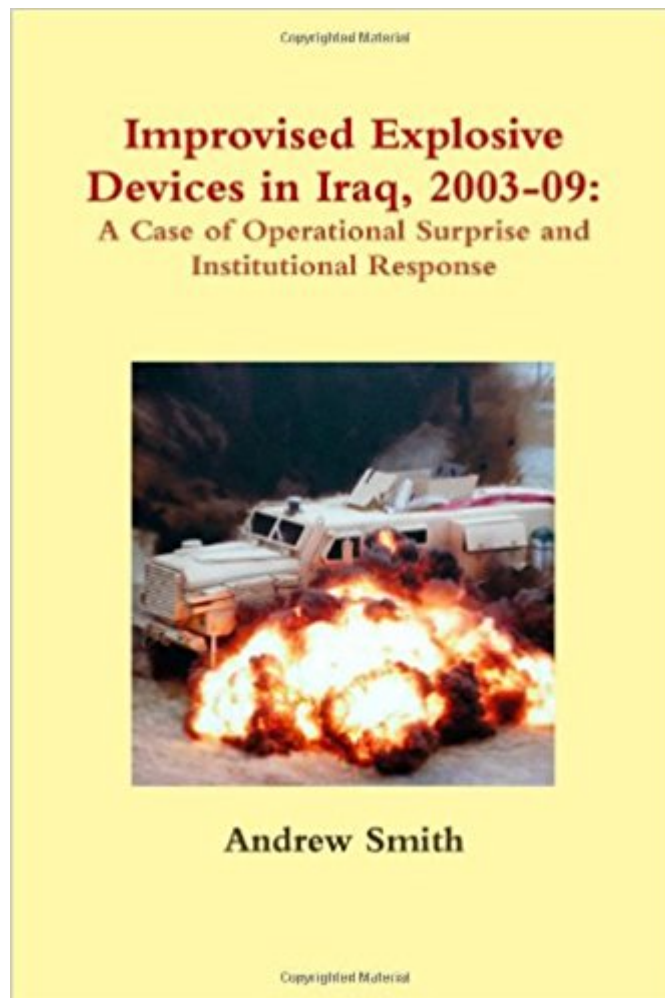




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Improvised Explosive Devices In Iraq, 2003-09: A Case Of Operational Surprise And Institutional Response



Synopsis

When fighting the insurgency in Iraq, the Coalition suffered an operational, if not strategic, surprise in the form of the IED threat. To deal with that surprise, both the United States and Australia needed to make institutional responses in a cycle that took at least 6 years. The subsequent impact of IEDs in Afghanistan suggests, in fact, that the response is still incomplete. To minimize their impact, it is critical that surprises be recognized quickly and responses initiated swiftly, especially for those in contact. It may take the appointment of new leadership to achieve the necessary impetus in the recovery. (Originally published by the Strategic Studies Institute)

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This work takes up the big job of analyzing the institutional (military) response to IEDs. It does so in too few pages, unfortunately, but the space it does take is essential for understanding what went wrong in addressing this threat. We don't have much more than this; hats off to the Army for publishing such a self-damning study. It would be nice to say lessons were learned, but they weren't and this is the cry of an outsider (Australian) against a system that cannot and will not reform itself. Ten years after the first IED went off, our joint service study groups will still be surveying the problem.

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