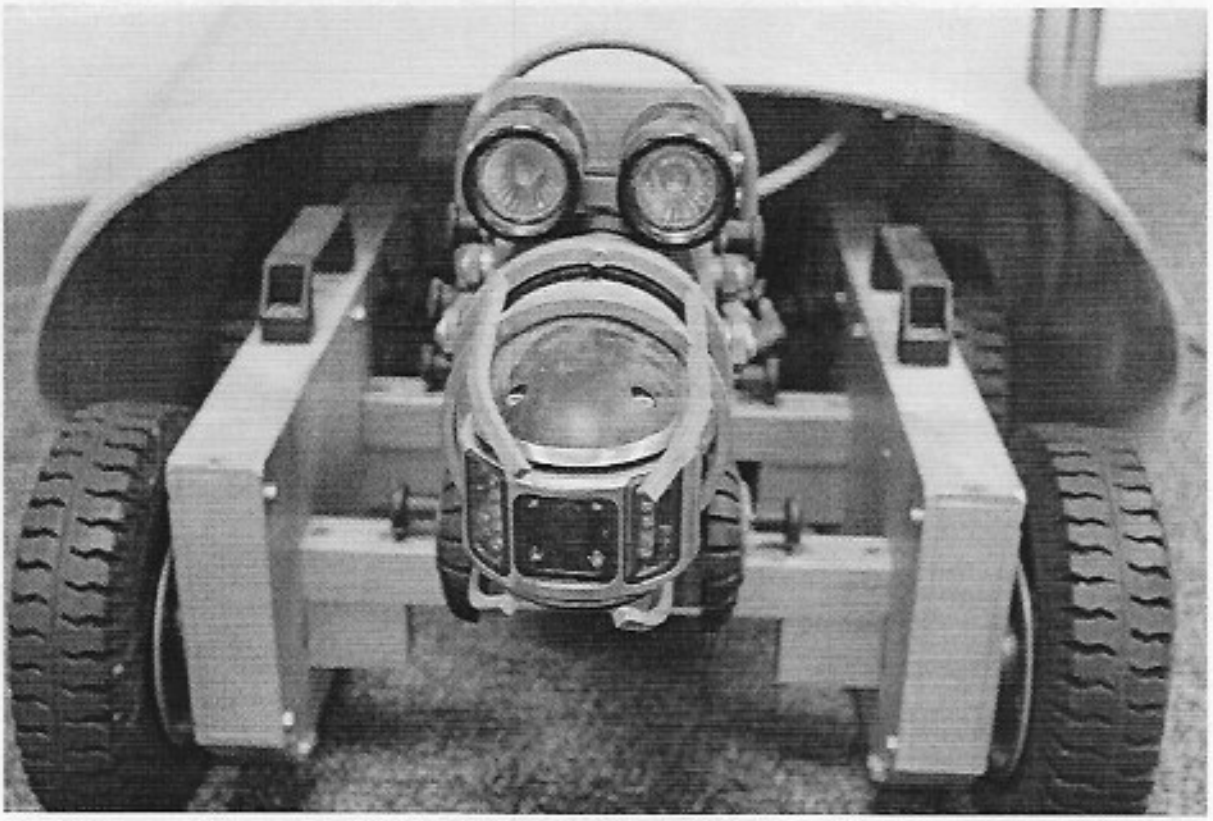
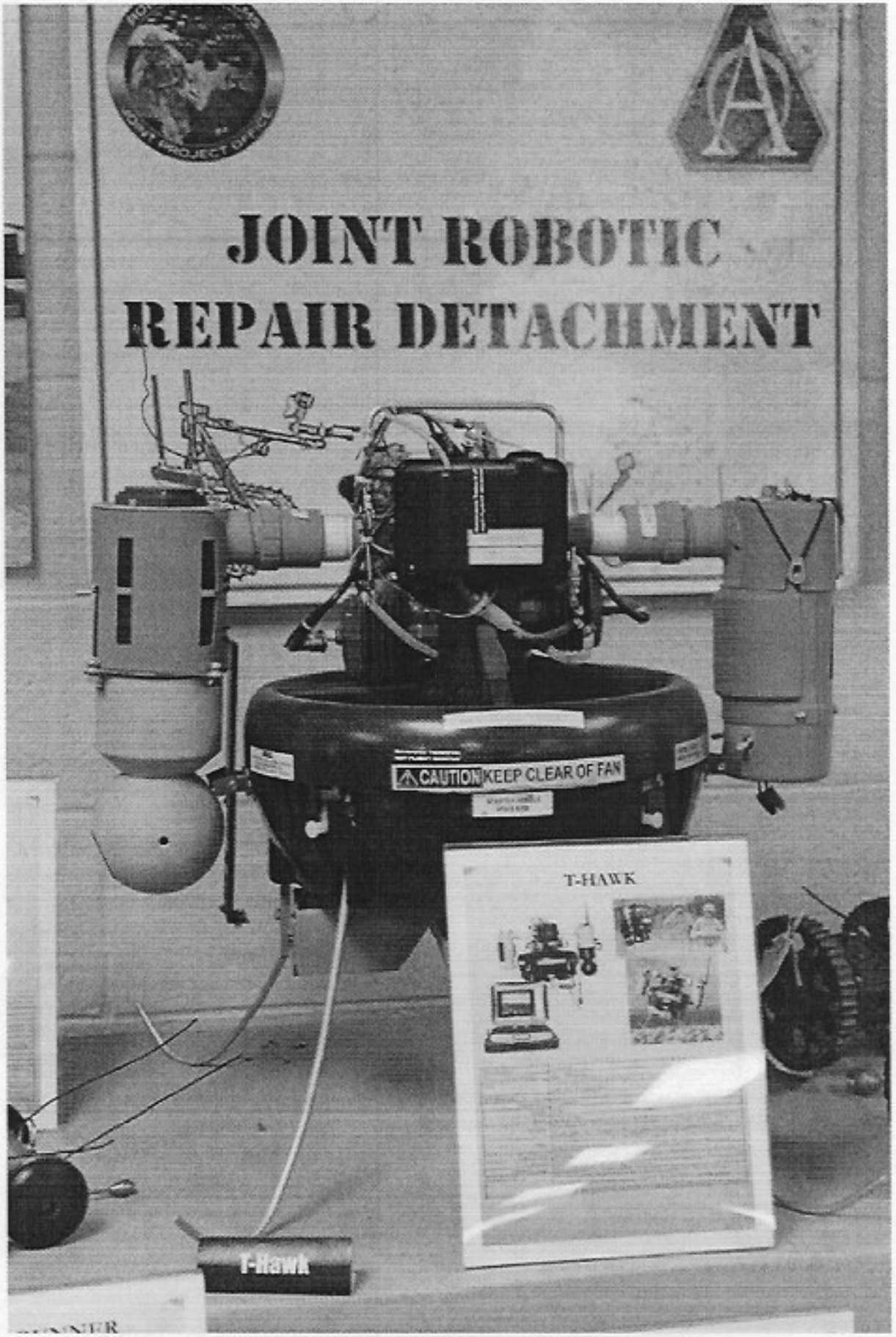
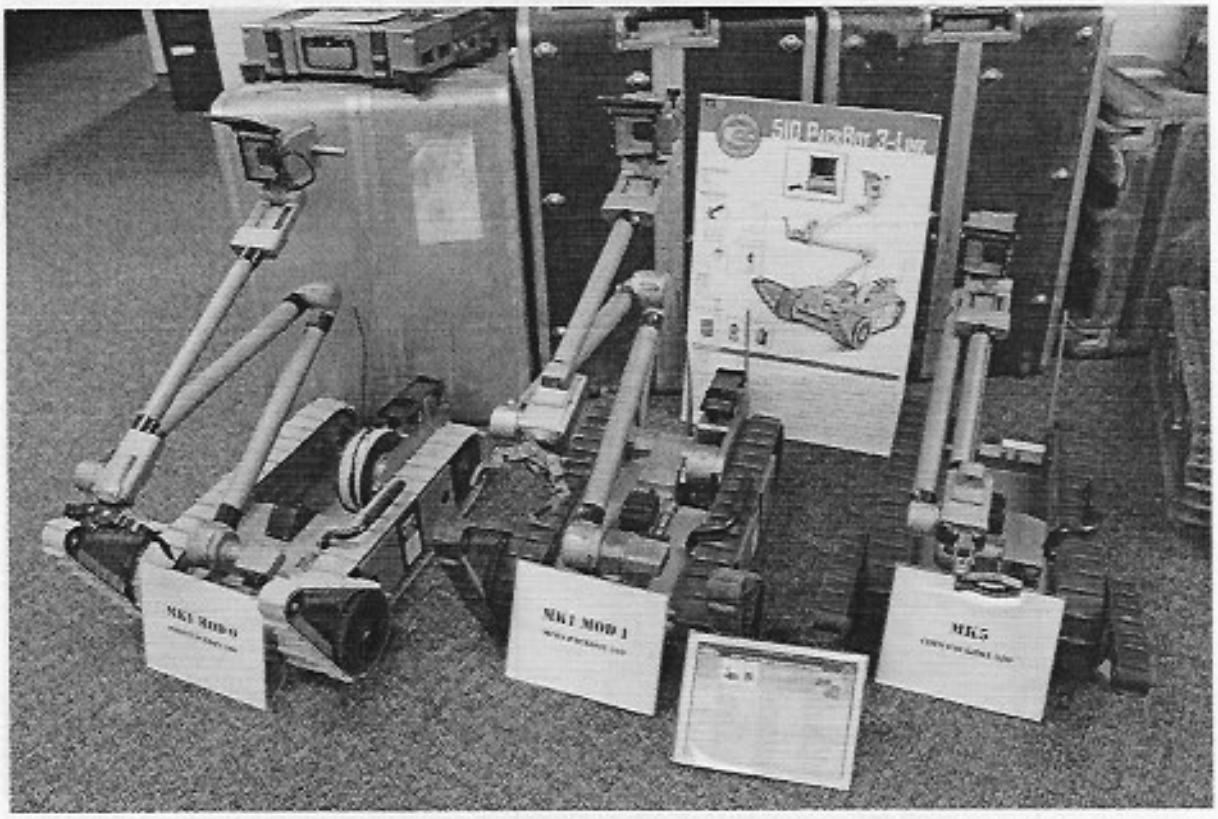
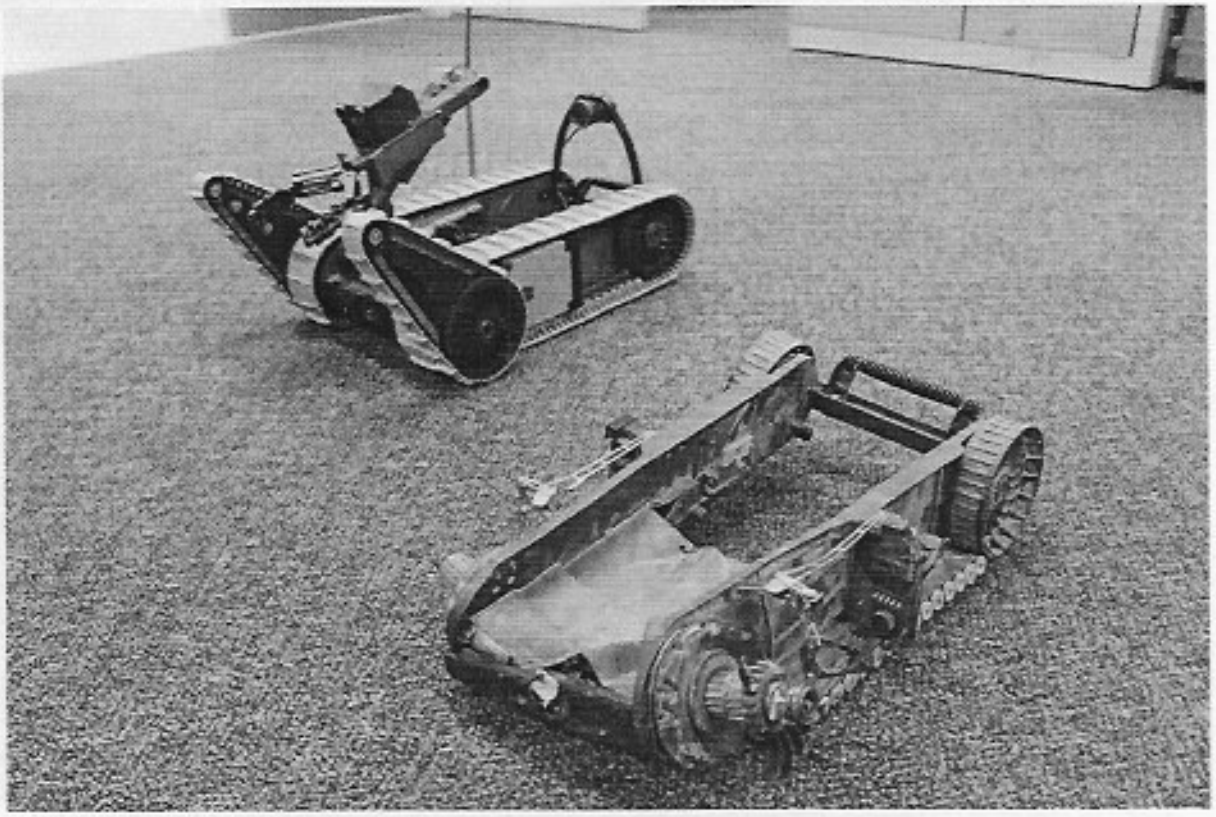
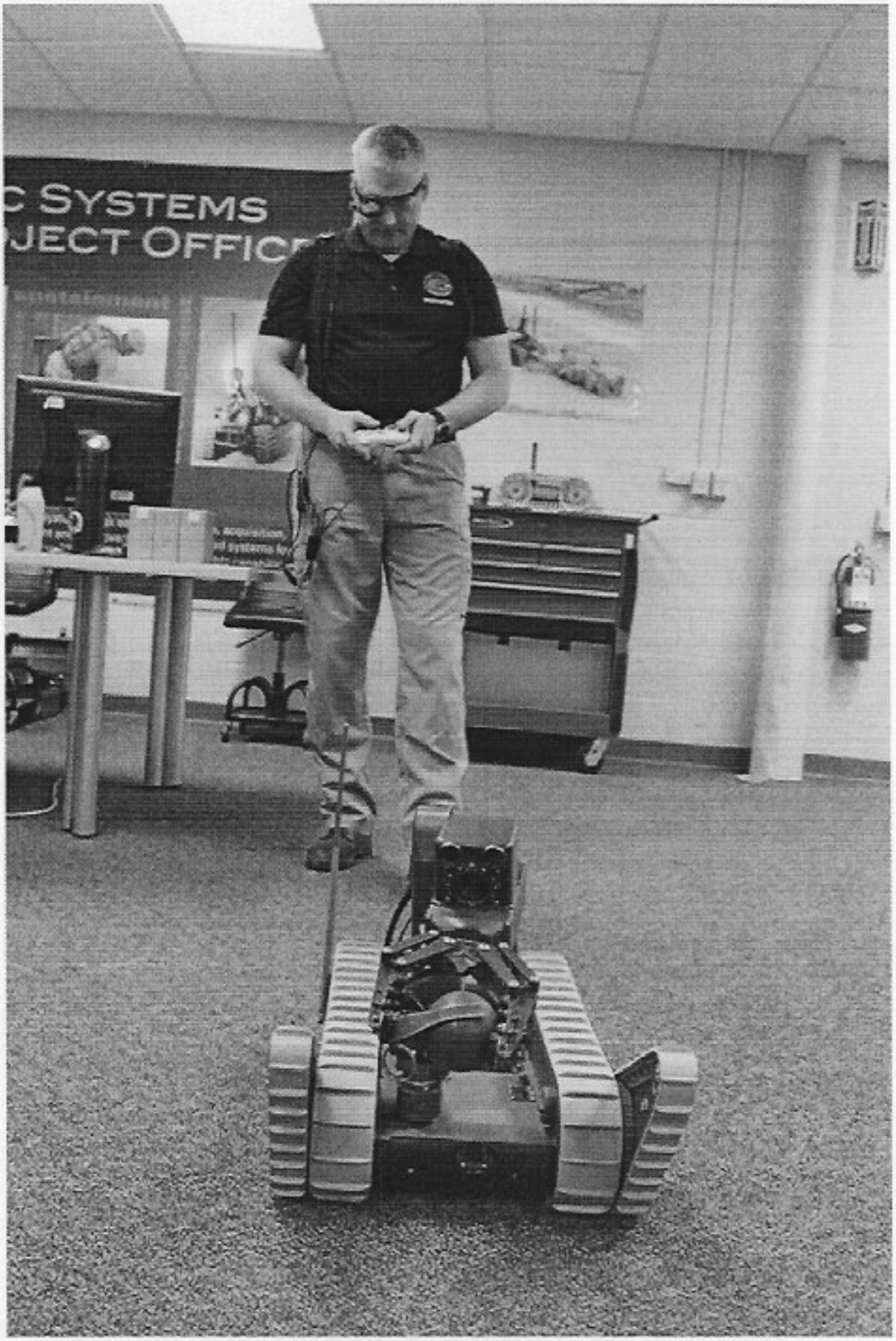


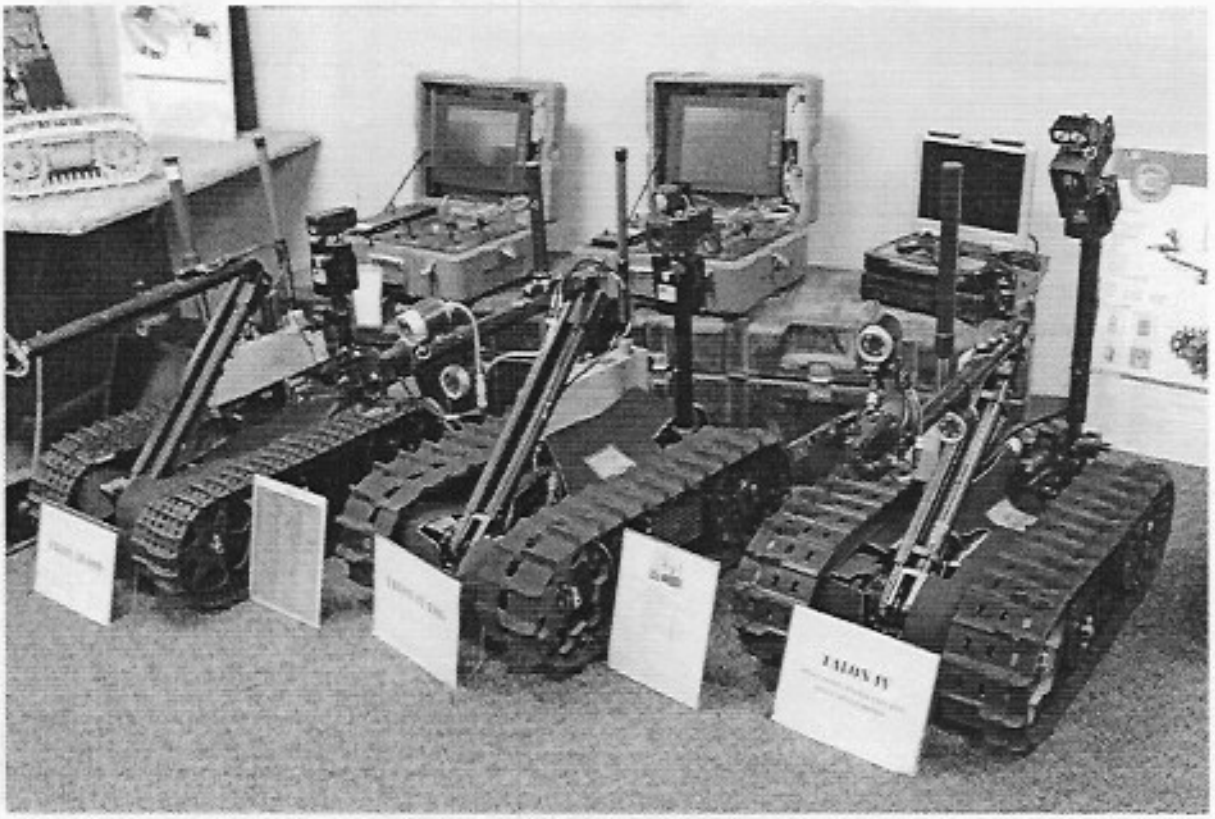

iRobot

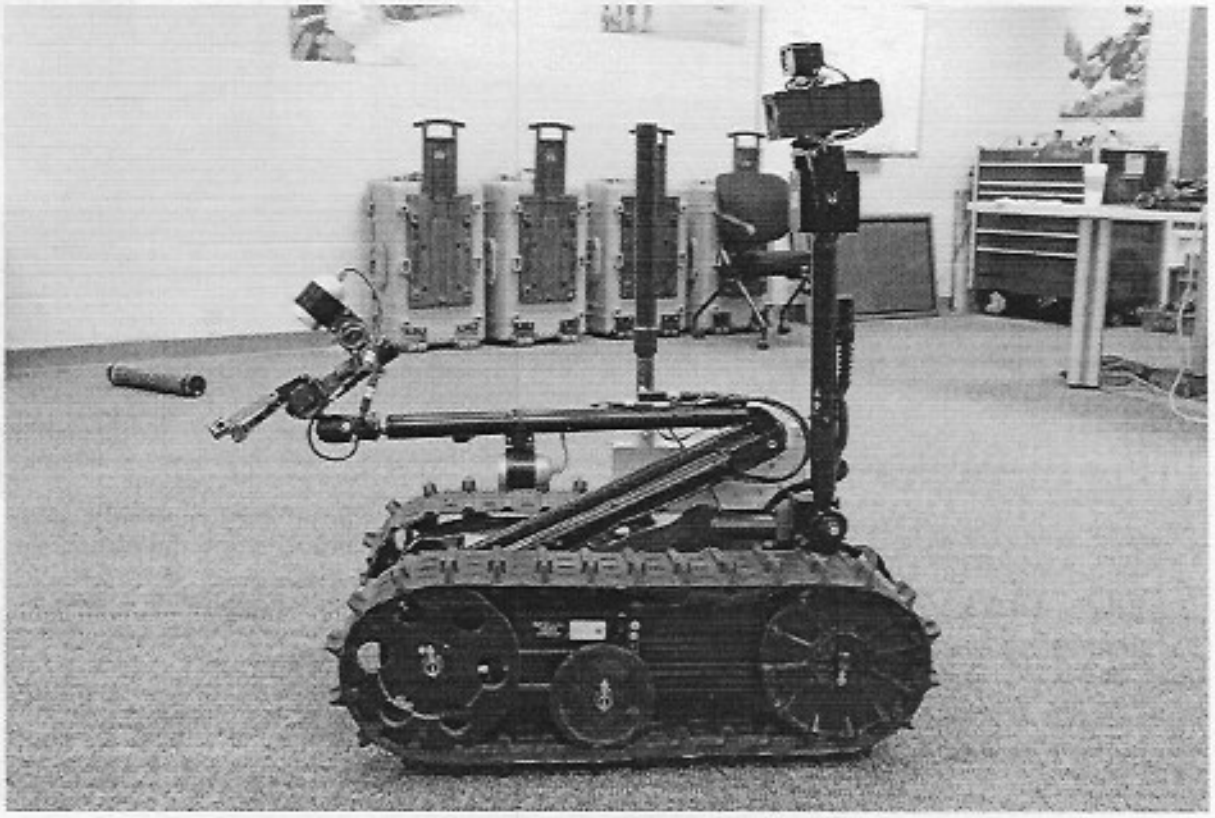

JOINT ROBOTIC
REPAIR DETACHMENT
CAUTION KEEP CLEAR OF FAN
T-HAWK
T-Hawk






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While a common chassis for MTRS will be picked, the robot will continue to transform and change over the course of its life as the Army invests in payloads that can be swapped out on the platform with ease.

Gone are the days of "one-trick ponies" in the UGV fleet, Bryan McVeigh, project manager for force protection at the overseeing Army program executive office, said in the same interview.

The Army and industry developed a ground robotic interoperability profile in advance of procuring the next generation of UGVs. MTRS will be the first contract that requires various payloads like fiber optics, manipulator arms and radios to work within the profile.

The service will first field MTRS to the engineering battalions and CBRNe units, and the EOD units will get new UGVs in a second round because those units recently received upgraded Talon systems.

Common Robotic System (Individual) — CRS(I)

For the Army's future small UGV — the Common Robotic System (Individual) — the service wants a man-packable robot that is under 25 lbs and highly mobile, equipped with advanced sensors and mission modules for dismounted forces. The design will allow operators to reconfigure for various missions quickly in the field.

Again, the Army is looking at a common chassis and some payloads to address operational capability gaps including standoff, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; remote CBRN detection; explosive ordnance disposal operations and clearance of danger areas.

The service plans to release an RFP this month, but had yet to post it to the Federal Business Opportunities website by press time. A contract award is expected in the first quarter of fiscal 2018. An initial operational capability is expected in fiscal 2023.

The Army wants to procure a total of 3,258 CRS(I) robots for engineers, infantry, CBRN and EOD units.

Universal controller

Tying everything together is a common universal controller that will not only provide data from the system a soldier might be controlling, but also from other systems in the air or on the ground, whether transmitted actively or passively. Soldiers will also be able to control more than one system at a time and not just one type of robot.

A common controller will reduce the cognitive load on the soldiers and provide the ability to share information, Anulare said. And such a controller will reduce the logistics footprint because not every UGV will have to come with its own individual controller.

An RFP for a common controller to be used at battalion levels and below is due out in about a month and a half, McVeigh said.

The UGV program office is working closely with its counterparts in the program office overseeing