KEYNOTE ADDRESS
STATE OF DISCRIMINATION TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION ON ACTIVE MMRP REMEDIATION PROJECTS

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Much effort and funds have been spent in the research and development of munitions or explosives of concern (MEC) discrimination technologies, i.e.: the ability to non-intrusively distinguish between buried munitions and non-munitions related items, typically by advanced analysis of geophysical data. Some results have shown promise. However, the experience in the National Association of Ordnance and Explosive Waste Contractors (NAOC) membership has generally been the implementation of discrimination technologies on active Munitions Management Response Program (MMRP) remediation projects has been slow and inconsistent. This presentation discusses instances where discrimination has been implemented, and identifies issues that have arisen that will be common to the MMRP remediation process in the future. These issues identify potential barriers that must be overcome for successful technology transfer of discrimination research and development. Such potential barriers include: method selection, method accuracy and reliability, ease of use, liability, landowner understanding, and regulator acceptance. Discrimination has the potential to enormously reduce the time and cost of the MEC remediation process by reducing the number of “digs”. Thus, more ground could be covered for any given budget, and more land will be cleaned up. It should be recognized, however, that it is very likely that the discrimination process will also entail certain increase in risk by leaving some mis-discriminated ordnance items behind. Quantifying this risk, and reducing it to an acceptable level to contracting agencies, regulators and stakeholders is a major challenge to the successful transfer of this technology. A process must be initiated where certain discrimination techniques must be either “accepted” or “not accepted” by government contracting agencies, then the contractor and project manager can concentrate on the proper application of the accepted discrimination technique, rather than on re-proving its validity. If the method is properly applied, significant cost and time savings will be realized, and the residual risk will have been pre-identified and accepted by all stakeholders, prior to project commencement.