



NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.

# United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

## Explosive Hazard Management – First Responder Training

Global Protection Forum  
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# Introduction

In 2017, UNMAS Iraq designed the Explosive Hazard First Responder (EHFR) course for the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

Focus is to **improve** and **enhance** public safety during the initial suspected threat, and on post-blast situations until the EOD or IEDD Response Teams can arrive.

# EHFR Roles

Works *with* the National Authorities or Mine Action Organizations (MAO's).

Basic identification skills only, *not* an EOD/IED Operator.

Trained to recognize potential threats, help remove the public from it, and contact the correct authorities.

# Helping the Overall Public Safety Effort



- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) teams & programs quickly reach thousands of at-risk people.
- Demining Teams work suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.
  - A **very** time consuming and tedious task.
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Teams respond to suspected items.
  - Often under-manned/over-tasked.
- EHFR Teams works to assist all aspects.



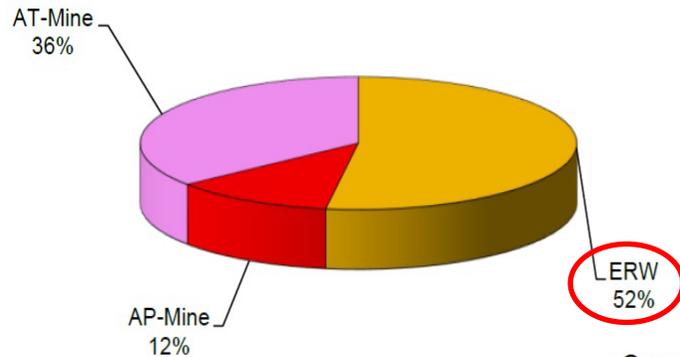
# Complacency

- When ERW is present over long periods of time, the local population becomes familiar with it.
  - *Familiarity leads to complacency.*
  - *Complacency leads to carelessness.*
  - *Carelessness leads to unsafe acts.*
  - *Unsafe acts leads to injuries and/or casualties.*



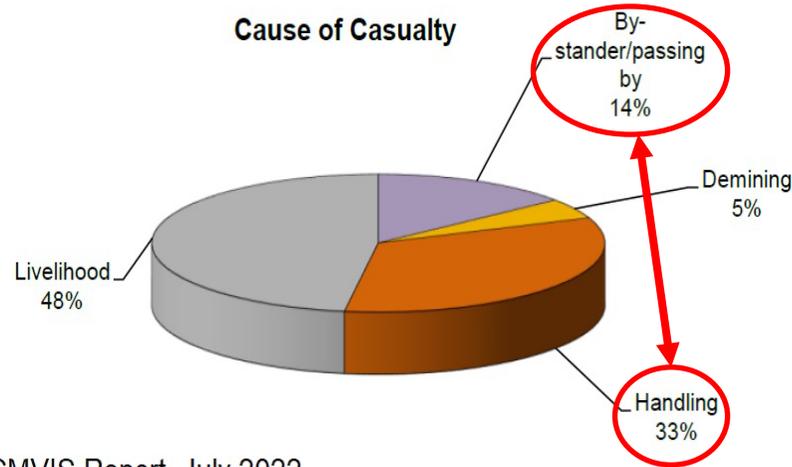
# Landmine/ERW Casualties

Explosive Ordnance Distribution



Cambodia CMVIS Report, July 2022

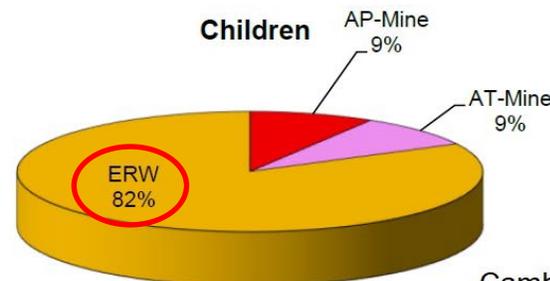
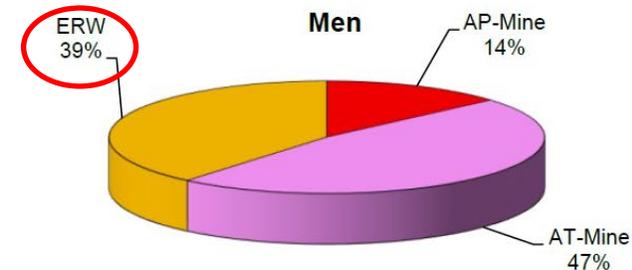
Cause of Casualty



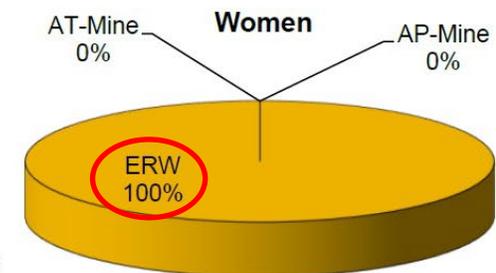
- The Cambodia Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS) was established in 1994.

- Maintained the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA), current information is at the following link <https://www.cmaa.gov.kh>

- All Pie charts are from the July 2022 Report; note the items circled in Red
- ERW** injured or killed 100% Women, 82% Children, and 39% Men during this reporting period.
- Handling/Watching: **47%**



Cambodia CMVIS Victims July 2022



# *Visible Killers*



- Minefields are often called ‘Hidden Killers’,.. and rightly so.
- >50% of casualties are caused by ERW that were fully visible.
  - All items shown were found by a UAV/Drone conducting remote NTS in a ‘low threat’ area.
- This is only one part of where the EHFR teams assists the public.

# EHFR Training



# Basic EHFR Training

- Five Day Course to deigned teach non-technical personnel the basic procedures.
- Does **not** qualify anyone to be an EOD/IEDD Operator.
- The focus is on how to assist until the response teams arrive.



# EHFR T<sup>3</sup> Course

## Question Technique

أسئلة تقنيته

(The Five "W"s)

الـ "W"s الخمسة

- WHERE IS IT أين مكان الجسم المشدود
- WHAT IS IT ما هو هذا الجسم
- WHEN WAS IT LAID/FOUND? متى وحتت / اوضعت ؟
- WHY IS IT THERE? لماذا هي هناك؟
- WHETHER ANYTHING WAS SEEN / HEARD? أي شيء سمع / شوهد ؟



- The top graduates of the basic course are invited to attend the five day 'Train-the-Trainer (T<sup>3</sup>)' course.
- This combines the lessons learned from the basic course and methods of instruction.
- Helps to sustain the overall national efforts

# Response to Suspect Threat



- The 5 ‘W’ questions will help provide the response team with critical information before they deploy:
  - **WHERE** is the item located
  - **WHAT** has been observed
  - **WHO** was responsible/the target
  - **WHY** was it placed (motive, reason)
  - **WHEN** did the incident occur



# Encountering a Threat: The Five 'C's

- **Confirm** the item is suspicious
- **Clear** the area of personnel
- **Cordon** the area to an appropriate distance
- **Control** by establishing an Incident Control Point (ICP)
- **Check** the ICP is safe by conducting the appropriate 5x25m searches

# Confirm

- Details (Photo?)
- Size (Estimated)
- Shape (Estimated)
- Appearance
- Colors
- Components (Best Guess)
- Location



# Clear

- Calmly inform people to put down their cell phones and move away from the potential threat
- Move people away and out of Line-of-Sight
- Select areas away from glass, windows, and other secondary hazards.
- Account for personnel (when possible)



# Cordon

- Coordinate with local authorities to establish a cordon pending the arrival of the EOD/IEDD Team

- Approximate Cordon Distances
  - Grenade-Projectile = 50-100m
  - Suspect car bomb = 200m
  - Suspect truck bomb = 400m

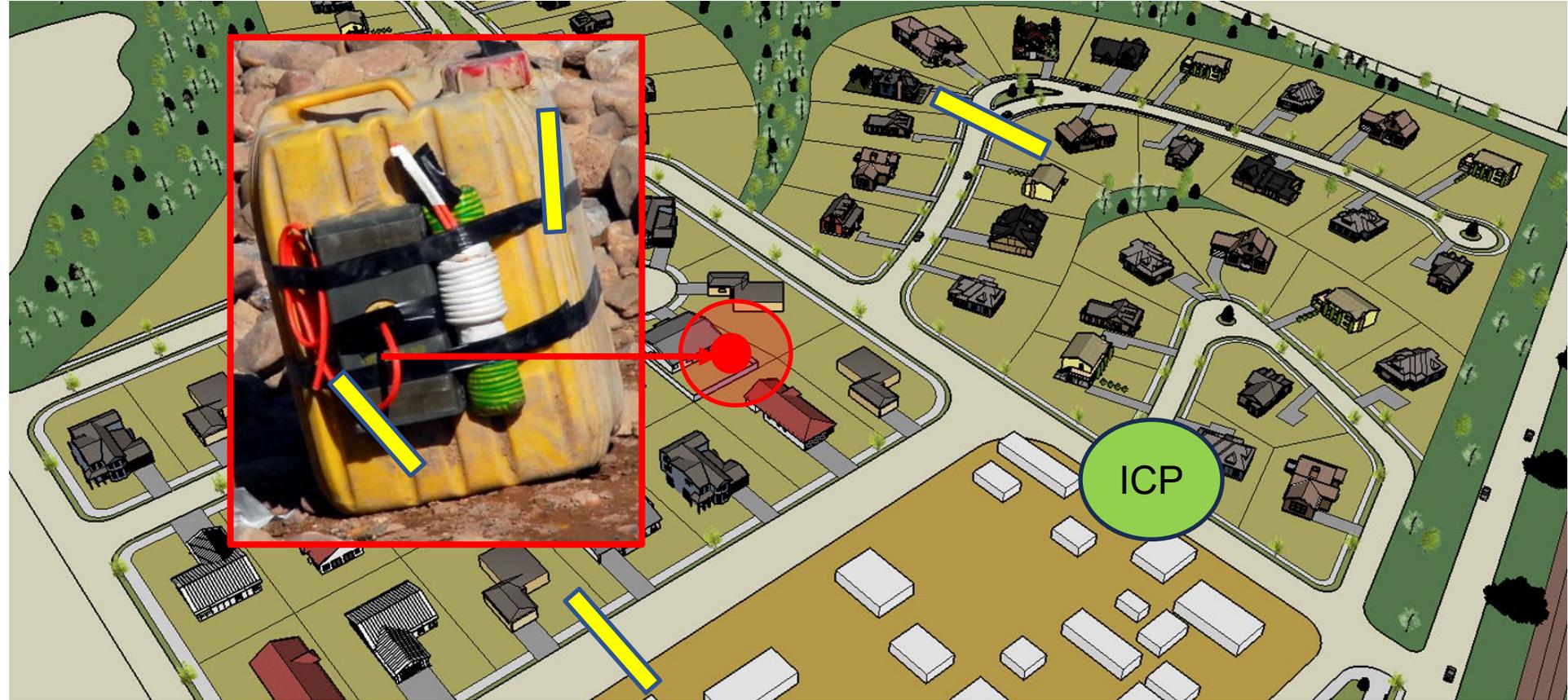


# Control and Check

- Establish an Incident Control Point (ICP) within the cordon.
  - Avoid using an obvious **or a previously** used ICP location
    - Secondary devices are commonly used to target response teams.
  - Conduct 5/25m search of the ICP Area to ensure it's clear
    - If unsure – move ICP to an alternative location
  - Away from 'Line of Sight' to the Threat
  - Away from glass and windows and any other secondary hazards
  - Must have access for emergency vehicles

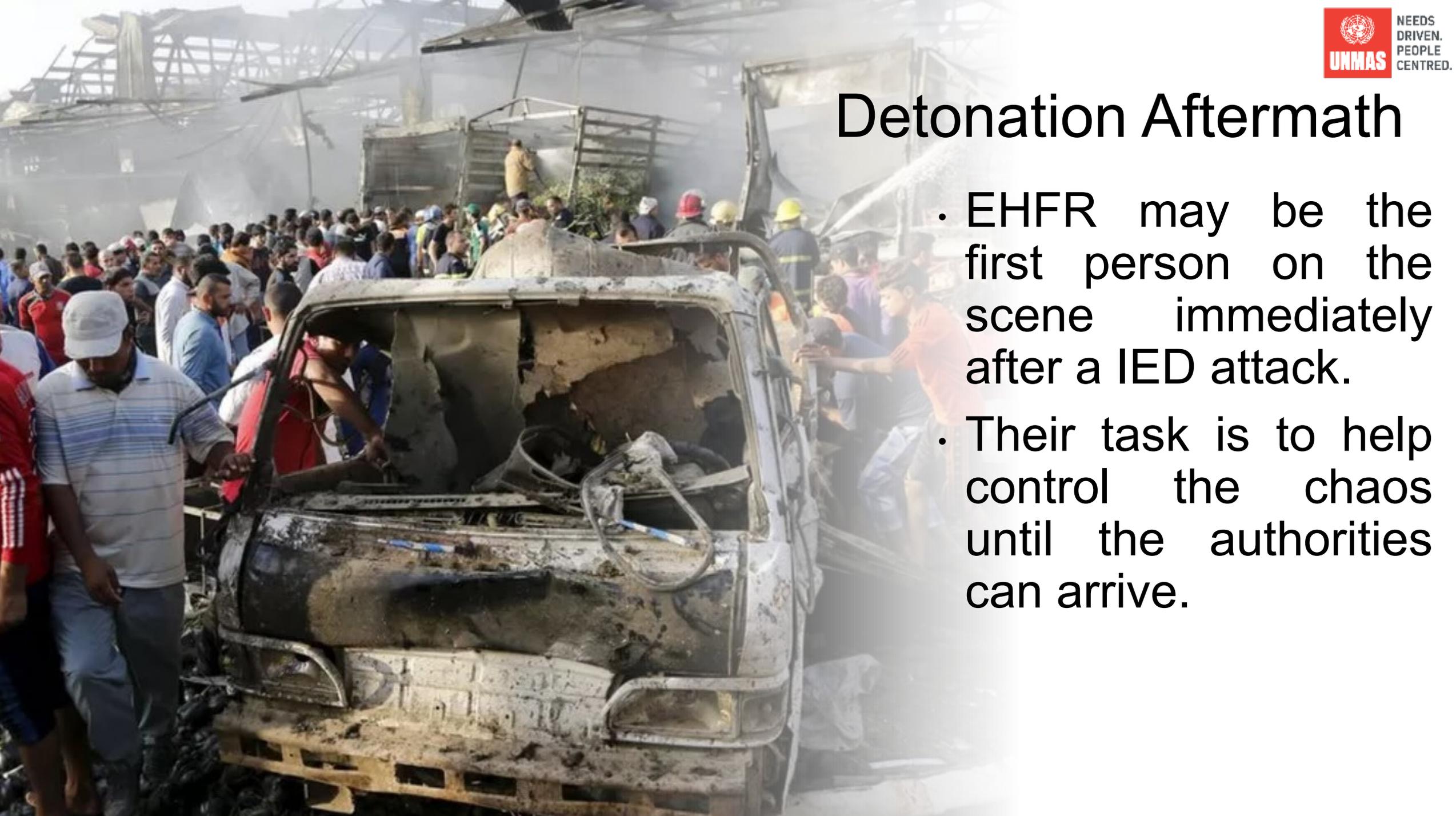
# The 5 'C's' Example

**Confirm**  
**Clear**  
**Cordon**  
**Control**  
**Check**



# Detonation Aftermath

- EHFR may be the first person on the scene immediately after a IED attack.
- Their task is to help control the chaos until the authorities can arrive.



# Actions

- Remove the by-standers from the site
  - Secondary Devices are common.
  - Contamination of evidence.
- Cordon and control the area until the response teams arrive.
- Do not get involved in rescue efforts\*.
  - Unless fully medically trained and equipped.



# Transferrable Skills

- The UNMAS-Iraq EHFR Course was designed for the Ministry of Interior Officers, both men and women.
- The course can be tailored for other organizations, locations and threat situations.





# EHFR Training: Yemen

- In March 2022; UNDP and UNMAS-Iraq coordinated EHFR Basic and T<sup>3</sup> training for x18 personnel from Yemen in Amman, Jordan.
- The course was very successful, graduates began implementing the methods shortly after returning.



# Summary

- Between 2017 to 2023; UNMAS-Iraq has:
  - Conducted 76 EHFR Basic and EHFR T<sup>3</sup> Courses.
  - The training was comprised of 1,006 Men and 375 Women: **1,381 personnel in total.**
  - Mol employ these skills on a routine basis to assist in overall public safety and streamline the response by the EOD/IEDD Teams



# Questions?

A wide-angle photograph of a desolate, brown, and rocky landscape, likely a minefield. In the middle ground, a person wearing a full protective suit and helmet is kneeling on the ground, holding a yellow tool. The background shows a flat horizon under a clear sky. The overall tone is somber and emphasizes the impact of landmines.

## THANK YOU

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VIDEOS, NEWSLETTERS AND PHOTOS  
PLEASE VISIT:

<https://www.unmas.org/en/programmes/iraq>