

# Military Ordnance Response

By Tim Cooper

A question public safety bomb squads and technicians should ask themselves: “Am I trained and knowledgeable enough to correctly identify and report items of military ordnance to my military EOD asset?”

The history of formal bomb disposal training in the United States began circa 1940 and was based on the lessons learned by the United Kingdom fighting the Axis powers. Initially the US Chemical Warfare School, located in Edgewood Arsenal, was to organize a Civil Defense School for civilian personnel only. The course was developed and managed by the U.S. Ordnance Training Center at Aberdeen, Maryland with Major T.J. Kane and Captain G. B. Jarrett providing assistance to begin the new course. The original course, Civil Defense Bomb Disposal, used information from ordnance safety manuals, ordnance and engineer field manuals, intelligence reports, British publications and observations from Allied experiences. On December 13, 1941 the War Department Directive “Disposal of Unexploded and Delayed-Action Bombs” transferred the mission of bomb disposal to the military Ordnance Department, and in the civilian area, to the Office of Civilian Defense. This was later changed to give complete responsibility to the military. (1)

Civilian authorities have been responsible for the handling of threats from bombs of both foreign and domestic origin. The New York Police Department Bomb Squad is over 100 years old. The Los Angeles Police Department’s “Bomb Squad Service Training Manual” dated June 1, 1942 described responsibilities of locating and identifying unexploded ordnance.

In the 1970s, the development of the Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama for the civilian authorities began

out of a necessity to respond to the growing threat of criminal bombs and bombings. Additionally, the United States was involved in the Vietnam conflict which deployed the military EOD assets overseas.

Today, our military assets are once again deployed overseas, thus reducing their footprint and availability for assistance to civilian needs. The responsibility is on the Public Safety Bomb Technician (PSBT) to utilize the military resources correctly and effectively. The training received by the PSBT concerning the identification and correct reporting of pieces of military munitions is limited in scope and generally lacking. The need for a comprehensive training course is essential for the safety, mitigation and timely/correct reporting to the military EOD assets. In the civilian environment the closing down of city infrastructures, roadways and residential areas, for extended periods while waiting for the arrival of military EOD assistance is costly and may be unnecessary. If PSBTs are able to properly identify and accurately report items of concern, this will avoid needless emergency responses as well as the encumbering the military EOD units limited resources. If the item can be determined to be inert or of limited concern it can be moved for later disposal, and the city can return to normal.

The concept of such a course has been addressed and reviewed by the FBI, ATF, Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board, and members of the military EOD community. The intent of



How should this be handled? What are the dangers?



What technical information must be reported? Do you have the necessary reference materials?

this training is to create a force multiplier for the military and a major safety factor for PSBTs, but not to replace or eliminate the military EOD responsibility.

1 Article, *Ordnance Magazine*, Fall 2007, pg 6-7, "History of Army Bomb Disposal/Explosive Ordnance Disposal; Ricky S. Stauber

2 Photograph, Los Angeles Police Department, Bomb Squad, actual recovery, 2007, EOD responded, 1 live 105mm/unknown 350# bomb (determined inert), 2 day operation, major interruption of industrial area.

3 Photograph, Los Angeles Police Department, Bomb Squad, actual recovery, 2007, Non-emergency, EOD not required, all items determined inert. 6 hour operation, no major disruption of public area.

Tim Cooper Los Angeles Police Dept., Bomb Squad

*"A word to the wise  
ain't necessary... it's  
the stupid ones that you  
need to talk to."*

- Bill Cosby

PrestigePewter.com



8" Bomb Tech  
Pewter Statue

4 lbs.  
\$149.00  
\*shipping extra

Sgt. Wayne Wareham  
Gander Bomb Squad  
Jan 1985 - Dec 2003  
In sincere appreciation for your  
years of dedicated service

20% Off All Orders  
Over \$200

\*limited Time Only

10" Acrylic  
Bomb Tech



New

\$109.00  
\*shipping extra

TIMEX® Expedition  
EOD Watch



\$89.00

EOD 9 Key Chain



New

\$8.95

Guy Fawkes /  
"Mad Bomber"  
Lapel Pin



New

\$4.95

Call us @ (613) 851-9451 or E-mail at [sales@prestigepewter.com](mailto:sales@prestigepewter.com)



Reseller: The Prestige Pewter & Souvenir Co., 1000 Main St., Cambridge, MA 02142, Tel: (617) 851-9451, Fax: (617) 851-9452, E-mail: [sales@prestigepewter.com](mailto:sales@prestigepewter.com), Shipping: Shipping about \$10.00 in US, Canada and International. [www.prestigepewter.com](http://www.prestigepewter.com)