

UNMAS IED DETECTION EXPERIENCE

Improving safety & efficiency through immersive training



The challenge | Show people, both inside and outside Somalia, the challenges and dangers the United Nations Mine Action Service soldiers faced every day

In 2017 alone almost 2,300 people were killed or injured by IEDs in Somalia, highlighting the importance of the mission. The UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service) mission in Somalia primarily focuses around counter IED (improvised explosive device) training for soldiers in the AMSOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) with a view to reopening MSR (Main supply routes) to FOBs (Forward operating bases). Our challenge was to work out how best to immerse people in this story.

Because it was such a high-threat environment, a lot of the civilian support staff couldn't leave the base in Mogadishu. And yet their operational colleagues were going out every day and one in 10 of them were being hit by an IED.

The solution | A tension-filled experience that tests the observation skills, patience and leadership of those willing to take the challenge.

By putting the participant in the soldier's boots they could see, hear and feel what the soldiers face as they go about this very dangerous work. The overall concept was to employ our technique of mixing real footage with computer generated imagery in a game engine to maximise the believability and therefore the emotional impact of the experience.

Filming took place in Mogadishu in March 2018. It was important to us that we fully understood the terrain and wanted to authentically experience first-hand what these UNMAS workers do. We travelled in a convoy through Mogadishu to one of AMISOMs Forward Operating Bases about 30Km from the city.



“It feels like I was right there... Now I see what my colleagues do.”



“Good training aid, so realistic”



Filming took place in Mogadishu, Somalia



See the full video on our website at vrai.ie