

Traditional Tools in Non-Traditional Environments: Forensic Science in the Field

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Forensic science training for soldiers in theater continues to grow in importance and timeliness, but most soldiers don't have a PhD in chemistry, never mind a background that includes scientific training. How do we take the best chemical identification tools and put them in the hands of the best warfighters to save lives and gather critical data? NFSTC regularly trains special operations soldiers to do just that by streamlining training on applied chemical detection and mass spectrometry specifically for harsh and remote environments. By providing simplified job aids and hands on practice for detection, maintenance and reach back, trained soldiers can acquire a high degree of competence in a short time. NFSTC routinely looks for and evaluates tools that can be applied in varied environments consistent results. This presentation will cover techniques used to train soldiers and other non-scientists such as law enforcement officers, and share some of the outcomes from this work.