

**Mobile Robotics in the Field and Underwater:
How Robotics Researchers are a
Crucial Link in the Development Process**

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Refreshments at 2:30, Talk from 3:00-4:00

Mobile robots are being more readily used as remote reconnaissance tools in field and underwater environments. These environments include structural engineering, urban search and rescue, and underwater exploration. This past year, we have supplied groups with operators and mobile robot equipment for reconnaissance tasks. These groups include Bracken Engineering, Florida Task Force 3 (FLTF3), and the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA). Robotics researchers provide the crucial link in developing useful tools for real-world tasks. It is imperative that the robotics industry and research institutions partner to develop practical solutions. We are not only working to develop strong research partnerships, but we are also developing robot platforms designed for research. We intend to give researchers the tools they need to conduct necessary research to further progress the field of mobile robotics.