

THE FORMATION SIGN

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EYES AND EARS



A parade in September at Carver Barracks, Wimbish, Essex, home to 33 and 101 Engineer Regiments (EOD) launched a new badge for the High Assurance IED search teams of the Royal Engineers and Royal Logistic Corps. Shown here thanks to the efforts of **Glyn Roberts** who obtained it from the RE Depot at Chatham, the oval badge has the RE grenade emblazoned with an eye below which a scroll carries the word 'Search'. The badge is approximately 2½ inches (60mm) high.

The badges were presented on the parade to around 250 soldiers all of whom had recently completed tours of Afghanistan or were preparing to deploy, by the Adjutant General, Lieutenant General Mark Mans who was himself a Search Advisor in the 1970s. Addressing the parade General Mans said the soldiers were held in extremely high regard and the badge was a fitting recognition of the work they do.



Known for their work with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search Task Force (formerly known as the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force), the Search Teams and their advisors from the Royal Engineers and the Royal Logistic Corps have one of the most dangerous and demanding jobs in Afghanistan. The search teams are out on the ground in Helmand Province every day of the year searching for roadside bombs, which are removed or destroyed by EOD operators. Over 100 soldiers from 17 Field Squadron (EOD), part of 101 Engineer Regiment (EOD) are currently deployed in Afghanistan.

The Commanding Officer of Eight Force Engineer Brigade, Brigadier Alistair Dickinson, said: "This badge recognises the work of the High Assurance Search Teams and their advisors. To do this all day, every day, for six months demands a certain kind of mettle - a persistent courage. And it is right that their commitment to this dangerous work is recognised." Whilst the main focus of the Search Teams' work is in Afghanistan, they can also be called upon to use their skills to search people, vehicles, buildings, routes, maritime vessels and aircraft in the UK. Thanks to Glyn and **Malcolm Beech** for drawing this new badge to the Editor's attention.



The Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) found by the Search Teams are dealt with by the EOD experts of the Royal Logistic Corps, known since the late 1960s by their radio call sign of Felix. Watch out for more about Felix and his myriad badges in the next Edition.