

# COUNTERING EXPLOSIVE THREAT & DEMINING

23 - 24 SEPTEMBER, 2025  
COPTHORNE TARA HOTEL, LONDON, UK

**ADVANCING EOD AND  
C-IED CAPABILITIES:  
COOPERATION, INNOVATION,  
AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

*"THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ACROSS  
MILITARY AND NGOS WERE STIMULATING  
AND GOOD TO SEE NEW INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENTS"*

SENIOR RESEARCHER, DSTL



TWO STAR PARTNER



**DOK-ING**

ONE STAR PARTNERS



**MKC Training**



# Day One, Tuesday 23 September

## Strategic Insights & International Cooperation

### 0740 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

#### 0845 DEFENCE iQ OPENING REMARKS



Sascha Pollock, Conference Producer, Defence iQ

#### 0850 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mark Wickham MBE QGM, Former Specialist Advisor to the JIEDDO

### STRATEGIC INSIGHTS ON NEXT-GENERATION TRAINING

#### 0900 ENHANCING COUNTER-EO CAPABILITIES OF THE BRITISH ARMY



- Readiness and structural adaptation
- Implementing strategies to maximise resource utilisation and achieve greater efficiency
- Recognising the evolving threat and developing comprehensive countermeasures for non-conventional threats

Colonel Darren Fisher, Commander, 29 EOD & Search Regiment

#### 0930 DOK-ING KOMODO: ADDRESSING NEW CHALLENGES ON A BATTLEFIELD



Konstantin Darmaniyan, Chief Technical Advisor for Sales, Training & International Business Development, DOK-ING

#### 1000 EVOLVING THREATS: NEW CAPABILITIES FOR INTER-OPERABILITY, MULTI-MISSION EFFECTIVENESS AND ALLIED COLLABORATION



This panel will discuss the diversification and increasing complexity of modern threats – from traditional mine warfare and UXO to asymmetric challenges like improvised explosive devices



- **The Cost of "Dull, Dirty, and Dangerous":**
  - Addressing the critical need to reduce human exposure in high-risk environments, what are the human and economic costs of traditional methods?



Moderated by:

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mark Wickham MBE QGM, Former Specialist Advisor to the JIEDDO



Panellists:

Colonel Darren Fisher, Commander, 29 EOD & Search Regiment

Major Matthias Münch, EOD Staff Officer, Bundeswehr



Mislav Manda, Regional Sales Manager, DOK-ING

### 1030 MORNING COFFEE AND NETWORKING

#### 1100 PANEL DISCUSSION: CURRENT THREAT LANDSCAPE & OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESS

*This panel will explore strategic opportunities for collaboration between military, humanitarian, and industry stakeholders to tackle evolving threats in demining and EOD operations. The discussion will focus on a three-pronged approach: military strategies, humanitarian impact, and industry innovation.*



Moderated by:

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mark Wickham MBE QGM, Former Specialist Advisor to the JIEDDO



Panellists:

Lieutenant Commander Ben Brown, Commanding Officer Bravo Squadron Diving and Threat Exploitation Group, Royal Navy

Professor Rachel Hazael, Reader in Applied Materials, Cranfield University Defence and Security



Luke Irving, Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS OPT

**TABLE A: RESEARCH UPDATE: IEDS IN THE SAHEL**

This session will explore:

Threat proliferation data from one of the world's most challenging operational environments.

The evolving distinction between mine action and counter-IED approaches in active conflict.

Humanitarian response limitations and opportunities in non-permissive environments.

Moderated by:

**Georgina Darlow**, Advisor in the Research and Innovation Programme, **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)**

**TABLE B: SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OPTIONS FOR MINE ACTION**

Hear about the FCDOs approach to financing mine clearance and understand financial approaches support long term, sustainable mine action efforts

Key questions will examine the challenges facing the sector as global conflicts increase while budgets tighten. Discussion will cover international approaches to sustainability, innovative funding models, and how mine action can serve as an operational enabler.

Moderated by:

**Andrew Griffiths**, Head of Demining Team, **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**

**TABLE C: TRAINING AND CIED EFFORTS IN AFRICA**

Join this discussion and hear from Mr Pollard on the creation of the US Army approaches to EOD and PSSM. It is an excellent opportunity to discuss different regional approaches to C-IED operations and hear the varying challenges different nations face.

Moderated by:

**Shane Pollard**, HMA EOD / C-IED Program Manager,

**TABLE D: FUTURE-PROOFING BLAST MITIGATION AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR RAPID, RESPONSIBLE DEPLOYMENT**

Focusing on how to deliver next generation survivability systems— such as sustainable blast mitigation technologies and carbon-zero body armour—into military and NGO hands more quickly and responsibly.

Moderated by:

**Professor Rachel Hazael**, Reader in Applied Materials, **Cranfield University Defence and Security**

**TABLE E: EOD INTEROPERABILITY**

Discussions will look at enhancing collective capabilities in addressing CBRN and EOD challenges. This requires shared procedures, compatible equipment, and coordinated training cycles across the Alliance.

Moderated by:

**Lieutenant Colonel Blake Zeneto**, Deputy Director, **NATO EOD COE**

**TABLE F: INTEGRATED TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

Challenges in collaboration with the private sector: cross-disciplinary exercises to enhance communication and coordination between military, humanitarian and local organisations involved in demining and C-IED efforts.

Moderated by:

**Sean Dennis**, President, **US Bomb Technician Association**

**1300 LUNCH AND NETWORKING****1400 HALO TRUST'S GLOBAL DEMINING EFFORTS AMIDST CHALLENGES**

- HALO Trust's strategic focus on clearing landmines and ERW in conflict-affected regions
- Overcoming the challenging conditions under which Halo's deminers work
- The importance of partnerships and international cooperation in achieving our mission

**Major General (Ret.) Rob Thomson**, Chief Strategy Officer, **The HALO Trust**

**1430 SWEDECs APPROACH TO DEMINING**

- Latest technological innovations developed or adopted by SWEDEC, including new clearance methods and equipment.
- Comprehensive training programs for military and civilian personnel
- SWEDEC's collaboration with international experts and humanitarian organisations

**Lieutenant Colonel Anders Södermyr**, Commanding Officer EOD and Search School, **Swedish Armed Force SWEDEC**

**1500 ENHANCING GLOBAL SECURITY THROUGH COUNTER-EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEFENCE ENGAGEMENT**

- Effective engagement with international partners
- Sharing knowledge and experience to counter explosive ordnance threats
- Future Plans and key activities in the sector

**Brian Howard**, Chief, **Counter-Explosive Ordnance Defence Engagement (CEDE)**



**1530 AFTERNOON TEA AND NETWORKING**

**REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES & NATO REQUIREMENTS FOR EOD**

**1600 SUPPORTING INDUSTRY WITH INTERNATIONAL DEMINING AND CIED PROJECTS**



- Accessing contested and complex markets
- Understand the threat situation
- Partnering with global organisations to enhance demining and CIED efforts

**Lieutenant Colonel Andy Teeton**, Military Advisor Counter-Explosive Ordnance & CBRN, **UK Defence and Security Exports**

**1630 PROTECTION OF COMMAND POSTS OF A RAPID REACTION NATO CORPS, WITH FOCUS ON C-IED AND C-UXS**



- Preparedness and warfighting
- Addressing challenges to combine C-IED and counter drone technologies

**Lieutenant Colonel Dirk Fuchtmann**, Staff Officer EOD/C-IED, **1 German-Netherlands Corps**

**1700 CLOSING KEYNOTE: ADVANCING DEMINING EFFORTS IN UKRAINE: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**



- Priorities for utilising resources and equipment in demining efforts
- Addressing current challenges around explosive threats in Ukraine
- Enhancing operational effectiveness through training and capability development

**Colonel Ruslan Berehulia**, Head of the Main Department of Mine Action, **MoD Ukraine**

**1730 CHAIR'S SUMMARY REMARKS**



**Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mark Wickham MBE QGM**, Former Specialist Advisor to the JIEDDO

**1745 END OF DAY ONE**



# Day Two, Wednesday 24 September

## Future Directions in ED and C-IED: Emerging Trends and Technologies

### 0800 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

#### 0850 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mark Wickham MBE QGM, Former Specialist Advisor to the JIEDDO

### CURRENT & FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

#### 0900 AI PROJECTS AT GICHD: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE NEEDS



- Evaluation of the technological capabilities of AI in demining operation.
- Case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of AI applications in the field
- Future directions and potential advancements in remote sensing technology

Armen Harutyunyan, Head of Operations and Standards Division, **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)**

#### 0930 FUTURE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EOD&S CAPABILITY



- Remote threat detection and neutralisation, reducing human exposure to danger and enhancing operational efficiency
- Integrating autonomous technologies to address current gaps and future needs in EOD operations
- Ensuring higher precision and safety in operation & navigating challenging environments

Major Mark Feters, SO2 Counter-Explosive Ordnance, **Army Futures Directorate**

#### 1000 TRAINING AND CIED EFFORTS IN TUNISIA



- The creation of the TC2E and Tunisian approach to C-IED

Colonel Jemai Yessai, Commander – Tunisian Counter-IED Center of Excellence, **Ministry of National Defense**

### 1030 MORNING COFFEE AND NETWORKING

### EXPLORING THE LATEST ADVANCEMENTS IN AI, ROBOTICS & REMOTE SENSING

#### 1100 REMOTE CONTROL & REMOTE VISION IN DEMINING



- Assessing the success of remote sensing and the survey process
- Establishing a testing and evaluation criteria for successful mine action

Adam Jasinski, Chief Operating Officer, **The HALO Trust**

#### 1130 AN S&T PERSPECTIVE: METAL DETECTION, RADAR AND INTEGRATION



- Recent advancements in ground-penetrating radar and metal characterisation systems
- Improving accuracy and reliability in sensing systems with Multi-Modal Detection
- Challenges and Industry Collaboration: Quantifying and obtaining reliable test sensors & working with industry to advance technological developments

Professor Tony Peyton, Professor of Electromagnetic Tomography, **University of Manchester**

#### 1200 MINE CLEARANCE AND EOD EFFORTS IN LEBANON



- Ongoing efforts to address legacy contamination and increasing damage in South Lebanon
- Collaboration with international partners and the role of LMAC in coordinating national demining efforts
- Training and capacity building within the region

Major Anis Wardani, Chief of Training and Security Sections, **Lebanese Mine Action Centre**

### 1230 NETWORKING LUNCH

#### 1330 ADDRESSING CONTAMINATION: STRATEGIES AND SUCCESSES



- Lessons learned from 30 years of Mine Action Accidents
- MAG field trials of Sensors, Mechanical Equipment and Detectors
- HMA Operations from new conflicts; Syria or Lebanon

Stephen Ingram, Global Technical Advisor (HMA), **Mine Action Global (MAG)**

#### 1400 UPDATE ON THREAT DYNAMICS FROM EXPLOSIVE-LADEN SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (S-UAS)



Lieutenant Colonel José M RUFAS, Chief of the Attack the Networks Branch, **Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Centre of Excellence (C-IED COE)**

1430



**RDN FLEET DIVING UNIT: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND MARITIME EOD OPERATIONS**

- Rapid deployment capabilities for critical underwater infrastructure emergencies
- Advancing specialised diving operational capabilities and the protection of seabed infrastructure

**Commander Bo Snekstrup**, Commanding Officer, **Royal Danish Navy Fleet Diving Unit**

**1500 AFTERNOON TEA AND NETWORKING**

**1530 THE LAND MINE AND ERW PROBLEM IN AZERBAIJAN**



- Highlights of current demining efforts and challenges
- The role of international organisations and foreign governments in supporting Azerbaijan's demining efforts
- Broader vision for post-clearance development

**Mr. Elnur Gasimov**, Head of the Quality Control Department, **ANAMA**

**1600 ENHANCING SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY IN STOCKPILE AND WEAPONS & AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT**



- Update on current programmes & technologies
- Physical Security & Stockpile Management (PSSM) & innovative approaches
- Golden West Training practices for military personnel in Explosive Risk Mitigation

**Lee Moroney**, Director Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) / Coordinator Europe Programs, **Golden West Humanitarian**

**1630 CHAIR'S SUMMARY REMARKS**



**Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mark Wickham MBE QGM**, former specialist advisor to the JIEDDO

**1645 END OF CONFERENCE**