

UXO Clearance in Iraq

- Significant progress has already been made and this will continue as other International Organisations, NGOs and private demining companies establish operations in IRAQ.
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- The UK, through the JFEODC, is working to address the mine/UXO problem within its Area of Operations.
- It should be noted that UNOPS and UNICEF have praised the UK for its response and assistance to the local population and its co-operative approach to the IOs, NGOs and private demining companies.

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- **The UK has failed to share information of sub-munition strike locations with the ICRC and demining organisations.**
 - Do not accept this at all.....
 - The UK Joint Force EOD Cell (JFEODC) holds weekly meetings in the BASRAH Civil Military Operations Centre (CMOC) with UNICEF, UNMAS (UNOPS), and private demining companies. This provides a regular forum for the sharing of such information, the co-ordination of clearance work, and the solution of various related issues (such as the movement of explosives). These have been extremely well received by the relevant International Organisations (IOs), NGOs and private companies.
 - The first issue of the Mine/UXO mapping was produced on 19 Apr 03. This has been widely distributed and the next amendment will be issued shortly.
 - Mines Awareness posters have been produced and are widely distributed throughout the Area of Operations.
- **The priority of UK EOD Teams is Force Protection.**
 - Correct. This is the primary role of UK EOD assets during the post-conflict phase. However during the early post-conflict stage mine and UXO clearance, carried out by NGOs and demining companies, is coordinated and facilitated by the UK.
 - EOD teams are however available if there is an immediate threat to life and have already been tasked to some incidents. In addition, the Immediate Response Team (IRT) is available for IOs etc and the general public and the blue light response teams are available for the IOs etc.
 - Other coalition forces within the UK Area of Operations have differing national policies and, indeed, Spanish teams have started humanitarian clearance work in the SAFWAN area.

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