

Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) has historically been an incredibly adaptive and innovative force, transforming to constantly meet Marine Corps, Joint Force and Nation's needs.

1940s-1950s: U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines first received bomb disposal training from British bomb disposal experts at Melksham Royal Air Force Station, Wiltshire, England, with the intent of establishing Service bomb disposal schools in the United States.

July 4th, 1942 the first Marines graduated from the U.S. Navy Bomb Disposal School, Washington DC, as members of Class 3 and Class 4. During World War II, Marine Corps Bomb Disposal units supported amphibious operations throughout the Pacific campaigns. Bomb Disposal Officers and Technicians conducted combat operations by removing the threats of dud explosive ordnance and enemy ammunition storage areas. Given the tactical situation and the expanding number of Bomb Disposal Technicians, on 6 June 1944, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General A. A. Vandergrift, directed the Commanding General, Fifth Amphibious Corps to form new organizations to be known as Bomb Disposal Companies. 1st and 2d Bomb Disposal Companies were activated on Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. The 1st and 2d Bomb Disposal Companies were assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalions, III Amphibious Corps and V Amphibious Corps respectively in March 1945. In 1946 – The 2d Bomb Disposal Company was deactivated at Camp Pendleton, California, on 15 February 1946. The 1st Bomb Disposal Company was deactivated in Tientsin, China, on 6 March 1946.

1950s During the Korean War, when fierce fighting in the Chosin Reservoir required Bomb Disposal Marines to adapt to an entirely new set of harsh conditions, they continued to neutralize and destroy explosive ordnance in support of combat operations. The U.S. Marine Corps 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company was activated at Camp Pendleton, California and EOD teams deployed to the Korean War on three-month rotations. During 1955, EOD training for all Military Services was consolidated at the Naval School located at Indian Head Maryland. During 1956 the Department of the Army approved the design for the Basic EOD Badge.

1960s-1970s, Nov, 1963 the EOD Company was deactivated and reorganized with the Ammunition Companies. 1st Platoon remained at Camp Pendleton, 2nd Platoon at Camp Lejeune and 3rd Platoon in Okinawa. The Marine Aircraft Wings were still organically supported by an EOD team for each Air Group and the Marine Bases and Air Stations were also supported by an organic EOD Team. During the Vietnam conflict, (1965-1973) Marine EOD supported both Air and Ground Forces in the I Corps area of South Vietnam. The last Marine EOD teams departed Vietnam in Feb 1973. During 1979, USMC EOD began providing support to the United States Secret Service for the protection of the President and Vice President of the United States on a re-occurring basis. This support remains ongoing and now includes the Secretary of State and other national security related events.

1980s-1990s During the 1980s and 1990s, Marine Corps EOD grew in size and conducted operations in support of low intensity conflicts in places such as Beirut, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Persian Gulf, Kosovo, Bosnia and also major combat operations in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during operation Desert Storm. During this period, each Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) had an organic EOD section to support their global requirements, including direct support to their Force Reconnaissance units. In 1988, the EOD Platoons were moved from the Ammunition Companies of the Force Service Support Groups to the Engineer Support Battalions.

2000s-2020s After the United States was attacked on Sept 11th 2001, Marine Corps EOD became engaged in major combat operations followed by counter insurgency operations while conducting Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the post 9/11 environment, as the improvised explosive device (IED)

became the weapon of choice used against coalition forces, Marine Corps EOD personnel were consistently called into action to conduct high risk procedures within the danger area of the explosive device. During these extended conflicts, explosive threats elevated EOD activities to being essential in pursuit of national security, directly enabling tactical, operational and strategic military objectives. During both of these major conflicts, Marine Corps EOD suffered some of the highest killed in action / wounded in action rates of the Marine Corps. In 2006, Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARFORSOC) became a permanent unit within the United States Special Operations Command and Marine Corps EOD has become an integral part of their operations as an organic asset. On 1 Oct 2009, Headquarters Marine Corps once again reorganized EOD from the Platoon construct to EOD Companies, comprised of numerous Platoons within each Company and remained at the active-duty Engineer Support Battalions. This reorganization into a Company enabled better command and control, a dedicated EOD Table of Organization & Equipment, support to the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and also provided parity with the other armed services EOD organizations.

2020s - Force Design Unique to Marine Corps EOD is the ability for all EOD units across the total force to conduct exploitation of explosive ordnance and improvised explosive devices through inerting and disassembly operations. This skill set has directly enabled the development of critical publications and counter-measure capabilities while aiding in threat identification, targeting, attribution and information dissemination.

Early and mid 2020s, the Marine Corps continued to reorganize EOD, creating a combination of both centralized and distributed formations within the MAGTF, in order to best support Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations and the Naval Expeditionary Force. During this Force Design era, the Marine Corps created an underwater EOD capability to detect, identify, render safe, recover, exploit, and dispose of underwater explosive hazards in the very shallow water, surf zones and throughout the littorals. As the Marine Corps continued to navigate evolutionary changes, including activation and deactivation of Commands and capabilities, the Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) was born which includes organic EOD.

In 2025, as modern warfare continued to evolve, with the proliferation of inexpensive unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) used by our adversaries to deliver explosive devices, EOD was once again called upon to use their skills in the neutralizing of the explosive threats associated with grounded UAS platforms.

As the Marine Corps continues to evolve in support of modern warfare, EOD will continue to evolve and deliver responsive, scalable capabilities that are task organized to support the full span of military operations in every clime and place.