

100th Division BIDS Detachment Completes Another Class

Maj. Jerry Traylor - Public Affairs Officer

The 100th Division (Institutional Training) is the Army's leader in training soldiers in the use of the Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS). There are only two units in the Army equipped with the BIDS, the 7th Chemical Company, and the 310th Chemical Company, US Army Reserve.

The BIDS Detachment, 4th Battalion (Chemical), 3rd Brigade, 100th Division (IT) at Fort McClellan, Alabama, performs the qualification training for BIDS operators. The 25 day school teaches soldiers in MOS 54B and officers in MOS 74A who are assigned to BIDS units or supporting units.

"The only instructors in the world are right here," said BIDS Senior Instructor and NCOIC Master Sgt. Karen Kirkpatrick.

As the number of countries pursuing an offensive biological warfare program continues to increase, the priority of the Army's Biological Defense Program is to limit the effects of large area biological warfare attacks. The Biological Integrated Detection System exposes suspected air samples to antibodies that react with a particular biological agent. The BIDS is capable of quickly identifying organisms and toxins that can be used as biological weapons; vital information for commanders in the field.



Sgt. Kathleen Ward prepares the camouflage netting used to conceal the BIDS Unit.

According to Capt. Joye Brown, OIC of the course, "If we're in the field, thousands of soldiers depend on us. If we set up in the city, it would be the same."

Each BIDS Company consists of five Platoons and a Headquarters Platoon. Each BIDS Platoon has seven teams consisting of a BIDS, two vehicles, a generator and four personnel.

The Army's newest BIDS qualified soldiers graduated November 6th. More than 30 students ranging in rank from Private to Captain, from four states, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina, completed the course.

In the words of Sgt. First Class Ricky Robinson, "The bottom line, it's all about the soldiers." Sgt. First Class Robinson travels from Tennessee to teach the course. He goes on to say, "If you love BIDS, it's all you want to do." It is this motivation that energizes him to do his very best to make sure the students receive the best possible training.



The BIDS Unit is housed on the back of the standard US Army Humvee.



Staff Sgt. Greg Terry instructs that proper grounding is mandatory for safe generator operation.

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The BIDS Unit is now completely operational.



Sgt. First Class Rickey Robinson discusses the BIDS with one of his students.