

CHAPTER 10**SECTION 10****CRITERIA FOR MILITARY WORKING DOG TRAINING AREAS****CONTENTS**

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1 CRITERIA FOR MILITARY WORKING DOG TRAINING AREAS**1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 Military Working Dogs (MWD) are widely used throughout the Services and are divided into 2 main categories, Specialist Working Dogs and Non-Specialist Working Dogs. Within the Specialist Working Dogs category falls Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) and Vehicle and Arms and Explosive Search Dogs. The training of these 2 latter categories of MWD requires the use of explosives and whilst, generally, Vehicle and Arms and Explosive Search Dogs use Service Explosive Samples Dog Training, EDD require to be trained on areas where explosives and mines are buried. This Section provides regulatory control over these activities.

1.2 Military Imperative

1.2.1 UK forces continue to operate in a number of areas where landmines are a major threat. EDD have demonstrated that they play a critical role in force protection, especially for operations conducted away from cleared routes. Accordingly, the MWD capability has been endorsed in the Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Resources Paper and the long-term EDD capability requirement to support UK operations has been ratified by the Engineer in Chief (Army) (EinC(A)). PJHQ(Permanent Joint Headquarters), as the operational headquarters, have stated that the retention of the EDD capability for expeditionary operations is essential in the current climate, particularly for force protection.

1.3 Training

1.3.1 Training and provision of the current capability rests with the Defence Animal Centre (DAC) at Melton Mowbray. The DAC provides the initial training for EDDs, their handlers and the generic validation of formed EDD teams.

EDD will often be employed as a contingency capability on operations and may not be able to sustain their skill levels in theatre through live tasks alone. Therefore, continuation training facilities must be provided to allow theatre specific adjustment and acclimatisation on operations. Such facilities are to be modelled on those at the DAC and be operated in full accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that have been ratified by the Director Army Veterinary Remount Services (DAVRS).

1.4 Explosive Dog Detection Training Areas

1.4.1 EDD training areas will normally comprise a series of training fields each consisting of several test boxes into which mines, or explosives, have been buried. These training areas may exist for many months, as buried mines must weather for some time before a training area is suitable for use. All such training areas are deemed to be open stack storage areas and normal explosives licensing rules applied where possible.

1.5 Explosives Licensing

1.5.1 EDD training areas, where explosives are buried, must always be authorised for use by the issue of an Explosives Licence. This will normally be on a Standard MOD Form 1658 fully supported by all other ancillary reports, security, fire etc. In all cases where new facilities are being planned, the advice of an Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO)/(RN, RAF or Civilian Equivalent) must always be sought before any works are undertaken. Where all provisions of the Explosives Regulations are met, a person who has been personally delegated to do so by the relevant Inspector of Explosives (IE), may raise and sign the Explosives Licence in consultation with IE staff. Where no such delegation exists, the Explosives Licence is to be signed by the IE. The site is to be licensed using the largest NEQ of a single item.

1.5.2 At EDD training areas where the full requirements of the Explosives Regulations cannot be met, the area is to be licenced on a Non-Standard MOD Form 1658 supported by an Explosives Safety Case. All areas are to be subjected to a technical risk assessment during the compilation of the Explosive Safety Cases. The Explosive Safety Case is to be compiled by the senior Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO)/(RN, RAF or Civilian Equivalent) in theatre, and must show clearly, by maps and comment, the risks present and the consequences to personnel (both Service and civilian), materiel assets and infrastructure. The CinC/CBF, on receipt of this safety case, is required to sign a document stating that he has been appraised in detail, of the circumstances prevailing at a named area, been made aware of the consequences of an explosive event, confirmed that operational exigencies take precedence and accepts the risks present. Following this, a Non-Standard MOD Form 1658 Explosives Licence must be drafted and forwarded to the relevant IE for approval and signature. In all such cases, a copy of the licence is to be forwarded to the CIE (MOD).

1.6 Registration of EDD Training Areas

1.6.1 A register of Explosive Detection areas is to be maintained by the relevant IE as a product of normal explosives licensing procedures. The DAC and DAVRS are required to maintain similar records to ensure that all EDD units are informed of any changes to the regulations and operating procedures.

1.7 Area Selection

1.7.1 Siting boards are to be held whenever any EDD training area is being considered. The proposed area is to be formally selected by a Siting Board and approved by Headquarters staffs, local Security staff and the appropriate IE.

It is essential that the latter two organisations are involved at an early stage in the proceedings. IEs are to take advice, as necessary, from CIE(MOD) staff and keep them fully informed of the nature of planned work.

1.7.2 When selected, the training area is to be clearly marked by a fence, a marking on the ground or by other permanent means. Areas are to be located at the maximum practical distance from all PES, traffic routes and inhabited buildings, and from uninhabited buildings considered vital.

1.8 Construction of EDD Training Areas

1.8.1 In all cases, the creation of an EDD training area, including the burying of mines, shall be carried out by an appropriate unit, as directed by the Chain of Command, under the advice of the DAC, the local Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO)/(RN, RAF or Civilian Equivalent) and the appropriate security staff. A similar process shall be enforced whenever explosive items are recovered and removed from these areas for subsequent renewal and/or disposal. The size of each training area will differ dependent on the operational situation. The following rules are to be applied when preparing an EDD training area comprising individual training fields each containing a number of test boxes.

- (1) The location of each training field must be recorded on a map with exact GPS location references.
- (2) The corners of every test box are to be marked with wooden or plastic poles, which are to be driven well into the soil. Metal poles are not to be used as they may act as lightning conductors, which could lead to an explosion, and become high velocity fragments themselves. The accurate location of all training aids and recognition pieces must be recorded.
- (3) The minimum distance between each training field shall be 3 metres but the preferred distance is to be 5 metres or greater so as to allow the dog and handler freedom of movement. Mines are to be positioned so that there is a minimum distance of 1 metre from an Anti-Tank Mine to any other mine and ½ metre from an Anti-Personnel Mine to any other mine in order to prevent propagation in the event of a mine functioning. Test items may be buried to varying depths, from surface laid (camouflaged) to a maximum depth of 20 cm.
- (4) The IQDs to any other PES are:
 - (a) When the largest NEQ of a single item $\leq 10\text{kg}$ = 25m, or
 - (b) When the largest NEQ of a single item $> 10\text{kg}$ = as per JSP 482 Chapter 10, Section 2, Annex A, Table 1B.
- (5) If vegetation is considered to be an obstacle to training, it may be cut in accordance with SOPs for the Laying and Maintenance of EDD training areas. Prior to vegetation cutting the area must be very carefully inspected to ensure that no mines have brought themselves to the surface. All mines found this way, and those that were originally surface laid, must be removed by an EOD trained person to an authorised ammunition store for subsequent re-use or buried to a safe depth prior to any cutting activities taking place.
- (6) The initial life of an EDD training area will be 12 months. This period includes 6 months "bedding in" and 6 months actual use. Longer periods may be used providing that all explosive items can be confirmed as having a safe life for the whole period under consideration. An Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO)/(RN, RAF or Civilian Equivalent) must be engaged when determining any munition's remaining safe life.
- (7) Ideally all EDD training areas should be stone free, as stones will become high velocity debris in the event of any mine functioning.

- (8) If metal mine recognition pieces are used during the training of an EDD dog, they may be buried beneath a mine but additional recognition pieces must not be buried within 1 metre of an Anti-Tank mine or ½ metre from an Anti-Personnel Mine.

1.9 Acquisition of Explosive Items for EDD Training Areas

1.9.1 All items obtained for use must have been subjected to a formal safety approval process through official channels, classified for storage either by the HSE or ESTC and brought to account before being incorporated into an EDD training area. The “supplier” is to provide written evidence that certifies that all items are safe for immediate use and that they will remain safe throughout their intended life. This process must also confirm that no item has any inherent safety restriction preventing its intended use. **No explosive items obtained for EDD purposes, whether held in store or buried, shall contain any fuze or means of initiation.**

1.9.2 The number of Anti-Personnel mines used shall not be allowed to exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for training as specified in Article 3 of the Ottawa Convention.

1.10 Vehicle and Arms and Explosive Search Dogs

1.10.1 Generally, Vehicle and Arms and Explosive Search Dogs will train using Explosive Samples Dog Training. These are Service items that can be demanded by units with an authorised entitlement and when not in use must always to be stored in an explosives store that is licensed for the purpose. Should any explosive samples need to be used in permanent or semi-permanent areas in the field for any period, they are to be subjected to all the conditions that are detailed in this Section of these regulations. Paragraphs 5 Chapter 10, Section 3, are to be strictly complied with when the staging of Vehicle and Arms and Explosive Search Dogs training samples is necessary on deployed operations that last beyond a single day.

1.11 Explosives Safeguarding

1.11.1 All MWD training areas, which are operated under an Explosives Licence, are to be safeguarded in accordance with JSP 482, Chapter 22. The Safeguarded area is to be taken from the edges of all of the Training Fields (not the Training Area) and the largest NEQ of a single item, regardless of location within the Training Fields, is to be used to generate the IBD. Assistance with this, in the first instance, should be sought from the local Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO)/(RN, RAF or Civilian Equivalent).

1.12 Security

1.12.1 It is essential that a Protective Security Advisory Visit (PSAV) is conducted by the local Military Intelligence (MI) Section, or similar, at the beginning of any project involving the establishment of any EDD training area. This is to ensure that all security implications are properly considered and any critical areas addressed. After a training area has been established, but before it is populated with any explosive items, a second PSAV is to be carried out in order to receive formal approval from security staff at the relevant HQ.

1.13 Fire Precautions

1.13.1 Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting requirements are to be agreed by the unit Senior Fire Officer/Fire Focal Point. The relevant fire and supplementary signs are only to be displayed on external fences if the security situation permits. However, all relevant signs are to be displayed on all internal (MoD) routes of approach, as per the Regulations.

1.14 **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

1.14.1 It is essential that all current Joint Service regulations are complied with when any EDD training area is being operated. These regulations include JSP 336 - Defence Supply Chain Manual (Accounting), JSP 440 - Defence Manual of Security, JSP 800 Vol 4b - Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Sea and JSP 482 - MOD Explosives Regulations.

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