



The Last Walk

By Jack Blanchard, LAPD Bomb Squad

A Bomb Technician is a different type of person; actually he is a special type of person. So special in fact, that his walk is different. Not by choice, it's just what he does. When someone asks "And who will go for us?," he steps forward and says, "Here am I. Send me!" As he completes his walk, his qualities show. He doesn't want to show them, but there they are. He walks in the footsteps of past leaders and most of the time, in front of them. For he is a **Leader**. He'd rather be among his teammates, but he can't. He enjoys their camaraderie, but he wants to be alone. He loves his teammates. But, because of this, he does not want them in danger. For he is a **Hero**.

He walks into danger. He doesn't run or charge, he walks with a purpose. For he is **Confident**. This walk into danger is his walk, his different walk. Some describe it as, "The Longest Walk". That's fine by him, he has time. For he is also **Patient**. During his walk, at least 300 feet, usually longer, he plans his next move, thinks of his family, and how he's going to call them when he's done. He thanks God for giving him the opportunity to do this job and asks for the blessing to complete another bomb call. A Bomb Technician may walk by himself but he is not alone. He walks with God and His blessing of **Courage**. He walks with the knowledge and confidence he has gained from experience and fellow Bomb Technicians. It's a long walk but that's okay, he has a plan before he begins.

With **Valor**, he walks forward into danger to protect others. That's his goal. He walks, so civilizations can move forward, without fear. For he is **Selfless**. In times of war a Bomb Technician is even more special. He not only steps forward for the community but also for his fellow soldiers. He walks to clear the way and give safe passage, so others may proceed without fear. For he is their **Sentinel**. Then, when done, he quietly walks away. For he is also **Humble**.

A Bomb Technician has many responsibilities. That's alright, for he has broad shoulders. He can carry the burden with ease. For he is **Strong**. He carries it with **Pride** and always with a smile on his face. He must look for danger coming from every direction. From a mailed package, he must make it safe. From a large vehicle bomb, he must make it safe. From a booby trapped box, he must make it safe.

A Bomb Technician won't rest until all are safe. That's okay for he is **Persistent**. No matter how long it takes, he will take his time and do it right. Because that the way he is. For he is **Dependable**.

A Bomb Technician has many tools, but none of them are more important than himself. He has the ability to adapt. For he is **Versatile** and **Resourceful**. A patrol officer carries a gun. A Bomb Technician carries a disrupter, explosives, a rope and a gun. With them, he can move an army. In fact he does. That's why he is here. After three twists of his wire he yells, "Fire in the Hole" three times. A Bomb Technician is not a loud person; his

goal is to warn others. For he is their **Beacon**. No matter what tool he chooses, he uses it with precision. For his is **Sure**.

These words don't describe all Bomb Technicians, just a few, a special few. These Bomb Technicians are more, much more. They do more, much more. They have more qualities, many more. Those who have the **Honor** of knowing them will tell you this. They wouldn't. That is the way they are.

These Bomb Technicians have completed their long walk many times. Time to think of the next time they can speak to their families and tell them how much they are loved. Time to think of how to ensure their families won't worry about what they're doing. Time to think of getting back to their team mates. Time to thank God for blessing them and giving them strength.

The day comes when they are called to make this walk again. To make it safe for citizens and team mates. With pride and a smile, each one steps forward like before and begins their walk. But on this day, God needed someone special to walk with Him. He needed a Bomb Technician and only these men could fill that special calling. On this day, these men will complete their "Last Walk."

This piece was written as a tribute to U.S. Marine EOD Technician and fellow Los Angeles Police Officer Josh Cullins. It is published here to recognize and honor not only Josh, but all Bomb Technicians worldwide that have made their Last Walk. *J.B.*

2010 Passing Parade

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Anthony C. Campbell, Jr. 1974 – 2009	Staff Sgt. Derek Farley 1986 – 2010
Jim Childress 1954 – 2010	USMC MSgt Dan Fedder 1976 – 2010
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Gerd Ehler 1954 – 2010	Joshua Cullins, LAPD 1982 – 2010
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Staff Sergeant Brett Linley 1981 – 2010	Ronald McCracken 1933 – 2010