



BLACK CAT WATCH

101 Engineer Regt (EOD & S) News, plus UK and Worldwide EOD features.

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The Regiment

The regiment was involved in the Lady Majors show on the 8th November, with members of 221 Sqdn providing a float for the precession and a BBC interview. See the interview video in the news section of the website.

On the 9th November the CO and Ops officer attended St Pauls Cathedral, and the RSM and QM attended St Lukes (Chelsea) for the annual Remembrance services.



EOD Capability Update

AI is being embraced by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community as a transformative tool, enabling safer, faster, and more autonomous operations. It is reshaping how threats are detected, assessed, and neutralized, reducing risk to human operators while expanding mission effectiveness.

- **Autonomous Robots**
 - The UK trials are assessing the use of autonomous robots like Boston Dynamics 'Spot' a robotic dog that can remotely identify IEDD threats and disrupt them under the watchful eye of command post operators.
- **Real Time Threat Assessment**
 - Machine learning models can analyse sensor data to predict the state and likelihood of detonation.
- **Drone Integration**
 - Reconnaissance drones are now pairing with video analytics to identify UXO threats.
 - Objects can be autonomously identified, data relayed to operators, and preliminary threat assessments gleaned.
- **Human -Machine Teaming**
 - Instead of replacing operators, AI augments them by offering decision support tools.
 - Operators receive AI driven recommendations on the safest defusal methods, while retaining overall control.



UK EOD Incidents

- **11th November 2025 – Coastal Discovery Norfolk** A WW2 shell was washed up on a beach in Norfolk and subsequently destroyed by a Navy EOD team.
- **12th November 2025 – Garden Find in Kent** A homeowner unearthed a live grenade whilst digging his garden, a EOD team subsequently removed the device.
- **15th November 2025 – Construction Site East London** Workers uncovered a large, unexploded bomb whilst digging foundations on a housing site, an evacuation zone was put in place for 48hrs whilst EOD engineers carried out a controlled explosion.
- **18th November 2025 – Magnetic Fishing Incident, Manchester** Magnetic fishers pulled a WW2 Mortar from the Sankey Canal causing an evacuation zone whilst an EOD team safely removed the ordnance
- **22nd November 2025 – Shed Discovery Birmingham** A family clearing a shed in Birmingham discovered a box of practice grenades sparking panic until deemed safe.
- **25th November 2025 – Geotechnical Project Warning** Industry reports stressed the need for UXO support on development projects where the land was previously bombed following several UXO discoveries during groundworks in the month.

World News

NATO EOD standardisation and war gaming (24th Nov 25) The NATO EOD Centre of Excellence (EOD COE) met in Amsterdam to advance EOD standardisation across the member country forces.

Thailand Mine Clearance commitment (12th Nov 25) General Ukris Boontanondha, chief of the defence forces Thailand, reaffirmed the pledge to clear the remaining land mines from the countries border with Cambodia. Operations are already underway in five areas seeking to improve civilian safety from the legacy UXO threat.

US Army Bomb Suit Record (25th Nov 25) 1st Lt Maddison Faust set a record for running the fastest mile in a 48lb bomb suit of 10.19, beating the previous record of 10.23 set in 2021.