



Congressional Explosive Ordnance Disposal Caucus Newsletter

On behalf of the Congressional Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Caucus, we are pleased to share with you the second issue of our newsletter. We have a legislative update on the EOD provisions in the FY25 NDAA below as well as member spotlights. Thank you for subscribing and feel free to share with your circle.

Established in 2011, the [EOD Caucus](#) is a bipartisan congressional member organization dedicated to advocating for the brave men and women serving in military explosive ordnance disposal units and their families across 115 congressional districts. We currently have [29 members](#) and are continuing to grow.



H.R. 5009 - Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (NDAA)

[\(LINK\)](#)

The FY25 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes \$895.2 billion in spending for national defense discretionary programs, meeting the President's request and the proposed FY 2024 defense discretionary spending level (as established in the Fiscal Responsibility Act). This is an increase of \$9 billion from the FY 2024 enacted level. The bill authorizes a 14.5% pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers and a 4.5% raise for all other service members.

EOD Related Report Language included in the House NDAA Report

[\(LINK\):](#)

The two following reports were successfully adopted by the House NDAA Report, and DOD considers this report to be binding and will complete the following EOD reports:

1. Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Death by Suicide for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personnel

(Submitted by Congressman Ronny Jackson, Supported by Congressman Austin Scott).

"The committee understands that Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel perform critical, no-fail missions. A study titled, "Explosive ordnance disposal personnel in the U.S. military have higher risk of insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder: a large retrospective cohort study" was conducted in which a group of experts examined the risk of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and other disorders among EOD technicians compared to the population of Active Duty, non-EOD personnel. This study did not address death by suicide, which is an issue the committee remains committed to addressing.

In order to ensure the committee understands the full scope of the impact on EOD personnel, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2025, on the effects of PTSD, TBI, and death by suicide, specific to EOD personnel. The report shall include:

- a) a review of suicide data specific to EOD personnel from the Department's Suicide Prevention Office for the last 5 years;
- b) an assessment of any trends in PTSD and/or TBI in death by suicide in the EOD community;
- c) recommendations for policies or initiatives that could improve health care for EOD personnel with specific regard to PTSD, TBI, and prevention of suicide;
- d) ongoing efforts by the Department to provide support for EOD personnel; and
- e) a detailed list of any additional resources that Congress could provide to support EOD personnel in an effort to reduce the frequency and the effects of PTSD, TBI, and death by suicide."

2. Army Total Analysis Explosive Ordnance Disposal Domestic Response *(Submitted by Congressman Austin Scott).*

"The committee is aware of the Army's plans to reorganize and adopt new force structure models and that the Army utilizes a process known as Total Army

Analysis (TAA) to evaluate its current force posture and to inform recommended changes to total force structure. The committee is concerned the TAA process does not take into consideration all covered Army mission sets in the TAA process, and is especially concerned that Army units, such as Explosive Ordnance Disposal, which provide support to civilian authorities, is undervalued in this process. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2025, on the Army's evaluation of Explosive Ordnance Disposal units within the TAA process.

This briefing should include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- a) the process in which Explosive Ordnance Disposal units are analyzed;
- b) the role these units play in support to civilian authorities, and the weight given to that covered mission set in the analysis and recommendation process;
- c) the role these units play in very important personnel protection support missions and how this is included or excluded from the analysis and the reasoning for either;
- d) risks associated with excluding units that provide support to civilian authorities and very important personnel protection activity missions from TAA; and
- e) a list of Explosive Ordnance Disposal units that have been evaluated under TAA."

Joint Explanatory Statements for Legislative Provisions Not Adopted in Final FY25 NDAA Report ([LINK](#))

The two provisions below were successfully included in House NDAA , but were not included in Senate NDAA. During the conference process for the Final NDAA, the two below ended up not being adopted. The joint explanatory statements are below.

1. Incentive Pay: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Duty *(Submitted by Congressman Trent Kelly, Supported by Congressman Austin Scott).*

"The House bill contained a provision (Sec. 611) that would add a new section to chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, requiring the Secretary of Defense to make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty. The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision. The agreement does not include the House provision. We note that in the Senate report accompanying S. 2226 (S. Rept. 118-58) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, the Secretary of Defense was required to examine and make recommendations pertaining to the establishment of an analytical framework for special and incentive pays authorized under title 37, United States Code, and to issue a report on special and incentive pays and such analytical framework to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. This report is still pending." and the House of Representatives. This report is still pending."

2. Designation of Deputy Under Secretary of The Army as Principal Official Responsible for Explosive Ordnance Disposal *(Submitted by Congressman Austin Scott).*

"The House bill contained a provision (Sec. 923) that would designate the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as the Principal Official in the Army Secretariat accountable for the Army's explosive ordnance disposal enterprise. The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision. The agreement does not include the House provision. We acknowledge the ongoing interest in the structure and authorities related to the explosive ordnance disposal enterprise and welcome continued dialogue on these matters."



EOD Caucus Member Spotlights:

- EOD Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Brian Mast Selected as the Next Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee - [read more here.](#)
- EOD Caucus Member Congressman Sam Graves Selected as the Next Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – [read more here.](#)

Past EOD Caucus Events:

- CODEL Crawford – NAVSCOLEOD & 7th SFG – 30-31 MAY 24.
- Navy EOD Brief – History, responsibilities, Indo-Pacific efforts – 12 JUNE 24.
- STAFFDEL Englehart – Guam & Hawaii – 16-22 JUNE 24.
- STAFFDEL Englehart – RIMPAC & Naval Amphibious Base Coronado – 13-20 JULY 24.
- Air Force EOD Brief – History, responsibilities, Indo-Pacific Expeditionary AB – 19 SEPT 24.
- USMC EOD Brief – History, responsibilities, Indo-Pacific Littoral Combat – 13 NOV 24.



[EOD Warrior Foundation](#)

Support includes financial assistance and additional services such as morale events, peer-to-peer support, educational programs, connections to resources, care of the EOD Memorial, and sustained contact with our EOD warriors and their families. The EOD Warrior Foundation has proudly provided assistance to our EOD family in their time of need, no matter the circumstance.

[EOD Warrior Foundation Resource Library](#)

Informative repository with resources for transitioning service members, employment, education, caregivers, Gold Star families, housing, retreats, EOD led peer support, and much more.

[After the Long Walk](#)

A group of active duty and EOD veterans, PSBT Officers, and family members that have come together for one purpose, to help each other. Their goals are to help educate each other on services available to combat PTSD, encourage each other, and ultimately prevent suicide.

[Project Felix](#)

A grassroots peer support effort created to cultivate dialogue within the military community and beyond. It was started in 2020 by two USAF EOD technicians and has been providing a biweekly virtual veteran's circle for EOD, military, veterans, and their families.

[Track Heros](#)

Founded by EOD Veteran Luke Ryker, provides stigma free mental health support to under-served Veterans and First Responders Struggling with PTSD, anxiety, and depression stemming from experiences while serving and transitioning to civilian life. Their innovative mental health approach offers a unique motivational intervention by fusing high octane excitement with positive experiences that encourage team building comradery through high performance race car driving.

[SOF Network](#)

Has a new community partnership with the EOD Warrior Foundation in conjunction with SOF Network's Pipeline Mentorship Program. The Pipeline Program is a unique mentorship pairing SOF Network providers with aspiring providers who are working towards their graduate degrees in mental health related fields. By utilizing their knowledge of the military and SOF community, this program ensures culturally competent providers are regularly entering the clinical fields of mental health with hopes of giving back to the community they came from.

[David Lynch Foundation](#)

Works to prevent and eradicate the all-pervasive epidemic of trauma and toxic stress among at-risk populations through promoting widespread implementation of the evidence-based Transcendental Meditation® program in order to improve their health, cognitive capabilities, and performance in life.



Find out more about the Congressional EOD Caucus through the links below.

- [About the EOD Caucus](#)
- [Members of the EOD Caucus](#)
- [Sign up for the EOD Caucus Newsletter](#)
- [Follow the EOD Caucus on X](#)

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the EOD Caucus Staff Director Emelie Englehart at emelie.inglehart@mail.house.gov.

Rep. Crawford | 2422 Rayburn House Office Building | Washington, DC 20515 US
Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice