



## IABTI Board Votes New

Several years ago Charter Member and former Region 1 Director Frank Doyle (FBI SABB-ret.) received a telephone call from a woman who wanted to know if he would help blow up a cement truck. She said she had been referred to Frank by Chris Ronay (IME). So, after wondering if he was on Candid Camera or perhaps being set-up by Internal Affairs, Frank realized he was talking to a staff member from Discovery Channel's popular television show MythBusters.

Frank, along with Bomb Techs from the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office and CAL FIRE Bomb Squads soon found themselves in the midst of testing the myth that cement truck drivers use explosives to clear hardened cement out of the back of their trucks. Several trucks and 850 pounds of ANFO later, a new relationship had been forged between The MythBusters - Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, along with the cast and crew, and the Bomb Technician community.

Since that first show bomb squads from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, San Jose Police Department, Yolo County and Anchorage, AK, Police Department have worked on more than 20 shows. While this is not the standard day to day activity for Public Safety Bomb Squads it does have unique value for them. The shows always start with an explosive related myth and the squads involved have found it challenging to work out the technical aspects of calculating frag distances, safe operations and determining if the myth is logical. One of the more challenging episodes involved a 22,000 foot fall of a crew member of a US Bomber over France during WWII. The myth was that he survived the fall, in part, because a bomb exploded on the ground, just prior to him hitting it, creating an "air bag" effect. Buster (the test dummy) was released from weather balloons, using an explosive charge, and then slid along a tether towards the target, all the time having to coincide with the appropriate delay of the main explosion on the ground.

# Dignitary Memberships

by Greg Smith

Adam and Jamie, along with the rest of the MythBusters team, have always showed great concern that they portray the Bomb Technicians in a positive light and have never revealed specific information that would allow anyone to attempt to recreate the explosions at home. They have allowed squads to engage in some interesting problem solving exercises and garner some positive public recognition for the community.

When they were approached about speaking at the 2008 International Training Conference Banquet they were very positive. Despite conflicts with their production schedule, they made the time work and on Wednesday morning they jumped on a Southwest Airlines plane in San Francisco and flew to Louisville, arriving about 1615 hours. By 1800 they were standing in the reception area chatting and posing for photos with members. After a lively hour long presentation and Q & A session, even with an O-dark-thirty flight looming in the morning, they stayed after the banquet, signing autographs, posing for photos and chatting with everyone who wanted the opportunity.

The really amazing thing about their willingness to attend and speak at our banquet was the fact that although they normally are well compensated for these sorts of appearances for organizations and corporations, we did not compensate in any manner other than our appreciation. Kind of a novel concept with many of today's celebrities.

For all of the above noted reasons your International Board voted Dignitary Membership in the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators for Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, They were presented with plaques attesting to their membership status at the end of the ITC banquet. So if you receive a call from somebody asking for assistance in blowing something up, before you have them committed for a mental evaluation, check to see who it is. It may just be two of our newest members.

Adam and Jamie, thanks and welcome to the IABTI. 🌟

