

Five-Day Specialist Training Course on Countering the Use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
(31 JULY – 04 AUGUST 2023, Batch-01)



❖ There was a need to organize specialist training courses on countering the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). The suggested training should cover both theoretical and practical aspects of post-blast crime scene investigation and forensics methods. It also may provide participants with an in-depth understanding of IEDs, their construction, and detection techniques, and practical training on safe and effective disposal methods. The training was proposed for the participants to gain insights into post-blast crime scene investigations, evidence collection, and forensic analysis to enhance their capabilities in countering these threats.

❖ The Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) arranged a Five-Day Specialist Training Course on Countering the Use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) for Officers of the Civil Defense Department Sindh at Sindh Judicial Academy from 31 July to 04 August 2023 (**Batch-01**). This was attended by 17 participants.

❖ The following experts in the fields conducted interactive and practical sessions:

- 👤 Mr. Manzar Zaidi (Representatives of UNODC)
- 👤 Mr. Shahzada Sultan (Representatives of UNODC)
- 👤 Mr. Akhtar Naseer (DSP, KPK Police)
- 👤 Mr. Abdul Wahid (Assistant Director, Technician/Explosive Expert)

- 👤 Mr. Muhammad Umar (Supervisor Forensic, CTD Headquarters, Punjab)
- 👤 Professor Dr. A. Basheer (Forensic Tech/FSL, Karachi)

❖ The training started with a pre-assessment to gather key information about the participants and what they knew about the subjects they were going to study in the training program.

❖ The participants were provided a basic knowledge of explosives science and introduced examples of the practical use of explosives technologies in both military and industrial applications. They elucidated that every explosion necessitates three fundamental components: fuel, oxygen, and a source of ignition. Furthermore, the trainees gained a foundational understanding of explosive elements through a video-based activity and subsequent discussion.

❖ The participants were shown a NACTA documentary about the catastrophic effects of suicide bombings and the use of explosives on the lives and livelihoods of the citizens of Pakistan. They shared that the underutilization of the regulatory legal regime leads to flawed prosecution of explosive cases in Pakistan while allowing terrorists to escape the full scope of penal provisions. They also shared that despite extensive powers granted to LEAs to contain, cordon, and demand cooperation from the public and other entities, such powers are not utilized to their fullest in blast cases.

The participants were also provided the basic knowledge for the planning and procedural requirements for the investigation of crime scenes involving explosives and related components.

❖ The generic properties of explosive substances were also shared. The meaning of the terms detonation, velocity of detonation, propagation of detonation, and the properties required to achieve a successful detonation were also shared.

❖ In a session, trainees were undertaken through a visual quiz of munitions, hazard markings, explosive train components, rockets, mines, booby traps, and other explosive substances.

Following this, they were shown videos about these materials and then this was followed by an exercise in which they were visually placed cards in four groups to identify from the visual place cards the types of materials and hazard divisions. Dummy Materials were given to them to make dummy explosive trains.

❖ In another practical exercise the trainees were divided into seven groups. Each group was given a (mock, but functioning) IED with a power source, and they were asked to break out in pairs or threes and describe the elements of each type of IED and also how they perceive they work.

❖ The trainees were also provided basic knowledge and understanding of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal techniques and procedures for the safe detection and location of munitions and mines.

❖ The trainees were given basic and intermediate-level knowledge toolkits on the procedures used in the recovery of explosives and related components from scenes of crime and their preservation for use as evidence in subsequent criminal proceedings.

Conclusion

This training program was focused on combating the utilization of Improvised Explosive Devices and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. It encompassed theoretical and hands-on aspects of investigating post-blast crime scenes and utilizing forensic techniques. It offered the participants a comprehensive knowledge of IEDs, including their construction and detection methods, along with practical instruction on secure and efficient disposal techniques. The training also provided the attendees with a deep understanding of post-blast crime scene investigations, evidence gathering, and forensic analysis, enhancing their skills in addressing these dangers. At the end, the trainees were awarded certificates.

