

## Chapter III

# ARMY EOD OPERATIONS

### 1. Interservice Responsibilities

Army Regulation (AR) 75-14; Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 8027.1G; Marine Corps Order (MCO) 8027.1D; and Air Force Joint Instruction (AFJI) 32-3002, *Interservice Responsibilities for Explosive Ordnance Disposal*; and AR 75-15, *Responsibilities and Procedures for Explosive Ordnance Disposal*, define the Army's responsibilities as the following:

- a. To provide support to Army installations/activities and to render safe/dispose of explosive ordnance in the physical possession of the Army.
- b. To establish, operate, and support an explosive ordnance reconnaissance program.
- c. To provide routine and emergency response to all land-mass areas under US control, except those specifically assigned as a responsibility of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force.

### 2. Mission

The Army EOD mission is to support national security strategy by providing the capability to neutralize hazards from conventional UXO, NBC and associated materials, and IED (both explosive and NBC), that present a threat to operations, installations, personnel, and/or material. Army EOD forces also may dispose of hazardous foreign or US ammunition, UXO, individual mines, booby-trapped mines, and chemical mines. Routine clearing and rapid breaching of foreign or US minefields is the responsibility of the Army engineers. EOD provides the Army with a rapidly deployable support package for the elimination of hazards from UXO in any operational environment. The EOD force serves as a combat multiplier by neutralizing UXO that is restricting freedom of movement and denying access to supplies, facilities, and other critical assets. Army EOD forces equip, train, and organize to support tactical land forces across the spectrum of operations, to include peacekeeping, military operations other than war (MOOTW), and MTW.

### 3. Doctrine

- a. Rules of Allocation. The Army has sufficient EOD force structure to support two simultaneous MTWs in separate theaters of operations. The Army allocates each theater one EOD group at Army/theater level; three EOD battalions at theater support command/corps/division level; and 28 EOD

companies at specified locations that best support the maneuver commander. See Figure III-1, US Army EOD Theater Force Structure.

b.  $C^2$ . The EOD group provides  $C^2$  for all Army EOD assets and operations in theater. The EOD battalions provide  $C^2$ , mission tasking, technical intelligence acquisition and management, and limited administrative and logistic support for up to 10 EOD companies. EOD battalions, or battalions (-), may deploy as the senior  $C^2$  element for Army EOD operations in a given operation. Ordnance companies remain under the command of their parent battalion, but depending on the operational situation, may be placed TACON/OPCON to another unit. When utilizing the TACON/OPCON  $C^2$  option, the parent battalion retains administrative control (ADCON) of their subordinate companies. EOD companies provide general support (GS) on an area basis or direct support (DS) to specified elements in support of operations. The combatant commander's planning staff tailors EOD forces to support specified operations down to a brigade combat team. Responsibilities of the EOD commander at all levels include—

- (1) recommending policy and distribution of EOD assets.
- (2) monitoring EOD support missions and establishing workload priorities.
- (3) serving as POC for technical intelligence coordination.
- (4) coordinating GS and DS EOD support.

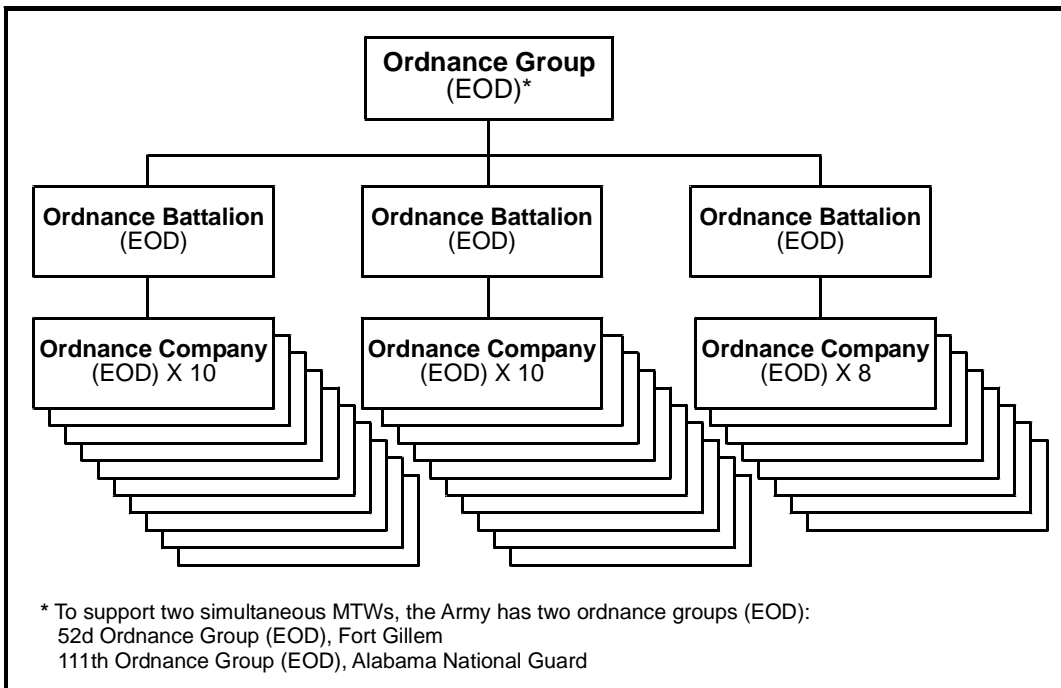


Figure III-1. US Army Theater EOD Force Structure

(5) ensuring each EOD unit establishes provisions for communications at each level to support EOD operations.

(6) supplementing other theater force-protection procedures to meet the existing threat.

(7) coordinating administrative and logistical support, as required, from the supported command.

c. **Operational Planning.** The EOD group and EOD battalion provide staff planning for Army EOD operations throughout their area of operations (AO). Thus, the EOD group commander is also the EOD special staff officer to the Army force commander, joint force land component commander (JFLCC), and coalition JFLCC. The EOD battalion commander serves as the EOD special staff officer at the corps JTF and coalition JTF level. In the absence of a deployed EOD group or EOD battalion, the senior-ranking Army EOD officer also serves as the EOD staff officer for the Army element. The EOD commander is responsible for providing the EOD annex to all OPLANs/OPORDs. This ensures that EOD forces fully understand and support the maneuver commander's operations and also provides for force protection throughout the AO.

d. **Theater-Level Strategic Planning.** The Army service component commander (ASCC) and his staff plan for Army and assigned EOD theater-strategic EOD requirements in support of the geographic combatant commander's campaign plan. The ASCC accomplishes the planning by using the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES) and coordinates the planning effort with the combatant commander's EOD staff officer. The EOD battalion and group commander may provide LNOs to the geographic combatant commander or JFC staff if required. The EOD battalion commander may also provide an LNO to a brigade, division, or corps JTF headquarters if deemed necessary by operational requirements. The LNO ensures—

(1) mutual cooperation and understanding between commanders and staffs of different headquarters.

(2) coordination on tactical matters to achieve mutual purpose, support, and action.

(3) precise understanding of stated or implied coordination measures to achieve synchronized results.

e. **Combined Operations.** Combined operations involve the military forces of two or more nations acting together in common purpose. The EOD battalion/group commander considers military doctrine and training, equipment, cultural differences, and language barriers when providing TACON or OPCON of alliance or coalition EOD forces. Lessons learned indicate that few linguists have both the technical expertise and depth of understanding to cross both language and doctrinal boundaries and be fully

understood when dealing with UXO and technical EOD procedures. Combined operations require a significant resource commitment to dedicated liaison and linguist teams from alliance or coalition EOD forces.

#### 4. Organizations

The Army assigns EOD organizational assets to specified major command (MAJCOM) areas. See Figure III-2, US Army EOD Force Allocation. The

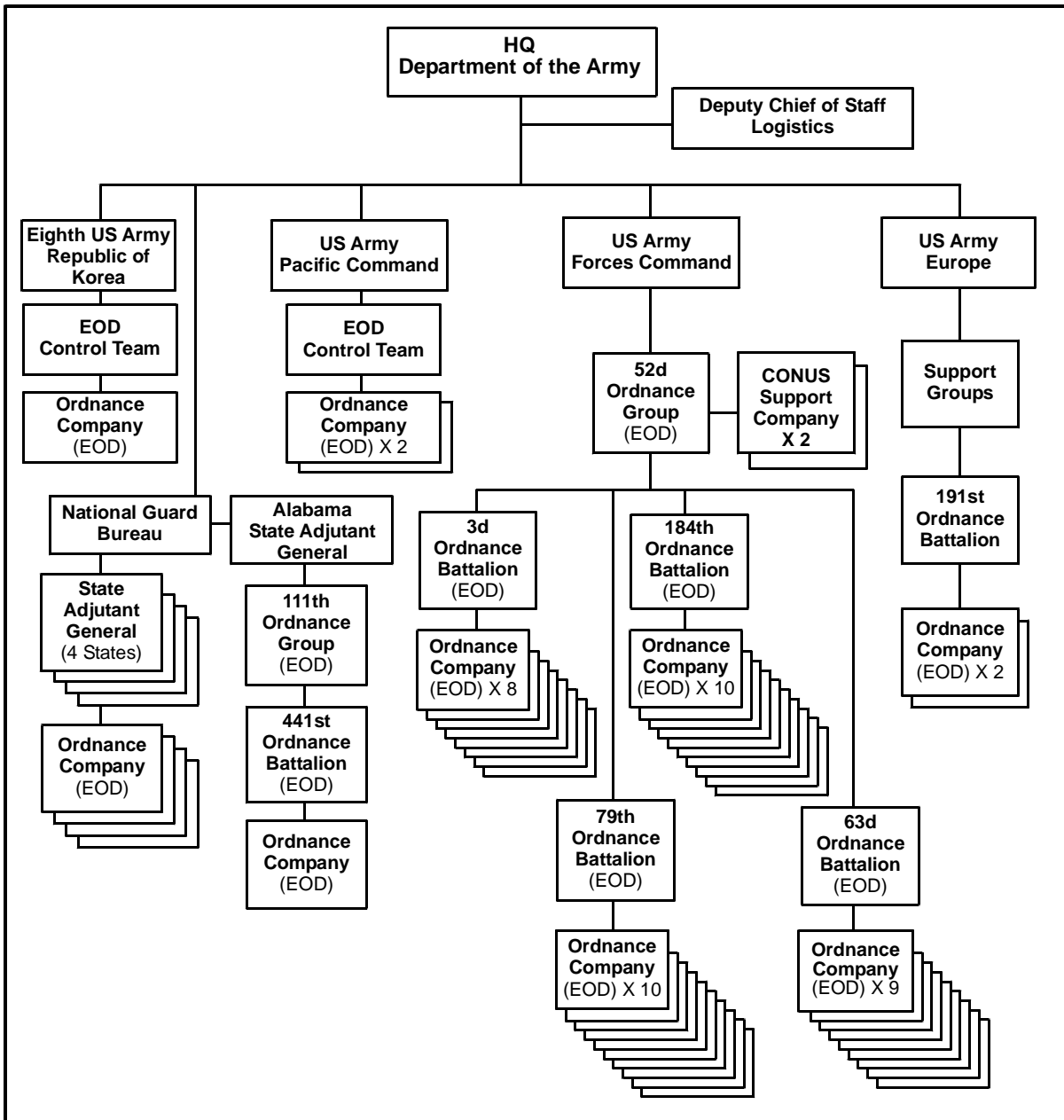


Figure III-2. US Army EOD Force Allocation

Army numbers all EOD units for support to specified OPLANs. Major EOD commands and their locations are:

- a. US Army Forces Command: 52d Ordnance Group (EOD), four EOD battalions, and 39 EOD companies.
- b. US Army Europe: EOD cell, 191st Ordnance Battalion, and two EOD companies.
- c. US Army, Pacific Command: EOD control team and two EOD companies.
- d. Eighth US Army, Republic of Korea: EOD control team and one EOD company.
- e. US Army National Guard: one EOD ordnance group, one EOD battalion, and five EOD companies.

## **5. Capabilities**

a. **The EOD Company–Mission.** Each EOD company is authorized 23 soldiers, comprising 20 EOD-qualified technicians, including the commander and first sergeant, and three support soldiers (personnel clerk, mechanic, and supply sergeant). The EOD companies provide GS to the corps on an area basis and can perform DS missions for a specific maneuver unit, normally a division or brigade TF. Due to the limited support personnel, the EOD company depends on the supported unit for administrative and logistical support.

b. **The EOD Company–Force Capabilities.** The activity of EOD intensifies based upon the operational tempo of the battle and stabilizes as the theater matures. The EOD force within a theater of operations can expect to conduct operations in a myriad of situations and locations. An EOD company can field up to seven EOD teams, consisting of a minimum of one EOD team leader and one EOD team member. Each team can operate for a period up to 72 hours and may conduct 8-10 EOD incidents in a 24-hour period. This is dependent on the mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available, time available (METT-T). The Army adds a “C” at the end of METT-T for civilian considerations. Manpower intensive EOD operations (multiple UXO, NBC operations, and ammunition supply point accidents) require several EOD teams at one time to complete the mission. EOD commanders can task organize their teams as necessary to complete the mission.

c. **Operational Capabilities.** Organic to each EOD company are personnel and equipment to identify, mitigate, neutralize, remove, and dispose of conventional or NBC explosive hazards. These hazards may arise from domestic or foreign ordnance or IED that degrades the commander’s mobility or that threaten personnel, operations, or installations. Many of the capabilities are non-service specific. To avoid repetition in the service chapters, Appendix E provides those capabilities that are recurring,

non-service specific EOD requirements. Key Army-specific EOD operational capabilities are—

(1) Force Protection. Army EOD provides the bomb disposal component of the Army's force protection program. In addition to actual response to explosive devices, Army EOD forces can also provide training in UXO/explosives recognition and reporting, bomb threat search procedures and evacuation, site vulnerability assessments, and unit standard operating procedures (SOP) preparation and validation. This training increases the effectiveness of the maneuver commander's force protection program.

(2) Very Important Person Protective Support Activity (VIPPSA). Army EOD is the executive agent for coordination and tasking of all military EOD support for the US Department of State (DOS) and US Secret Service (USSS) for the protection of the president, vice president, and designated foreign heads of state.

(3) Amnesty Programs. Army EOD units assist in the collection and disposal of hazardous munitions and components as part of the maneuver commander's force protection program, to ensure the continued safety of military personnel.

(4) Stuck Rounds. Each EOD team performs specialized procedures to remove artillery or mortar rounds that become stuck in firing tubes.

(5) Mortuary Services. Immediate recovery and clearance of deceased persons is a priority of the services. The presence of UXO being found on or imbedded in deceased persons adversely impacts the recovery of coalition or US personnel. Therefore, Army planners normally involve EOD-qualified leaders in planning and conducting recovery and processing of deceased personnel.

d. Continental US (CONUS) Support Company. The Army assigns two CONUS support companies to the EOD group. The CONUS support company assumes responsibility for the CONUS Army EOD mission upon deployment of an EOD battalion and all, or some, of its subordinate EOD companies. The CONUS support company commander provides C<sup>2</sup> of an operations section and disperses a response force or teams at up to six different geographical locations. The CONUS support company can assume many of the C<sup>2</sup> functions of the deployed battalion, to include—

- (1) coordination of EOD support to the USSS.
- (2) EOD support to military installation commanders.
- (3) EOD support to other civilian agencies.

The group can also task the companies to provide specialized support to the National Command Authority (NCA) for response to counterterrorism activities and response to weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

## **6. Training**

a. **Required Individual EOD Training.** All Army EOD specialists attend the Army-specific material/equipment training (Phase II) at Redstone Arsenal, AL. Army EOD personnel also receive continuous technical sustainment training and evaluations at their units of assignment.

b. **Specialized Training Opportunities.** Select EOD soldiers may also attend specialized training such as technical escort specialist, advanced access and disablement, advanced EOD, and a variety of nuclear and chemical operations courses. A limited number of specially selected EOD soldiers also attend Federal Bureau of Investigation civilian EOD training or foreign EOD courses, such as the British Army Engineer IED Disposal and Advanced Manual Techniques Course, the Canadian Military Forces IED Disposal Course, and the French Military Demining School.

c. **Combat Training Centers.** EOD companies and company elements provide support to maneuver forces (battalions, brigades, and division TF headquarters) undergoing training at the Joint Readiness Training Center, National Training Center, and the Combat Maneuver Training Center. Specifically, countering UXO hazards with EOD teams prevent needless deaths, injuries, and destruction of the commander's combat power. During reception, staging, onward movement, and integration, supporting EOD teams provide UXO danger awareness and risk management, fratricide prevention, and other safety instruction to JTF personnel.