

Chapter I

EOD WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

1. Mission

The mission of DOD EOD is to support national security strategy and force protection by neutralizing hazards from foreign and domestic, conventional, nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) UXO, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that present a threat to operations, installations, personnel, or materiel.

2. Threat

The increasing potential of UXO resulting from the proliferation of arms, ammunition, and explosives throughout the world, and an increasing number of terrorist attacks threaten the mobility and survivability of the entire force. Area denial-type munitions containing antidisturbance, influence, self-destruct, remote control, booby-trap, or contact fuzing also directly threaten US forces. The increasing availability of NBC material, components, and weapons raises the possibility of terrorists using these weapons, or conventional IEDs, in an attack against civilian populations or military facilities and units. Wherever US forces deploy, these threats exist.

3. Capabilities

Military EOD personnel and equipment provide a variety of capabilities to commanders. Joint regulations and DOD directives prescribe specific responsibilities for each service. Common EOD training, equipment, and technical manuals provide each service with the capability to detect, identify, field evaluate, render safe, recover, and make final disposition of conventional or NBC UXO and IEDs, both foreign and domestic. Due to specific training and safety measures, equipment capabilities, and security issues, only EOD-qualified personnel can provide EOD support to US military operations. See Appendix A, Multiservice EOD Capabilities Matrix, and individual service chapters (chapters III-VI) for a detailed listing of specific service EOD capabilities.

4. Common Characteristics

a. History. The development of the US military EOD force was an outgrowth of the bitter experience of the British at the beginning of World War (WW) II, when the Germans dropped thousands of bombs and mines containing large explosive charges on land and in the waters around Great Britain. The US started an EOD service shortly before entering WWII by sending representatives from each of the military branches to England for

bomb disposal training. Those representatives returned to the US and established separate Army and Navy bomb disposal schools. By 1960, DOD combined the Army and Navy schools under Navy cognizance to become the Naval EOD School. In 1971, DOD designated the Secretary of the Navy as the single manager for EOD technology and training.

b. **Multiservice EOD School.** The Naval School EOD (NAVSCOLEOD) located at Eglin AFB, FL, is a Navy command, staffed by Army, Navy, AF, and Marine Corps instructors. The EOD course of instruction is approximately six months in length for Army, AF, and Marine Corps personnel and twelve months long for Navy personnel. Navy personnel receive additional instruction in diving procedures and underwater ordnance operations. NAVSCOLEOD trains officer and enlisted personnel from all services in munitions identification, render-safe procedures, explosives safety, and EOD-unique equipment. The school's mission is to provide EOD-trained individuals to the operating forces of all US services and to provide training to various federal agencies and international students.

c. **EOD Research and Development.** The Navy is assigned as the single manager for all DOD EOD research and development, training and evaluation, and common-type training. The Naval EOD Technology Division (NAVEODTECHDIV), Indian Head, MD, is a Navy command with colocated detachments of all services, which is responsible for research and development of specialized EOD tools, equipment, techniques, and procedures common to two or more services. This research and development assists EOD units in maintaining a modern capability to detect/locate, render safe, or dispose of UXO and associated hazards. All services can submit requirements to the NAVTECHDIV for equipment development and can provide input to the prioritization and selection of projects for development. The services also provide final approval and acceptance of developed items.

d. **EOD Technical Manuals.** All services use the same EOD technical manuals as the basis for EOD training and technical procedures. The NAVTECHDIV develops and publishes these technical manuals and receives joint service input and approval prior to publication. The NAVTECHDIV limits access to EOD publications to EOD-qualified personnel who are performing EOD duties. The NAVTECHDIV regularly exchanges information with both US national agencies and allied ordnance experts to stay abreast of the latest UXO trends and threats.

e. **Common Equipment.** All military EOD teams possess the same basic EOD tools to detect, identify, evaluate, render safe, and perform final disposition of explosive devices and associated hazards. These tools include portable x-ray equipment, robots, specialized demolition charges, and specialized tools for removing fuzes. Each service has specialized EOD equipment to perform service-unique EOD missions.

5. Interoperability

The existing multiservice training and technical manuals, common equipment, and jointly supported research and development program make EOD one of the most interoperable specialties in the US military. Multiservice EOD forces have worked side by side in numerous operations during recent contingencies and conflicts. These joint EOD operations demonstrate the potential for greater planning and operational efficiency in the future.