



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

"In this era of irregular warfare and asymmetric threats, Navy EOD war fighters enable battlefield access by defeating the Improvised Explosive Device."

– Rear Adm. Michael Tillotson, Commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command and EOD Community Flag Officer

Explosive Ordnance Disposal is a joint service capability. The Navy is the executive agent for technology and training and provides joint service and interagency training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Supporting the Global War on Terror

- EOD platoons are the premier forces which mitigate the asymmetric threat on the Iraq and Afghanistan battlefields in support of Conventional and Special Operations forces. These High Demand / Low Density Combat Support forces continue to drive the wedge between the principal terrorist weapon system, the improvised explosive device (IED), and our service members, coalition partners, and the local populace.
- EOD is on the forefront in defeating IEDs and attacking the terrorist cell before the IED can be planted.
- Navy EOD Forces continue to provide combat support to ongoing USMC operations in MND-West.

Maritime Excellence

- EOD and Combat Salvage (CS) forces work with partner nations to increase their capacity to build anti-terrorism programs and core maritime skill sets.
- CONUS EOD Mobile Units deploy as a rotational Command and Control element, providing the leadership, expertise and oversight of EOD, CS and AT-FP missions to meet C5F goals and objectives.
- Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit TWO demonstrated EOD/CS capability to aid in CONUS HA/DR operations from the Minneapolis bridge collapse to commanding multinational dive operations during Hurricane Katrina relief.

Protective Service Support

- EOD forces continue to provide critical Subject Matter Expertise for high-level personal security. Whether providing this critical support for the President of the United States, UN General Assembly visit or upcoming Democratic/Republican National Conventions, the EOD force continues to demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in sourcing a broad scope of mission sets.

The Way Ahead

- The EOD Mitigation Strategies, which provide strain relief for the EOD force, are showing signs of PERSTEMPO improvements. This evidence, in conjunction with the leadership's commitment to staying on course with these strategies, will continue to balance the near term successes on the battlefield and the long term viability of the community.

Key Messages

- Navy EOD forces are the "first in," enabling access for combat forces.
- EOD forces are defeating the enemy by defeating the enemy's weapon of choice – the IED.
- EOD forces contribute to the Maritime Strategy by applying their core competencies in peacetime engagement and major combat operations.
- EOD/CS forces provide support to HA/DR and high-level personal security.

Facts & Figures

- The EOD force includes about 1,300 officer and enlisted warfighters.
- More than 300 EOD warfighters are currently deployed supporting four COCOM's in 11 different countries.
- Since the start of OEF/OIF, EOD warfighters were awarded two Silver Stars, 259 Bronze Stars (64 with Combat "V"), and 24 Purple Hearts.
- 11 EOD warfighters have been killed in combat operations since the start of OEF/OIF.