



Countering Explosive Threat and Demining



Post Event Report

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Defence IQ's welcome

The inaugural Counter Explosive Threat and Demining conference, held 11-13 December in London, was designed to bring together the EOD community; ranging across military, NGO, government and industry, and begin a conversation across the complete, global community.

It is not surprising, however, that with numerous discrepancies between military and humanitarian jargon, questions over the roles played by military and humanitarian players across conflict and non-conflict zones alike, and the increasingly blurred lines between capabilities and remits, much of the conference centred around not the conversation itself, but on what language we as a community would be speaking.

Developing a shared language across the complete EOD community remains, and will remain, an ongoing challenge. As the practical distinctions between government, military, NGO and the private sector become blurred further by operational requirements, and terminology becomes defined by sector distinctions – for example the distinction of IED's from Improvised Landmines, or Demining from EOD – the goal to begin a global conversation may seem ambitious at best.

It is perhaps best, therefore, to focus on what unites this community, rather than what separates it. To borrow the analogy of the painting from Colonel Scott's opening presentation, we are I believe all viewing the same painting. While the manner in which we may view this picture may change – some may focus on the technical qualities of the artist, or the detail of the brushwork, while others on the scene depicted, leading to different interpretations and descriptions of the painting in different ways, all are ultimately viewing the same, shared, picture.

It is only through combining each interpretation, acknowledging and understanding the capabilities of the deminer, the technical challenges of IEDD and the wider strategies and politics of EOD, that the picture can be wholly understood.

As the community moves forward, and collaboration and mutual understanding becomes increasingly integral, I sincerely hope this conversation continues to develop and evolve over the next 12 months.



Fergus Maunsell

Conference Producer
Countering Explosive Threat
and Demining



Who Attended in 2018?

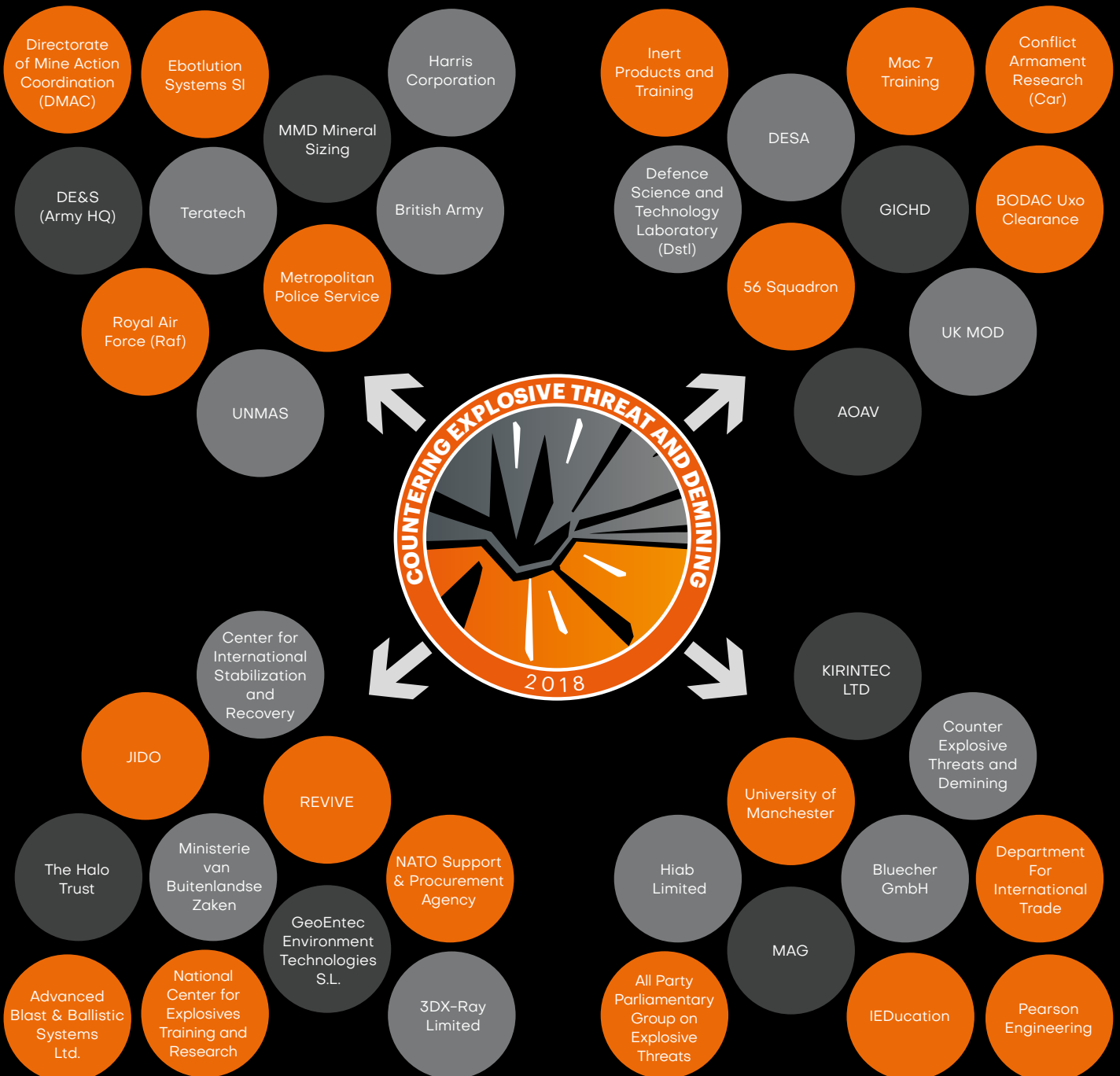
128
ATTENDEES

13
COUNTRIES

8
SPONSORS

24
SPEAKERS

Companies Represented:



2018 Event Photos



Managing Support for Humanitarian Demining Operations

We held two panel discussions at the Counter Explosive Threat and Demining Conference, one of our discussions was focus on humanitarian demining operations. Below is a short overview of the panellists thoughts.

UNMAS



The aim is that countries can lead their own mine action efforts without international assistance. It is a clear mark of incompetence when the UN needs to be in a country for 40 years. We need to build a national capacity for these countries to take care of themselves

Training the forces and also giving these countries the technical capacity to manage the programmes and budget. It is not about counting the square meters of demine disposal, but rather it is about how fast your community will come back to life

UNMAS also discussed the role that women can play in the solution to this problem. You cannot rebuild a country with only half of the country tended to – risk education messaging needs to be tailored to your audience There is definitely a role for women to play – it is smart to include them too in finding the solution and not just see them as victims To achieve 100 percent of the objective – you need to use 100 percent of your population

We are accountable to the affected communities and they need to be able to show them where the money is going. The real driver is saving lives, putting a country back on track to take care of its future without soldiers using their lives having to go back again and again

The HALO trust



The last 4 or 5 years have brought about new challenges in the humanitarian demining space these challenges relate balancing new operations in the Middle East with places that require clearance of conventional items. Much of the funding is going to the middle east, and this has meant that some countries are being left behind.

When looking at statistics about the number of kilometres that need to be cleared or the number of mines in a country, it is more important from a humanitarian perspective to see beyond this and what these statistics mean for both the people who live in those areas, and the environment that surrounds them. Humanitarian efforts are at their core about helping and protecting the people.

CEIA



CEIA have identified the challenges between the shift in operations from Demining to C-IED operations. This affects not only operating procedures, but the need to adapt technical solutions. Industry needs to be flexible and be reactive to these changes by supporting operators with the latest technology.

Both Military and civilian agencies face similar challenges for clearance operations. Lessons learnt must be shared so both parties are current with the latest threats and the new technology used to detect these threats.

Donor fatigue will ultimately affect new technology being sent into the field. CEIA overcome this by using the same Hand Held detector platform, with the ability to switch or add different sensor technology. This gives civilian agencies the flexibility to move detectors to different operations, without having to procure more detectors for a different country which has different threats.



Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Mine action is more than just clearance, it is an overall set of activities which should also be reflective of the treaties. There are sixty contaminated countries still requiring support from international bodies.

There is a no magic bullet to solve this issues, the UN has many different hats and each country and region must be handled in a different manner. There are inherent tensions between the actors, and you have to live with them up to a certain level.

Event Spotlight

Urban Environments: Which is the best technology to use?

Tackling EOD and landmine clearance in urban environments is a complicated problem with a complicated solution. In the near term, the technologies currently available need to be applied better and remote systems used where possible. Systems with mesh network and communications can be highly beneficial with multiple systems working together.

Real-time maps and other real-time systems are the natural evolution of where we are today and where we should be in a few years time.

There is also a question of the limits of electronic warfare, for example, could it be justified to take down a cell network for example.

Technology fusion is important to enhance the process, and since the requirements are all unique it is important to take a regional approach to understand each urban environment.

In conclusion, there is no one technical solution and each solution it has to be tailored to the situation. As the nature of the threat changes, new technologies such as real-time mapping will hopefully lower the risk factor for those carrying out the disposal.



Thanks to our sponsors



BODAC

BODAC is the UXO Clearance Company from the Netherlands. BODAC has many years experience in UXO Risk mitigation, Explosive Ordnance Detection and Clearance. With a strong focus on UXO underwater Clearance globally, we perform also land Clearance in Western Europe. Care for military (aircraft/vessel) wreckage and archaeological finds is part of our services. We provide worldwide residual risk mitigation strategies and Quick Response EOD support teams on site. BODAC combines expert knowledge with state of the art equipment to clear your project areas on a safe and efficient manner.

Website: <https://www.bodac.eu/>



CEIA

CEIA is a world leading manufacturing company specialized in the design, engineering and production of a complete range of Metal Detectors and Electromagnetic Inspection Devices conceived to satisfy every need in the Demining, C-IED, Security and Industrial Sectors. Thanks to 50 years of in-depth research and experience, combined with the most advanced electronic and mechanical technologies, CEIA has established itself as a primary manufacturer of high-performance Ground Search Metal Detectors and sensors.

Website: <https://www.ceia.net/>



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DSA Detection

DSA Detection manufactures and distributes its own brand of DHS-approved trace detection consumables used in the operation and maintenance of all explosive trace detection (ETD) instruments commercially available. DSA also manufactures X-ray correct inert explosive simulants, IED training aids, and test articles used in training screeners to identify threats and to verify security checkpoint equipment is properly identifying threats. DSA then combines all its products and expertise into comprehensive and in-depth classroom and CBT training for threat recognition and security equipment operation, tailored to meet all levels of detection.

Website: <https://www.dsadetection.com/>



MMD (Mining Machinery Developments)

With 40 years' experience of developing innovative mining technology, MMD (Mining Machinery Developments) recently donated a revolutionary anti-personnel landmine clearance rig to The HALO Trust. Five years in development, the mobile Demining Sizer rig works by receiving excavated soil containing anti-personnel landmines: two Sizers process material, ensuring that all mines contained in the soil are crushed or detonated. MMD's patented Sizer technology is perfectly suited to handle the wide range of soil conditions that can be encountered, from wet and sticky to hard and abrasive. The rig's remote control operation and observation will also remove human contact in the highly sensitive minefields.

The project is a great example of how investment in innovation and R&D in the mining and quarrying sector can be adapted to provide humanitarian solutions for communities recovering from conflict.

Website: www.mmdsizers.com



GeoEntec

GeoEntec Environment Technologies offers its services to develop solutions which require of distributed data acquisition systems combining sensing devices with knowledge sources, monitoring, control and communications systems. Providing embedded intelligence and autonomy allows achieving a higher level of safety and performance on tasks which involve risk to humans. Additionally a collaborative approach optimizes processes and results compared to individual performances. In 2019, GeoEntec will launch its innovative Ant-Droid 4D Demining Platforms to improve the safety, efficiency and speed of demining tasks around the world.

Website: <https://geoentec.com/>



Harris Corporation

Harris Corporation is a leading technology innovator, solving customers' toughest mission-critical challenges by providing solutions that connect, inform and protect. Harris supports government and commercial customers in more than 100 countries and has approximately \$6 billion in annual revenue. The company is organized into three business segments: Communication Systems, Electronic Systems and Space and Intelligence Systems.

Website: <https://www.harris.com>



Inert Products LLC

Inert Products LLC provides Law Enforcement, Military, and First Responders with extremely durable, highly realistic inert training aids. These products can be tailored to almost any training scenario, including x-ray correct IEDs, functional landmines that integrate battlefield effects, solid training weapons, and more. Our production capabilities range from handmade items or cast moldings for large scale orders. MAC 7, a division of Inert Products, provides training services, counter-IED tools, and detection equipment for EOD and CBRNe teams. Together, we provide a complete solution from training to real-world execution.

Website: <http://www.mac7training.com>



Pearson Engineering

Pearson Engineering is a world-leading provider of Counter-Mine, Counter-IED, Route Proving, Combat Earth Moving and Assault Bridge Launching equipment for Armoured Fighting Vehicles. Products are provided as interchangeable vehicle attachments designed to allow Commanders to optimise their resources to the needs of the mission. Products include Counter-IED rollers, Mine Ploughs, Surface Mine Ploughs, Dozer Blades, Excavator Arms, Assault Bridge Launch Mechanisms and Obstacle Marker Systems,

This approach has also been applied to the civil defence sector. Our range of Assured Security products provide Counter-IED protection, protective barriers, obstacle clearance and elevated access capability to our homeland security agencies. A move to our new facility at Armstrong Works in Newcastle upon Tyne combined with our in depth understanding of complex defence projects allows us to provide subcontract vehicle build and defence structure and components manufacturing services to the industry.

Website: <http://www.pearson-eng.com>

Looking ahead to next year



10-12 December 2019 | London, UK

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