

Recover Fingermarks from IED Fragments

Before its commercial release, RECOVER was deployed by the British military for the detection and visualisation of fingermarks on Improvised Explosive Device (IED) fragments.

In cases where an IED includes metal components (the device container or items of shrapnel, for example) RECOVER can be used to reveal fingermarks even after the device has been triggered. This may assist in the identification of the bomb maker or enable examiners to connect a single person with multiple devices.



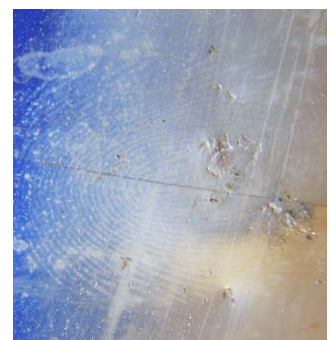
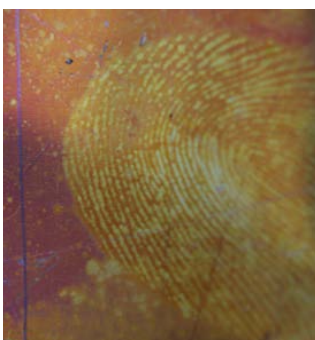
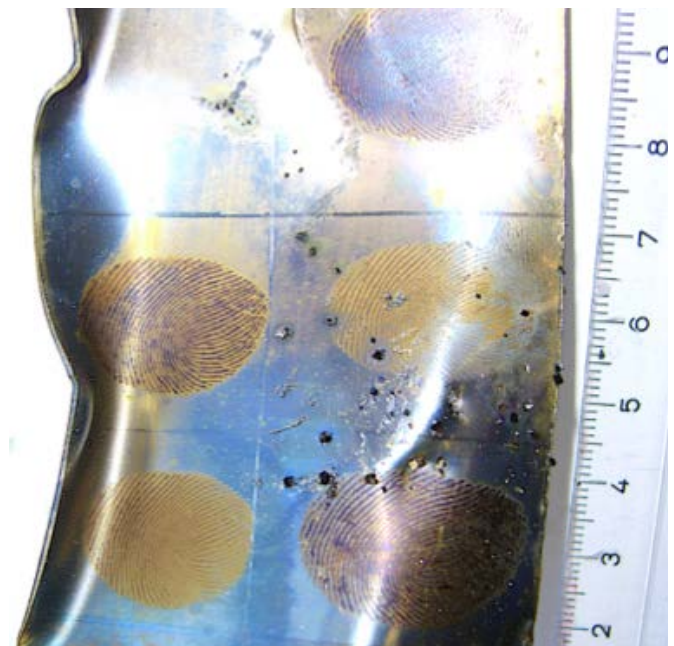
High-quality identifiable marks

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), are commonly used by insurgent groups and have been responsible for a high number of coalition military casualties in recent years*.

In most cases, an IED will consist of a trigger, detonator, explosive charge, and a power source. These components will then be packaged, together with additional shrapnel, within a container.

Tests conducted on simple IED's, loaded with varying charges and packaged within metal tins, proved that it was possible to recover extremely high-quality identifiable marks.

* IEDs accounted for 63% of coalition deaths in the second Iraq war and have caused over 66% of coalition casualties in the 2001-present war in Afghanistan



Following detonation, small metal IED fragments were located and then treated using the RECOVER technique. Despite being directly exposed to the powerful explosive blast, a large number of marks were clearly visible.