



**NATO EOD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**  
**I.OLBRACHTA 5, 911 01 TRENCIN, SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
e-mail: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org) tel.: (0421) 960 333 571; fax: (0421) 960 333 504;  
[www.eodcoe.org](http://www.eodcoe.org)



Trencin, <sup>16.</sup> SEP 2025  
Ref.Nº: I EOD COE – LES5-1-2/2025

TO: See Distribution List

SUBJECT: **The 11<sup>th</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal Workshop 2026 – Calling Letter**

Reference: The 11<sup>th</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal Workshop 2026,  
19-20 May 2026 – Save the Date Letter; dated 13 May 2025

1. The NATO Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre of Excellence (NATO EOD COE) is pleased to invite EOD, C-IED, CBRN, DAT, MILENG, and related experts from NATO and Interoperability Platform Countries (IPC) to the **11<sup>th</sup> EOD Workshop 2026** (11<sup>th</sup> EODWS 26), **19 - 20 May 2026** at the X-Bionic Hotel, Samorin, Slovakia. This is an in-person only event; no VTC options will be available.
2. The 11<sup>th</sup> EODWS 26's theme is *"Advancing in EOD through Unity and Innovation,"* with a focus on elaboration of the following:
  - Block 1: EOD Everywhere, All at Once
  - Block 2: EOD Field Adaptations
  - Block 3: Advanced Technology for EOD
  - Block 4: Building EOD Partnerships
3. Experts interested in participating must submit an application form by visiting <https://www.eodcoe.org/en> or by submitting a Workshop Application Form (Enclosure 3) to [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org) NLT **22 April 2026**. The workshop is limited to 100 attendees; registrants will be considered on a proportional basis for Nations and Entities.
4. Participants interested in presenting, exhibiting, or aiming to nominate topics must indicate as such on their Workshop Application Form.
5. Applicants will be notified of their registration status by **27 APR 2026**.
6. There will be limited exhibition space at the X-Bionic hotel; exhibitors must coordinate space directly with the X-Bionic hotel upon registration approval. Companies with prior existing collaboration agreements signed with the NATO EOD COE will have priority.

7. The classification of the workshop is NATO UNCLASSIFIED Releasable to NATO Interoperability Platform Countries. Central European Time (Brussels) is the time zone used throughout this document.
8. The OPR for this event is CPT Simon BRIGANT, email: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org), phone: +421 960 333 553, mobile: +421 911 710 861.
9. The POCs in the EOD COE:
  - a. Mr Marian LACHYTA, email: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org), phone: +421 960 333 515, mobile: +421 911 710 855
  - b. Mr Juraj HALAMA, email: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org), phone: +421 960 333 537, mobile: +421 911 727 338.
  - c. Fax: +421 960 333 504





Frantisek MIHALOVIC  
Colonel, SVK Army  
Director

ENCLOSURE:

1. Topics, Objectives, Instructions, and Tentative agenda.
2. Administrative Instructions.
3. Workshop Application Form (WAF).

## DISTRIBUTION LIST:

- SHAPE - attention to all NATO countries NMRs and IPCs via MPD;
- (Interoperability Platform Countries - Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates);
- Key speakers (upon preliminary agreements);
- NATO Command structures via JFC (Naples, Brunssum, Norfolk);
- NATO EOD COIs via NATO NSO Forums (EODWG/MILENGWG/JCBRNDCDG/C-IEDWG);
- NATO EOD COE POCs (EDA, UN, and others) and specific invitees.

The processor: Mr Marian LACHYTA   
Approved by: CPT Simon BRIGANT   
Number of pages: 15  
Value symbol and storing period: S-3  
Number of printouts: 1  
Printout No. 1: for the Registry

NATO UNCLASSIFIED  
Releasable to IPC

**The 11<sup>th</sup> EOD Workshop 2026**  
**Topics, Objectives, Instructions, and Tentative agenda**

The 11<sup>th</sup> EODWS 26 topics are discussed over four blocks (all times are in CET):

1. **EOD Everywhere, All at Once** (19 May 26, 0915 - 1230)  
There is a permanent demand for EOD across all levels of conflict (peacetime/competition/armed conflict), operational domains (land/maritime/air/space/cyberspace), and echelons (tactical/operational/strategic) that create challenges for EOD. This block considers those challenges to facilitate a common operational understanding, identify opportunities, and foster expanded collaboration.
2. **EOD Field Adaptations** (19 May 26, 1330 - 1630)  
Command, control, communication, and computer (C4) systems enhance decision-making. This block examines their integration into EOD missions to enable coordination, situational awareness, and synchronization with adaptive field solutions.
3. **Advanced Technology for EOD** (20 May 26, 0900 - 1230)  
Advanced and emerging technologies are impacting EOD operations. This block showcases the contributions of EOD personnel to the development, integration, and operational application of innovative capabilities such as artificial intelligence, virtual/extended reality, autonomous systems, and data-driven platforms.
4. **Building EOD Partnerships** (20 May 26, 1330 - 1630)  
EOD is a discipline whose practice has impacts across operational domains, sectors, instruments of national power, and society. This block seeks to share best practices, standardization efforts, and collaborative approaches to enabling stronger multinational and interagency partnerships in current and future operations.

EOD Everywhere, All at Once	
<b>BLOCK 1: 19 May 2026, 0915 - 1230 CET</b>	
<b>Facilitator</b>	LTC Blake ZENTENO, USA – Army <a href="mailto:ddir@eodcoe.org">ddir@eodcoe.org</a>
<b>Speakers</b>	NATO/NATO Partner, Governmental Organization/Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, and Industry experts
<b>Scope</b>	Explore EOD insights and lessons learned derived from planning efforts, recent and ongoing theatres, and training events to better understand the current/future threat environment, planning factors, considerations, and mission complexity.
<b>Objective</b>	<p>Improve common operational understanding.</p> <p><i>Create a discussion using lessons learned, insights, and experiences to provide a common understanding of the threat environment, common capability gaps, and identify holistic challenges and opportunities.</i></p> <p>Focus/Subtopics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current/future threat environment</li> <li>• Lessons learned</li> <li>• Current and future operational requirements</li> <li>• Current or potential EOD capability gaps</li> <li>• Interoperability challenges, constraints, and limitations</li> <li>• Capture strategic takeaways</li> </ul>
<b>Instructions/Recommendations</b>	<p>This is a peer-to-peer session; briefings must be based on personal professional opinion or experience and <b>remain NATO UNCLASSIFIED</b>. Participants should be able to discuss either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned from EOD operations or novel, new, combined, joint, or multinational training events and provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Context</li> <li>- Applicability of lessons learned to the larger EOD community</li> <li>- Planning consideration, decisions, and their rationale</li> <li>- What went well and what could be improved</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Or, planning priorities, focus areas, and insights on the current/future threat environment from the perspective of their represented organization.</li> </ul>

EOD Field Adaptations	
<b>BLOCK 2: 19 May 2026, 1330 - 1630 CET</b>	
<b>Facilitator</b>	LTC Alexander HUGYAR, Ph.D., SVK – Army <a href="mailto:alexander.hugyar@eodcoe.org">alexander.hugyar@eodcoe.org</a>
<b>Speakers</b>	NATO/NATO Partner, Governmental Organization/Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, and Industry experts
<b>Scope</b>	Command, control, communications, and computerizing (C4) systems as integral components of crisis management, particularly in high-stakes situations like military operations or disaster response, and how these assets enable effective coordination, information sharing, and decision-making.

<b>Objective</b>	<p>Conduct a holistic evaluation of how C4 systems enhance decision-making and ensure operational cohesion in EOD missions.</p> <p><i>Examine the integration of C4 systems in EOD missions and how they enable coordination, situational awareness, and synchronization with adaptive field solutions. Explore practical field-adapted EOD tools, techniques, and information sharing mechanisms that enhance operational effectiveness in diverse and resource-constrained environments. Explore practical field-adapted EOD tools, techniques, and information sharing mechanisms that enhance operational effectiveness in diverse and resource-constrained environments.</i></p> <p>Focus/Subtopics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of C4 systems to enhance crisis management and development of a common operational picture.</li> <li>• Crisis management sequence of events, particularly with an emphasis on joint/interservice explosive ordnance (EO) incident resolution</li> <li>• Outlined the responsibilities of military EOD staff during homeland EO incidents and the integration of military, law enforcement, and GO/NGO into C4 systems</li> <li>• Integration of UxVs (uncrewed/autonomous systems) EOD Platforms into C4 systems</li> <li>• Field tools developed in response to unique EOD interventions, aimed at maintaining effectiveness while operating under constrained resources, facilitated through the use of 3D printers, animations, and simulations of worst-case scenarios.</li> <li>• Tools developed in response to unique EOD interventions, aimed at maintaining effectiveness while operating under constrained resources, facilitated through the use of 3D printers, animations, and simulations of worst-case scenarios.</li> </ul>
<b>Instructions/recommendations</b>	Participants should be familiar with EO disposal and crisis management in both military and civilian environments.

<b>Advance Technology for EOD</b>	
<b>Block 3: 20 May 2026, 0900 - 1230 CET</b>	
<b>Facilitator</b>	LTC Witold Plezia, POL – Army <a href="mailto:techd.head@eodcoe.org">techd.head@eodcoe.org</a>
<b>Speakers</b>	Demining, EOD/IEDD, or VR/XR experts
<b>Scope</b>	The impact of technology on EOD missions
<b>Objective(s)</b>	<p>Analyse and discuss technological solutions to demining, EOD/IEDD, training, and operational challenges</p> <p>Focus/Subtopics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of UxVs (uncrewed/autonomous systems) on combat and non-combat activities</li> <li>• VR/XR training solutions</li> <li>• Multisensory systems</li> <li>• Big data management and real-time delivery</li> <li>• Lessons learned on UXO/IEDs disposal operations</li> </ul>
<b>Instructions/Recommendations</b>	Participants are advised to familiarise themselves with the event's read-ahead material

<b>Building EOD Partnerships</b>	
<b>Block 4: 20 May 2026, 1330 - 1630 CET</b>	
<b>Facilitator</b>	COL Zsolt Szilagyi, HUN – River Guard
<b>Speakers</b>	NATO/NATO Partner, Governmental Organization/Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, and Industry experts
<b>Scope</b>	Partnerships within and throughout the NATO Alliance, including those across government organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry.
<b>Objective</b>	<p>Strengthening partnerships.</p> <p><i>Promoting multinational and interagency cooperation through the exchange of best practices, harmonized training standards, and shared operational experiences in EOD missions.</i></p> <p>Focus/Subtopics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing multinational &amp; interagency cooperation</li> <li>• Overview of standardization of EOD procedures &amp; training</li> <li>• Leveraging technology &amp; innovation for joint missions</li> <li>• Joint exercises and real-world case studies</li> <li>• Intelligence sharing &amp; threat analysis networks</li> </ul> <p>Foster collaborative approaches to humanitarian demining, technological integration, and intelligence sharing in support of collective threat mitigation and mission readiness</p> <p>Focus/Subtopics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humanitarian Demining in Post-Conflict Areas</li> </ul>
<b>Instructions/Recommendation</b>	Participants are advised to familiarise themselves with the event's read-ahead material. Participants should be able to focus on:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing practical experiences, frameworks, and case studies that promote multinational, interagency, and institutional cooperation in the field of EOD</li> <li>• Real-world applicability with examples of joint missions, humanitarian initiatives, intelligence coordination, technology applications, or standardization efforts that have demonstrably enhanced or are expected to enhance interoperability and operational efficiency across national or organizational boundaries</li> </ul>
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### ***Tentative Agenda (CET)***

<b>18 May 2026 (Monday)</b>	
	Travel day (recommended)

<b>19 May 2026 (Tuesday)</b>	
0800 – 0900	In processing, Registration
0900 – 0905	EOD COE Director's welcome address
0900 - 0910	NATO (FOGO)'s welcome address (TBC)
0910 – 0915	Security and Admin brief
<b>Block 1 - EOD in the Shadows of Conflict Zones</b>	
0915 – 1230	Targeted Briefings with Questions & Answers
1230 – 1330	Lunch
<b>Block 2 - EOD Field Adaptations</b>	
1330 - 1630	Targeted Briefings with Questions & Answers
1730 - 1930	Icebreaker

<b>20 May 2026 (Wednesday)</b>	
<b>Block 3 - Advance Technology for EOD</b>	
0900 – 1230	Targeted Briefings with Questions & Answers
1230 – 1330	Lunch
<b>Block 4 - Building EOD Partnerships</b>	
1330 - 1630	Targeted Briefings with Questions & Answers

\* Coffee breaks will be arranged accordingly.



## The 11<sup>th</sup> EOD Workshop 2026

### Administrative instructions

#### 1. General

Contact the NATO EOD COE directly for assistance with administrative issues, accommodation, meals and refreshments, local transport, and other support.

POCs:

- **CPT Simon BRIGANT**
  - email: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org)
  - phone: +421 960 333 553, mobile
  - +421 911 710 861
  - fax: +421 960 333 504.
- **Mr Marian LACHYTA**
  - email: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org)
  - phone: +421 960 333 515
  - mobile: +421 911 710 855
- **Mr Juraj HALAMA**
  - email: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org)
  - phone: +421 960 333 537
  - mobile: +421 948 957 004,

#### 2. Location

The Workshop will be held in the X-Bionic Hotel, in Samorin, Slovakia.

X-Bionic Sphere  
Dubová ulica 2254/33  
931 01 Šamorín-Čilistov  
Slovak Republic

GPS:

Latitude: 48.01589 N,  
Longitude: 17.30096 E

Tel: +421 313 262 111



Email: [reception@x-bionicsphere.com](mailto:reception@x-bionicsphere.com)  
<https://www.x-bionicsphere.com/hotel/>

#### 3. Accommodation:

Participants are responsible for their own accommodation

Local transportation will not be provided by the NATO EOD COE

#### X-Bionic Hotel

- Rooms have been pre-reserved at the X-Bionic Hotel until **17 April 2026**
- A discount rate is available when paying through the hotel website using the promo code: **WS2026**
  - Suggested rates: **170 Euros** per night
  - Be aware that the promotional code will not work through composite booking sites (e.g. booking.com, hotels.com)
  - The promo code includes a 50% discount for Hotel Wellness

#### **4. Transport and parking**

Personnel are responsible for coordinating their own transportation. Local transportation will not be provided by the NATO EOD COE.

**Recommended Airport:** Vienna Airport, Austria (X-Bionic Sphere is approximately 80 km southeast of Vienna)

**Rental Car:** The most direct means of transportation to Samorin rent a car from the Vienna airport (i.e. [www.europcar.com](http://www.europcar.com), [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com), <https://www.hertz.com>, ...)

#### **Public Transportation:** or

- Train: Personnel travelling from the Vienna Airport will take the train to the main train terminal in Vienna, then take a train to Bratislava, Slovakia. There, they must transfer to the main bus station for transportation to X-Bionic Sphere, Samorin (<http://cp.atlas.sk/bus/spojenie/> )
- Bus: Personnel travelling from the Vienna Airport will take a bus to the main Bus Station in Bratislava, Slovak (<http://www.eurolines.sk/en.html>,...), then transfer to X-Bionic Sphere, Samorin (<http://cp.atlas.sk/bus/spojenie/> )

**Parking:** Will be available at the venue

#### **5. Registration**

Applicants are requested to fill in Workshop Application Forms (See Enclosure 3) by **22 April 2026**.

Applications may be submitted:

- Online via <https://www.eodcoe.org/en> (preferred) or
- By email to [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org)

The applicants will be notified of their registration status by 27 April 2026.

#### **6. In-Processing.**

In-processing will be conducted on 19 May 2026, 0800 to 0900, in front of the main hotel plenary room. Please bring:

- Passport / ID
- NATO Travel order (if applicable)
- Cash for the Conference fee (in EURO) (if applicable)

#### **7. Conference fee**

A **150 EUR** conference fee is set to offset admin and support costs

- Due by 19 May 2026
- Paid in cash ONLY (EURO) during the In-Processing on 19 May 2026

Hard copy receipts will be provided on payment.

#### **8. Meals**

Refreshments and lunches during the meeting will be served at the X-Bionic Hotel facility.

#### **9. Icebreaker**

The Icebreaker will be on 19 May 2026 in the late afternoon at the X-Bionic Hotel, Samorin.

#### **10. Dress Code**

The dress code throughout the whole event will be smart casual (collared shirt, pants).

#### **11. Electricity**

Voltage in the Slovak Republic is 230 V/50Hz with Type C/E outlets; adapters are recommended for travellers outside of the European zone.

#### **12. Security**

The classification of the seminar is **NATO UNCLASSIFIED releasable to IPC**.

No weapons or other hazardous materials are allowed.

Security restrictions and rules will be presented on 19 May 2026.

#### **13. Presentations/Video management**

Presenters are requested to send their presentations by **04 May 2026** to [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org)

- Coordinate with the event POCs to send presentations larger than 10MB



# 11<sup>th</sup> EOD Workshop 2026

19 - 20 May 2026,  
Hotel X-BIONIC, Samorin, Slovakia

## Workshop Application Form

Should you have any questions or any issues during the registration, please send a message to e-mail: [eodws2026@eodcoe.org](mailto:eodws2026@eodcoe.org)

I intend to participate in the event

Personal Details <sup>1</sup>		
Last (Family) Name		
First (Given) Name		
Nationality		
ID number (ID card, Passport, etc.)		
Service (Army, AF, Navy, Marine corps, SOF)		
NATO rank/grade (e.g. LTC/OF-4)		
Current position within the home organization/unit (e.g. 1st EOD Platoon)		
Email address (preferred contact)		
Cell phone number (incl. country code)		
Home/Parent Unit/Organisation Details		
Name of Unit (e.g. 5th Armoured Bgde)		
Country		
City		
ZIP code		
Street number <sup>2</sup>		
P.O.Box <sup>3</sup>		
Phone Number (incl. country code)		
Website (optional)		
Email Address of the unit		
Interest in Delivering a Presentation During Block <sup>1</sup>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Block 1 EOD Everywhere, All at Once	Title of the presentation	Duration (in mins)
<input type="checkbox"/> Block 2 EOD Field Adaptations	Title of the presentation	Duration (in mins)
<input type="checkbox"/> Block 3 Advanced Technology for EOD	Title of the presentation	Duration (in mins)
<input type="checkbox"/> Block 4 Building EOD Partnerships	Title of the presentation	Duration (in mins)
Consent for Use of Photographic and Audiovisual Material		
<input type="checkbox"/> I agree / <input type="checkbox"/> I do not agree that photographs and video recordings of me taken during the event may be used by the EOD Centre of Excellence and its governing or affiliated institutions for publication in print, digital, and social media formats.		
Travel Arrangements		
Mode of travel <input type="checkbox"/> air <input type="checkbox"/> car <input type="checkbox"/> train		
Arrival / date and time		
Departure / date and time		
Your reserved hotel		
Icebreaker (on 19 May 2026 in the evening) - I will participate		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Any remarks/requests		

<sup>1</sup> Use only English characters to fulfil the form

<sup>2</sup> If your organisation uses the street number for mailing

<sup>3</sup> If your organisation uses P.O. Box for mailing

