



The Defuzilier

U.S. Army EOD Quarterly Bulletin

Issue 1

June 2020

EOD Commandant's Message



Greetings, I am honored to be the first EOD Commandant and am very excited about *The Defuzilier* newsletter as a new venue to increase communication across the Army's EOD Community.

I look forward to serving as your EOD Commandant and advocating for the Army EOD Community. I have

served in multiple EOD positions in both combat and garrison and will use my experience to be a proponent for our EOD force.

The EOD Commandant's office has made significant progress in efforts to benefit Army EOD since it's inception in 2019. I have witnessed improvements in our talent management, leadership, and training solutions. Some of the key highlights include:

- Chartering the EOD Council of Colonels, which provides advice and assistance to both the EOD Community and Senior Army Leadership.
- Initiating the EOD SMART (Sergeant Major Round Table), which elicits ideas from senior enlisted EOD leadership and provides advice to the EOD Council of Colonels.
- Increasing EOD recruiting efforts by supporting EOD recruiting teams and implementing solutions that have improved the quantity and quality of EOD recruits.
- Synchronizing Army National Guard (ARNG) contributions to the total force and providing support to increase ARNG EOD readiness through training, manning, and equipping.
- Establishing the EOD Connect as a quarterly interactive forum to discuss the latest topics and initiatives.

Recent events related to the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted some of our routines, but they haven't changed our priorities. Army EOD will maintain focus on the Ordnance Corps, CASCOM, and Army priorities as we continue advancing EOD capability into the future. I am proud of the achievements and successes of our total EOD force. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

It is a privilege to be your EOD Commandant.

Go Ordnance! Go EOD!

COL Stephen F. Elder
EOD Commandant

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Equipment Modernization Update - ETEK

By MAJ Ben Olsen

As the threats that our EOD technicians face are constantly evolving it is vital to provide new equipment to defeat those threats. It is important that new equipment is sustainable and a plan is in place to provide a technical refresh of the equipment if better

equipment is available. The EOD Tools and Equipment Kit (ETEK), formerly referred to as the Render Safe Sets, Kits and Outfits (RS-SKO), is one of the ways the Army is providing updated equipment with enhanced capabilities into the hands of our EOD technicians. Some of the capabilities within the ETEK are enhanced night vision optics, handheld detectors, and even a payload capable small-unmanned aerial system (sUAS). This kit will provide the EOD team a wider array of available tools to meet their current mission requirements. Based on current technology and material readiness, there are three phases for fielding the ETEK (see Figure 1). Once the ETEK has been fielded the program manager will continue to evaluate for new technologies and provide a technical refresh once resources are available.

Item	UNCLASSIFIED	Fielding Phase
 Dismounted X-Ray Processor/Imager (Priority 1)		Phase 1 Fielding
 X-Ray Generator (Priority 1a)		
 Dismounted Operations Protection (aka AN/PLTS replacement) (Priority 2)		Phase 2 Fielding
 Low Light Visual Augmentation System (Priority 3)		Phase 1 Fielding
 Trace Explosive, CBRN, and Drug Detection (Priority 4)		
 Buried IED Detection (Priority 5)		
 Final Disposition and Render Safe		Phase 2 Fielding
 Gama and Neutron Search and Detection		
 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)		
 Electronic Tools (Power Management)		Phase 3 Fielding
 Localized Incident Site Protection (aka AN/PLT-4 replacement)		

Figure 1. ETEK list and Fielding Breakdown (Source: PM-CCS)

EOD National Guard Efforts

By MAJ Mark Stetzko

Army National Guard (ARNG) EOD is an essential component of the Army EOD force representing 1/3 of the total EOD force. Recent significant efforts have been made within the ARNG EOD community to train, equip and support the ARNG's EOD forces.

EOD capability in the ARNG has increased their contribution to the total force by increasing support to VIPSSA missions and supporting FORSCOM FTN requirements/OCONUS deployments. Continued efforts to increase ARNG EOD readiness include the future implementation of Training and Readiness Oversight to further develop the units' training and readiness cycles, development of a reserve component EOD Captains Career Course, fielding of new EOD equipment and increasing communication within the community. These efforts will allow ARNG EOD to increase our effectiveness in support of the wide range of missions that we conduct.

ARNG EOD representatives located at National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army Ordnance School are furthering ARNG EOD efforts and are available to answer RFIs and other questions.



Please contact CPT(P) Bruister at National Guard Bureau at 703-607-9961 jonathon.l.bruister.mil@mail.mil or MAJ Stetzko at the U.S. Army Ordnance School 804-734-3253 mark.r.stetzko.mil@mail.mil for additional information.

EOD Policy Update from HQDA

by LTC Pete Lin

The Department of the Army (DA) EOD Branch falls under the Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) G-3/5/7 but resides in the G-38 Division. The DCS G-3/5/7 function is the execution the EOD Program and is the Army Staff (ARSTAFF) proponent for EOD. The current EOD Branch Chief is LTC Peter Lin. The EOD Branch Chief is also the Action Officer for the EOD Program Board and inter-service issues. Furthermore, this position represents the Department of Defense as the Head of Delegation for the NATO EOD and C-IED Working Groups.

The DA EOD Branch is the lead for the Army EOD Program with responsibility for all aspects of policy development and programming guidance; provides international, inter-service, and interagency representation to governing committees, joint agencies, departments, and staff divisions ensuring the relevance and resourcing of the EOD Program today and in the future. The principle functions of the Army EOD Branch include:

- The Interoperability of Army EOD with the Services, multinational and Interagency partners to include the Intelligence Community (IC), Department of State (DoS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal/State/Local Law Enforcement and others.
- Integration of EOD into Army Policy and Regulation development.
- Support to Army exploitation activities (Technical/Forensics) and sustaining of electronic warfare/CEMA capabilities/policy across ACOMs, ASCCs, DRUs and other agencies.
- EOD coordination and synchronization with the FBI's Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (TEDAC), which includes international partner agencies.
- The management of NIPR/SIPR EOD Information Management system (EODIMS) requirements, funding, prioritization of development effort incident reporting, intelligence routing, interfaces, Army EODIMS data releases, bulletin board exchanges, and provides representation to the Joint Configuration Control Board (JCCB) and inputs to strategic programmatic goals and capabilities.

National Defense Authorization Act for 2018 (NDAA-18) mandated establishment of two EOD positions in the Pentagon in support of the Army EOD



Program. One resides in the Force Management (FM) section and the other in G-8.

The HQDA Force Management section for Standards Requirements Code 09, is an EOD lieutenant colonel position which oversees EOD and Ammunition units. The role is to integrate, account for, and manage the Army's EOD Operational Force across Active and Reserve Components, and to provide EOD subject matter expertise to the FM leadership. Put more simply, FM deals with authorizations for personnel and equipment on TOE/MTOEs, not sourcing the personnel and equipment. The biggest impact areas to the field are the Total Army Analysis (TAA) process and staffing Force Design Updates (FDUs). The TAA process links strategy to resources and determines Army force size and structure. TAA 22-26 gave growth to EOD to place the third team member back into formations. The EOD Readiness FDU changed the unit TOE/MTOE to create the authorizations in the Companies for the third team member. In July, LTC Mike Long will transition out of FM and be replaced by LTC Jessica Shuey.

The HQDA, DCS G-8, FDB Division is preferably a post-command EOD lieutenant colonel. The Force Protection Branch Chief, where the EOD officer resides, is responsible for the programming of funding for most EOD, CBRN, MP, and CA/MISO equipment. The Branch Chief, along with a team of Synchronization Staff Officers (SSO), coordinates

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EOD Soldier Awarded Expert Soldier Badge

By MAJ Mark Stetzko

The EOD Community is proud to recognize the accomplishment of Captain Dylan Blasi, who was recently awarded the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB). CPT Blasi, E CO, 2nd BN, 60th IN REGT Commander, successfully completed three weeks of arduous training and testing on various warrior tasks and battle drills and was awarded the coveted ESB on 28 February 2020 at Fort Jackson, SC. The demanding testing had a high attrition rate with only 26 out of the original 137 Soldiers earning the ESB. CPT Blasi is appreciative of the opportunity to receive the ESB and humbly stated, "In the same manner that EIB is crucial for the career of infantry Soldiers, I foresee the ESB to be great for the career of both young and senior Soldiers in EOD and elsewhere."

The ESB is designed to improve lethality, recognize excellence in Soldier combat skills, and increase individual, unit and overall Army readiness. The ESB is comparable to the Expert Infantry Badge and Expert Field Medical Madge sharing approximately 80% of the tasks and is awarded to



**SSG Josiah Bartz (L), LTC Daniel Rausch (M)
and CPT Dylan Blasi (R)**

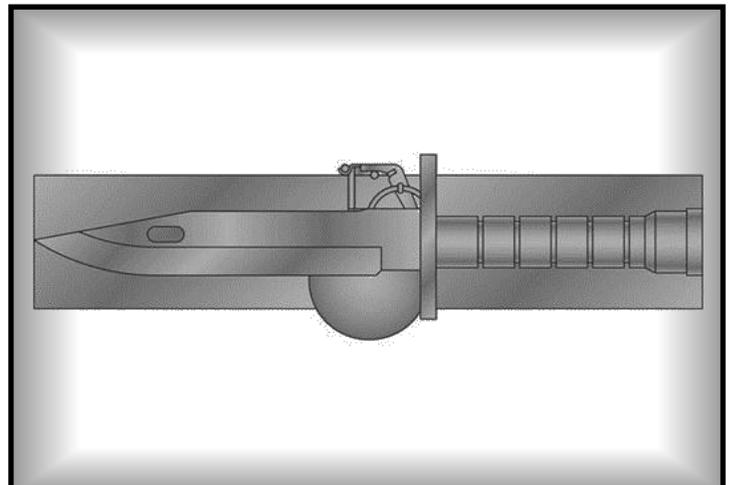
Photos in this publication were taken prior to guidelines that mandated social distancing and the wear of facemasks.



SSG Josiah Bartz (L) and CPT Dylan Blasi (R)

Soldiers who complete the rigorous testing. Tasks include a day and night land navigation test, a 12-mile ruck march and various commander-selected tasks essential to their respective units.

ESB training and testing requirements are available at <https://usacimt.tradoc.army.mil/ESB/index.html>.



Expert Soldier Badge (ESB)

Full Spectrum EOD Operations

By COL David Green



The Army continues to transition away from Counter Insurgency Operations, re-focusing on Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) for the first time since 2001. As a supporting force, the EOD Field must prepare to conduct full-spectrum EOD operations and be trained,

manned, equipped, and flexible enough to accomplish all of our Mission Essential Tasks (METs).

It is imperative we train now for LSCO in an All-Domain Operational Environment. If you were in the Army and specifically the EOD Field before 2001, this is the environment and scenario we trained to support. Imagine a Field Army with two Corps Headquarters each with two to three Divisions on-line maneuvering across the battlefield engaged with a near-peer or peer adversary, that is LSCO. LSCO will not serve nine-month rotations either, we will be in it until we win it. Rules of Allocation will change from an EOD Company in Direct Support of a BCT to an EOD Company in General Support to a Division in their Division Consolidation Area, or to a Corps in the Corps Consolidation Area. Responses could range from a Chemical UXO obstructing an MSR, a UXO in a battle damaged vehicle/aircraft, or an Improvised Device threatening our forces or civilians on the battlefield.

The required flexibility to conduct Full Spectrum EOD Operations in support of LSCO demands that EOD Forces train on all METs and not become a 'one trick pony' specialized in any one capability. There will be requirements for EOD Companies/Platoons to support Special Forces Groups or Security Force Assistance Brigades and these deployments and the pre-deployment training will allow companies to focus on particular tasks for that deployment, but this should be the exception not the rule.

As FORSCOM units we must be ready, through tough realistic training, to bring our unique specialized skills to bear to preserve and protect the force to win in Large Scale Combat Operations.

COL David K. Green has been the 71st EOD Group Commander since September 2018 and is 1998 NAVSCOLEOD graduate from Indian Head, Maryland.

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Submit articles for the **Fall 2020** edition (with UNCLASS photos and captions) to mark.e.wiseman2.mil@mail.mil no later than **28 August 2020** with a scheduled publication date of **26 September 2020**.

Save the Date!

Quarterly EOD Connect
Video-Teleconference
Broadcast LIVE from Fort Lee, Virginia
18 August 2020

“Army EOD Day”
Recruiting Focus
Various locations
3 September 2020

Increase Continuity and Consolidate Resources for EOD Team Leader Certification

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By CPT Dawn Ward

Opinion Editorial



The present method of Army EOD Team Leader Certification (TLC) leaves much room for improvement. Army EOD technicians currently arrive at units and lack any experience with the TLC process. After arrival, two major factors already work against this process for Soldiers and officers alike:

resource constraints and a severe lack of continuity. Several solutions exist that can alleviate some of these constraints while establishing a more uniform certification process. Adding a two-week TLC school immediately following completion of the Navy School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD), installing an EOD TLC course at a fixed location, or creating an EOD group command sponsored semi-annual TLC Academy serve as solutions to issues identified above.

Newly appointed Army EOD technicians need to attend a TLC course immediately following the completion of NAVSCOLEOD. Such a course will allow them to gain some experience in both team member and team leader roles prior joining an EOD company. Army EOD publications augment the importance of such a course in stating, “The team leader and members inarguably have the most important tasks within the EOD field.”¹ The proposed TLC course will enable the newest EOD technicians to arrive to their units with a better understanding of these tasks. Regardless of their destinations, EOD Soldiers can arrive at their units with a shared skillset and understanding.

In addition, newly appointed EOD technicians can complete all the team member certification tasks during the first week of this course and execute at least three of the more resource consuming certifications (Chemical, CONUS IED, Depleted Uranium) during the second week. Implementation of the course preemptively restores manpower and mission capability to incoming units who will be relieved of dedicating the time and personnel with the expertise to train new technicians in these tasks. Because NAVSCOLEOD already possesses the resources and equipment necessary to complete said training, ultimately the new TLC course strategy will be incredibly cost effective.

Installing an EOD TLC course at a fixed location remains the second solution to alleviate resource

constraints and increase continuity within the career field. The Army Leader Development Strategy states, “Training is an organized, structured, continuous, and progressive process based on sound principles of learning designed to increase the capability of individuals, units, and organizations to perform specified tasks or skills.”² Group O-6 EOD authorities currently establish the general framework for TLC programs within their organization. Furthermore, company level leadership determines specific parameters of TLC requirements within their unit to include authorized signature authorities. The result makes it impossible for EOD TLC training to be, “organized, structured, continuous, and progressive.”³ Installing an EOD TLC course that EOD technicians can attend between 6-18 months upon arriving to their duty station will demand financial resources. However, it forces continuity into the TLC process and relieves companies of dedicating their often-sparse resources to certifying individuals. Implementing an EOD TLC course also creates commissioned/non-commissioned officer EOD teaching positions that will bolster EOD job opportunities.

Creating an EOD group sponsored semi-annual TLC Academy serves as the third solution to establish continuity and alleviate the expenditure of company level resources. Col. Frank Wenzel asserted that, “A commander’s first priority is a trained and ready unit.”⁴ Team leaders execute the most important jobs within EOD. The career field would greatly benefit from EOD group commanders organizing a TLC Academy with uniformed criteria throughout all their respective organizations. Battalion commanders

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EOD Team Leader of the Future: Increase Combat Power and Enhance Soldier Development

By SGM Taamir Ransome, ACM-EOD

Opinion Editorial

Throughout history, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician has answered the call to protect personnel, property, and infrastructure on American and foreign soil, bravely and selflessly exposing themselves to the dangers of unexploded threats. Since inception, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician has adapted, morphed, and taken on more responsibilities, out of sheer necessity, to combat the challenges of the ever-changing battlefield. As the United States Army prepares to transform to facilitate Multi-Domain Operations, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician must also change. This transformation must occur at every level, from the newest Explosive Ordnance Disposal School graduate to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Commander. However, to ensure maximum effectiveness and enhance combat power, through all eight elements (leadership, information, mission command, movement and maneuver, intelligence, fires, sustainment, and protection), the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician of today must become the Multi-Domain Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operator of tomorrow.

As a career field, where do we start this process of change?

The most logical starting point would be to examine the zenith of our chosen profession, the EOD Team Leader.

Problem: The current EOD Team Leader construct increases pressure on the force, lacks continual leader development, and hinders overall combat effectiveness of the operational force.

The problem stems from the fact that our community has essentially one Team Leader or specifically one type of Team Leader. To make matters worse, we have further hindered ourselves by allowing the most important title and job amongst our ranks to be obtained by one rank, with exceptions. This makes sense when one considers render safe, but what about everything other than render safe?

Why is an EOCA qualified Combat Engineer authorized to blow an item in place after attending a two-week course but a new EOD Technician is treated as a squire after a grueling nine months of EOD School?

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Title	EOD Novice	EOD Operator Apprentice	EOD Senior Operator	EOD Senior Operator (WMD)	EOD Senior Operator (Intel)	EOD Master Blaster
Duties	New EOD School Graduate. Performs duties of EOD TM Member Soldier is working towards completing tasks to become an EOD Apprentice	EOD School Graduate. Can operate independently and perform all tasks left of render safe. (Mark and Bypass, BIP, General Disrupt, Remote Removal, Manual Neutralization)	Render Safe Guru. Can Lead an EOD 4-person Team on conventional munitions and limited unconventional items.	WMD Expert. Responsible for WMD render safe operations Can lead an EOD Detachment.	WTI Expert	Company Level operations expert. Master EOD trainer. Can lead EOD company.
Training	Company Led	Basic Threat Assessment/ Methodology Course	AIEDS, HME, Advanced electronics	J-Nukes, CBW Training, Advanced Electronics, Advanced Disablement	Tech intel training	Master blaster course
Badge	Basic	Basic(Permanent)	Senior	Senior	Senior	Master

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EOD Policy Update from HQDA Continued from page 3

with key stakeholders to prioritize and approve new materiel capability solutions through the Army Requirements Oversight Council (AROC). The Branch also defends the funding required to develop, procure, and field equipment, through the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) process. By far, the most interesting part of this job is involvement in the Strategic Portfolio Analysis and Review (SPAR), which looks 15 years into the future to determine what investments must be made to equip a modernized force, ready to win. The job is high tempo, non-repetitive, and requires problem-solving

skills. What it has not been in the past, is quick to deliver. This is a very deliberate process. However, with the Army Futures Command now involved in the Army Capability Integration Development System (ACIDS), the goal is to deliver capabilities faster. This is a unique and rewarding experience and a challenge to any career. In July, LTC Jeanette Bernaola will retire and be replaced by LTC Matthew Kuhns.

EOD Team Leader Certification Continued from page 6

could host these academies on a semi-annual basis with allocated funding so all EOD technicians working toward their TLC could attend, including those not co-located with the battalion. Such an event greatly increases readiness and continuity at the company level while simultaneously alleviating their resource constraints.

In conclusion, the current Army TLC process lacks continuity. Adding a two-week TLC school following

NAVSCOLEOD, installing an EOD TLC course at a fixed location, or creating an EOD group command sponsored semi-annual TLC Academy will force greater continuity into the EOD TLC program. All three of these solutions restore manpower and mission capability to EOD companies through their reduction of resources expended at the company level.

EOD Team Leader of the Future: Increase Combat Power and Enhance Soldier Development Continued from page 7

Why do we stop being Team Leaders once promoted to Sergeant First Class, Master Sergeant, Sergeant Major?

Why do we take the once certified-forever certified approach with such a high risk, life-saving occupation? Would anyone genuinely want a medic working on them who was certified three years ago?

Can we use a phased Team Leader approach to combat most of the questions above?

I believe we can, by doing away with the current TL Certification process and definitions. Do not marry the TL level to a specific rank but to experience, maturity, and capability. Institutionalize each certification level but allow companies to control mission/company specific operator requirements. Take a phased approach, that must be recertified (at the basic level) every 3 years, to better develop EOD technicians, leaders, expand the recruiting pool, and increase combat power across the operational force.

Taking a phased approach empowers company commanders by allowing extreme flexibility, increased capability, and better-defined authorities at the individual level. All EOD Operators must recertify at the EOD Operator Apprentice Level every

3 years unless upward progression is being made. Recertification will help those in units such as the 55th and TRADOC, ensuring that a soldier can still be used in an operational capacity while the company starts indoctrination post PCS. The phased approach will allow for a bigger in-service recruiting pool as the authorities are tied to capability and not rank. Institutionalizing the certification process will also potentially allow for future skill identifiers and pays.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians of today can proudly trace their lineage back to the Unexploded Bomb Technicians of WWII. Every conflict, since WWII, has posed unique challenges, advancements in technology, and greater threats. The never-ending race for battlefield supremacy, by means of weapon systems lethality, ensures that the EOD Technician will remain a relevant and unique individual. To maintain relevancy, EOD forces must adapt and morph once again. Our community must act in the now to solidify the legacy of our past and ensure the force is prepared for the future.
