

## Chapter VI

# AIR FORCE EOD OPERATIONS

### 1. Interservice Responsibilities

AFJI 32-3002; AR 75-14; OPNAVINST 8027.1G; and MCO 8027.1D, *Interservice Responsibilities for Explosive Ordnance Disposal*, define the AF EOD responsibilities. The AF EOD furnishes services on AF installations, dispersal bases (which include non-DOD installations from which air reserve component forces operate), in assigned operational areas, or for the disposal of explosive ordnance in the physical possession of the USAF. When requested by other services, federal agencies, or civil authorities, USAF EOD teams respond to any incident site to prevent or limit damage and injury.

### 2. Mission

The AF EOD mission is to protect people, facilities, and resources from damaging effects of UXO, hazardous components, and devices. The EOD personnel locate, identify, disarm, neutralize, recover, and dispose of hazardous explosives, NBC, and incendiary items. They also neutralize criminal and terrorist bombs when requested or directed by proper authority, clear areas of explosives-related contamination, and dispose of unserviceable and outdated munitions. The EOD force supports the USSS and the DOS in their protection of the president, vice president, foreign dignitaries, and VIPs. EOD forces train other USAF personnel on ordnance recognition, hazards, and precautions and provide EOD support to the global engagement mission.

### 3. Doctrine

a. Concept. The USAF organizes EOD force packages into unit-type codes (UTCs) to provide flexible structures to support contingency missions. The USAF designs these packages to meet specific manning and equipment requirements based on the mission and threat. Planners can combine the UTCs in building-block fashion to provide coverage for location-specific missions.

b. C<sup>2</sup>. In peacetime, USAF assigns EOD units to a USAF wing under the base civil engineer (BCE) and further assigns the wings to the MAJCOMs through the numbered Air Forces. During deployed operations, USAF assigns EOD units under the deployed BCE (when one is assigned). If no BCE is assigned, EOD units normally work for the deployed wing/unit commander. At the wing level during increased threat conditions, the wing establishes a survival recovery center (SRC) for wing C<sup>2</sup>. The senior EOD representative performs duties at the SRC to control all EOD operations at the deployed location.

c. **Operational Planning.** The USAF provides basic UTC packages for planners to develop capabilities at deployed locations. These UTCs form capabilities to respond to the various threat levels. This building-block approach allows the maximum flexibility in EOD force employment. The USAF EOD UTCs are—

(1) **4F9X1-Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) EOD Lead Team.** This UTC consists of six personnel, EOD equipment, technical data, explosives, two vehicles (one M-1116 up-armored high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle [UA-HMMWV] and one M1038 high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle [HMMWV]), and one M101 trailer. The UTC supports MTW locations and contingency missions at aerial ports, en route bases, or critical CONUS operating locations. It also provides limited capability for MOOTW and force protection buildup. This UTC supports lead aviation squadrons by protecting critical resources and personnel from the effects of explosive hazards, minor munitions accidents, terrorist explosive devices, and UXO from limited enemy attack. Capabilities of the UTC include render safe US and foreign conventional and chemical hazards, and IEDs.

(2) **4F9X2-CES Prime BEEF EOD Follow Team.** This UTC has four personnel with a limited set of EOD equipment, technical data, explosives, and one vehicle (M1038 HMMWV). The UTC augments an EOD lead team (4F9X1) to provide added support to both a lead and a follow aviation squadron.

(3) **4F9X3-CES Prime BEEF EOD Base Support/Sustainment Team.** The base support/sustainment team has two personnel deploying with a set of base support equipment. This UTC includes robotic platforms for remote operations and augments the EOD lead team (4F9X1) and/or EOD follow team (4F9X2). This UTC can provide additional equipment for sustained operations.

(4) **4F9X6-CES Armored Base Recovery Vehicle.** The 4F9X6 UTC consists of one M1116 UA-HMMWV that provides mobile, armored protection during ordnance reconnaissance and safing missions.

(5) **4F9X7-All-Purpose Remote Transport System (ARTS).** The ARTS provides remote application of explosive tools for use against large IEDs and a remotely operated platform for removal of submunitions from operating areas. The ARTS also supports any deployed EOD capability for recovery from attack, force protection build-up, or accident clean-up operations.

(6) **4F9X9-CES Prime BEEF High Threat Augmentation Team.** The high threat augmentation team consists of two EOD personnel with weapons, ammunition, and personal protective equipment. This UTC augments other UTCs in incremental levels by adding two additional personnel until necessary manpower requirements are met.

(7) 4F9XA-CES Prime BEEF EOD Leadership/Management Team. The 4F9XA UTC has one EOD officer and a chief master sergeant with personal weapons, ammunition, and personal protective equipment. This UTC supports forward-deployed staff positions and provides a C<sup>2</sup> capability for theater, JTF, or unit EOD teams.

(8) 4F9XB-CES Prime BEEF EOD Contingency Support Team. This UTC consists of six personnel, one vehicle, minimum EOD equipment, technical data, and explosives. This UTC supports en-route and force-protection missions.

#### 4. Organizations

During peacetime, the AF assigns EOD flights to the CE organization within the MAJCOMs. They are responsible for peacetime support of the command mission and posturing deployable force packages. See Figure VI-1, Air Force Peacetime EOD Organization. In wartime, the EOD force deploys to support the geographic combatant commanders. See Figure VI-2, Air Force Wartime EOD Organization.

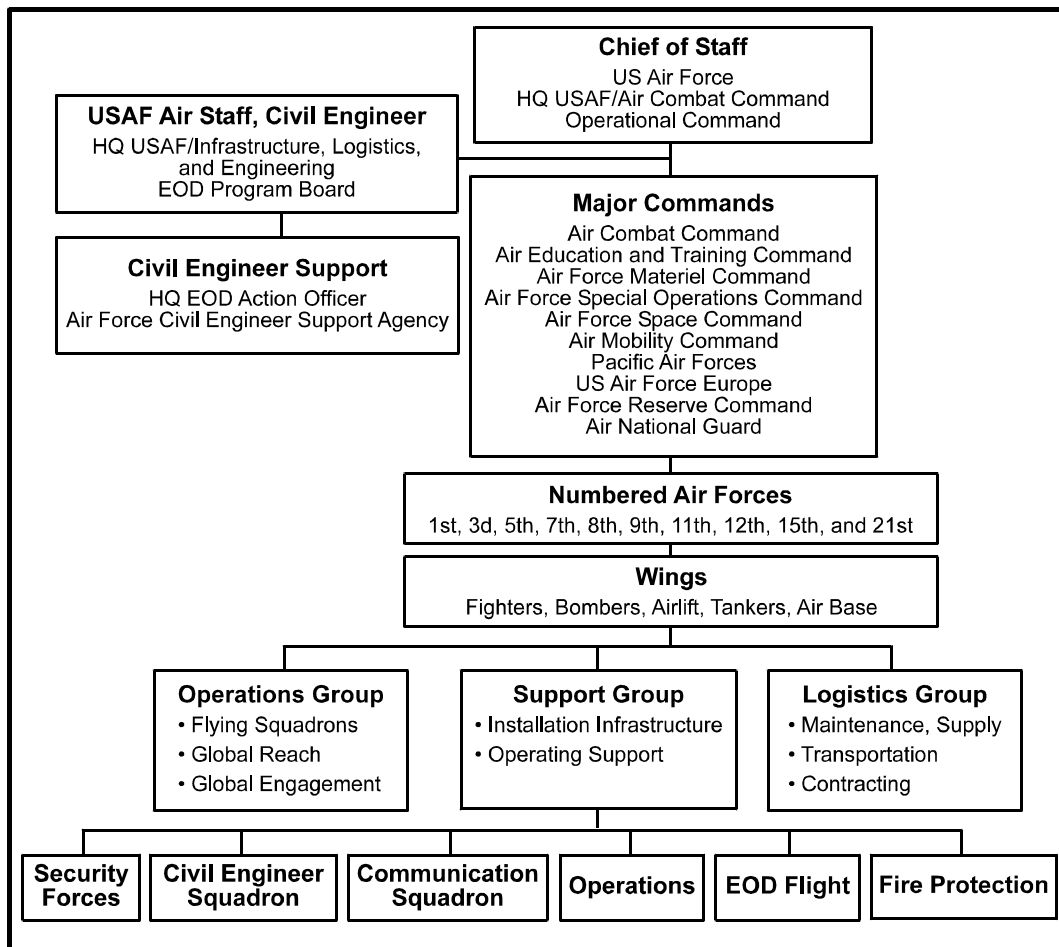


Figure VI-1. Air Force Peacetime EOD Organization

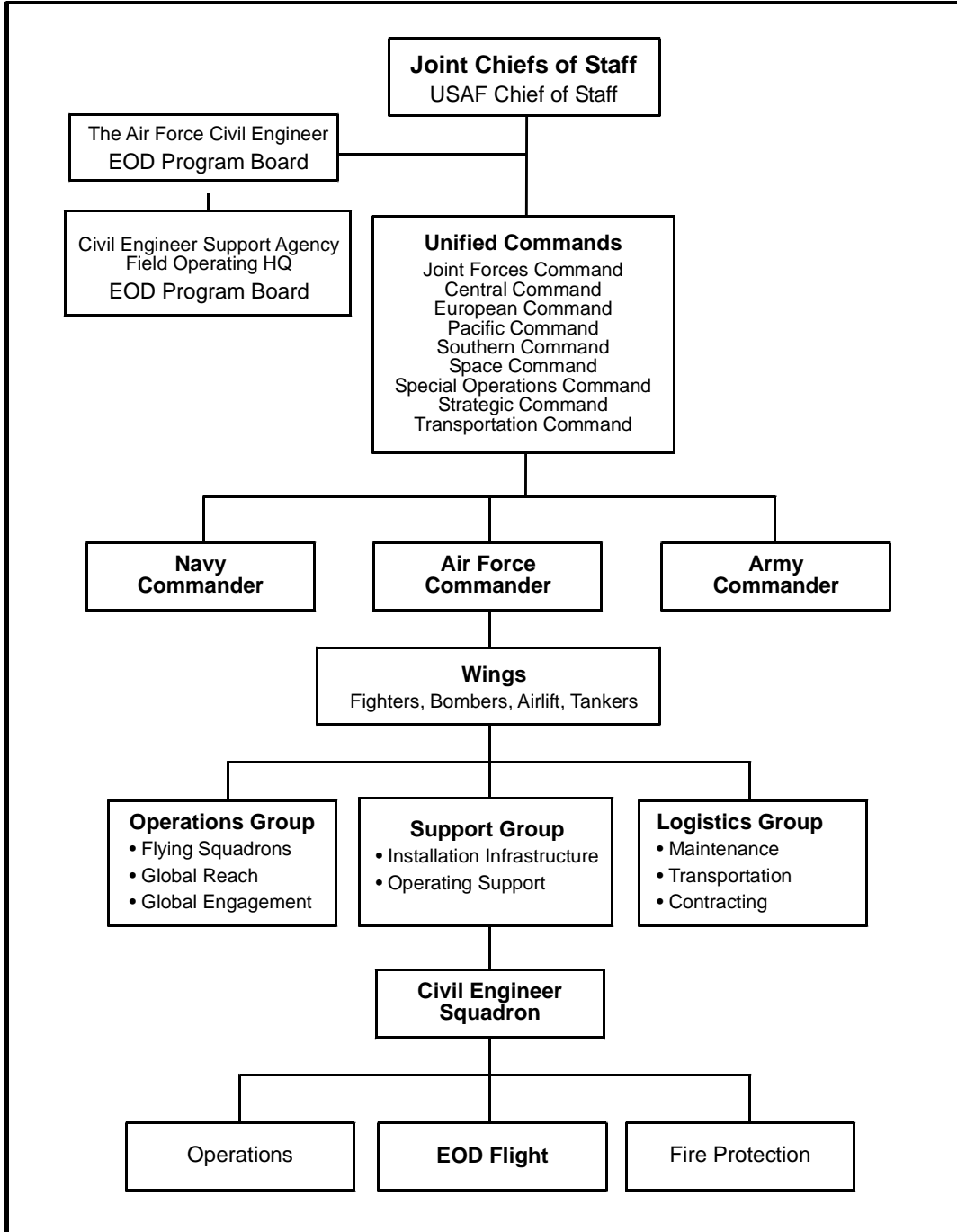


Figure VI-2. Air Force Wartime EOD Organization

## 5. Capabilities

a. General. The minimum EOD team size on incident responses is two qualified operators employing remote procedures whenever possible. If available, a third EOD-qualified supervisor provides on-scene safety, supervision, and command advice.

b. **Capabilities.** In addition to the recurring, nonservice-specific EOD capabilities at Appendix E, the USAF EOD force has the following capabilities:

(1) **Launch and Recovery of Aircraft.** The USAF's EOD teams directly support sortie generation. They respond to airfield emergencies according to peacetime requirements of safety, resource protection, and sound judgment. Wartime operations involving aircraft differ from peacetime operations primarily from an increased operations tempo.

(2) **Force Protection.** To provide a secure environment, USAF EOD operations require EOD forces to respond outside traditional base boundaries. AF EOD plays a critical role in force protection by eliminating or mitigating explosive hazards created by known or suspected criminal and terrorist devices.

(3) **Airfield Recovery Operations.** CE rapid runway repair includes EOD operations during airfield recovery operations. The SRC plans, prioritizes, and controls all airfield recovery operations. The SRC integrates all assets (to include engineer, EOD, security forces, disaster preparedness, communications, transportation, resource management) to support postattack recovery operations.

(4) **Aerial Port Operations.** Aerial ports are vital links to transportation in both surge and sustainment operations. They are susceptible targets for hostile forces wishing to disrupt operations. They have a substantial EOD mission relative to the increased movement of munitions. Additionally, enemy ordnance captured for intelligence assessment must transit these ports.

(5) **Mortuary Services.** Because of ordnance being left on or imbedded in casualties, processing casualty operations should involve EOD teams. While this is particularly important at the CONUS-port mortuaries (last military involvement prior to turning over casualties to the families), EOD teams should also support theater mortuary efforts.

(6) **Base Populace Training.** AF EOD personnel provide training on ordnance hazards and recognition, mine awareness, terrorist bomb search and recognition procedures, and personnel protective measures.

(7) **DS Units (Full Capability Nuclear Support).** The AF assigns EOD personnel dealing with nuclear munitions in personnel reliability program positions. The program is set up to review the individual's background prior to working with nuclear munitions. Personnel working in DS units with full capability nuclear support train to perform all necessary EOD actions on nuclear weapon systems from site stabilization to site recovery.

## **6. Training**

a. **"SILVER FLAG".** This exercise prepares EOD forces for airfield operations in MTW environments via classroom, practical hands-on exercises,

and field training. The SILVER FLAG course/exercise provides classroom and practice training in the following areas:

- (1) Force protection planning.
- (2) Large vehicle operations.
- (3) NBC operations.
- (4) IED tools and procedures.
- (5) ARTS.
- (6) Portable radio communications-139 radio system.
- (7) Land navigation.
- (8) Global positioning system.
- (9) Damage assessment operations.
- (10) Standoff munitions disruption.
- (11) Minefield operations.

The first three days of training are classroom and practical, culminating with an integrated airfield recovery exercise. The exercise is based on a humanitarian/MOOTW scenario that allows students to apply skills learned throughout the course in a realistic environment.

b. Air Mobility Warfare Center-“PHOENIX READINESS”. The Air Mobility Warfare Center conducts a training event for EOD forces (also known as Exercise PHOENIX READINESS). The exercise prepares EOD forces for MOOTW environments via classroom, practical, and field training. The training culminates in a four-day deployment exercise.