

# WDS

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**COBHAM**

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HIGHLAND INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS, INC.

# Identification friend or foe

Colonel Avi Peer, Thermal Beacon Ltd

IFF HAS BECOME a high-priority issue in today's battlefield scenarios. Over the last two centuries, the incidents of units of the same country or alliance that found themselves firing ammunition at each other only increased in their numbers and their fatality. Subsequent multinational operations, such as those in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan, have reinforced this need. The move towards 'rapid decisive operations' will further reduce the time available for training in the rules of engagement and the tactics, techniques and procedures to be employed in the course of a specific mission.

During the Gulf War 1990-91, a sum of 24% of US fatalities were caused by 'friendly fire'.

Responding to the increasing incidence of fratricide, also known as **friendly fire** and "**Blue on Blue**", particularly in coalition forces, Thermal Beacon Ltd. took the first approach to a further improvement, where ruggedized thermal beacons that can emit both in the Mid-IR (3-5 microns) and Far-IR (8-12 microns) were developed for vehicle and dismount application. These beacons can also, in addition to the MWIR and LWIR, can signal into the near-IR (0.8 microns). These beacons not

only are fully complying with STANAG 2129, but also exceed it where the near-IR was not required in this STANAG. The unit can be seen from 4 Km away or even much further if seen from the sky.

Thermal Beacon has taken advantage of the vast existing inventory of TIs' (Thermal Imager) in the combat forces (Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy) and in all echelons, in order to offer an operational solution for battlefield ID.

Thermal Beacon's proprietary technology exploits existing thermal vision systems and adds an identification code that signals warfighters as belonging to "own forces."

Some of the systems are compact size, thus enabling it to be helmet-mounted, providing dismount personal highly reliable and extremely effective protection and identification of all soldiers in the field.

The system radiates in the thermal spectrum and does not emit radiation in the visible or near infrared region.

Additional applications for the emitters can be for identification devices in vehicles, yachts, police SWAT teams, SAR emergency services or mountain rescue teams. ■

**Thermal Beacon Ltd.**  
Secure Optical Signaling

**Let us protect  
your personnel  
from  
"Blue on Blue"  
incidents**

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