



Guidelines for Contributors to *The Detonator* magazine

Thank you for your interest in writing for *The Detonator* magazine. Our contributors help keep the content of our publication timely and useful. This document tells you everything you need to know about preparing and submitting your article for publication in *The Detonator*.

I. The Purpose

The Detonator magazine is the official publication of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI). It is intended to educate and inform our audience and to offer members a forum in which to exchange professional information, collaborate across organizations, train, and mentor newcomers to their respective profession(s), thereby saving countless lives.

II. The Audience

While members of the IABTI community share a common interest, they hail from widely varying backgrounds, with different levels of technical knowledge. Therefore it's important that technical concepts be explained in an accessible manner. Because the audience also includes a sizable international contingent - including many people for whom English may be a second language - it's also important to write clearly, simply, and without too much jargon or slang.

III. *Detonator* Topic Areas

At the highest level, *The Detonator* magazine is concerned with the education of our members and the sharing of relevant non-sensitive technical knowledge.

The following is a list of the minimum core competency areas, which we strive to address in the articles presented in *The Detonator* magazine:

- Bomb Disposal & IED Operations
- Science and Technology
- Bombing and Explosive Accident Investigation
- Security Management
- Military EOD, UXO & Demining Operations
- Energetic, Toxic and Destructive Materials
- Explosives Detection Canine Operations/ Management
- Community and Industry Outreach
- Explosives and Destructive Device Regulations & Laws
- Information Management
- Health & Safety

This list is intended to spur rather than limit your creative thinking. Within each core area there are a multitude of perspectives and developments that need to be written about.

Please note: IABTI does not entertain publishing articles written as advertisements for specific business, products, or services; we offer advertising options that meet that need. If that is your intent, advertisement information is available on our website.

IV. Articles in *The Detonator*

If you have a passion for writing and a fascination with some aspect of our topic list, we encourage you to become a contributor. The first step is to contact the editor at the IABTI Business office to propose a theme and a focus for your article.

V. Submission Deadlines

The Detonator magazine is published six times per year. Submission deadlines are as follows:

January/February Issue	January 01
March/April Issue	March 01
May/June Issue	May 01
July/August Issue	July 01
September/October Issue	September 01
November/December Issue	November 01

Articles are published on a space-available basis. The IABTI offers no guarantee on publication dates but we make every effort to publish all approved submissions in a timely manner.

VI. Submission Formats

All contributors should submit their articles to the editor by email in the form of a Microsoft Word document attachment. Graphics to accompany stories are always welcome and should also be sent by email as **separate** .tif, .jpg or .bmp attachments. All graphics should be at least 300 dpi (600 dpi preferred) in black & white (grayscale) or color with CMYK separations.

NOTE: If you have questions or concerns about formatting or submission issues, please email us. We will work with you to accommodate those who cannot submit articles in a Word document or who are having trouble submitting their graphics in the preferred formats.

Articles should be submitted to: detonator@iabti.org

VII. The Editing Process

All articles submitted for publication in *The Detonator* magazine will be screened and edited by the editor(s). In general, editing is light and is limited to matters of style, spelling, grammar and flow. The purpose of the editing process is not to impose a uniform editorial voice, but simply to make our articles as clear and readable as possible.

If the editor's revisions to an article are minor and don't affect its meaning or overall flow, we will publish it directly, without further communication with the writer. However, in some cases, the editors will email the edited version of a story to the writer for the writer's approval or rewriting before publication. We encourage contributors to review these revised versions and submit a second draft as quickly as possible. Again, we view the editorial process as a collaboration intended to maximize the quality of the final product, so we encourage our contributors to communicate with the editors about any concerns they may have about the way their articles have been edited and to challenge the editors' suggestions when necessary.

We will not publish articles that we deem to be libelous, slanderous, or untruthful. We reserve the right to reject any contribution that does not meet our editorial standards, as determined by the editors.

VIII. Style

In general, writers should follow the common-sense prescriptions of writing references such as Strunk & White's The Elements of Style. Implementing the following conventions in your submissions will save us editing time.

Units -- All measures should be given in both English and metric units.

Currency -- Prices may be reported in local currency where appropriate, but should also be converted to US dollars and written in the format: USD 25 or \$25 US.

IX. Accuracy

The Detonator prides itself on providing our reader's with reliable information. It's important that our contributors check all facts and figures. In general, we require:

- Confirmation of all facts and figures used within an article from a primary source.
- Direct quotes from accepted professionals or experts, when applicable.
- Full contact information for every source used in creating an article.

X. Compensation

We depend on volunteers who give us permission to publish their work free of charge. The main benefit we can offer in return is exposure in the form of a byline.

XI. Copyright and Permissions

All published material written by the staff of *The Detonator* magazine is copyrighted with all rights reserved by the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI). Permission to republish this material can be requested by writing to IABTI, Attn: Editor, 1120 International Parkway, Suite 105 Fredericksburg, VA 22406.

For contributor submissions, the original author retains the copyright and is free to republish the material elsewhere.