

Debris blower helping ≡ US TROOPS ≡



Buffalo Turbine began manufacturing commercial debris blowers in 1996, starting with its model KB turbine blower. Today, sports field managers, golf course superintendents, racetrack owners, landscapers, and others use this product. For example, ten units have been used at the last eight Super Bowls to help prepare the fields as well as cleaning up at halftime and post-game.

A special modified Military version of Model KB is successfully contributing to saving lives in Iraq, according to Paul Syracuse, general manager at Buffalo Turbine. "Our brave soldiers have named the BT-KBSML unit 'The CYCLONE'," says Syracuse.

The blower units are mounted to the front of the vehicles to provide an extra safety margin to

the occupants in the case of an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosion. The units can trip the electronic eye, infrared and other various crude triggering devices that are used by the enemy. The units are used to clear off the roadside garbage because the enemy has a tendency to hide their IEDs within the garbage. The Blowers have triggered the IEDs as well, protecting vehicles and soldiers.

"Being mounted to the front bumper of an RG31 or related vehicle, the Cyclone blower will provide additional protection to the cab area. The explosion and shrapnel will travel towards the blower unit instead of into the side of

the vehicle," says Syracuse. "The infra red sensors mounted to an IED may also be triggered by the path of the sand being blown by the Cyclone. Nothing is fool proof but saving just one life makes a project very rewarding." ■

