

Deployable Forensic Laboratory

Rapid Response to Urgent International and Domestic Needs

In 2006, the NFSTC began a partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to develop a readily deployable forensic laboratory. A similar laboratory structure employed in the exploitation of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), was originally used to support the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. This concept will be modified to expand the availability and portability of forensic analysis capabilities in the United States and internationally.



This deployable forensic laboratory could provide rapid response to an urgent need by:

- Providing an at-the-ready setup used to expand the capabilities of the warfighter in gathering forensic intelligence.
- Responding to a natural disaster or an accidental incident and as a force multiplier to support existing forensic operations (e.g., in the aftermath of a natural disaster where a state or local forensic laboratory could no longer provide services).
- Supplementing a functional laboratory in an effort to reduce case backlogs.



The laboratory architecture is comprised of four shelter structures that are attached to form a single unit. The individual shelters measure 8' by 20' by 8 ½' and can be transported via highway, rail, ship, or air. Delivery to isolated areas is possible under suitable helicopters. The expandable sections are self-supporting and can be set up on virtually any terrain or for use while mounted on a truck or trailer. When the four-shelter laboratory is opened and attached, it affords approximately 1600 square feet of laboratory space.

The interiors are equipped with modular components that are configured to be condensed into the center of each container. Full setup of the laboratory can be accomplished in less than one hour. The laboratory is dust and light proof with self-contained power and air conditioning and is capable of sustaining power for a minimum of 33 hours on a single tank of diesel fuel. An access-controlled entryway vestibule provides an area that functions as a 'mud room' to minimize dust contaminants in the laboratory environment.

The laboratory architecture, consisting of four connected shelters within a certified ISO container, can be equipped to house conventional forensic applications such as forensic biology and DNA, firearms examination, latent print development and comparison, toxicology, and controlled substance analysis. One of the shelters would function as an administration/communications sector. The NFSTC has contracted with DOD/DTRA to provide design development for various forensic applications as well as training services to be delivered through streaming media technology. The delivery of the first phase of this project is targeted for the end of 2007.



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