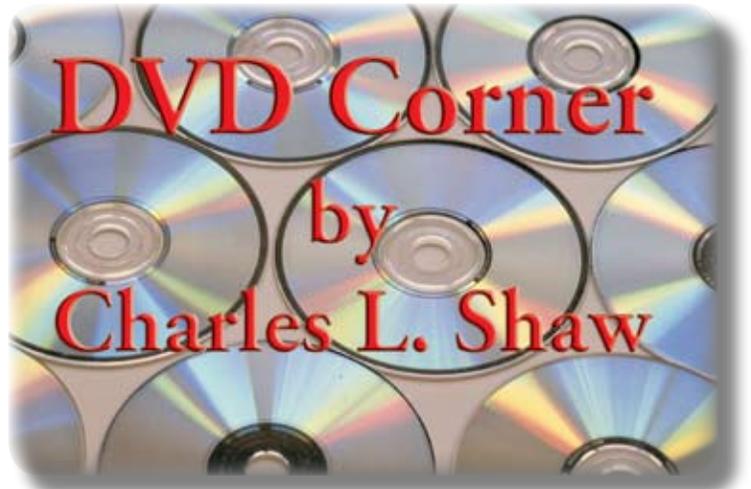


Electronics for the Explosive Technician Fort Worth, Texas 30 Oct - 17 Nov 2006 by David Kuhnell, Region II



The North Texas Chapter of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators worked with the City of Fort Worth to provide a state of the art Electronics class for Bomb Technicians. The City of Fort Worth, using the UASI 2005 Grant, provided the funding for the regional training class. The class was provided by Allen-Vanguard's Mr. Ross Doe and retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police Bomb Tech, Dan Henneman.

This particular course was chosen because the aim was to build skills and knowledge that would be valuable to operational technicians in responding to life threatening situations. The three week class was put together with the bomb technician in mind and provided a perfect combination of classroom electronic theory with "hands-on" practical work such as soldering, reading voltmeters, building simple circuits, X-ray analysis and advanced hand dismantling tools and techniques. The class provided up to date information on the latest IEDs that are being used in Iraq and around the world. The instructor's technical knowledge and work experience provided an excellent platform in which to learn the presented information.

The 20 member class consisted of Bomb Technicians from the following Bomb Squads: Arlington Fire, the BATF, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Dallas Police, Denton Fire, Fort Worth Fire, Irving Police, Keller Fire and Garland Police.

The North Texas Chapter benefited tremendously by having at least one representative from eight out of its ten squads in the Chapter participate in the class. We are now working hard to provide another regional class and to provide another training opportunity for those who were unable to attend. 🍀*

"If you are ruled by mind you are a king; if by body, a slave."

- Cato, Roman statesman and historian (234 bce-149 bce)

Every year at the ITC, many of the speakers are recorded and their presentations put onto DVDs. These are made available to attendees and they make good training tools. Presentations generally run 45 minutes. They also make good topics for discussion at Chapter and Unit training. The presentations available for order are listed on the IABTI Website, Members Only Section.

Suicide Bombers – Clive Williams, Macquarie University, Australia (2004 ITC)

Mr. Williams is a frequent speaker at both ITCs and RTCs and we are very fortunate to have him speak. He is an adjunct Professor at Macquarie University as well as at the Australian National Defense University and director of the Terrorism Intelligence Centre in Canberra. Mr. Williams brings a rigorous academic discipline to the world of intelligence and counterterrorism analysis.

Although this presentation was made in 2004, his analysis and predictions for trends in suicide bombings is proven accurate by the passage of time. In his presentation he covers the history of suicide attacks. He points out that over the past two decades, no fewer than 15 different terrorist organizations in 12 separate countries have resorted to this method of attack. He goes over the sociological aspects of the suicide bomber and how the organization employing this tactic hopes to affect the target society through inflicting massive damage, both physical and psychological. The history of these attacks is covered, from the VBIED to the personal IED.

Interestingly, one of the early targets was the Iraqi embassy in Beirut by Hezbollah in 1981, during the Iran/Iraq conflict. The personal IED became a regular tactic of the LTTE (Tamil Tigers) in their campaign in Sri Lanka. The presentation finishes with future prospects for the suicide bomber and prevention strategies, which in light of current events, is uncannily prescient. 🍀*