

## Why IRAMs Are a Problem

**IN IRAQ, IMPROVISED ROCKET-ASSISTED** Munitions, or IRAMs, are the signature weapon used by Iranian-backed militias that operate with the aid of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Group.



Since November 2007, when IRAMs first began being used against U.S. forces, a total of 24 separate IRAM attacks have occurred in Iraq. The IRAM attacks have occurred in Baghdad and in the Shi'a-dominated areas in southern Iraq, where Iranian-backed militias primarily operate. Iranian-backed militias have escalated the violence ahead of the December 2011 deadline for the withdrawal of American Troops from Iraq.



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## JIEDDO IED PROFILE:

# Improvised Rocket-Assisted Munitions (IRAM)



## What Are Improvised Rocket-Assisted Munitions?

**IRAM IS A ROCKET-FIRED IMPROVISED** explosive device made from a large metal canister — such as a propane gas tank — filled with explosives, scrap metal and ball bearings and propelled by rockets. It is essentially an airborne version of a roadside bomb — a flying IED. Historically, most IRAMs are propelled by 107 mm



rockets and launched from fixed or mobile sites by



remote control. It is typically launched in an arched trajectory, similar to the conventional mortar. IRAMs are designed to cause catastrophic damage and inflict mass casualties. They are used by insurgents to terrorize and undermine political stability.

***“This is an arms race, but the changes come every few months or every few weeks, not every few years. The enemy is smart and savvy ... they watch us and adjust to us, so we need to be equally agile.”***

— Lieutenant General Michael Barbero, Director, JIEDDO

## What Needs to Be Done About IRAMs

The best way to counter the threat posed by IRAMs is to attack the networks that use the weapon. JIEDDO established a working group to develop a comprehensive approach to mitigate the IRAM threat in Iraq.



### Success requires:

- Synchronizing and leveraging the authorities and capabilities of the U.S. government, coalition and international partners
- Sharing intelligence with Iraqi partners to build a common picture of illegal smuggling activities that bring the weapons into Iraq
- Training, advising, assisting and equipping the Iraqi Security Forces for counter-terrorism operations
- Identifying the financial networks, institutions, funding streams and key financiers in Iran



**canister + explosives + rocket = IRAM**