Kent-based soldiers have helped seize a truck containing enough explosives to make 140 potentially lethal explosive devices. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment helped mentor Afghan police, who made the discovery. The truck find led to the destruction of more than 700kg of homemade explosives, after police found a secret compartment in the back of the vehicle. The find happened near Gereshk on October 7 after the Afghan National Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at a checkpoint on Highway 1, a main route in the area. Officers became suspicious after finding the back of the truck completely empty. It's then that they discovered the hidden compartment in the back. They found the haul of home-made explosive along with two pistols, a number of propaganda magazines and other IED components.

MSA COMMENTS  If every other truck on the road is filled and you get one that appears empty, take a hard look at it. In this case there was a hidden compartment with weapons including 700 kg of IED supplies. The photo looks like the homemade explosives were in sacks with either a lot of Det Cord or a long command wire also recovered.

TURKEY Police officers injured in bomb attack A bomb left in a dumpster exploded in southeastern province of Adana. Four police officers were injured yesterday in the southern province of Adana when a bomb left in a dumpster exploded. The News reported that the police officers were members of a riot police squad intervening with a protest by supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers& Party (PKK).
Two of the injured policemen were in serious medical condition, according to security sources. Police took precautions in the province and set up checkpoints in the city entrance. Meanwhile, suspected militants of the PKK killed 28-year-old Veli Sarýsaltýk in the eastern province of Tunceli. Sarýsaltýk was driving a car carrying bread from a bakery in the city center to a gendarmerie post when militants stopped him Saturday afternoon. His employer called the gendarmerie when he did not hear from Sarýsaltýk for a while. The car was found abandoned in a rural area and bomb squad was called to the scene when troops noticed that there was a bomb trap. Sarýsaltýk’s body was found hundreds of meters away from the car.

**MSA COMMENTS**

Two incidents in Turkey for review. The Police were targeted in both attacks. Police were at the scene of a PKK protest. They were injured when an IED in a dumpster exploded. Any demonstration can turn dangerous but this incident shows a preplanned attack where the bombers placed a device where they expected the police to mobilize. The second incident involves a delivery vehicle that was to be used in an attack on the police. (It could have been also driven to the police facility.) The driver was killed. It was a bread truck that delivered to the local police. The truck was found later abandoned in a rural location but it also had been booby trapped by the PKK. Give every vehicle a good look even if it comes to the checkpoint every week.

The Nigerian also received training in how to detonate the device from his handler Abu Tarak, who told him that the device would make the plane crash, killing everybody on board. AbdulMutallab was delivered the device by Abu Tarak on December 6 or 7, 2009, with instructions that he target a U.S. passenger jet over U.S. soil. After recording a martyrdom video, AbdulMutallab flew from Yemen to Djibouti, then to Ethiopia and Ghana and then on to Nigeria before booking a ticket to the United States from Amsterdam. The final leg was Northwest Flight 253 to Detroit. According to the prosecution, the roundabout journey was designed to cover the defendant's tracks because of AQAP’s increasing presence in Yemen. The only reason he made a brief transit through Nigeria was because Ghana at the time prevented non-citizens from taking such intercontinental flights. AbdulMutallab revealed to the FBI in his initial interview that he wore the underwear device on every leg of his almost three-week journey, and he forbade maids from cleaning his hotel rooms out of fear his device would be discovered. Most of the bomb worked. The trial revealed new details about the design of the device, which was made with no metal parts in order to evade airport metal detectors. A specially sewn pouch in his underwear contained the main PETN explosive charge which was connected to a TATP detonator - the same primary explosive device Najibullah Zazi planned to use in a plot to blow up subway cars in New York in September 2009 and shoe bomber Richard Reid attempted to detonate on a transatlantic flight heading to Los Angeles in December 2001, according to authorities. The main explosive charge in Reid's device also was PETN. The initiation for the device was a syringe connected to his underwear filled with two easily obtainable chemicals - potassium permanganate and ethylene glycol (a chemical found in antifreeze) which catch fire when mixed. As the plane made its final approach to Detroit, AbdulMutallab returned from the washroom in which he had prepared himself for death, put a blanket over himself, lowered his underwear, and plunged the syringe, mixing the two chemicals and setting them afire. The loud pop passengers heard was likely the flame melting and bursting the syringe, a Western explosives expert said. According to the prosecution, this flame in turn successfully detonated the TATP, but the PETN main charge was not detonated. Instead, some of the PETN started burning, creating a fireball in AbdulMutallab's lap. " Those on-board the plane may have been very lucky. PETN can be easily detonated by relatively small amounts of primary explosives such as TATP, according to the Western explosive expert, made aware of details on the bomb design revealed Tuesday in court. The expert said
that one of the likeliest explanations for the failure of the underwear device to fully detonate was the wear and tear on the device during AbdulMutallab's transit through Africa. **MSA COMMENTS** The guilty plea is not really a surprise. He is proud of what he did and only regrets that the bomb did not function and kill everyone on the plane. The device and its method of initiation were different than typical IEDs. First it was designed to defeat current screening protocols at the airport. It was a non electric system and non metallic device. It was worn on the person in an area not likely to be closely examined. Since the TSA is not chemically testing all items, small amounts of chemicals can still be hand carried on. The chemical reaction caused by mixing the potassium permanganate and ethylene glycol set off the TATP but did not set off the PETN. He sat on it for three weeks and probably did not have good quality material to begin with. TATP is very unstable. Depending how the PETN was obtained, it also could have been a bad batch of HME. But maybe a quick review of his various travels and of his unusual hotel secrecy ought to have been enough to warrant a closer look. I don’t know it anyone before that day would have been checking his underwear but he should have been flagged.

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — Students at South Plainfield High School were evacuated today after officials discovered one student brought in an airsoft replica rifle and an airsoft Claymore mine, authorities said. This was the second time in two days police investigated a suspicious package report at the school, on Lake Avenue. At 10:26 a.m. today, police were called for a suspicious package in a 15-year-old student's locker, and the 15-year-old student reported another package in his backpack, authorities said. Students were moved to the South Plainfield Middle School, the Grant Central 6 Elementary School and the Police Athletic League Center on Maple Avenue. Members of the State Police Bomb Squad went to the high school and determined the student had a mine and parts to an airsoft rifle designed to discharge plastic pellets driven by springs, electric motors and compressed gas, police said. Borough volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members went to the school, and officers and police dogs searched the building but found nothing more, authorities said. Students were returned to the high school to complete their school day and after-school activities. The 15-year-old student was charged with disorderly conduct, and a 17-year-old student was taken into custody pending further investigation, said police Lt. Kevin Murtagh. On Monday, State Police Bomb Squad members were called to the high school after police received a call of a suspicious package in an athletic field behind the gymnasium at 2:57 p.m., police said. Officers cordoned off the area State Police determined the package contained commercial fireworks, authorities said. The contents was secured and sent to the State Police Crime Lab in Trenton for examination, police said. **MSA COMMENTS** The schools are back in session and the kids are getting into trouble again. Just wait for the bomb threats when the first quarter exams are scheduled. I have two of these Airsoft Claymore mines and they can be fun to use at my training sessions. The system comes with both a command wire and a remote firing capability. It would be easy to use the components for more than just play time. See pix.
WEST PALM BEACH — A West Palm Beach teen has become the focus of an FBI investigation into hazardous materials that were found and removed from a home in the Ibis Golf and Country Club community. Since Thursday night, investigators searched for a variety of chemicals in 18-year-old Martin Morgenroth's home after a pool company employee alleged that he had made suspicious purchases, Morgenroth's attorney Richard Springer said. The teen lives in the home with his mother, Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Springer said. Springer said that investigators were searching the home for extra strength hydrogen peroxide, hydrochloric acid and acetone. "I don't know what they found because the inventory and return doesn't list what they found," he said. "But they did find something they had to blow up." West Palm Beach city spokesman Chase Scott confirmed that the chemicals were taken to another location and detonated. The 2,248-square-foot home sits on a cul-de-sac off Ibis Boulevard, the main street in the country-club community, where many single-family homes sell for $500,000 or more. The house is about a mile from Ibis' main entrance on Northlake Boulevard west of Florida's Turnpike. FBI spokesman James P. Marshall declined to comment, citing that the case is an ongoing investigation. On Friday, Ibis public safety employees sent a memo stating that the FBI was focusing on possible bomb-making chemicals ordered and possessed by an 18-year-old at the residence. The FBI removed several samples of chemicals, PVC piping and electrical tape, the station reported.

**MSA COMMENTS** Here is another example of kids behaving badly. Knowing what purchases to report as suspicious is just part of the OBP BMAP program and it is worth a look. Online they have several “Bomb Making Materials Awareness Program” items that highlight common chemicals that can be misused to make explosives. Look them up under BMAP on the DHS website.