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MCO 8027.1A

Department of the Army,  
the Navy, and the Air Force  
Washington, D.C., 8 August 1966

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

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**1. Purpose.** This regulation delineates the responsibilities of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air Force with regard to the operational, technical, materiel and administrative aspects of explosive ordnance disposal.

### 2. Definitions

*a. Explosive Ordnance.* Bombs and warheads; guided and ballistic missiles; artillery, mortar, rocket and small arms ammunition; all mines, torpedoes; depth charges; demolition charges; pyrotechnics; clusters and dispensers; cartridge and propellant actuated devices; electro-explosive devices; clandestine and improvised explosive devices; and all similar or related items or components, explosive in nature, which may cause injury or death to personnel or damage to materiel. This definition includes all munitions containing explosives, propellants, nuclear fission, fusion or radiological materials, and chemical or biological agents.

*b. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)*  
The detection, identification, field evaluation,

rendering safe, recovery, evacuation and disposal of explosive ordnance which has been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed, in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to operations, installations, personnel, or materiel. It also includes the rendering safe and/or disposal of items which have become hazardous or unserviceable by damage or deterioration when the disposal of such items is beyond the capabilities of personnel normally assigned the responsibility for routine disposition.

*c. Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance.* Initial reconnaissance involving the detection, investigation, location, verification, evacuation of personnel, marking, identification, and reporting of suspected explosive ordnance in order to determine further action by EOD personnel.

*d. EOD Incident.* The suspected or detected presence of explosive ordnance which constitutes a hazard to operations, installations, personnel, or materiel. (Not included in this definition are the accidental arming or other

\*These regulations supersede AR 755-14/OPNAVIST 8027.1C/AFR 136-8/MCO 8027.1, dated 5 September 1963.

conditions that develop during the manufacture of high explosive or nuclear materiel, maintenance or assembly operations, or the laying of mines and nonnuclear demolition charges. Such situations will be neutralized by qualified personnel of the organization performing the manufacturing, maintenance, assembly, or placement of mines and nonnuclear demolition charges. Such organizations may request EOD assistance.)

*e. EOD Procedures.* Any particular course or mode of action taken by qualified EOD personnel to render-safe, disassemble, neutralize or dispose of munitions, explosives or any hazardous materiel associated with an explosive ordnance incident.

(1) *Render Safe Procedures (RSP).* That portion of the EOD procedure involving the application of special EOD methods and tools to provide for the interruption of functions or separation of essential components of explosive ordnance items to preclude a detonation or munition function.

(2) *Disposal Procedures.* That portion of EOD procedures pertaining to the final disposition of explosive ordnance by EOD personnel. Disposition may be affected by demolition, burning, dumping at sea, demilitarization, transfer of disarmed items or residue to the service having logistic responsibility, or by placing such items or residue in proper channels for further evaluation.

*f. Special EOD Tools and Equipment.* Tools and equipment (FSC 1385 and 1386) maintained for utilization by qualified EOD personnel in the performance of EOD procedures.

*g. Physical Possession.* As used herein, is determined by the physical possession of the explosive ordnance at the time of the first event leading to an EOD incident.

*h. Common-Type Training.* Training in

EOD procedures required by two or more services in the normal execution of their assigned missions.

*i. Coordination.* As used herein refers to the active participation between elements of the services having an interest in EOD activities. Agencies "coordinated with" shall provide positive participation and shall not operate by default; their concurrence shall be sought; and if concurrence is not obtained, the disputed matter shall be referred to the next higher authority for resolution.

**3. Mission.** The EOD mission within the respective Services of the Department of Defense is to provide the capability to neutralize the hazards existing in explosive ordnance, which because of unusual circumstances present a possible threat to operations, installations, personnel or materiel. The role of EOD is to assure through appropriate application of safety rules, other safeguards and EOD techniques that no undue risk or hazard is involved in handling, disassembling or transporting weapon components during the clean-up phase following an EOD incident.

#### **4. Operational and Coordination Responsibilities**

*a. Operational Responsibilities.* Responsibilities for EOD shall be as follows:

(1) *Army.*

(a) On the land mass areas except those specifically assigned as a responsibility of the Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force as established in subparagraphs (2), (3) and (4) below.

(b) In all areas under control of local governmental and civil authorities except as stated in subparagraphs (2), (3) and (4) below.

(c) In conjunction with Civil Defense agencies and civil authorities, the establishment

and operation of an explosive ordnance reconnaissance and incident reporting system.

(d) The primary point of contact for the U. S. Secret Service for all EOD support for Presidential protection.

(2) *Navy.*

(a) Within the oceans and contiguous waters, up to the high water of sea coasts, inlets, bays, harbors, and rivers.

(b) In any enclosed bodies of water, rivers, or canals.

(c) On Navy installations or in physical possession of the Navy at the time of the incident.

(3) *Marine Corps.* On Marine Corps installations or in the physical possession of the Marine Corps at the time of the incident.

(4) *Air Force.* On Air Force installations, dispersal bases, or in the physical possession of the Air Force at the time of the incident.

(5) *Overseas and Theater Commands.* Overseas and theater commanders may prescribe amplifying regulations governing the disposal of explosive ordnance in their commands.

*b. Coordination Responsibilities.*

(1) The responsibilities delineated herein are primary responsibilities for EOD among the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, and include assistance by one service to another and assistance to local authorities in the event of a domestic emergency.

(2) It is the responsibility of a service which first becomes aware of an EOD incident involving explosive ordnance of another service or agency to take emergency measures within its capabilities to prevent or limit possible damage or injury pending notification of/and as-

sumption of control by the responsible service or agency.

(3) The control of EOD procedures beyond the emergency measures described in (2) above involving any explosive ordnance for which another service or agency is accountable will remain with the accountable service or agency regardless of the location of the explosive ordnance to insure response by the most qualified and knowledgeable EOD personnel available.

(4) In CONUS, potentially serious EOD incidents, including all nuclear weapon accidents, occurring outside of the responsible service's installation(s) but within an Army commander's area of responsibility will be reported in accordance with existing service directives.

(5) The responsibilities delineated herein do not include the responsibility for disposal of nonnuclear explosive sabotage devices, non-military commercial type explosives, or dangerous articles, in areas under jurisdiction of civil authorities. Local civil authorities are responsible for disposal of these items. EOD assistance may be provided upon request from federal agencies or civil authorities and the determination by the service concerned that such assistance is required in the interest of public safety or public relations.

(6) Each service will fund for responsibilities assigned in paragraph 4 above; however, the service having physical possession of the explosive ordnance at the time of the incident will be responsible for reimbursing, upon request, the service providing the necessary assistance, for those costs which are in addition to normal operating expenses and which are directly chargeable to, and caused by, the incident.

**5. Technical Responsibilities.**

a. The responsibility to prepare and validate EOD procedures, tools, equipment and publications for nuclear bombs and warheads has been assigned to the Atomic Energy Commission by separate agreement. Central coordina-

tion will be accomplished by Field Command, Defense Atomic Support Agency.

*b.* That service responsible for the development of explosive ordnance other than that covered by paragraph 5a, above, will, in addition to other requirements, be responsible for initial development and continuing validity of EOD procedures and associated special EOD tools and equipment applicable to the ordnance developed. All such procedures, tools and equipment will be coordinated by the Navy.

*c.* Each service may conduct its own research, exploratory and engineering development on special EOD tools and equipment required to meet the specific needs of the service. The other services will be kept informed of progress in such programs to prevent duplication of effort.

*d.* That service responsible for the development of explosive ordnance will program and provide funds for research and development leading to appropriate training devices that will permit realistic, practical destruct/non-destruct training in EOD techniques. The other services requiring like devices for unit/team training will be responsible for reimbursing, upon request, the service providing the training device.

*e.* Responsibility for development of EOD procedures, tools, and equipment applicable to foreign explosive ordnance shall be as follows:

*(1) Army.* All foreign explosive ordnance normally encountered on land.

*(a)* Screening foreign ordnance and establishing exploration priorities for ordnance normally encountered on land.

*(b)* Coordinating the assignment and scheduling of these items for exploration by the existing Army and Navy facilities.

*(c)* Further supplement or augment the existing foreign ordnance capability, as deemed necessary.

*(2) Navy.* All foreign explosive ordnance normally encountered underwater.

*(3) Air Force.* No assigned responsibility.

*(4) Marine Corps.* No assigned responsibility.

*(5)* All such procedures, tools, and equipment developed by the responsible service will be coordinated by the Navy with other interested services and agencies.

*f.* Standardization of EOD tools and equipment will be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of the Defense Standardization Manual M 200A.

*g.* The responsibility for coordination of requirements and for procurement action, to include related costs, for special EOD tools and equipment (Federal Stock Classes 1385 and 1386) used solely in EOD operations, is assigned to the Navy. Funds required for special EOD tools and equipment for operational use will be budgeted for and provided by the using service. The Navy will procure and provide EOD tools and other equipment used solely in EOD operations (Federal Stock Classes 1385 and 1386) to the other services upon receipt of a funded Military Interdepartmental Procurement Request (MIPR) for the items requested.

*h.* The service responsible for EOD procedures, special EOD tools and equipment in accordance with subparagraphs 5a through e above, will coordinate with other services or agencies to obtain support, as required, through existing facilities. In such cases, associated requirements of the supporting service or agency will be programmed and funded by the responsible service.

*i.* Special EOD tools and equipment will not be transferred or loaned to a foreign government unless that government:

*(1)* Is a participant in EOD information exchange agreements under the auspices of the Mutual Weapons Development Data Ex-

change Program, NATO, ABC-20, or similar programs, or

(2) Provide written assurance to the designated agency of the appropriate military service that this equipment will be used only by graduates of the U. S. Naval EOD School or under supervision of graduates of the U. S. Naval EOD School.

**6. Technical Intelligence.** Each service shall establish a technical intelligence program which will assure that the collection and reporting of technical intelligence and disposition of samples of foreign explosive ordnance will be accomplished in the following manner:

a. In addition to the requirements of established operational and intelligence reporting systems, responsible EOD personnel will submit a priority message report describing all new or unknown items of foreign explosive ordnance, and EOD procedures employed, to the service office or agency responsible for action and further dissemination.

b. New or unknown items of foreign explosive ordnance recovered and rendered safe by EOD personnel, together with reports relating the circumstances of acquisition will be turned over to technical intelligence personnel for disposition through the appropriate service technical intelligence channels.

c. Each service will provide technical intelligence and samples of foreign explosive ordnance, derived from EOD operations or other sources, to the service having responsibility for development of EOD procedures, tools and equipment as defined in subparagraph 5e above.

#### **7. Training.**

a. The Navy is responsible for conducting all individual basic, refresher and special EOD training that is common to two or more services. In accordance with AR 350-95, AFR 50-18, and BUPERSINST 1500.24 of 22 September 1954, the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps will make selected qualified EOD and administrative personnel available to the Department

of the Navy to assist in such common-type training.

b. The responsibility for conducting individual, unit, team, or other training peculiar to a single service is assigned to that service. Each service will prescribe mandatory formal training requirements to include time interval between refresher training courses for assigned EOD personnel to assure that they retain the technical proficiency required to respond effectively to nuclear weapon and other EOD incidents.

c. The responsibility for providing assistance, upon request of civil defense authorities, in training civilian personnel in explosive ordnance reconnaissance, is assigned to the Army.

d. In the event of mobilization or emergency, additional basic, refresher, and special explosive ordnance disposal training and facilities may be established as required by each service.

e. The service responsible for the development of a munition and the associated training device shall:

(1) Program, fund for and furnish to the Navy first production, specially configured, inert munitions and specially developed training devices (paragraph 5d above) for use in explosive ordnance disposal common type training.

(2) Program and fund for the modification/retrofit, as required, of the munitions/training devices in 7e(1) above.

f. Samples of foreign ordnance obtained from EOD and Service intelligence sources should be provided, as soon as practicable, to the Navy for use in common type training.

#### **8. Publications.**

a. The responsibility for preparation, coordination, publication, and distribution in bulk where applicable, of joint EOD publications is assigned to the Service responsible for development of EOD procedures in accordance with paragraph 5 above.

**b.** Publication and distribution of texts, graphic aids, manuals, bulletins, and technical letters peculiar to the needs of an individual service are the responsibility of the service concerned.

**9. Liaison.** Each service will maintain optimum liaison with other services to effect a co-ordinated EOD program.

**10. Classification.** All EOD procedures, special tools, and equipment which disclose EOD applications will be classified in accordance with applicable DOD security regulations.

By Order of the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force:

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