed and will they be able arrive and conduct the disposal in a timely manner? If not is there suitable temporary or permanent explosive storage facilities nearby?
- e) Is the device within the technical capability of the HIEDD operator? Note, that given the likely limitations in terms of time and resources (compared to an established clearance task), RSPs of complex IEDs should be given careful consideration and may require extensive planning.
- f) Is there sufficient medical support for the task area? Both in terms of internal assets (medics, ambulances etc.) and external assets (hospitals, planned and briefed CASEVAC routes etc.)

2.4 Reporting

Each programme will have its own methods of reporting IEDD spot tasks. Often these will be similar to the reporting of a spot EOD task of an item of UXO. In the case of spot IEDD tasks, a programme should consider using a separate form which allows for recording of device details, requirements for future survey, any area cleared during the spot task, future access routes etc. This form may also have a section for a more detailed recording of the operator’s analysis of why the IED was considered legacy and any further notes on the implications for survey and clearance in the area.

SECTION THREE – Case Studies

3.1 Case Study 1: Fallujah, March 2019

In mid-March 2019 while a mechanical team was conducting clearance of a task in Fallujah, they were approached by a local 15 year-old boy asking to speak to the Team Leader. The boy stated that he wanted to show HALO staff the location of four or five IEDs, indicating that they were in a nearby garden.

The boy took the Team Leader and the HIEDD Operator, to a compound 30 meters from the Control Point via a known safe route. The garden was adjacent to a derelict house with a 0.5m high wall around the perimeter missing in sections. The charges were 1 meter inside the walled compound, which made recognition relatively straightforward. At this point only three plastic cased paint cans and three metallic “speed bumps” were identified.

On the positive identification, the team took the decision to use the excavator forks to remove the charges from the uncleared area. Sentries and the view shield for the machine were placed at the appropriate distances and the cordon was secured.

It was observed that the main charges were scattered singly and in pairs on the surface, giving the impressions that they had been tossed into the garden after being moved from a different location. The excavator removed a small section of the wall aiding greater access to the charges. Each was individually lifted with the forks and placed on the cleared road where the appropriate soak time was observed. Once the wait time had elapsed the HIEDD Operator visually inspected the charges, no detonators were found on detonating cord. A total of eight charges were recovered: four plastic paint buckets and four speed bumps. Charges were then removed to the storage pit for collection by government security forces.



Above: The recovered main charges

3.2 Case Study 2: Fallujah, July 2019

In early July 2019, teams operating in Fallujah reported seeing two plastic jerry can main charges in a field by the side of a heavily trafficked road which they used to access their current task. The field was an SHA and located approximately 200 meters from a military check point. The fighting in the area had ended three years previously and while armed opposition groups still operated on the outskirts of the city, no recent security incidents had taken place in the area that would lead the team to believe these were anything other than main charges tossed on the side of the road by civilian or military clearance. A common method during the fighting was for military personnel to separate the pressure plate and power source from the detonator and the main charge manually and often leave most of the components behind. The IED emplacers countered this by interspersing the IED line with devices placed on top of an anti-lift switch.



Above: the main charges as seen from the road

The HIEDD operator assessed that even though the main charges were located next to a CHA, there was a good case to conduct an IEDD spot task due to the frequent usage of the road and the proximity to the military checkpoint. The military acted as a cordon, blocking traffic on both sides of the road at the appropriate safety distance. The HALO team used a long armed excavator to remove the main charges from the field. At no point did the excavator leave the hard top road. As the area where the devices were found was adjacent to an CHA, there was no need for further clearance other than under the devices to check for anti-lift switches or pressure plates- this was conducted by further excavator raking. The main charges were be lifted by the excavator, tumbled through all their planes, and then placed on the road where the operator to concluded the RSP.

The operator found that there were no other components than the main charges. These were removed to the team's main charge storage pit on the adjacent task and the cordon was collapsed. In a follow up visit from local officials it was emphasized that even though two charges had been removed, the CHA was not clear and that further systematic clearance would need to be conducted.

SECTION FOUR – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

4.1 HALO

- HALO Global IEDD SOP – Part 1: Task Management
- HALO Global IEDD SOP – Part 2: NTS
- HALO Global IEDD SOP – Part 3: Manual Clearance and Technical Survey
- HALO Global IEDD SOP – Part 4: Mechanical Clearance
- HALO Global IEDD SOP – Part 5: IED Disposal

4.2 IMAS

- IMAS 9.31 Improvised Explosive Device Disposal, Edition 1