

# CounterBomber enhances Soldier security

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When the Soldiers from the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat team deploy they will have a new friend in the fight against suicide bombers – The CounterBomber.

The CounterBomber system has the potential to identify individuals wearing a suicide vest. “It has about a 100 meter stand off from the Soldier and the person being interrogated and the user inter phase is another 20 to 30 meters behind that,” said J.J. Bare, program manager for the CounterBomber system which is a product from Science Applications International Corporation.

Other suicide bomber detection sensors work close-in, and often create privacy concerns.

Soldiers from the 170th IBCT have been training and familiarizing themselves with this system for two weeks.

Learning how to operate the CounterBomber now will provide Soldiers an additional safety cushion when dealing with suicide bombers.

“The threat to the Soldier is greatly reduced by using this type of system at an entry control point. The Marine Corps has been using the system for over two years. The Air Force has been using the system now for about six months and the Army has started to use the system in Afghanistan for the last month or so,” said Bare.

The CounterBomber system integrates radar and video to yield the first-ever system capable of automatically detecting suicide bombers at safe distances.

“We are very happy to announce the modern technology of the CounterBomber system,” said Cecil Moore from the USAREUR G-3 force management division. “Finally we have come up with the capability of fighting suicide bombers



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava

**J.J. Bare, left and Cecil Moore observe as Warrant Officer 1 Tulio Morales, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery operates the user inter phase of the CounterBomber.**

throughout the SENTCOM area,” said Moore.

“We’re just thrilled to have the trainers and the program managers here. It’s great to see the Soldiers from the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team enjoying the training and getting the training that they need in order to be successful down range,” said Moore.

“Getting the opportunity to train the Soldiers here from the 170th is just a great opportunity because now they will understand the full use and are going to fall in on the system instead of cold turkey,” added Bare.

Another aspect of this system is the simplicity of use. “It’s very intuitive. A person will understand, green is good red is bad.

It also has an audible signal so if the user is not watching the screen he will easily hear the signal and determine if there is a danger,” said Bare.

The system also has a low learning curb. It’s easy to teach people how to use it but Soldiers from the 170th IBCT are going one step further.

“The Soldiers we’re instructing are getting an upper level operator, level three training so they’ll be fully conversed on how to set the system up and any trouble shooting that might be involved,” said Bare.

The Soldier pulling guard duty requires very little training to be successful with the system.

“He would get about two minutes or three minutes worth of familiarization on it and he would understand completely how it works, so it’s intuitive. It’s eyes off, hands off, the Soldier doesn’t have to manipulate anything on the control panel, he understands it,” said Bare.