

Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Munitions and Search (DEMS) Training Regiment

Timeline 1414 to 2012

This presentation provides a timeline for EOD & S across the tri-service community. It is not a complete history, but rather gives the reader a broader view of how EOD & S has evolved to get where it is today in the context of the UK Armed Forces.

Thanks to DEMS Trg Regt for allowing reproduction of this time line which is depicted on the walls across throughout the corridors of the classroom and lecture theatre building at St Georges Barracks.

Special thanks to Capt Dave Bradley RE for his invaluable assistance

This presentation is best viewed using Microsoft PowerPoint

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World War 1 The Great War 1914 - 1918



11/01/2019



Op Granby - The Gulf War



On 17 Sep 1984, Patrick Joseph Magee hid a long delay timer IED containing 11 Kg of High Explosive in room 629, The Grand Hotel, Brighton.

The device was set to explode one month later when the Conservative Party Conference was due to be held. On functioning, the device caused extensive damage, killing 5 and injuring 30.

12 Oct 1984



First RAOC TA EOD Units formed and EOD Operator TA trade (RAOC) established

531,631,731 EOD Companies are formed and partnered with 11 Ordnance (EOD) Battalion RAOC to provide 60 x two man EOD Teams for use in times of General War.

Later, A new trade of EOD Operator (V) was created in the TA training volunteers in EOD and IEDD work only.

In 1991, RAOC TA AT Class 2 technicians were granted permission to wear an AT badge with the letter 'V' replacing the 'A' in the centre.

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1986

Field Engineering School renamed the Military and Search Branch RSME



WO1 B JOHNSON, RAOC awarded the GC

Warrant Officer Class 1 (Staff Sergeant Major) Barry Johnson of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps was awarded the George Cross for his gallantry in defusing a mortar bomb in Derry, Northern Ireland on 7 October 1989.

The device detonated, causing him serious injury. Notice of his award appeared in the London Gazette on 6 November 1990.



RE Bomb Disposal Trade Badge Introduced

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1989



IRA Attack No 10 Downing Street, the home of the Prime Minister

The IRA use Mk10 Improvised mortars to attack Downing Street.

3 bombs are launched but narrowly miss the Prime Ministers' official London residence.

The attack was an assassination attempt on John Major and his War Cabinet who were meeting to discuss the Gulf War.

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7 Feb 1991

1992-1996 Bosnia

First Active Infra-red RCIED in NI



Alpha Troop 11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD) RAOC Established

A Troop provided specialist Assault IEDD support to SF and MACP units.

April 1992



1984

RN Conduct OP HARLING

Clearance Divers clear the Red Sea of UXO.

1985

11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD) RAOC Moves to Didcot

RHQ 11 Ordnance Battalion RAOC and the JSEODC move to Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot.

The Battalions' Companies remain spread throughout the UK to provide MACP and Ammunition Inspectorate coverage.

1987

RN CD Teams conduct OP CIMNEL

Clearance Diver Teams clear Iranian Mines in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

Jun 1988

101 (City of London) Engineer Regt (EOD) RE (V) formed

The four RE TA EOD squadrons come under 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE (V)

Commanded by Lt Col J Marsh RE



21 Dec 1988

The Lockerbie bombing Pan Am Flight 103

Pan American Airlines Flight 103 was a transatlantic flight from London Heathrow Airport to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. It was destroyed by a bomb mid-flight killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew.

Large sections of the plane crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland, killing an additional 11 people on the ground.



Counter Terrorist Search Wing Established

In 1990, the Counter Terrorist Search Wing was formed and subsumed the role of the Military Search Branch RSME.

1990

1990-1991 Gulf War

Gulf War - OP GRANBY

421 EOD Company RAOC deploys with a Major and 13 x RAOC personnel (including a RCMD specialist) to provide 4 x IEDD/EOD teams.

Other ATs deploy within 221 Ordnance Company RAOC to provide Ammunition supply and Inspectorate support to the UK Land Forces in theatre. During this period, the effect of 50 degree temperatures on modern ammunition features was evaluated, leading to many changes in the design of austere field storage facilities.

Royal Navy Clearance Diver Teams clear Hundreds of Iraqi Mines laid off the shore of Kuwait.

In June 1991, Sgt D Rogers, a RAF EOD Operator, was awarded the CM for rescuing 2 injured children from a minefield during Op GRANBY.



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10 Apr 1992

Baltic Exchange Bombing

On 10 April 1992 at 9:20 pm, the façade of the Exchange's offices at 30 St Marys Ave was partially demolished and the rest of the building was extensively damaged in a bomb attack.

The one-ton bomb was contained in a large white truck and consisted of HME wrapped with a detonation cord.

The bomb also caused damage to surrounding buildings, many of which were also badly damaged by the Bishopsgate bombing the following year.

The bomb caused £300 million worth of damage, £200 million more than the total damage caused by the 10,000 explosions that had occurred during the Troubles in Northern Ireland up to that point.



The bomb killed three people:

Paul Butt, 29,
Thomas Casey, 49,
Dentelle Carter, 15.

Another 91 people were injured.

18 Sep 1992

The Felix Training Area is formally opened

The Felix Training Area was a significant enhancement to the Felix Centre. It provided bespoke training stands and, modern facilities for IEDD training at the Army School of Ammunition, Kinlinton.

It was opened on 18 Sep 1992 by HRH the Duke of Kent.



5 Dec 1992

First Improvised Mk 15 Mortar Attack in Northern Ireland

Used in over 50 incidents and nicknamed 'The Barrack Buster' this simple, but effective system was developed by the terrorists over time with a number of differing fuze arrangements.





23 Jun 2010



Origins of IEDD Destroy Capability

In order to support the 8 IEDD teams on HERRICK 11, 3 x CMD teams are locally trained whilst on Operations to conduct IEDD duties in theatre.

These teams were recognised as CMD+ and had a capability based around towing IED's in place to enable manoeuvre support.

2010

IEDD Destroy is formalised

IEDD training on HERRICK 14 stands at 10 x IEDD (Neutralise) and 10 x IEDD (Destroy) teams.

All IEDD(D) teams are fully qualified DEOC Operators and have completed a bespoke Destroy course, MEX package and validation in theatre.

First RE High Threat (Advanced) EOD operator qualifies at DEMSS (Kineton)



Advanced Search Qualification Badge is awarded

Unlike EOD Operators from all three services, Advanced Search trained personnel have never worn a qualification badge.

Finally, in 2011 they are awarded a specialist badge in recognition of their skills and services.

Apr 2011



Evangelos Florakis Naval base explosion – Cyprus

At 05:50, 94 ISO containers holding an estimated 600-800t of double based propellant self ignited due to degradation of the contents and deluged to detonation.

The resultant explosion killed 13 and destroyed 50% of Cyprus's energy generation capability.

11 Jul 2011

DEMSS(South) Moves to Bicester from Lodge Hill

The new site is a £100M build comprising bespoke training facilities for CMD and Search.

Jul 2012

DEMS Trg Regt Formed

DEMS (South) and DEMSS (Kineton) formally merge under a single RHQ to form a new, Tri-service Regiment – The Defence Explosive, Munitions and Search Training Regiment.

The first Commanding Officer is Lt Col CJ Henson QGM RLC.

The first Regimental Sergeant Major is WO1 M Teesdale RE

7 Dec 2012

Afghanistan Conflict



British Army unveils TALISMAN

Each Talisman system consists of:

- A MASTIFF 2 protected patrol vehicle.
- A Buffalo mine protected vehicle, with a remanaging arm.
- A JCB high mobility engineer excavator.
- A T-Hawk micro air vehicle.
- Talon tracked remote control vehicle.

It was designed as a flexible manoeuvre support capability that can be quickly re-tasked and rearranged to meet different mission tasks, operating independently or alongside other bomb disposal systems dependent on the threat.



First All Arms EOD Operator course commences.

The requirements of Op HERRICK requires a significant uplift to EOD Operator manpower.

Volunteers from across Defence are selected to commence EOD Operator Training.

Feb 2011-Apr 2012

Op RECTIFY

Op RECTIFY provided an extra 80 training places for potential DEOC Operators to enhance both the UK and Op HERRICK C-IED capability.

It was established by Maj KA Baker MBE RLC and Flight Sgt Hunt RAF. Op RECTIFY operates under command DEMSS (Kineton).

This training was conducted at Swaynerton Training Area and covered the first four weeks of the DEOC before the students moved to the Felix Centre for their training and assessment exercises.

Op ELLAMY

RAF EOD Personnel Deploy

RAF EOD teams were embedded within RAF deployed forces as part of Op ELLAMY – The Libyan intervention.

2011 Libyan Intervention

22 Jun 2011

Cpl James Bedford RE

is awarded the MC for actions in Afghanistan whilst serving as a Search Team commander.



First RN High Threat (Advanced) EOD Operator qualifies at DEMSS (Kineton)

5 Mar 2012

Brazzaville, Congolese Democratic Republic. Munitions Depot Explodes

146 Killed.



12 Nov 2012

Final All Arms DEOC Operator course begins

With operations in Afghanistan now on a sustainable footing, the decision is taken to end the all arms access to the DEOC training.

From this point on, EOD operators are drawn from RAF, RN, RE and RLC personnel as part of the overall Defence EOD Operator Programme.

'The DEMS Warrior'

The DEMS Trg Regt adopts the DEMS 'Warrior' as its badge.

The badge symbolizes that the successful student, whether working in EOD, with munitions or in search, may be required to face an explosive threat at close quarters, often alone and armed with the simplest of weapons and relying on their courage and skill to defeat it.

