NDIA – Global EOD Conference

Coalition Training and Technology Requirements

Col John Matthews OBE
Col Gareth Bex OBE

27 Jul 15
The Panel.....

• Col John Matthews:
  ▪ Generalist
  ▪ Combat background / Infantry
  ▪ Heads up UK Defence EOD&S Branch in British Army HQ / C-IED Programme
  ▪ Responsible – UK Defence (Joint) EOD&S Policy, Doctrine, Training, Capability Delivery, Assurance and institutionalisation

• Col Gareth Bex:
  ▪ Specialist
  ▪ EOD&S background / ATO
  ▪ Commands 29 EOD&S Group within 8 Engineer Brigade
  ▪ Responsible for – the operational delivery of homeland and contingent EOD&S effects, including C-CBRNE under the Technical Response Force (TRF), principally within the land environment
Thoughts for discussion

• Challenges of Institutionalising C-IED within UK Forces:
  - Defence - ‘buy-in’ versus threat proliferation
  - Policy – Generating policy that is coherent (NATO), affordable
  - Training - Post Afghanistan Reset versus Maintaining / developing competence
  - Doctrine – development of Countering Explosive Ordnance Concept
  - Alignment of S&T / Research

• Challenges facing UK EOD&S:
  - Technology:
    - Shrinking research budgets – mitigation by partnering
    - Technology limitations
    - Technology used by opponents
  - EOD – Demand v Supply
  - Capability delivery – programme $600m over 10 years (60+ projects)
  - How to leverage off of NATO / partners / industry to reduce burden
  - Interoperability – what could / should we achieve? De-conflicted/Compatible/Interchangeable
    - Training opportunities on Coalition / wider NATO exercises
Training – Coalition / NATO exercises

UK/US

- US Homeland Security – Ex RAVEN’S CHALLENGE, USA
- US CJOAX – Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise, USA
- UK Expeditionary – Ex SHAMAL STORM, Jordan

Wider NATO Exercises

- Ex ARDENT DEFENDER - Canada
- Ex VIKING STAR - Denmark