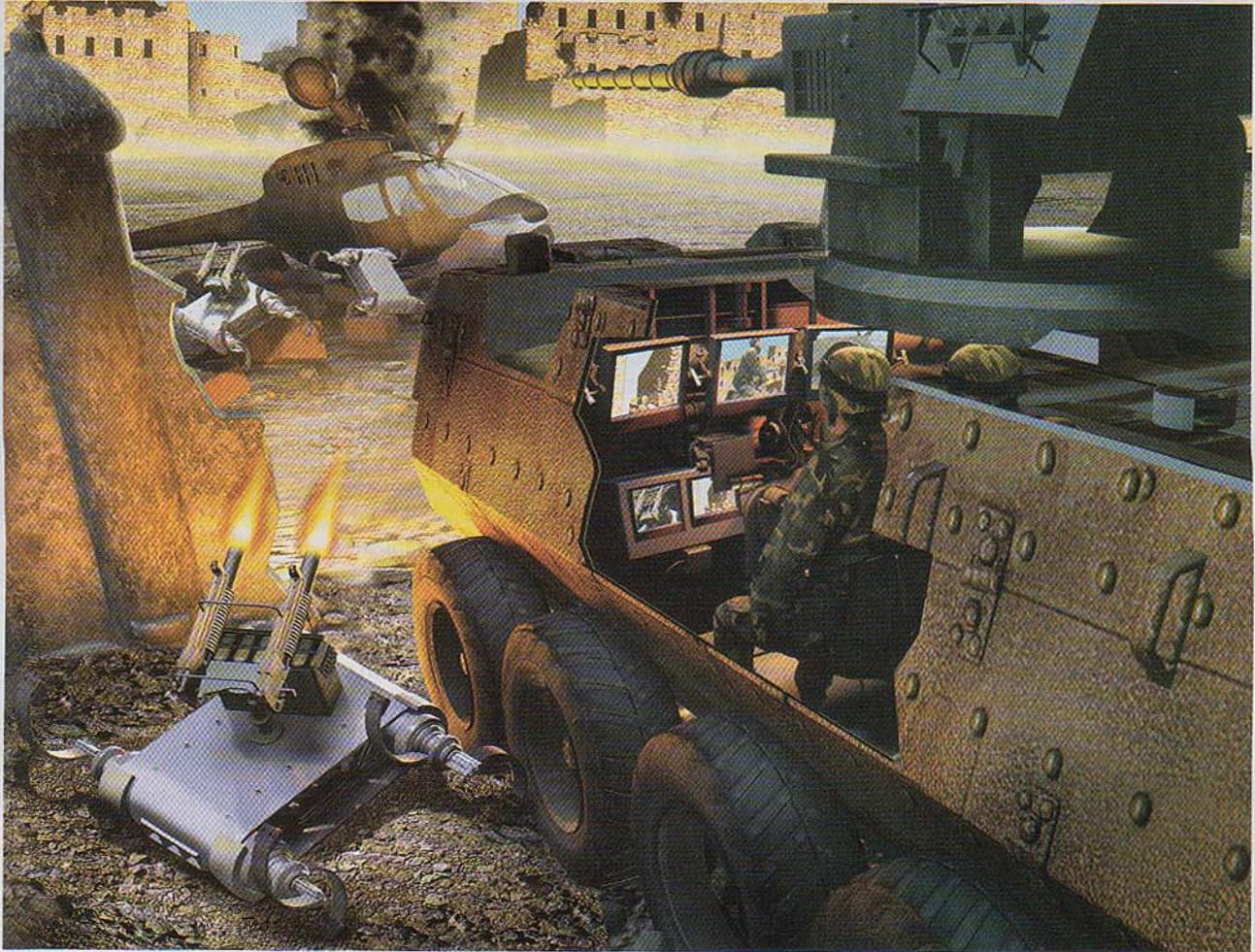


# Technology

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## Tiny Robots Go To War

With the ongoing war on terrorism putting American forces in harm's way in more places around the world, the Pentagon is taking a closer look at drafting iron-collar workers. Experiments using robots to explore caves in Afghanistan and to blow up suspect packages left on streets in Baghdad have shown that mechanical soldiers

are more than a novelty. Robots can save lives, especially in urban warfare.

With that objective in mind, some 230 military and national security experts gathered at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio last summer for the Lackland Air Force Base Force Protection Battlelab Exposition. On display were

some of the newest combat systems, including several derived from "robot inspectors" now used in the shipping and aircraft industry. Among those demonstrated were a wall-climbing robot that peeks through windows, and a sort of robotic watchdog that detects intruders using a combination of video and radar vision.

As for the future: "One of the things we have asked industry to do is to be able not only to detect [intruders] with robots, but to start a neutralization phase before we get response forces out there," says Col. Tommy Dillard, Battlelab commander.

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