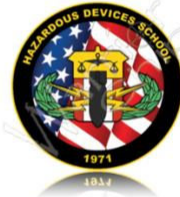


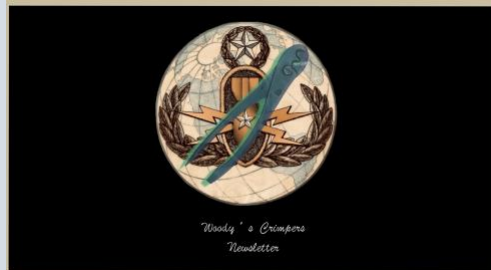
Woody's Crimpers Newsletter



The National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Association



EOD technicians are US Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Public Safety Bomb Technicians who volunteer to serve in one of the most dangerous occupations. The ever-present reminder of the mission, the motto **"Initial Success or Total Failure"**, is both a historical legacy and an expression of dedication to the profession.



The Crimper News March 2023 12th Edition

This project is the sole effort of Woody Eastwood, and it is not to be assumed that the Association will Continue this in the future.

National EOD Associations Officers

James E Duncan – Commander
Woody Eastwood – Vice Commander
James Sanders – Treasurer
Adjutant - Vacant
Chet Heidl – Director
Terry Fitzgerald – Director
SGM Mike Vining - Director
Tom Manders – Director of social media
Irvin Banta III - National EOD Association Chaplain
Bob Leiendecker - National EOD Association Historian



The newsletter is now 1 year old. I have enjoyed bringing it to you and hope that you have found it informative.

I welcome your feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see in future newsletters.

Effective today 1 March 2023, the membership fee for new and renewing, Regular and Associate Membership is \$40.00, this will not affect your current membership, until you renew.

I am now filling the position of the Adjutant of the Association until we can find a replacement. Mike Vining has stepped up to fill the vacant director position. We have added a new Director position. Tom Manders is now our director of social media and manages the NATEODA Facebook Group.

The bylaws of the Association are nearing completion, thanks to the bylaw committee chaired by Terry Fitzgerald. Once they have been reviewed by an attorney and approved, I will set up a special electronic election for you to approve their acceptance.

News about the website restoration project

On 13 February I was introduced to Alex Jariv of the Sage Digital Agency
(The new technician behind the scenes of the website).

I was updated on what role I will be playing in the restoration process.

Wow! I will have a lot of work to do, replacing photos updating posts, news articles and the general appearance of the content on the website. *This is like stepping into a difficult, complicated RSP that has been partially completed. Knowing we have to have a successful outcome, and not knowing what has taken place before arriving on the scene.*

The priority thus far has been on getting the membership program up to date so that renewing members and new members can join or renew their membership in the Association.

Right now, when you are logged in to the website there is nothing that you can see that you cannot see without being logged in.

What “is not” working on the website:

1. The member directory, (members-only area) is not yet functioning, I consider this a key element and we are focusing on getting this fixed.
2. A lot of the photos need to be replaced.
3. Articles need updating.
4. The board of directors needs updating.

What “is” working on the website:

1. Join page: You can renew your membership or join the Association.
2. You can make donations to the Association. To do this you can go to the bottom of the “about page” and click on the “Donate Now” button or you can follow this link: [Click Here](#)
3. News Page: is working and has all the previous news articles (without the photos).
4. The store is functional, and you can purchase the items listed in the store. We have discounted a lot of the items.
5. The Contact Us page is working, and you can get a message to us by using this. Please ensure you leave us a good working email address to contact you.

I am hopeful that very soon we can start working on the aesthetics of the overall website and get you a “fresh new look” and feel for the website.

As it stands now I am your Vice Commander/Acting Adjutant/Webmaster - website administrator/Quartermaster - Storekeeper/ and the publisher/editor of the Crimper News.

Believe me, I don’t desire or need any more titles or tasks to attend to.

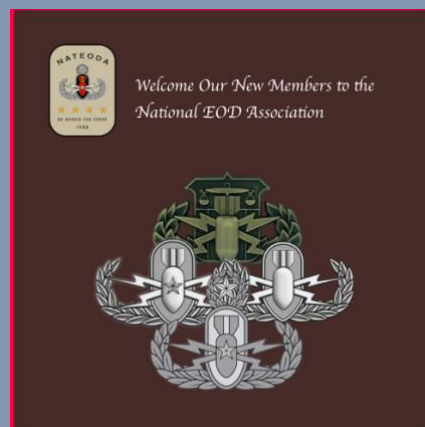
I ask for your help in finding someone to take charge of or help with any of these tasks.



"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." — Reinhold Niebuhr.

Woody's Quote of the month

**Thank you for your Membership in the National EOD Association!
YOU ARE THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION!**



Welcome our new members for the Month of February 2023

Kevin Pisani, US Army MSG
Robert Ridenour, US Army 1SG
Jentry Crain, US Army SPC
JT Crocker, US Army 1SG, 52d EOD
Michael Campbell, US Army 1SG, 192d Ord BN EOD
Sam Hsu, PSBT
Joe Tempesta, PSBT
Jonathan Lennon, US Army SFC, 754th EODS



The National EOD Association Convention 2023

Will be at the – Hilton Garden Inn, Hotel

801 South Meridian Avenue

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73108

The Convention dates are 19 – 23 September 2023

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mark your calendars!

Let's make this the biggest turnout *EVER!*

Your Hosts are NATEODA Members Pat and Walter Perry

Who are working hard on setting up a fantastic and memorable convention for you!



Oklahoma City Riverwalk

**NATEODA
Chaplains Corner
Irvin Banta III**



EOD PRAYER
OCTOBER 2020

Lord of Power and might, Whose mercy is everlasting

Guard and guide those who place their lives in the balance to ensure the safety of those nearby.

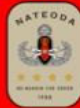
Look with favor upon those with the prowess and skill to disarm Explosive Devices, Render them
Safe, and remove from others the threat of harm.

Bless those who have been set apart by this hazardous duty, and give support to their families
and loved ones who wait through each tense call.

Receive into eternal rest those who have given their lives and bring healing to those who mourn.
Grant that in the EOD Family there may be unity of spirit for the wellbeing of all.
To your glory with grateful hearts we thank you loving God.

Amen

Rev Carl Bergstrom
Past NATEODA Chaplain, DAV



Message from the National EOD Association Chaplain

I remember fondly my years as an EOD Technician at Yuma Proving Grounds, AZ.
Working the ranges; doing what EOD Techs do best in a peacetime assignment. A Jeep, a trailer,
and cases of C-4 with all day on a range. Perhaps you can identify?

But there was that time, three of us got a ¾ ton stuck. No comms to range control, not enough
water, etc. So, we had to walk out. It was summer in the Arizona desert.

I share this embarrassing 'desert moment' because I believe all of us as EOD techs have a
similar story. Peacetime or wartime, 'Murphy's law'....still rules.

His name was Joseph, and he was having a 'desert moment'. Eldest son of Rachel, daughter of
Laban, and Joseph found himself stuck at the bottom of a dry well in the desert. He was sold by
his stepbrothers into slavery; falsely accused of a crime he did not commit and thrown into an
Egyptian prison for years. Joseph was trapped in the sand dunes of life (most of us have been
there once or twice).

Joseph could have allowed these new circumstances to overwhelm him. Yet, Joseph never gave
up Hope in His God. He believed God had a plan. Eventually, Joseph was released from
imprisonment and promoted to Chief Minister for the Pharaoh of Egypt. God's will for Joseph

was to save the people of Jacob from starving and 400 years later Moses would lead them out of Egypt fulfilling God's long-term plan for His people.

The point? Joseph did not allow his captivity, slavery, broken promises, or jail time (for years) to bind him in the sand dunes of life. Instead, Joseph had Hope in and sought after the Oasis (his God) in the desert moments in which he had been cast....and God was faithful to see him through his life circumstance.

You and I may find ourselves in the desert(s) of life. A period of life that is dry, troublesome, difficult, lonely, miserable, etc. When we find ourselves in this desert....we move from one oasis to another seeking the perfect water supply which will meet our thirst, help us understand life, maintain our sanity, provide us peace, safety, sanctuary, acceptance, etc.

Yet, there is only one Oasis where the well of Living Water resides. This Living Water heals the soul, clears the mind, refreshes, and renews the Spirit, and grants us a new beginning. This Living Water comes from a God of second chances.

So, if you find you have been bound or stuck in the sand dunes of life's circumstances remember....there is an Oasis that holds the Well of Living Water. This Well has been set aside for you. It is free for the taking. You have only to drink and be refreshed and renewed. No matter what sand dune you are stuck in; no matter if you have fallen from grace or failed to meet some expectation of your own or others....remember....there is an Oasis set aside just for you. By which you may overcome and survive those desert moments of your life, just as Joseph did.

Trust in the Living Word (John1:1ff) and not your own emotions of the moment. Don't give up Hope! "...We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us..." (Philippians 4:13)

LEO BT FBI/NATEODA Chaplain Banta



The National EOD Association has sponsored a table for the 2023 EOD Memorial Ball

We would like to fill the table with NATEODA Members!

If you would like to attend you have the opportunity to do so by contacting us at:

<https://nateoda.com/contact/>.

There is limited seating, 10 seats per table, so contact us early for your seat.

We are asking for donations for this sponsorship, your donation is appreciated whether you attend or not, and you may donate by clicking the button below. If we get enough donations and can fill more seats, we can sponsor more than one table.

Enter the discount code: NATEODAMB2023 so that your donation will go to this specific project.

DONATE TO NATEODA



*This month's featured Member of
the "EOD Family"*

*EODC Melissa "Mo" Tackitt, USN
Retired*

I am one of four daughters and two sons to Gloria Kleinhans, yes six in total, born in March of 1969. Number three in the lineup and split the middle with my younger sister Renae. We grew up primarily in a small farm town in the middle of the mitten, Ithaca, Michigan. Two blocks made up our downtown and we had the flashing lights for stop signs. Not a big enough town for them to actually change color. So needless to say, and to no surprise to many, I was considered a "hell-raiser" in my small town. All through school, 6th – 12th, I was in the band; back in my day, the band was something huge in our small town. And I ran track, very poorly, but I ran. Played volleyball, and oddly enough spent a year as a cheerleader and another as a Pom-Pom Girl.

Being our mom raised us on her own and I was far from an academic student, I was short on options for getting out of Ithaca.

My older brother, Kip, joined the Navy after he graduated in 1985 and I immediately started looking to the military for my future. Although my mom had always wanted one of us girls to be an Airline Stewardess to "see the world," she was thrilled I found something that would provide a secure future for me and possibly keep me out of trouble. I signed the papers to serve in the US Navy 1986, delayed entry program and left Ithaca shortly after graduation in 1987. Truth be told, the Navy was not my initial choice. I wanted to be a Marine. But, I had heard a girl was raped in the USMC and I immediately changed my direction and ran to the USN.....little did I know. During my in-processing with the Navy I requested to be a Navy Diver but was told my eyesight wasn't good enough.....again, little did I know.

Boot camp – Orlando, FL. Torpedomen's A School – Orlando, FL. The first duty station was a TMSN at Subic Bay, Philippines. This is where I met my first EOD Technicians and learned so many things my small town was not fit to share. I was all of 19 when I hit the PI and wow, just wow on the things I saw, learned, and participated in. In a nutshell, everything my mom told me about people in the world was not exactly correct. I left the PI with great stories, a USMC husband, and a new baby boy, Cotey, in

1990. This is also where I picked up the nickname “Mo” and the last name Tackitt. Sadly, no, I am not related to the Tackitt Family Vineyard. But I am a dedicated Club Member doing my part to drink as much as I can to support!

Next - Keyport, WA at the torpedo testing and depot was my first encounter with US Navy Divers and where I was able to pursue a new career. Oddly enough the long-distance marriage to a Marine didn’t work out as well as I had planned, but exactly as my “Sea Daddy”, Billy Spoor”, said it would. Off I went to 2C Dive School as a single parent and after graduation in 1993 was stationed in Norfolk, VA on the submarine tender USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39) as a ship’s husbandry diver for submarines. As glorified as that sounds, it was 5-hour bottom times in water that was always dark, and occasionally had to break the ice just to get in. This is also the time I switched rates to a Boatswains Mate (BM), earned my Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) pin, and about the time I may have started listening to my “Sea Daddy” and began my path toward EOD. If you ask Billy, he’ll say I never listened to him – that could be true. There were a few reasons I wanted to go into the EOD career field. One was I looked at the civilian contract divers at the end of the pier and they were looking old, beaten, and rough; only to find they weren’t much older than me. Ultimately I wanted something more, something that would provide a good life for not only myself but for my son. And I always said, “bigger and better”; that seemed to be EOD for me. Although EOD seemed like a “bigger” choice for me, I can never beat the bonds made as a Deep Sea Diver. As many of us try to claim, but mine is true, “I had the best locker EVER!”

Graduated from EOD School in 1998 and off I went to EODMU6, Det 4 (Mine Counter Measure) in Ingleside, TX. I ended up back at NAVSCOLEOD in 2001 as an instructor in Demo Division, Curriculum Development, and lastly Ground Division. Finished up my time there in 2005, with my Master Training Specialist and without getting in too much trouble, and headed out to EODMU8 in Sigonella, Sicily. Finished my tour just before MU8 shifted to Rota, Spain in 2009.

During my accumulated Navy time as a TM, BM, 2C Diver, and EOD I bounced on so many ships I can’t remember but a few and they might be decommissioned by now. Awards and pins littered my chest and made my uniform hang to the side a bit. All seemed so important then and now are just a nice rack.

As I was getting close to my 20-year mark and finishing up my bachelor’s degree, just a few classes shy of Intelligence Counter Terrorism, my world, and my plan flipped completely upside down. My fiancé and father to my daughter, Drucilla, died in a car accident on his way to work for his deployment. I am now a single mom, again. This changed my retirement career path completely. I needed something that kept me home and was no longer available for the duties required by the Intel career field.

I retired in 2009 out of Sigonella and landed in St. Augustine, FL at Flagler College. I had difficulty getting locked into a new degree but finally settled with Sports Management. Graduated in 2013 and was quickly hired by the EOD Warrior Foundation as the Director of Memorial Care and Events in Niceville, FL. I bought a small home just down the road from the EOD Schoolhouse, close enough to hear the demo practice range and larger pound shot days. Still sounds like freedom.

Nine and a half years just flew by, and I recently decided it was time for something new. I have to say what an honor it was caring for the EOD Memorial and being on the team when the Remembrance Garden was installed. There were many great accomplishments and memories during my time with the EODWF team.

I am now my own company, MTAC, LLC, and am currently teaching UXO Tech I at the University of Tennessee for Relyant Global. Not too old to start something new and keep moving forward.

Lastly, I have to give many thanks to my family. Had it not been for my older sister, Stacy, and my mom, I would have never gone to Dive School. It is because of my younger sister Renae, who lived with me for a time, I was able to go to EOD School. Because my mom retired early and moved with me to Italy and care for my son and daughter, I was able to take overseas orders. Had I not had the support of my family, I would not be who I am today. There is no amount of "Thank you" that can express how appreciative I am of them all. We've all heard the expression "It takes a village. "Thank you, mom, for providing me with a village".

Mo's awards include Joint Service Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three Gold Stars, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Navy Good Conduct Medal 5th Award, National Defense Service Medal 2nd Award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal with Service Star, Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy and Marine Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Kosovo Medal, Navy Pistol Qualification Medal, Navy Rifle Sharpshooter Medal, Master EOD Badge, Navy Diver 2nd Class Badge, and the Naval Parachutist Badge.

MO'S FAVORITES



Notable EOD technicians

Feathered on the US Army Website (www.army.mil) and the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (www.dvidshub.net).



Two of our very own were pioneers in establishing the Army EOD Special Mission units.
They were.

SGM Dennis Wolfe
And
SGM Mike Vining

Click on their photo see their story



*News from our Military
and the EOD World*



Click the photo for the full story!

Air Force Unveils New B-21 Stealth Bomber After Seven Years in the Making

**Deep Analytics
Demining Research Community**

This is an interesting site.

Click on the picture to check out their website!



LITTLE FALLS, MN, UNITED STATES

02.05.2023

*Photo by Lt. Brittany Stephens
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Two*

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. (Feb. 5, 2023) – A U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician, assigned to EOD Mobile Unit Two, prepares a simulated demolition shot to render a training explosive safe in Little Falls, Minnesota, Feb. 8 2023, during Snow Crab Exercise 23-1, an exercise designed to test and evaluate U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal's (EOD) and Navy Diver's capabilities and equipment in a simulated Arctic environment and improve combat effectiveness. Navy EOD and Navy Divers are part of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Force (NECF), enabling the U.S. Navy Fleet by clearing and protecting the battlespace. (U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. Brittany Stephens/Released)

U.S. Navy forces must be able to operate in the Arctic due to “rapidly melting sea ice and increasingly navigable waters”, according to the Department of the Navy’s Strategic Blueprint for the Arctic.

Several Navy EOD units of action participated in Snow Crab Ex, including Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 12, which exercised tactical control over Navy EOD from EODMU 2, Navy Divers from Mobile Dive and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2, as well as Sailors from EOD Expeditionary Support Unit (EODESU) 2 and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 2.

“During Snow Crab Ex, we put our people and our gear to the test,” said Cmdr. David Scherr, commander, EODMU 12. “The Arctic presents challenging conditions, and lessons learned from Snow Crab Ex will help these Navy EOD teams operate quickly and efficiently anywhere with cold weather.”

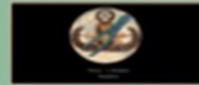
All participating units completed Arctic mobility and survival training to ensure they could effectively operate in cold-weather conditions. Navy EOD cleared simulated unexploded ordnance, secured critical infrastructure, and effectively communicated between distributed operating units in a training environment. Navy Divers successfully completed ice dive training to ensure they can complete dive and salvage operations in Arctic waters.

Camp Ripley and the Minnesota National Guard provided ideal conditions and training areas to simulate an Arctic environment for ice and cold weather dive training, where Navy divers can train in a subzero temperature and arduous conditions at training ranges.

EODMU 2, EODMU 12, EODESU 2, and MDSU 2 are headquartered at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story under EODGRU 2. EODGRU 2 operates as part of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command and EODGRU 2 provides skilled, capable, and combat-ready deployable Navy EOD and Navy Diver forces around the globe to support a range of operations.



Crimper Smile of the Month



Sailor to Army Friend:
Three men are on a boat. They have
four cigarettes, but nothing to light
them with.....

Friend:

Ok, So....?

Sailor: So they throw a cigarette
overboard and the whole boat
becomes a cigarette lighter!

Donations to the Association are always Welcome!

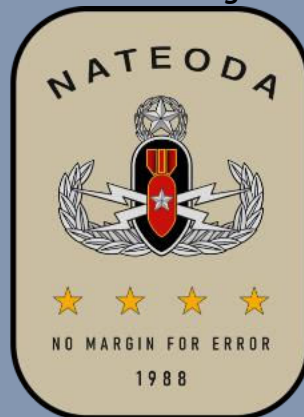
DONATE TO NATEODA



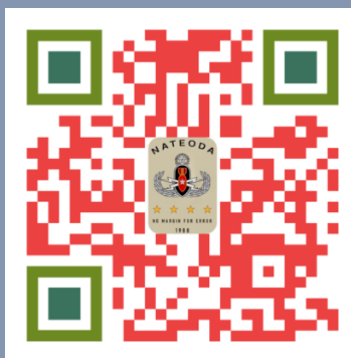
Join us on the Facebook Group



*Recruit a New Member today
YouTube recruiting Video.*



www.nateoda.com



Woody Eastwood

vicecommander@nateoda.com

(405) 820-6236

The National EOD Association, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving the EOD community by aiding the "EOD Family". Providing comradery to fellow EOD and PSBTs. We honor our fallen and the wounded heroes of our profession.

<<<<<My final thoughts for this month>>>>>

THE AMERICAN CREED

"I do not choose to be a common man. it is my right to be uncommon. I seek opportunities to develop whatever talents God gave me – not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence, the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any earthly master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud, and unafraid; to think and act myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations, and face the world boldly and say – 'This, with God's help, I have done'."

Dean Alfange

