

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Stryker Vehicle Destroyed/crew lives

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2003 8:08 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andrey, Colin, & Didier;

Many thanks for the info on the mine. Wherever that one was made; we all agree it's a PMN design.

To All;

Just came across this while doing a google search. Looking at the specs for the Stryker, it is rated against a 14.5mm round anywhere on the chassis. Hard to say how large that IED was; it did breach the hull, however at least the crew managed to survive. We could give a damn about the cost of the vehicle; this is a huge improvement over what has been happening in the past.

They do need to work on the emergency egress systems though; three soldiers unfortunately were killed when another vehicle tipped over into a canal.

Cheers

Roger

Stryker Vehicle Destroyed

December 13, 2003

By KOMO Staff & News Services

TIKRIT, IRAQ - A \$2 million Stryker reconnaissance vehicle was destroyed in Iraq on Saturday, when it rolled over an explosive device planted in the road, Stryker brigade officials said.

The driver suffered a broken right ankle and foot, and was flown to an Army hospital in Balad, according to The News Tribune of Tacoma, which has a reporter embedded with the brigade. Three other crew members escaped unharmed.

The driver told the newspaper that fire engulfed the engine compartment as he crawled from his seat through the narrow passageway known as the "hellhole" and escaped the burning vehicle with the other crew members.

"I saw bright orange and tried to step on the gas," he said, "but then I saw the engine compartment was on fire ... and I got out as quick as possible."

He managed to run down the rear ramp with the rest of the crew and get into another Stryker. Other vehicles in the patrol opened fire on unspecified targets to stave off possible additional attacks, he said.

The newspaper did not name the wounded driver, who said he had not had a chance to call home and tell his family he had been injured.

The explosion occurred around 1 p.m. Saturday, as scouts from the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment were on patrol in a location brigade

officials did not disclose because of security reasons.

It was the first of the Army's Strykers destroyed by hostile action, more than a week after the Fort Lewis-based brigade's arrival in Iraq.

Last Monday, three soldiers were killed and a fourth was inured when two Strykers plunged into an irrigation canal. The vehicles were submerged in about 8 feet of water and sustained extensive interior damage.

The Stryker vehicle destroyed in the explosion was recovered and trucked back to the operating base late Saturday.

The driver, a member of the squadron's Crazy Horse Troop, said the mission was nearly complete when the explosion happened.

Capt. Jerry New, a 1-14 battle captain, and Maj. David Athey, the squadron's executive officer, said troopers at the scene found a crater with wires leading away from it.

"We're 90 percent certain it was an IED," New said, referring to what the Army calls improvised explosive devices.

The devices have been used by those loyal to ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and have killed and wounded scores of U.S. soldiers across Iraq. They are usually planted in or along a roadway and detonated by remote control.

A convoy on its way to the Stryker brigade's base camp in northern Iraq was struck by one such bomb Dec. 6. No one was injured, but the explosion peppered the windshield with rocks and debris.

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: PMN plug

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2003 6:55 AM

From: Colin King <ck@ckingassociates.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks for the picture, Didier. Interested to know more about it, particularly how it was positively identified as Iraqi-made. I've seen so many foreign munitions with Iraqi markings (ranging from Russian Scud-B missiles to Chilean cluster bombs) that I'm still deeply suspicious. In most cases, Iraq claimed these were their own manufacture despite clear evidence to the contrary.

I'd be grateful for any more information.

Colin.

By the way, are you working in Iraq?

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didier LEONARD" <didierleo@hotmail.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, December 29, 2003 12:36 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: PMN plug

> Colin,

>

> find attached a picture of an Iraqi PMN with marking on the pressure plate.

>

> Didier

>

> >From: "Colin King" <ck@ckingassociates.co.uk>

> >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

> >To: <network@mgm.org>

> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: PMN plug

> >Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2003 13:53:27 +0100

> >

> >Hi Roger,

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> >As far as I know, Iraq never made PMN copies - or any other AP mines for that matter. Their 'PMN-type' stocks were all Chinese Type 58 - which were

> >only made in black and often had no markings.

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> >Russian version. I haven't seen this before (or the knurled type you mention), but assumed that the mine was a Bulgarian PMN copy.

> >

> >Cheers,

> >

> >Colin.

> >

> >

> >

> >
> >
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@mweb.co.za>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Friday, December 26, 2003 8:28 AM
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pmn
> >
> >
> > > Hello "Bulgaria";
> > >
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> > > bakelite material rather than the reddish/brown that your mine has.
> > >
> > > Andrey;
> > >
> > > As far as you know; Were any made in this material/configuration
> > >without
> > > any markings?
> > >
> > > Cheers
> > >
> > > Roger
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----
> > > From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of claymore
> > >claymore
> > > Sent: Thursday, December 25, 2003 9:18 PM
> > > To: network@mgm.org
> > > Subject: MgM Demining Network: pmn
> > >
> > >
> > > Hello
> > >
> > > I am deminer from Bulgaria
> > > Dear colleagues, whether somebody saw soviet PMN with such
> > >approximated
> > >form
> > > of the booster plug? Whether can make identification of this mine?
> > >Markings
> > > she has no.
> > >
> > > Thanks
> > >
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> > > <http://gsm.ABV.bg> - Bgelh qec` lekndh[g` rbn[reketnm !

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>
> didierleo@hotmail.com
>
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> _____
> MSN Messenger <http://g.msn.fr/FR1001/866> : un logiciel gratuit pour
> dialoguer avec vos amis !
>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UK L20A1 Bomblets in Iraq?

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2003 6:55 AM

From: Colin King <ck@ckingassociates.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Bob,

The reason is that the L20A1 is a 155 mm carrier projectile, not an MLRS rocket. It's a variant of the Israeli M397, which contains 49 of their M85 DPICM.

By the way, these seem to have been pretty reliable, but if you do find one unexploded, don't pick it up by the ribbon (as some people do with M42/M46): if the det slide is released, this will start the SD and you then have 15 seconds to decide what to do with it...

All the best,

Colin.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, December 29, 2003 8:31 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UK L20A1 Bomblets in Iraq?

> This is interesting; considering that the Brits bought their MRLS rocket
> system from the Americans just before the (first) Gulf War I would have
> thought that the ammunition was the original M42 family rather than an
> Israeli copy...but perhaps we were offered a discount!

>

> cheers

>

> Bob

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> Mark Hiznay

> Sent: 29 December 2003 16:26

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UK L20A1 Bomblets in Iraq?

>

>

>

> Peter, try this link. L20A1 is the UK designation for the projectile.

The

> DPICM grenade is the Israeli M85. Cheers, Mark

>

> <http://maic.jmu.edu/ordata/srdetaildesc.asp?ordid=2106>

>

> phindy@webhart.net wrote:

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> > Hi All,

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> > seem to find it on Ordata, is it possible that the Dispenser is the

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> > JMU Iraq Update and it states that there is apart from the US BLU 108 A-B

> > a new British CBU called the L20A1 being dealt with most recently from the

> > Combat Ops in Southern Iraq in March-April.

> >

> > Best regards,

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> > MC and a HNY all!!

> >

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> >

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> > Zagreb

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UK L20A1 Bomblets in Iraq?

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2003 6:55 AM

From: Manuel GONZAL <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Peter,

I have information on L20 and its dispenser rocket M26. It's quite heavy (around 1M) so can I send you all that pics and texts on your box or do you prefer an hard copy sent by airmail? It's in English and French because the French army use a version called OGR F1 and the dispenser is 155mm artillery shell. To compare the different versions I am able to give you information on BANTAM and M85 Swiss version.

Best regards

Manuel

-----Message d'origine-----

De : phindy@webhart.net [mailto:phindy@webhart.net]

Envoyé : lundi 29 décembre 2003 16:56

À : network@mgm.org

Objet : MgM Demining Network: UK L20A1 Bomblets in Iraq?

Hi All,

Does anyone have the Ordnance info on the British L20A1 Bomblet? I cant seem to find it on Ordata, is it possible that the Dispenser is the L20A1. I ve been researching the most commonly found Cluster Bombs in Iraq on the JMU Iraq Update and it states that there is apart from the US BLU 108 A-B a new British CBU called the L20A1 being dealt with most recently from the Combat Ops in Southern Iraq in March-April.

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Another EOD tech down?

Date: Monday, December 29, 2003 3:31 PM

From: C. Thomas Eisele <rangerat1@mail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

In regards to Roger's previous posting this was on the www.my.fragweb.com <<http://www.my.fragweb.com>> site. C. Thomas Eisele On 26 Dec 03, SSG Mike Sutter was killed while working on an IED in Iraq.

The following is an excerpt from CSM Carpenter, 79th Ord Bn (EOD) CSM:

"On 26 DEC 03 a team from 745th responded to an IED call near Baqubah Iraq. Team conducted an initial remote reconnaissance and identified a 130MM projectile with wires leading from the nose of the projectile into a black box. After conducting remote procedures SSG Sutter, the team leader proceeded down range stopping about 2 feet from the IED and began to bend down to examine the IED, as he was bending down a detonation occurred. A memorial ceremony was conducted this morning at Taji Airbase north of Baghdad. Over 200 soldiers of the 4ID attended along with over 30 EOD soldiers and airman. SSG Sutter's remains will be returned as soon as possible but I do not have details at this time. Remember all of us here in your thoughts and prayers."

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cheers

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From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Mark Hiznay

Sent: 29 December 2003 16:26

To: network@mgm.org

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<http://maic.jmu.edu/ordata/srdetaildesc.asp?ordid=2106>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UK L20A1 Bomblets in Iraq?

Date: Monday, December 29, 2003 11:25 AM

From: Mark Hiznay <hiznaym@hrw.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Date: Monday, December 29, 2003 7:36 AM

From: Didier LEONARD <didierleo@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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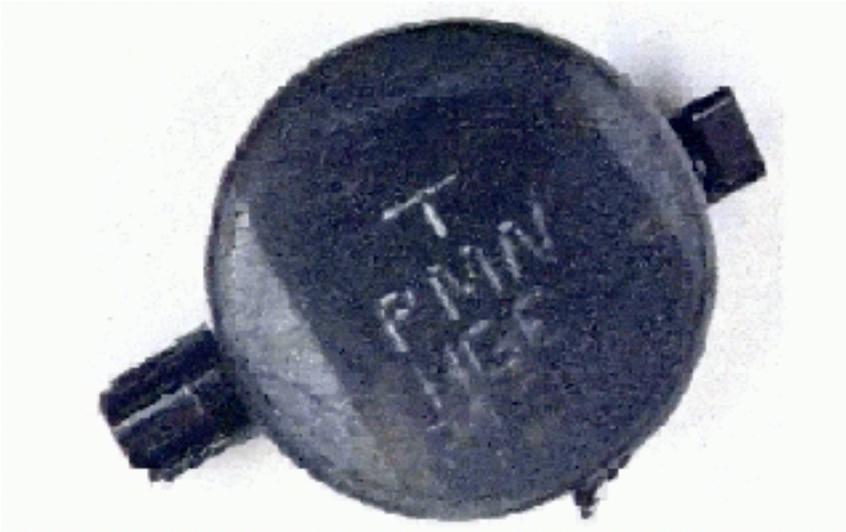
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> > -----
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didierleo@hotmail.com

dialoguer avec vos amis !



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Subject: MgM Demining Network: It was an EOD tech that went down

Date: Sunday, December 28, 2003 11:25 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete;

Many thanks; I don't have a name yet, however someone has already confirmed for me that it was an EOD tech who was killed while working on the device. We (the US EOD Family) lost one earlier this month to an IED also, SSG Kim Voelz.

Another sad day.

Regards

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of phindy@webhart.net

Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2003 11:51 AM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Another EOD tech down?

Hey Roger,

It should show up on here before long. If you have the Soldiers name or when it is released after the family notification it will be quicker finding the details on this CNN Casualty Section.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/forces/casualties/page2.html>

Best Regards and a Happy New Year!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Another EOD tech down?

Date: Sunday, December 28, 2003 4:50 AM

From: phindy@webhart.net

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hey Roger,

It should show up on here before long. If you have the Soldiers name or when it is released after the family notification it will be quicker finding the details on this CNN Casualty Section.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/forces/casualties/page2.html>

Best Regards and a Happy New Year!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

> To all;
>
> This was on the Yahoo news this morning:
>
>>One American GI died Friday as he tried to defuse a homemade bomb in
> Baqouba, 30 miles north of Baghdad in an area serving as a power base
> for Saddam loyalists.
>>
>>Capt. Jefferson Wolfe of the Army's 4th Infantry Division said the bomb
> blew as the soldier worked on it.
>
> The US Engineers were commonly trying to do EOD work in while I was in
> Iraq, however I couldn't find any more information on this piece to
> confirm who was killed. It's a shame and a serious loss either way, but
> for my own personal information: does anyone know if this was an EOD
> Soldier?
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> Many thanks
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>
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Another EOD tech down?

Date: Saturday, December 27, 2003 10:47 AM

From: Roger Hess <r Hess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

To all;

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Many thanks

Roger

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: PMNs, JMU, Eudem, etc

Date: Saturday, December 27, 2003 10:47 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andrey;

>SU mines have cylinder body, but this mine have cone.

It took me a second to realize what you were speaking about; good point and it looks like I'm the one who did not wash his eyes out yesterday morning.

Colin: Have anything specific on that in your data-base?

To the forum;

While all the Christmas wishes are very nice and I'm sure the same will happen in a few days for the New Year, let's see if we can strike up something related to the field that can be discussed.

Since I've never been the shrinking violet type; I'll see if I can light the fuze.

Some of you may already have hard copies of the new JMU journal. Living where I do, I normally don't get one until a month or two after it's been published so I need to download articles in order to see what everyone is writing about. Haven't been through all of them yet; but there seems to be lots of interesting stuff and it sounds like a few comments made at the EUDEM conference that caused some rustling in the crowds.

James T. is referenced as saying something along the lines of: "Prodding is actually not effective and should not be used". This obviously will cause a serious round of growls from those in the field, however I wasn't at the meeting and do not know what testing or trials James used to base this opinion on.

Keep in mind that aside from prodding in front of a base-stick, many people also use a prodder to help gently locate a suspect signal during the excavation process. OK: So if we don't have prodder, what tool should be used?

Flails: Hats-off to Dave Hartley for clearly bringing out the difference between manufacturers claims and reality in the field. Also nice to see Willy L. finally speaking out in written journals rather than just the odd response on the MgM net.

Area Reduction: Lots of stuff on this issue, which is good. This is one of the fastest means to lower the cost of returning the land to its intended use. However,.. area reduction based on subjective assessments rather than objective sampling also carries a huge risk with it. This risk does not threaten the clearance teams, but those who will use the land after we pack up our tents and leave.

Better accuracy of the polygons and mapping helps substantially, however at the end of the day it still comes down to what was the determining factors used to say that area "A" has a risk and area "B" does not. Better information collection combined with background knowledge of the area will provide some data, however if the locals are transient in nature or

residentially challenged (aka: refugees & IDP's), some of the data cannot always be considered reliable as they may have not been there for that long.

The sampling criteria of "No known injuries/deaths" is often used but can be very misleading: it may just mean that no one has been in the area. The amount of casualties has (or should have) a direct effect on the clearance priorities, however a lack of casualties does not establish that no threat exists. Sometimes the area is under-developed, under-populated, the locals have established their own farming areas, and do not really get out and about that much.

The villages can be and sometimes are, surrounded by minefields and cluster bombs. They have just learned to live around it.

Wide-area detection, REST systems, or better yet; a combination of the two, still show the most promise on providing a fairly reliable means of stating an area poses very little threat without having to send in deminers (personal opinion). Even though this is far cheaper than a full physical clearance of an area, it is still not cost-effective for an entire province, let alone a full country, so we are back to the information collection process.

Some important information may come from the locals after the LIS teams have left the area so there needs to be a simple mechanism to get this information into the right hands, as in 5-6 bullet comments max. They will never take the time to fill out a multi-page IMSMA report every time they find a grenade, and frankly the data-guru's will probably not accept one from them if they do.

The IMSMA guru's are very careful about what is entered into the data base and apparently because once it's in, it's not something you just pull back out (I'll have to let one of the IMSMA people explain why that is). So now we have huge gap between those who do the data input and the locals who are the first to find the items.

So,.. how do we bridge the gap? MRE teams, EOD teams, trained local authorities, etc? It will have to be adjusted for each country, but it needs to start somewhere.

Input??

Cheers

Roger

PS: Funny thing about IMSMA data-guru's; They always seem to be either Swiss or Canadian and it's quite easy to tell the difference even before they speak: The Swiss are generally clean-cut while most of the Canadian's now seem to sport that "Just been paroled" fashion of beards, pony-tails, & tattoo's.

Anyone know why that is?

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Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pmn
Date: Saturday, December 27, 2003 7:53 AM
From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hallo Roger and unnamed Bulgarian colleague.
According to description, it was produced PMN of two colors - brown and green, but I never saw green variant. What about marking, as I know all mines, produced in USSR was marked, include experimental. I supposed, it's foreign production, because it has cone body. It shows to difference in technology.
Cheers
Andrey

----- Original Message -----
From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@mweb.co.za>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2003 11:28 AM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pmn

> Hello "Bulgaria";
>
> We might be able to give more info if we knew where you were working at;
> but from what I could find in my files, the mine might be a Chinese type
> 58
> (see attached). However it could just be a USSR variant with no markings
> as
> they did make flat booster caps aside from the round knurled types.
>
> Iraq also made versions of the PMN and they were not very good about
> putting markings on their munitions, but I believe they stayed with a
> black
> bakelite material rather than the reddish/brown that your mine has.
>
> Andrey;
>
> As far as you know; Were any made in this material/configuration without
> any markings?
>
> Cheers
>
> Roger
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of claymore
> claymore
> Sent: Thursday, December 25, 2003 9:18 PM
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: pmn
>
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> Hello
>
> I am deminer from Bulgaria
> Dear colleagues, whether somebody saw soviet PMN with such approximated
> form
> of the booster plug? Whether can make identification of this mine?

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> she has no.

>

> Thanks

>

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> <http://gsm.ABV.bg> - Вземи сега мелодия за твоя телефон !

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: pmn
Date: Saturday, December 27, 2003 7:53 AM
From: Didier LEONARD <didierleo@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Roger,

according to me, the PMN shown by our Bulgarian friend is a russian PMN. The color of the pressure plate could be green olive, black or white too. Chinese and Iraqi use marking on the top of the pressure plate. For the Type 58, it is written in chinese and and english (for importation), for the Iraqi PMN, it is written "PMN HGE". HGE is the marking for the Iraqi former government factory.
I do not know other copy of this mine but who knows !

Cheers

Didier Leonard

>From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@mweb.co.za>
>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pmn
>Date: Fri, 26 Dec 2003 09:28:06 +0100
>
>Hello "Bulgaria";
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> We might be able to give more info if we knew where you were working at;
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>Sent: Thursday, December 25, 2003 9:18 PM
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>

>-----

>http://gsm.ABV.bg - Âçâlè ñâââ lâëiäèÿ çà òâiÿ òâëâôíí !
><< Chinesetype58.jpg >>
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didierleo@hotmail.com

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<http://search.msn.fr/>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: PMN plug
Date: Saturday, December 27, 2003 7:53 AM
From: Colin King <ck@ckingassociates.co.uk>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Roger,

As far as I know, Iraq never made PMN copies - or any other AP mines for that matter. Their 'PMN-type' stocks were all Chinese Type 58 - which were only made in black and often had no markings.

I think 'Bulgaria' was asking about the rounded edges on the flat finger plate of the booster plug, which are subtly different from the squared-off Russian version. I haven't seen this before (or the knurled type you mention), but assumed that the mine was a Bulgarian PMN copy.

Cheers,

Colin.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@mweb.co.za>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2003 8:28 AM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pmn

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas ! news from Ukrainian deminers in Iraq

Date: Friday, December 26, 2003 3:28 AM

From: Wolfgang Maschke <wm@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

On behalf of Yuri Donskoy

MgM - media team

Online-Redaktion / online publishing

Wolfgang Maschke

office: +49 (0)931 66 32 16

cell: +49 (0)179 1079 187

email: wm@mgm.org

Aktuelle Informationen aus der Welt des humanitären Minenräumens und den Operationen der Stiftung Menschen gegen Minen e.V., MgM, finden Sie unter: www.mgm.org /

Please visit our website www.mgm.org for more information about our humanitarian work and our current mine clearance operations.

:

Anfang der weitergeleiteten E-Mail:

Von: "Yuri Donskoy" <donskoy@abc.com.ua>

Datum: 24. Dezember 2003 10:42:28 MEZ

An: <network@mgm.org>

Betreff: Merry Christmas ! news from Ukrainian deminers in Iraq

Antwort an: "Yuri Donskoy" <donskoy@abc.com.ua>

News from Iraq,

on 23 December 2003 Ukrainian and Polish demining units destroyed in An Numaniya Iraqi combat stockpile, (totally ~ more 10.000 mines of all types, including of Italian antitank mines VS-1.6, + VST signal mines, and also TYPE-72 which made in China).Congratulations!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2004!

Yuri Donskoy

UPVA/UJMAT



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Iraq also made versions of the PMN and they were not very good about putting markings on their munitions, but I believe they stayed with a black bakelite material rather than the reddish/brown that your mine has.

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As far as you know; Were any made in this material/configuration without any markings?

Cheers

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Date: Friday, December 26, 2003 3:28 AM
From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Sorry colleague, I see nothing unusual in this mine and its detonator's plug. But maybe I washed my eyes not sufficiently well today. If I don't observe something, correct me, please. For my opinion it is PMN, produced not in USSR: SU mines have cylinder body, but this mine have cone. It's confirmed by absence of marking.

Best regards
Andrey

----- Original Message -----
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To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 25, 2003 10:18 PM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: pmn

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: pmn
Date: Thursday, December 25, 2003 2:18 PM
From: claymore claymore <claymore@abv.bg>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello

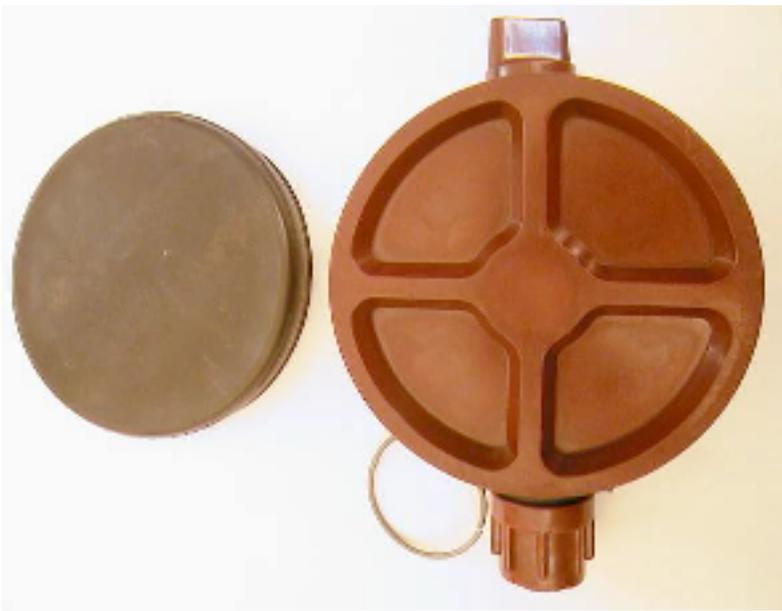
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Seasons Greetings

Date: Thursday, December 25, 2003 4:01 AM

From: Albert M. Bottoms <amb@demine.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

On behalf of all of us in SCOT, I extend our congratulations, appreciation, and deep respect for the demining communities, military and civilian, at this joyous and significant beginning of a new epoch.

As noted by others we must pause in thanks to those who have given life and limb to the cause of mine and explosive removal.

--

Albert M. Bottoms amb@demine.org <http://www.demine.org/>
President, Society for Counter-Ordnance Technology
400 Madison St. #607 Alexandria, VA 22314 Tel: 703-683-7550

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: season greetings from Ukraine

Date: Wednesday, December 24, 2003 9:56 AM

From: Yuri Donskoy <donskoy@abc.com.ua>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear All,

Thanks for congratulations,

in 2003 Ukraine had project with NATO on destruction 400.000 PMN-1,2 mines
in 2004 will have start of destruction of 6.000.000 PFM-1 mines,
on period after USSR (1992 - 2003) our deminers collected ~ 400.000 UXO in Ukraine.
on period September - December 2003 in Iraq our deminers collected ~ 100.000 UXO,
I think nice results!

Merry Christmas and a Safety / Happy New Year.

See you in 2004

Yuri Donskoy
UJMAT, Ukraine

----- Исходное сообщение -----

От: Joezese@aol.com

Кому: network@mgm.org

Отправлено: 23 декабря 2003 г. 14:00

Тема: MgM Demining Network: season greetings

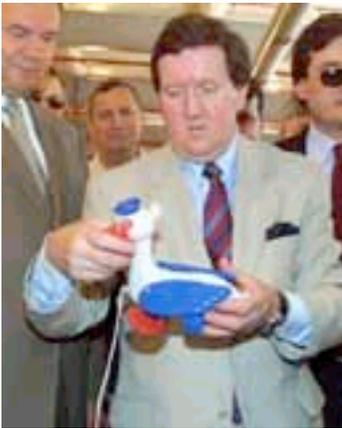
Hi All,

my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To have fun at this time a nice little story is attached.

good luck

JOE



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Subject: MgM Demining Network: 2004

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2003 8:00 AM

From: Yves CABARAUX <yves.cabaraux@skynet.be>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>



Yves Cabaraux
EOD/Demining
Consultant

***Season's Greetings
Meilleurs Voeux
Beste Wensen
Frohe Festtage***

Subject: MgM Demining Network: season greetings

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2003 8:00 AM

From: Joezese@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi All,

my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To have fun at this time a nice little story is attached.

good luck

JOE

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: season greetings

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2003 1:31 AM

From: Joezese@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi All,

my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To have fun at this time a nice little story is attached.

good luck

JOE

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas!

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2003 1:31 AM

From: Youth Approach <yadc@bangla.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

We are receiprocating same Greetings.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Let the next year will be better than last.
Good luck,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Let the next year will be better than last.
Good luck
Very truly yours,
Ln.M.W. Faruque,
Bangladesh CBL

At 10:16 PM 12/21/03 +0100, you wrote:
>Ladies and Gentlemen!
>Boys and Girls!
>Guys!
>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
>Let the next year will be better than last.
>Good luck
>Andrey
>
>--
>This message has been scanned for viruses and
>dangerous content by MailScanner and is
>believed to be clean.

@@

Youth Approach for Development & Cooperation (YADC)
(Free Mentoring MRISA/Campaign for Disarmament & Peace)
3/Ka, Purana Paltan, GPO Box 3772, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh
Tel:+8802-9557160, (H) 9566227
Fax:+8802-9555321, OR +8802-9551722 Cell:0172-111536
Email:<yadc@bangla.net> or <bangladesh@icbl.org>

@@

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2003 1:31 AM

From: Mike Robinson <marobinson@uxb.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All of us at UXB International Inc. wish you and yours a joyous holiday season. May all of us take time to reflect on the past year, and remember our colleagues who gave the ultimate sacrifice for a better world, our hearts and prayers are with their families and loved ones.

Peace on Earth..

----- Original Message -----

From: "Lawrence Carter" <lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2003 10:16 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

> Merry Christmas to you too Adam, and all at JRC.

>

> Lawrence

>

> -----

> >From: "Adam Lewis" <adam.lewis@jrc.it>

> >To: <network@mgm.org>

> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

> >Date: Sun, Dec 21, 2003, 10:16 am

> >

>

> > Chris,

> >

> > Thanks for the message :-)

> > and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at Qinetiq.

> >

> > Adam

> >

>

> #####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas!

Date: Monday, December 22, 2003 1:35 AM

From: phindy@webhart.net

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sretan Boiia from Croatia to all!!

And Best wishes in the Silly Season to all Serving and former Combat Engineers of HM Forces!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

Date: Sunday, December 21, 2003 4:16 PM

From: Lawrence Carter <lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Merry Christmas to you too Adam, and all at JRC.

Lawrence

>From: "Adam Lewis" <adam.lewis@jrc.it>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

>Date: Sun, Dec 21, 2003, 10:16 am

>

> Chris,

>

> Thanks for the message :-)

> and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at Qinetiq.

>

> Adam

>

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas!

Date: Sunday, December 21, 2003 4:16 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Boys and Girls!

Guys!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Let the next year will be better than last.

Good luck

Andrey

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

Date: Saturday, December 20, 2003 4:16 PM

From: Adam Lewis <adam.lewis@jrc.it>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Chris,

Thanks for the message :-)
and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at Qinetiq.

Adam

Institute for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen
Humanitarian Security Unit
Post Point TP 723
European Commission Joint Research Centre
Via E. Fermi, 1
21020 Ispra (VA) Italy
Phone: +39 0332 785786
Fax +39 0332 785469

Adam.Lewis@jrc.it

To find out more about our work in Humanitarian Demining, please
visit our website:
<http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it/demining/demining.htm>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Issue 7.3 of the Journal of Mine Action is now online

Date: Friday, December 19, 2003 3:54 PM

From: busems@jmu.edu

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Mine Action Colleagues,

Issue 7.3 of the Journal of Mine Action: Research, Technology and Development in Mine Action, with a special feature on Land Reduction, is now online on the MAIC website at: <http://maic.jmu.edu>

Our next issue will focus on the Military in Humanitarian Demining with a special feature on Afghanistan. Articles on newsworthy information for the mine action community are always encouraged. For more information please contact me directly or visit the journal's submission guidelines.

Margaret Buse`
Mine Action Information Center
Editor, Journal of Mine Action
Margaret Buse`
Mine Action Information Center
Editor, Journal of Mine Action

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: Metal Detector Handbook

Date: Friday, December 19, 2003 3:15 PM

From: Franciska Borry <franciska.borry@jrc.it>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear All,

Metal Detector Handbook

For Humanitarian Demining ^ Under this title the EC supported the publication of a handbook about detectors and how to use them in HD as well as to other detection methods under development a very brief description. I had the pleasure to work with a team that agreed with the aim I had and we tried our best to deliver something that may help to improve the knowledge about detection and more important the safety of the deminer.

My special thanks to them.

For better understanding or to forget about I,ll give a very short summary of what we tried to bring over. On the other hand most of the field guys will have time during their holydays to have a look at other things than a clearance side (there are some nice pictures in ^ sorry they are only connected to the content).

Background

- Humanitarian Demining exists a very short time special books are rare
- Situation connected with world-wide mine problem a short description to the involved countries and the mine problem will give a good background to the HD situation
- Knowledge of detection equipment in the demining community should be updated sometimes

Scope, Objectives of the book

- User should be the medium and upper level of demining organisations as could be the donor community and other interested persons (students, soldiers, UXO personnel) and enterprises working in this area
- Technical/practical guide without going into too much details and technical description of physical processes and issues
- Explanation of different technical solutions and their advantages and limits

Content of the book

- Chapter 1: Background to HD
- Chapter 2: The role of metal-detectors in HD
- Chapter 3: Detector standards and detector test standards
- Chapter 4: Metal-detector technology
- Chapter 5: Training
- Chapter 6: The use of metal-detectors in mined areas
- Chapter 7: The way forward

- Annex A: Explosive Detecting Dogs (EDDs)
 - Annex B: Other ERW detection technologies
 - Annex C: Explosive content of mines
 - Annex D: CWA 07test overview
 - Annex E: Calibration of the Schiebel AN19/2 M7
 - Annex F: Suggested further reading
- INDEX

Quick Reference Index for Field Users
Main Index

You can download the PDF version:
http://www.itep.ws/pdf/metal_detector_handbook.pdf

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all.
Dieter Guelle
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Merry Christmas

Date: Friday, December 19, 2003 3:15 PM

From: caleach@qinetiq.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Merry Christmas to all those involved in Humanitarian Demining in whatever capacity.

We wish you all a successful and productive New Year in working towards our common goal of ridding the world landmines. :-)

All the best

Chris Leach & the rest of the Humanitarian Demining Research Team at QinetiQ.

<http://www.qinetiq.com/christmascard.html>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Progress in Clearing Iraq's Landmine Legacy

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2003 5:03 PM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

U.S. Department of State
Media Note
Office of the Spokesman
Washington, D.C.
December 12, 2003

Progress in Clearing Iraq's Landmine Legacy

- > In May 2003, the U.S. Department of State established the first national
- > mine action program in Iraq's history. Eight months later, professionally
- > trained Iraqi managers and deminers are ready to tackle millions of
- > persistent landmines and other explosive remnants of war that litter Iraq.
- >
- > Since May, the Department, working with the Coalition Provisional
- > Authority and with assistance from the Department of Defense's
- > Humanitarian Demining Training Center, has:
 - Established Iraq's National Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Center to manage strategic planning and budgeting, project coordination, donor relations, mine risk education, setting national mine action standards, and maintaining the national mine action database. Iraq's ethnic and religious communities are reflected in the composition of the staff;
 - Engaged 60 Iraqi civil servants, men and women, to fill key positions at the National Mine Action Authority and National and Regional Mine Action Centers;
 - Arranged for key National Mine Action Authority staff to receive senior and mid-level management training from the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining and Mine Action Unit of the Royal Military College of Sciences at Cranfield University;
 - Created the 110-person non-governmental "Iraqi Mine/UXO Clearance Organization" equipped with modern metal detectors, mine detecting dogs, manual demining and explosive ordnance demolition expertise, highly qualified medical technicians, and logistic and administrative support personnel and equipment; and
 - Transitioned a significant mine action program developed and operated independently by the UN Office for Project Services in the three predominantly Kurdish provinces of northern Iraq to the control of the National Mine Action Authority in Baghdad.
- >
- > Until last spring, humanitarian mine action efforts were limited to the
- > former northern "no fly" zone. Civilians living under the Saddam Hussein
- > regime risked injury or death from persistent landmines laid by his
- > forces. Saddam Hussein actually prohibited humanitarian demining on
- > territory that he controlled.
- >
- > Some persistent landmines found in Iraq were laid in World War II. But
- > most were placed by Iraqi forces during Saddam Hussein's internal and
- > external conflicts in the 1970s and 1980s. Iraq laid more mines on its
- > own soil during the 1991 Gulf War following its invasion of Kuwait, and
- > sowed additional mines on its territory during the 2003 conflict.
- >
- > Following the liberation, Coalition forces, the Department of State's
- > Quick Reaction Demining Force, Department of State-contracted RONCO

> Consulting Corporation, and some non-governmental organizations rapidly
> began clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance throughout Iraq,
> returning valuable agricultural land and infrastructure to productive use.
>
> Quick Reaction Demining Force clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance
> around downed power lines enabled Iraqi crews to repair the electrical
> grid system and increase power to Baghdad by fifty percent, affecting the
> service of over 3 million Iraqis.
>
> To learn more about the U.S. Department of State's humanitarian mine
> action programs in Iraq and 35 other countries and its related small arms
> and light weapons abatement efforts, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/wra
> <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra>>.
> [End]
>
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: [clusters] 30-year-old bombs still very deadly in Laos

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2003 5:03 PM
From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Wiebe, Virgil O." <VOWIEBE@stthomas.edu>
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2003 05:28:48 -0600
To: "Wiebe, Virgil O." <VOWIEBE@stthomas.edu>, clusters@yahoo.com
Subject: [clusters] 30-year-old bombs still very deadly in Laos

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-12-11-laos-bombs_x.htm
<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-12-11-laos-bombs_x.htm>

30-year-old bombs still very deadly in Laos

By Paul Wiseman, USA TODAY

SAVANNAKHET, Laos - With their parents working in the rice paddies and nothing much to do in the village, 7-year-old Dam Somphone and his two friends decided to go into the forest to look for a bomb.

<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif>
<http://images.usatoday.com/news/_photos/2003/12/11-laos-inside.jpg>
<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif> Two Laotian boys play with a soccer ball in an area where collected bomb canisters used during the Vietnam War have been rusting for years.
<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif>

By Thaksina Khaikaew, AP

It didn't take long to find one. Savannakhet is the most heavily bombed province in one of the most heavily bombed countries in the history of warfare. About 150 yards into the jungle, the boys spotted an unexploded bomblet from a U.S. cluster bomb dropped here during the Vietnam War.

Dam was happy. He wanted to see something go boom. He picked up the bomblet, which was the size of a tennis ball, and carried it back to the village. His friends ran away, but Dam was fearless. He hurled the BLU-63 bomblet against a board. When nothing happened, he picked it up and threw it again. This time, the bomblet detonated, sending dozens of metal fragments flying in all directions. They slashed into Dam's face, his shoulder, his knee and his abdomen, slicing his liver and small intestine.

"Nobody thought he would live," says his father, Pho Somphone, 33.

Dam survived after more than a month in a hospital across the border in Thailand. Now 9, Dam has recovered physically. But he has trouble sleeping. His confidence is gone. He spends a lot of time sitting silently in the gloom of his family's hut in Lampoi village.

Three decades after the bombing stopped, two or three Laotians are killed every month and another six or seven are maimed by unexploded ordnance, called UXO, left over from the war.

Cluster bombs, known here as "bombies," account for about half the

unexploded ordnance on the ground and most of the casualties. Since the bombing ended in 1973, 5,700 Laotians have been killed and 5,600 injured by UXO. Through the end of August, 14 of the 30 Laotians reported killed this year and 33 of the 58 injured by UXO have been children.

<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif> ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL PROFILES COMPARED
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The presence of unexploded cluster bomblets and other ordnance limits economic development in Laos, one of the poorest countries in Asia. Some economic and social indicators for Laos, the region and the USA (all data for 2002 except as noted):

Population

Laos	5.5 million
East Asia-Pacific	1.8 billion
USA	288 million

Life expectancy

Laos	54.5 years
East Asia-Pacific	69.4 years
USA	78 years

Illiteracy

(Ages 15+ that can't read)

Laos	33.6%
East Asia-Pacific	12.7%
USA	3%

Annual per capita income

Laos	\$310
East Asia-Pacific	\$950
USA	\$37,600

Infant mortality

(deaths per 1,000 live births)

Laos	87 (2001)
East Asia-Pacific	33
USA	7 (2001)

Telephone lines

(fixed line and mobile per 1,000 people)

Laos	15 (2001)
East Asia-Pacific	207 (2001)
USA	1,118 (2001)

Sources: World Bank; CIA's World Factbook 2003

<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif>
<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif>

Cluster bombs contain dozens, even hundreds, of submunitions the size of tennis balls, soft drink cans or D batteries. The submunitions, or bomblets, are scattered over a wide area and are intended to explode on impact. The problem is a high percentage – experts estimate up to 30% in Laos – of bomblets don't go off. Hidden under bushes or buried in the ground, they can detonate if someone touches them, or never explode.

Critics call them de facto land mines. Activist groups such as Human Rights Watch have demanded a cluster bomb ban or a moratorium on their use until the problems with them are resolved. The debate flared again this year when the U.S. military used cluster munitions to attack Iraqi forces in cities and towns. What happened in Laos shows how cluster bombs can continue to kill years after a war is over. But the situation in Laos is worse than in Iraq, where U.S. forces used far fewer cluster bombs with much lower dud rates than the ones used in the Vietnam War.

Cutting supply lines in war

This impoverished, landlocked country endured one of history's heaviest bombing campaigns. From 1964 through 1973, the United States flew 580,000 bombing runs over Laos – one every 9 minutes for 10 years. More than 2 million tons of ordnance was unloaded on the countryside, double the amount dropped on Nazi Germany in World War II. "Certainly, on a per-capita basis, Laos remains the most heavily bombed nation in the history of warfare," says Martin Stuart-Fox, a historian at Queensland University in Australia and author of *A History of Laos*.

The U.S. bombing was designed to cut North Vietnamese supply lines that looped into Laos on a route to communist forces in South Vietnam and Cambodia; the trail was designed to bypass the demilitarized zone that separated North and South Vietnam during the war. The bombing runs also supported Laotian government forces fighting a losing battle against communist Pathet Lao rebels and their North Vietnamese allies.

Edwin Moise, a Vietnam War historian at Clemson University in South Carolina, says there was logic behind the relentless bombing. "Massive use of air power to try to choke off an enemy supply line makes good military sense, especially since there was very little civilian population in the areas in question," he says. By relying on air power, the United States did not have to commit ground troops.

Cluster bombs were the weapon of choice. They could penetrate the jungle canopy and cover several football fields' worth of ground. The bombing runs were designed to wipe out convoys or enemy troops beneath the trees. The United States dropped 80 million cluster bomblets on Laos. Ten percent to 30% did not explode, leaving 8 million to 24 million scattered across the country; 15 of Laos' 18 provinces are contaminated with UXO. In the northern Xiangkhoang province, grazing water buffalo have eaten dud submunitions and exploded.

Leftovers lethal

Savannakhet, a province of 672,000 in southern Laos, was hit hardest. U.S. B-52s were drawn here by the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which snaked through the province. A gravel road follows a river along what used to be the old Communist supply route. The roadside is pitted with craters left by American bombs, now filled with muddy water and populated by ducks. Residents of the riverside village of Kengkhuiep have put war remnants to ingenious use: Napalm bomb casings serve as canoes; BLU-26 canisters as lanterns; and old bomb shells as stilts propping up houses of wood and straw.

But the leftovers can still be lethal. In March, three Kengkhuiep boys, ages 10 to 12, picked up a BLU-26 submunition – the most common bomblet in Laos – and tried to crack it open. They wanted to use the pellets inside in their slingshots or rifles. Maybe they'd zap a frog and get something to eat. Their prying detonated the bomblet. The explosion sent the pellets ripping into their bodies and killed all three.

Children seem to find bombies irresistible, especially the BLU-24/B, nicknamed "orange" for its spherical shape. The Laotian government's bomb cleanup agency, UXO Lao, is trying to teach kids to stay away from unexploded ordnance, no matter how colorful. But it can be a tough sell. Says UXO Lao spokesman Bounpheng Sisavath: "It looks like food, an orange or an apple. They play; it explodes."

At a school in Savannakhet's Atsaphangthong district, UXO Lao staffers lead elementary and middle school children in songs about the dangers of unexploded ordnance and put on a puppet show about a little boy who loses an eye in a bombie explosion. They teach children to be careful playing soccer, cutting the grass, tending the garden and going into the forest to hunt for frogs and crickets (both staples of the Lao diet). But when a staffer asks whether they'd follow a friend who picked up a bombie, several students ignore the hint and answer candidly: "Yes." The UXO Lao team members shake their heads and smile sadly.

Victims often stumble upon bombies. An 8-year-old Savannakhet boy was killed in August when he hit a hidden cluster bomblet with a stick he was using to probe for frogs in the forest.

Economics also drive Laotians, young and old, toward reckless behavior. Recycling old ordnance has become a big business in Laos, one of the poorest countries in Asia. Scrap metal dealers, many from neighboring Vietnam, offer 2,000 kip (about 20 cents) per bombie and sometimes lend scavengers metal detectors to scour the forests for unexploded ordnance. "UXO is seen as a cash crop," UXO Lao concluded in a 2002 study.

Some parents send their kids into the forest in search of dud bombs. In a country where farm families earn less than \$2 a day, the potential income is seductive. "For many of them, it's survival. If they don't do it, they don't have rice," says Didier Bertrand, a researcher with the humanitarian group Handicap International. In a study of the Savannakhet village Tam Luang last year, UXO Lao found only three of 71 households produced enough rice to live on.

There would be more rice to go around if farmers didn't have to worry about unexploded ordnance buried in the brush. Cultivating new land is risky. Savannakhet rice farmer Songkan, 35, learned the hard way. He was trying to clear land for his crop in mid-August when his hoe hit what turned out to be a BLU-26 cluster bomblet, buried about 8 inches deep in mud.

<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif> GLOSSARY
OF TERMS <http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif>
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Cluster bomb: A bomb that contains dozens of smaller explosives and is dropped by aircraft.

BLU-24 (BLU stands for "bomb live unit"): A submunition packed into U.S. cluster bombs and used in the Vietnam War. They are nicknamed "oranges" because of their spherical shape. BLU-24s, which are attractive to children, can detonate when they are handled or moved.

BLU-26: A submunition packed into U.S. cluster bombs and used in the Vietnam War. The BLU-26 is the most common bomblet found unexploded in Laos.

Dud: A bomb that may not have been armed properly and will not explode.

Submunition (also called a bomblet): A small explosive packed in a larger bomb that separates from it before impact.

UXO: Unexploded ordnance. A bomb or munition that is dropped, fired or launched but does not explode as intended. UXO can pose a hazard to civilians years after a war is over.

<http://images.usatoday.com/_common/_images/clear.gif>

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"I didn't know that underground there was a bombie," says Songkan, who uses one name. It exploded. Twelve metal fragments hit him, five in the face. His hands were shattered. He probably won't be able to work this year. He's sold \$50 worth of gold jewelry he had set aside for emergencies to pay his medical bills and other expenses. Songkan still owes another \$50 in medical bills. That's nearly two months' income. How is he going to support himself, his wife and his three children until he returns to work? "I have no idea," Songkan says with a wan smile.

UXO limits farming

Outside the Savannakhet village of Haise, Phousavien Phetdonxay, 40, owns about 5 hectares (about 12 acres) of land. But he only farms one. "We want to extend our land, but we cannot. We have to wait for the (UXO Lao) clearance team," to remove any unexploded ordnance.

"It's a very sad legacy of the Vietnam War," says Finn Reske-Nielsen, Laos the United Nations Development Program's representative. "UXO inhibits development in rural areas. It is difficult to cultivate new land because you don't know what it contains. It slows the building of new roads and schools and clinics."

Clearance is painstaking work. UXO Lao team members rope off sections of a field 1 yard wide and 25 yards long, then search with metal detectors. When the detectors start to whine, the workers probe the ground and slowly dig out what they can. Often, they find fragments of exploded munitions. When they come across unexploded ordnance, they stop digging, mark the spot with measuring sticks painted red and wait for demolition squads. Some unexploded ordnance can be moved safely to demolition grounds, where it can be destroyed with dynamite or C-4. Bombies, which are too volatile to move, usually are destroyed on the spot.

Since UXO Lao started its work in 1996, it has cleared nearly 10,000 acres of land – about 16 square miles in a country that is more than 90,000 square miles. UXO Lao also has destroyed a half million pieces of ordnance, half of which were cluster submunitions. It expects to clear another 2,000 acres this year.

The United States, which spent \$9 million a day (in today's dollars) bombing Laos for 10 years, last year contributed \$1 million to UXO Lao. That was 26% of the agency's budget and more than any other country contributed. Douglas

Hartwick, U.S. ambassador to Laos, says he wishes the United States could pay more.

The limitations aren't all financial. Like other donor countries, the United States wants to see reforms in the bureaucratic way the communist Laotian government runs the cleanup program. "We ought to help as much as we can," Hartwick says. "But I want to make it intelligent, efficient help."

Even a bigger budget wouldn't solve UXO Lao's problems. Experts here, noting that unexploded bombs from World War I still turn up in Belgium, doubt that this little country will ever be free of cluster bombs. "Many people ask me how long this project will go on. I say, 50 years, 100 years," UXO Lao director Bounpone Sayasenh says. "The bombies are everywhere."

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Special Rep. Bloomfield speech at recent U.S. conference to support mine action

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2003 1:51 AM

From: Jorge Luis Chuquillanqui <jlchuquillanqui@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello, greetings of the Peru, work in the Peruvian center of action against the mines antipersonnel (CONTRAMINAS - PERÚ), to like me please to know like being able to be able a sponsor to me for this to like me event since to learn and to share experiences to me lived in the field of mines throughout this process that comes being developed according to the agreement from Ottawa signed by this state.

best regards,

Jorge Chuquillanqui Inga
Specialist in Photogrammetry and GIS
CONTRAMINAS - PERU
Av. Ucayali 337
Lima 01
PERU

Phone : +511 311 2400 (ANEXO 3361)
FAX : +511 426 4160

>From: "Stevens, John E" <SteveJE@state.gov>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Special Rep. Bloomfield speech at recent

>U.S. conference to support mine action

>Date: Tue, 09 Dec 2003 07:49:02 +0100

>

>Following is the text of the remarks prepared by Special Representative
>Bloomfield to open a conference on humanitarian mine action hosted by Smith
>College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and co-sponsored by Smith College,
>the Five College Consortium in Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley, the Polus
>Center for Social and Economic Development, and the U.S. Department of
>State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. Two of the main purposes
>of the conference were to raise interest in and support for humanitarian
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>Clear a Path to a Safer World: Addressing the Tragedy of Landmines
>Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., Special Representative of the President and
>Secretary of State for Mine Action and Assistant Secretary for
>Political-Military Affairs
>Remarks to Smith College, Polus Center
>Northampton, Massachusetts
>November 15, 2003

>

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>Good morning and thanks so much for being here. I appreciate the efforts of
>our co-hosts and co-sponsors, especially President Carol Christ of Smith
>College, the Five College Consortium, and The Polus Center for Social and
>Economic Development, in setting up this important conference.

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>I commend all of the participants at this Conference: the students from
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>30 colleges and universities, some of whom are on panels or presenting
>papers; the representatives of international and non-governmental
>organizations who have come from North America, Central America, Asia and
>Europe; and members of the Pioneer Valley community.
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>I congratulate Michael Lundquist and Stephen Meyers of the Polus Center,
>the
>Student Steering Committee, and the Rotarians who are facilitating the
>activities of the conference throughout the weekend.
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>I also want to acknowledge the participation last night of Mary Jean
>Eisenhower, President and CEO of People to People International, and Tony
>Lake, former national security advisor and now Chairman of the Marshall
>Legacy Institute. Both are valued partners in mine action. Colin King is
>here today; he is the world's top expert on landmines. Each of these
>distinguished individuals sets an example and adds critical support,
>expertise, and encouragement to the efforts in which we are all engaged --
>to help make the world safe from the dangers posed by persistent landmines
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>citizen diplomacy. The free flow of people, ideas, and goods have made this
>country strong and successful. And so it is also in our own interests to
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>along with the generosity of other donor nations, the United Nations, and
>non-governmental organizations, I can report that great progress HAS been
>made in mine action over the past 10 years. Two examples are:
>- - reported civilian casualties are down from an estimated 26,000 annually
>in the late 1990s to less than half that number in 2002;
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>[End]

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Special Rep. Bloomfield speech at recent U.S. conference to support mine action

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2003 1:49 AM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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[End]

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rewarding innovations

Date: Sunday, December 7, 2003 7:44 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hmmm. Many of us have been familiar with, and following, the APOPO rats now for a couple of years. Glad to see the BBC and World Bank are right on top of things. Innovative? Yep. News? Finally!

In all seriousness, I hope this does DOES get them some additional donor support. Great project that needs to be looked at more closely.

Cheers,

- joe

--- Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca> wrote:

> December 5th, 2003

>

> Hi all,

> I found this morning in <http://news.bbc.co.uk> the following news:

> "Worldbank honors new innovative projects"

> One of the honored projects is demonstrated here:

> <http://www.apopo.org>

> "Rats are being used to detect landmines in

> Mozambique using their acute

> sense of smell."

>

> Best regards,

> Willy Meurer, Toronto

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rewarding innovations

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2003 3:44 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

December 5th, 2003

Hi all,

I found this morning in <http://news.bbc.co.uk> the following news:

"Worldbank honors new innovative projects"

One of the honored projects is demonstrated here: <http://www.apopo.org>

"Rats are being used to detect landmines in Mozambique using their acute sense of smell."

Best regards,

Willy Meurer, Toronto

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: UXOInfo.com's UXO E-Newsletter - December 2003

Date: Friday, December 5, 2003 8:59 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

From: "UXOInfo.com" <newsletter@uxoinfo.com>

Reply-To: "UXOInfo.com" <newsletter@uxoinfo.com>

Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2003 13:40:43 +0200

To: <brocks@mgm.org>

Subject: UXOInfo.com's UXO E-Newsletter - December 2003

<<http://www.uxoinfo.com>>

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) E-Newsletter For December 2003

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New Phone Number for Focus and Leap Inc. 410.496.7723

This December UXO E-Newsletter is dedicated to all the EOD Technicians, Engineers, and UXO Specialists serving our country in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to 3 UXO news stories related to the war in Iraq, UXOInfo.com has put together a slide show on the website as a tribute. You will not want to miss it - access details below.

UXOInfo.com would like to wish a happy holidays to all EOD and UXO Technicians working around the world clearing UXO.

November 2003

International Teams Supporting Military EOD Operations in Iraq

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Task Force 56 personnel stationed in Al Hillah, Iraq, are working alongside Polish Army forces. The Polish Army provides perimeter security for the Navy EOD team whenever they leave Camp Babylon on a mission. Designed to protect the historic Babylon ruins next to the Euphrates River from looters, Camp Babylon is home to a number of coalition countries supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, including Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

EOD's missions includes searching for weapons caches, destroying UXO, and disarming Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in the continuing effort to restore peace and stability in the area. The Polish forces are providing a valuable security service for the Navy EOD. Despite significant language barriers and a few technological challenges, such as the use of different kinds of radios, the international teams have been reportedly working very well together.

Coalition support is not limited to providing security, in some cases international EOD troops have been working side-by-side with U.S. EOD units stationed in Iraq. For example, at KIRKUK AIR BASE, Six Latvian military service members have been integrated into the 506th Air Expeditionary Group EOD team to form a coalition force tasked with locating and destroying UXO. Since July, the team has destroyed more than 3 million pounds of Iraqi ordnance. Shown in an image to the right is Latvian First Sgt. Vandinskis handing U.S. Staff Sgt. Ellison a 107 mm rocket to be destroyed. The rocket and 11 others were found in downtown Kirkuk. Such rockets have recently been fired toward military troops and vehicles in the area. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Sarkkinen - <http://www.af.mil/photos.html>)

5 November 2003

7 Navy EOD Technicians Receive Army Medals in Iraq

Seven members from the Navy's EOD Mobile Unit 3 based in San Diego received medals for their support in Iraq. The men, one officer and six enlisted sailors, received the awards not from the Navy, but the Army. The seven were assigned to an Army battalion for several months to find and destroy UXO and explosives left behind by defeated Iraqi forces. Besides the dangerous job of handling explosives, they endured heat, sand, mortar fire as well as the kidnapping and murder of two Army soldiers guarding them at a quarry near Balad where they were performing disposal operations. In total they destroyed over 318,000 pounds of explosives.

Two of the sailors received Bronze Stars from the Army and five earned Army Commendation Medals for their work. The medals were pinned on during a ceremony at the unit's headquarters at the Naval Amphibious Base. While Bronze Stars look the same for all the services, the Army and Navy Commendation Medals are different. The Navy ribbons have two broad vertical stripes, where as the Army version has five narrow white stripes. The ribbons on the medals are also Army green, not Navy blue.

November 2003

UXO Being Used as Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Iraq

U.S. Military officials say forces are increasingly coming into contact with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) designed from UXO. Soldiers have been encountering a variety of different forms of IEDs, such as static IEDs, movable IEDs, improvised grenades, and IEDs placed in, on or under specific targets. IEDs Vehicle attacks seem to be the most prevalent. The enemy is also employing multiple IEDs in a daisy-chain fashion with delayed breaks, which has been particularly dangerous for response personnel. Insurgent groups using IEDs including those made of UXO in Iraq have killed at least 60 U.S. service members to date.

<http://uxoinfo.com/uxoinfo/iraq_slide.cfm> **Image slide show tribute for UXO Technicians, Engineers and UXO Specialists is on UXOInfo.com -**

Link to image slide show below.

http://uxoinfo.com/uxoinfo/iraq_slide.cfm <http://uxoinfo.com/uxoinfo/iraq_slide.cfm>

28 November 2003

United Nations Adopts Protocol On UXO Left Behind After Conflicts

Geneva, Switzerland - Representatives of 92 countries including the U.S. adopted an accord focused on requiring governments to clear UXO left behind after conflicts

around the world. The protocol specifically includes cluster bombs and submunitions, which have been used extensively in both the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. The protocol known as number 5, extends the United Nations (UN) Convention on Conventional Weapons, requires a participating country to "mark and clear, remove or destroy explosive remnants of war in affected territories under its control." The Protocol will come into effect once ratified by 20 nations.

The protocol is a compromise between the European Union, which wanted more defined text, and the U.S., which was reluctant to sign up to restrictive language. One such example of a compromise exists in article 7 of the protocol, which states that a country "in a position to do so" must help clear UXO left behind. The text seemed to appease Japan, which was concerned about the thousands of UXO they were responsible for dropping across Asia during WWII. The accord is the first disarmament treaty signed by the Bush administration. The Convention already sets out restrictions on the use of landmines, napalm, and blinding laser weapons.

02 December 2003

\$8M UXO Lawsuit at Tennessee FUDS

The family of a young Tennessee boy is suing the Government over a UXO accident that caused the loss of the boy's arm. The Spencer Artillery Range was actively used in the early 1940s for artillery training in preparation for WWII. By the end of the war, the range was reverted to private use. In 1961, the government paid compensation to the previous titleholder, the Macy Land and Rocky River Co., as part of its contractual obligation to restore the land to its original condition.

Almost 30 years later in early 2000, a 9-year-old boy who was playing in the area picked up a 37mm shell and decided to save it as a souvenir. The child took the shell home and played with it for more than a year and half before it detonated in July 2001 taking off his left hand and forearm in the process.

The family has named the U.S. Government and the current landowner, the J.M. Huber Corp., in the lawsuit. The Huber Corp. argues in court papers that the plaintiff was never invited to be on the land in the first place but that, if there is any entity at fault, "the United States of America should be liable for the failure to remove or detonate all unexploded ordnance on the land." In its defense, the Government feels that since it paid a compensation for the land in 1961 that it was released from further clean up obligations.

Over the years the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have conducted UXO response actions under the FUDS program at the former range. The plaintiff alleges that the USACE "failed to exercise reasonable care in their supervision and inspection of this land by failing to adequately clear the land of artillery debris

despite having actual or constructive notice that such a dangerous condition could pose a risk of injury or death."

The trial will most likely occur in early 2005 in the U.S. District Court in Nashville unless a settlement is reached outside of court.

UXOInfo.com is interested creating a library of articles and papers regarding UXO related lawsuits. If you have information on UXO related lawsuits and court findings please pass the information along for posting. Donations can be made via email to information@uxoinfo.com The database will be very useful to the entire UXO industry.

8 November 2003

Navy Stands Up Range Office

The Navy has stood up a new Headquarters level Range Office. The new office will be responsible for training ranges, RDT ranges, target development and procurement, and T facilities. The Navy is behind the Marine Corps, who stood up the Training and Education Command at Marine Corps Base Quantico as their Range Office well over a year ago.

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Irag security issues

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2003 4:43 AM

From: Mike Robinson <marobinson@uxb.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello all, Just left Iraq yesterday. Yes tensions in Baghdad are a bit strained, but work is continuing and folks are staying the course. There are daily occurrences of hijacking, car bombs, and ambushes. I have the latest security updates for anybody interested. Anyone wishing to go and would like information, please email me individually, I will be happy to assist. I can not attach the file to the masses due to the 50kb restriction. It is a PDF file of about 250Kb.

Take care out there.

Mike

----- Original Message -----

From: Roger Hess <mailto:rhess@mweb.co.za>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2003 4:47 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Irag security issues

Glenn;

I can't say anything for Afghanistan as I've not been there. But as more "soft-targets" are being hit in Iraq as the day and weeks go by (Civilian EOD/UXO workers, Japanese business men, plus Iraqi law enforcement and other civilian, non-combatants), and the fact that these attacks are well-planned and closely coordinated; I'd say the situation speaks for itself.

The public has become accustomed to hearing about US Soldiers being killed and many of the resistance groups have been killed in the process, so it has less impact than before. So the guerillas are now engaging targets that are non-military, unarmored, less-likely to fight back, and have a higher impact with the media. Demining Groups and other aid workers have a very high chance of fitting into this category.

Before I left Baghdad, the general tension in the air was thick enough to cut with a knife. From what I can pick up, you would probably need a chain-saw to cut it now. If it's not deterring anything for 2004, then people are being oblivious to the facts.

Sincerely;

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]**On Behalf Of** brooksG

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2003 11:23 AM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Irag security issues

I would like to get an assessment of the current incountry security environment for civilian demining staff (or other NGO's) working in Iraq or Afghanistan?

It appears from the American news reports that both western and country NGO staff are experiencing continued threats from car bombings and roadside attacks. Can anyone advise if this is deterring any current or near term activity in 04, or if not, what prospects you consider best for working around the threat...?

thanks,

Glenn Brooks

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Points?

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 11:49 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi John,

thanks a lot for the quote about 'knowledge' you sent us today.

I didn't know this one - it's excellent! Since there seems to be no ©

Copyright claimed,

I would like to add it to my collection of international aphorisms under '...author unknown...' -

-- -- -- -- --
John wrote:

>Good day all,

>Actually there is a quote, apparently Arab in origin:

>

>There are four sorts of men:

>He who knows not and knows not he knows not: he is a fool - shun him.

>He who knows not and knows he knows not: he is simple - teach him.

>He who knows and knows not he knows: he is asleep - wake him.

>He who knows and knows he knows: he is wise - follow him.

>

>Maybe Rummy had this in mind? [And I'm not trying to say that he is any

>kind >of fool . . . :-)]

>John Crawford

-- -- -- -- --
I'm not only collecting aphorisms from all over the world, I also write my very own aphorisms.

Here are a few - directed to knowledge:

* First from the Greek Philosopher Socrates (470 to 399 p.C.) He knew already:
"I know that I know nothing."

Now what I tried to think:

* Once I know that I don't know anything, I know at least something..

* Strange - how much one has to know, before one knows, that one knows nothing

* A few know a lot, a lot know a little - but some know always everything better.

* The dummy is sad that he doesn't know everything about everything
The wise man is happy, that he doesn't know everything about everything

* The one who knows doesn't talk much - the one who talks doesn't know much

* In earlier times people needed just the knowledge
In our modern times people need first the knowledge about what they want to know.

* Some people have been drinking from the fountain of knowledge and wisdom -
'Rummy' might have just gargled.

-- -- -- -- --
Hope every Christmas wish comes true for all of you.

Regards,

Willy Meurer
Phone: ++1 416 444 2038
Fax: ++1 416 444 0876
e-mail: willke@primus.ca

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pictures
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 10:25 AM
From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Ekberg

As I know, all chemical projectiles used the same body as usual blasting items. Difference is in marking. For example, Germanic chemical shells WW2 was marked by green crosses (one, two or three). If you need modern marking, you can find it in ORDATA. And chemical projectiles never use base fuzes.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: G6rgen Ekberg <mailto:gorgen.ekberg@mil.se>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2003 6:47 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: pictures

Hi all people in this network, i would be so grateful if there are anyone who have pictures on some chemical projectiles, all pictures are welcome
Ekberg Swedec

155mm M110

155 mm M12A1

105 mm M360

105 mm M60

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Points?

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 8:19 AM

From: Crawford John <john.crawford@psi.ch>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Good day all,

Actually there is a quote, apparently Arab in origin:

There are four sorts of men:

He who knows not and knows not he knows not: he is a fool - shun him.

He who knows not and knows he knows not: he is simple - teach him.

He who knows and knows not he knows: he is asleep - wake him.

He who knows and knows he knows: he is wise - follow him.

Maybe Rummy had this in mind? [And I'm not trying to say that he is any kind of fool . . . :-)]

John Crawford

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Points?

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 1:36 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

The Rumsfeld linguistics have been explained in Willy M's posting!

Back to tax on profits - as you know, it's not difficult to load costs so that little or no profit is shown in the accounts of local subsidiaries and I have no doubt this sometimes occurs. It is of course a sad truth that widespread tax evasion is a contributing cause of low salaries of public servants, consequent mal administration and poor infrastructure in developing countries.

Import taxes - backhanders (see above) are no doubt sometimes seen as less expensive than suffering the delays that you indicate are commonplace

All the best

PJI

Roger Hess wrote:

> Peter;
>
> >Points taken Roger!
> >
> >PJI
>
> Didn't mean to sound "in your face", but these are things commercial groups
> deal with that NGO's can avoid by their tax-free status.
>
> On the flip-side: working under a tax-exempt NGO status doesn't always mean
> that things will come through customs on a timely basis, or that it will be
> easy. SE Asia is terrible about this and always seem to make you wait for
> three ministers, two finance clerks, and four different customs officials to
> sign the document. They are always on opposite sides of the capital city and
> two or more are always out sick at any give day!
>
> Sometimes it is easier to pay the damn tax!
>
> Since you figured out my garbled explanation meant; maybe you can tell us
> what these two recent comments mean?
>
> Donald Rumsfeld: "Reports that say something hasn't happened are interesting
> to me, because as we know, there are known unknowns; there things we know we
> know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there
> are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the
> ones we don't know we don't know."
>
> Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I think that gay marriage is something that should
> be between a man and a woman,"
>
> Cheers
>
> Roger
>
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: Cluster Munition Coalition Statement at CCW

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 1:36 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Cluster Munition Coalition Statement,
CCW Meeting of States Parties
27 November 2003

Thank you Chairperson for the opportunity to address the Meeting of States Parties. I speak on behalf of 92 member organizations from 43 countries, which constitute the newly created, and rapidly growing Cluster Munition Coalition.

Let me begin Mr. Chairman by thanking you for your hard work and effective leadership of this process. Let me also through you thank the two Coordinators, Ambassador Sanders and Mr. Kolorov for successfully guiding us through their respective mandates. The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) welcomes the new legally binding protocol on postconflict remedial measures of a generic nature on ERW. It has the potential to be a useful addition to international humanitarian law. It covers all types of munitions that may create explosive remnants of war and should lead to increased resources for clearance, victim assistance, and risk education.

We urge States Parties to ensure an early entry into force for the Instrument by ratifying it as soon as possible. We also urge States Parties to comply fully with all parts of Protocol V including the technical annex.

However, the CMC believes that the language within the Protocol remains weak. Due to the qualifiers and ambiguities, how countries implement and interpret obligations will be key and NGOs will be monitoring this closely.

Protocol V does not go as far as NGOs had been advocating. In particular, the instrument fails to put the onus on user responsibility, retroactivity is lacking, and there is an absence of deadlines that adequately reflect the urgency of the issue.

States Parties must ensure that existing standards do not slip. There is a need to continue resource mobilisation to ensure that existing standards continue and improve. The new instrument provides minimum standards below what many States are already doing and we expect all States Parties to achieve much more.

As NGOs, we are happy to work together with States Parties to achieve this. The Ottawa Treaty demonstrates that by working together better results can be achieved. The Cluster Munition Coalition is, however, disappointed that the new protocol only deals with one part of the ERW problem. It does not deal with cluster submunitions and other preventive measures. It also fails to adequately deal with existing ERW where much assistance is needed.

Cluster sub-munitions pose an especially high risk to civilians in the growing number of conflicts where they have been used. They now stand out as the weapon category most in need of stronger national and international regulation in order to protect civilians during armed conflict. There are thirty-three producers and 58 countries that own cluster submunitions around the world. Within the CCW, 39 States Parties and two signatories have

stockpiles of cluster munitions and/or are users of them: Argentina, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt (signatory), Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan (signatory), Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Uzbekistan. The CMC does welcome the mandate on preventive measures including cluster munitions. We are pleased that delegates have agreed to continue work in this important area, seeking to understand the issue more thoroughly as well as taking appropriate measures. We urge the Group of Governmental Experts to work expeditiously and to begin negotiations as soon as possible.

The CMC notes that a few states have stated that now is not the time for work on preventive measures. The clearance agencies in our membership believe there is considerable urgency for substantive work on submunitions and other preventive measures. The coalition members who work in the areas of victim assistance and risk education would echo that call for urgency. Indeed from the perspective of those working in the field, and especially those living in affected communities, the time is over-ripe for action on these matters. We very much appreciate the work of others states, who share this view such as Austria, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the EU, to push the group forward in its work.

The CMC also welcomes the continuation of work on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM). This work on a specific weapon demonstrates the need to do this with other weapon-types such as cluster submunitions. In addition, there will be some crossover within the work on MOTAPM as types of remotely delivered MOTAPM are cluster munitions. The Cluster Munition Coalition will continue to work within the CCW, watching developments and the progress with cluster submunitions as States Parties work on the second part of the mandate. We urge States Parties to work promptly on this important area of the ERW problem, aiming to finish work within a year.

The CMC will also take its work on cluster submunitions and other explosive remnants of war outside of the CCW process in a variety of fora at the national, regional and international levels. In particular, there will considerably more work at the domestic level in the next twelve months.

Already there are CMC members in 28 State Party countries and two signatories: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt (signatory), France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan (signatory), Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The Cluster Munition Coalition was created in response to the growing concern within civil society about the humanitarian problems caused by explosive remnants of war and especially the growing dangers to civilians posed by submunitions. We know many States Parties understand the importance of this work and share our sense of urgency. We look forward to working with you in the coming year within the CCW, domestically and in other fora.

Thank you. Delivered by Paul Hannon Mines Action Canada

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: TR: MgM Demining Network: Liberia
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003 1:36 AM
From: MANUEL GONZAL <gonzaldemexplo@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Willie,

I just know that some mines have been bought from Czekia. But I have`nt about any evidence on the field.

Regards
Manuel

Manuel GONZAL
gonzaldemexplo@wanadoo.fr
gonzaldemexplo@hotmail.com
mgonzal@handicap-international.org

>From: "Manuel Gonzal" >To: >Subject: TR: MgM Demining Network: Liberia >Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2003 18:04:51 +0100 > > >-----Message d'origine----- >De : Manuel Gonzal [mailto:gonzaldemexplo@wanadoo.fr] >Envoyé : lundi 1 décembre 2003 17:59 >À : gonzaldemexplo@wanadoo.fr >Objet : TR: MgM Demining Network: Liberia > > > >-----Message d'origine----- >De : network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]De la part de William Lawrence >Envoyé : lundi 1 décembre 2003 12:26 >À : network@mgm.org >Objet : MgM Demining Network: Liberia > > >Dear All, > >Does anyone know which types of landmines and other ordnance have been used >in Liberia? > >Offline answers would be appreciated. > >Many thanks > >Willie Lawrence > > >22 Worpleston Way >Glen Lorne >Harare >Residence ++263 (4)4! 99 743 >Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524 > > >-----
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pictures

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 12:54 PM

From: phindy@webhart.net

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hey there,

Why dont you just go onto www.jmu.edu ORDATA online. They are probably on there in the database with the rest of the US made items and variants. There are black and white and colour pictures included for most things.

Best Regards,

Pete Hindy
Croatia

> Hi all people in this network, i would be so grateful if there are
> anyone who have pictures on some chemical projectiles, all pictures are
> welcome Ekberg Swedec
>
> 155mm M110
>
> 155 mm M12A1
>
> 105 mm M360
>
> 105 mm M60

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Points?

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 10:47 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

December 2nd, 2003

Dera All,

Roger Hess wrote:

>maybe you can tell us what these two recent comments mean?

>Donald Rumsfeld: "Reports that say something hasn't happened are interesting
>to me, because as we know, there are known unknowns; there things we know we
>know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there
>are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the
>ones we don't know we don't know."

>

>Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I think that gay marriage is something that should
>be between a man and a woman,"

>

>Cheers

>Roger

Here comes the explanation:

Rumsfeld wins UK 'Foot in Mouth' award

Tuesday, 02 December , 2003, 09:20

London: A bizarre comment by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the
hunt for

Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was awarded the "Foot in Mouth" prize on
Monday by

Britain's Plain English Campaign.

Rumsfeld, renowned for his uncompromising tough talking, received the prize
for the
most baffling comment by a public figure.

"Reports that say something hasn't happened are always interesting to me,
because as we know, there are known knows;
there are things we know we know," Rumsfeld told a press briefing.

"We also know there are known unknowns;
that is to say we know there are some things we do not know.
But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know."

John Lister, spokesman for the campaign which strives to have public
information delivered in
clear, straightforward English, said:

"We think we know what he means. But we don't know if we really know."

Although Rumsfeld's comments were made at a press briefing in February 2002,
they were nominated for this year's award.

Rumsfeld, whose boss US President George W. Bush is of ten singled out by
language
critics for his sometimes unusual use of English, took the booby prize
ahead of a bizarre effort

from actor-turned politician Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"I think that gay marriage is something that should be between a man and a woman,"
was the odd statement from the new California Governor.

Previous holders of the award include US actress Alicia Silverstone and Britain's Chancellor Gordon Brown. Last year's winner was actor Richard Gere.

QUOD ERAT DEMONSTRANDUM!

With a gentle chuckle,

Willy Meurer, Toronto
Phone: ++1 416 444 2038
Fax: ++1 416 444 0876
e-mail: willke@primus.ca

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: pictures
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 10:47 AM
From: Görgen Ekberg <gorgen.ekberg@mil.se>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi all people in this network, i would be so grateful if there are anyone who have pictures on some chemical projectiles, all pictures are welcome
Ekberg Swedec

155mm M110

155 mm M12A1

105 mm M360

105 mm M60

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Irag security issues

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 10:47 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Glenn;

I can't say anything for Afghanistan as I've not been there. But as more "soft-targets" are being hit in Iraq as the day and weeks go by (Civilian EOD/UXO workers, Japanese business men, plus Iraqi law enforcement and other civilian, non-combatants), and the fact that these attacks are well-planned and closely coordinated; I'd say the situation speaks for itself.

The public has become accustomed to hearing about US Soldiers being killed and many of the resistance groups have been killed in the process, so it has less impact then before. So the guerillas are now engaging targets that are non-military, unarmored, less-likely to fight back, and have a higher impact with the media. Demining Groups and other aid workers have a very high chance of fitting into this category.

Before I left Baghdad, the general tension in the air was thick enough to cut with a knife. From what I can pick up, you would probably need a chain-saw to cut it now. If it's not deterring anything for 2004, then people are being oblivious to the facts.

Sincerely;

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]**On Behalf Of** brooksG

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2003 11:23 AM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Irag security issues

I would like to get an assessment of the current incountry security environment for civilian demining staff (or other NGO's) working in Iraq or Afghanistan?

It appears from the American news reports that both western and country NGO staff are experiencing continued threats from car bombings and roadside attacks. Can anyone advise if this is deterring any current or near term activity in 04, or if not, what prospects you consider best for working around the threat...?

thanks,

Glenn Brooks

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Points?

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 7:20 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Peter;

>Points taken Roger!

>

>PJI

Didn't mean to sound "in your face", but these are things commercial groups deal with that NGO's can avoid by their tax-free status.

On the flip-side: working under a tax-exempt NGO status doesn't always mean that things will come through customs on a timely basis, or that it will be easy. SE Asia is terrible about this and always seem to make you wait for three ministers, two finance clerks, and four different customs officials to sign the document. They are always on opposite sides of the capital city and two or more are always out sick at any give day!

Sometimes it is easier to pay the damn tax!

Since you figured out my garbled explanation meant; maybe you can tell us what these two recent comments mean?

Donald Rumsfeld: "Reports that say something hasn't happened are interesting to me, because as we know, there are known unknowns; there things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know."

Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I think that gay marriage is something that should be between a man and a woman,"

Cheers

Roger

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Irag security issues

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 4:23 AM

From: brooksG <brooks.glenn@comcast.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I would like to get an assessment of the current incountry security environment for civilian demining staff (or other NGO's) working in Iraq or Afghanistan?

It appears from the American news reports that both western and country NGO staff are experiencing continued threats from car bombings and roadside attacks. Can anyone advise if this is deterring any current or near term activity in 04, or if not, what prospects you consider best for working around the threat...?

thanks,

Glenn Brooks

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Commercial Taxes

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2003 12:57 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Points taken Roger!

PJI

Roger Hess wrote:

> Hi Peter;

>

> A bit busy right now, but just FYI:

>

> Tax: To operate legitimately in many countries: you must be legally
> registered as a local enterprise (Proprietary or Limited Liability Company)
> in order to do trade or business. Sometimes you can set up a representative
> office and keep everything off-shore; however this only allows you to do
> marketing, not to do business. Corporate tax of the parent company is a
> totally different issue, as is coming in as UN contractor.

>

> If you are competing for local contracts, including those sponsored by the
> WB or some other Development Bank and do not have an exception approved by
> the appropriate ministry, the director and manager of the locally registered
> company is responsible for ensuring all taxes are paid in full. Even though
> the Pty or LLC may be fully owned by the off-shore parent organization,
> however onus is on the local company.

>

> My team and I went through many hoops to set up a fully legit and legal
> business in one country that was well known for wide-spread corruption,
> including paying all of the required taxes (verified as unavoidable by two
> of the top ex-pat lawyers in the country, Bob K knows one or possibly of
> them). We did not want to give anyone/any group a legal reason that would
> cause us to default a contract, so we made sure that everything was
> completely above board.

>

> Import duties on vehicles and equipment are a major issues and can result
> in increasing the cost of a bid by a considerable margin (add between 200 to
> 400% on some items). However depending on the country, there are also a slew
> of taxes that can be added on to income earned on a project or even
> maintaining a functional business office.

>

> Oddly enough: when you speak with the legal geeks at Ministries of
> Finance/Commerce, they will tell you up front that many of these "poor,
> developing countries" would not be so poor if taxes were paid. One of the
> reasons why the WB and ADB are not supposed to hire SoE or
> like-organizations.

>

> Cheers

>

> Roger

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Peter Isaacs

> Sent: Monday, December 01, 2003 11:01 AM

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:

> Andthealternative to statisticsis....
>
> The claims by subscribers from both commercial and NGO "camps" that tax is a
> big
> issue in the tendering process makes me smile somewhat. Import duty on
> equipment
> perhaps, but "corporation tax" - on profits? Come off it you guys. There
> are
> armies of tax lawyers out there willing to tell those of you who don't know,
> how
> to legally avoid paying tax (as opposed to illegally evading). Setting up
> subsidiaries in offshore tax havens is a simple process as is employing
> expatriates through similar entities to avoid the expensive social security
> payments that employers have to make in European and N American resident
> companies. I would be very surprised indeed if any commercial company is
> paying
> more than minimal corporation type taxes on demining work undertaken in the
> developing world.
>
> PJI
>
> #####
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Latest Version HD Milestones

Date: Monday, December 1, 2003 3:52 PM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Walker [mailto:reowalker@earthlink.net]

Sent: 29 November 2003 08:13 PM

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Fact Sheet

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
 Washington, DC
 July 29, 2003

Milestones in Humanitarian Mine Action: Development of the Landmine Threat and the Discipline of Humanitarian Mine Action These milestones were compiled with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Defense and the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University. The United States views the following as the "pillars" of humanitarian mine action: 1) **mine detection and clearance**; 2) **mine risk education** to populations threatened by landmines and unexploded ordnance; 3) **survivors assistance** to those maimed by landmines or other explosive remnants of war; and 4) **research and development** to improve the effectiveness of all aspects of the first three pillars.

1862 - One of the earliest known casualties of a landmine as defined today--a victim-activated device filled with explosive--is a Union soldier killed by a Confederate landmine during the U.S. Civil War. Five lethal Confederate landmines were discovered near Mobile, Alabama in the 1960s still lying in wait.

1914 - 1918 - Landmines are employed on a relatively small scale in some 19th century colonial campaigns and during the Russo-Japanese War (1902-1906) but do not become a major weapon of war until about 1918, late in the First World War. Anti-vehicle (anti-tank) mines are deployed to protect against tanks, a new invention at the time, and anti-personnel landmines are used to protect the anti-vehicle mines from destruction by opposing infantry units.

1939 - 1945 - During the Second World War, anti-personnel and anti-tank mines are employed in large quantities in all of that war's theaters. Significant quantities that were laid in some former war zones remain a menace to this day.

1945 - France employing 40,000 German

remain a menace to this day. 1945 - France, employing 45,000 German POWs as well as French civilians and military personnel, begins one of the earliest post-war efforts to methodically and comprehensively clear landmines and unexploded ordnance. **1970s** - The U.S. Department of Defense begins replacing persistent ("dumb") anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines in its stockpiles with self-destructing and self-deactivating ("smart") landmines to prevent enemy use of U.S. landmines against U.S. forces and to minimize the threat to non-combatants.

October 1980 - The "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects," commonly known as the Convention on Conventional Weapons or "CCW," is created to regulate the use of all manner of non-detectable fragments, incendiaries, blinding laser weapons, and anti-personnel landmines (also see May 1996, December 1998, May 1999, June 2001, and December 2001 entries). This marks the first time there has been an effort to regulate the use of landmines. The United States takes the lead in drafting Protocol II, known as the Amended Mines Protocol, specifically to address landmines, booby traps, and other delayed-action devices. **June 1986** - U.S. Army Special Forces, deployed from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to south-central Honduras during the "Operation Lempira" foreign internal defense exercise, train Honduran Army engineers to clear landmines in civilian agricultural areas affected by conflict in Nicaragua that spilled over onto Honduran soil. The Special Forces' focus is training in humanitarian, rather than military, mine clearance. This marks the first recorded effort by the United States to engage in what is now commonly known as humanitarian mine action. An image of the operation can be viewed at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/events/b/22970.htm> <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/events/b/22970.htm>>

October 1988 - Following careful analysis of the immense landmine threat in Afghanistan stemming from the Soviet occupation, the United States helps establish a comprehensive program to clear landmines there. Today, this program, the UNMAS Mine Action Program for Afghanistan (MAPA), is the world's largest and most productive demining effort, staffed almost entirely by Afghans themselves. MAPA's use of local managers and employees, transparency, and diversified funding sources has served as a model for many other humanitarian mine action programs elsewhere. The term "humanitarian demining" is coined (now increasingly superseded by the term "humanitarian mine action") to differentiate the

superseded by the term "humanitarian mine action", to differentiate the activities in Afghanistan from traditional military mine clearance and to reflect the degree of the landmine threat to civilians, their land and infrastructure. **October 1989** - The U.S. Agency for International Development establishes the War Victims Fund to respond to the needs of victims of conflict, to include survivors of accidents with landmines, unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war. Since 1989, the Fund, now called the Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund in honor of Senator Leahy of Vermont who espoused its establishment, has striven to expand access to affordable and appropriate prosthetic and orthotic services, providing more than \$92 million of such aid to 26 countries. To learn more, visit www.leahywarvictimsfund.org <<http://www.leahywarvictimsfund.org/>> . **October 1992** - The United States unilaterally bans the export of its anti-personnel landmines. The U.S. Congress later formalizes this ban, per Public Law 102-484, Section 1365; 22 United States Code, 2778 note. In 2001, Congress amends the law, which was to expire in 2003, to expire on October 23, 2008. To examine this law on-line, go to <http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm> <<http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>> , enter the word "landmines" in the search engine, click on "22 USC Sec. 2778" and scroll to Landmine Export Moratorium. **October 1992** - The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) is formed by a steering committee of non-governmental organizations consisting of Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, Medico International, Mines Advisory Group, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Eventually, the ICBL brings together over 1400 human rights and humanitarian mine action organizations in one of the most thorough information-gathering networks for mine action. To learn more, visit www.icbl.org <<http://www.icbl.org/>> . **October 1993** - The United States formally establishes the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Program, an inter-agency (Department of State, Agency for International Development, Department of Defense) effort to provide a full range of assistance to mine affected countries that request U.S. help. Previously established U.S. humanitarian demining programs (Afghanistan 1988, Cambodia 1991, Kuwait 1991, northern Iraq 1992, Somalia 1991, El Salvador 1993, Mozambique 1993) are brought into the Program. It is difficult to quantify U.S. humanitarian demining funding outlays prior to October 1993, but since then the U.S. has spent over \$700 million. In December 2002, the program is formally renamed the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program to more accurately reflect the scope of its activities. **September 2004** - In an address to the UN General

scope of its activities. **September 1994** - In an address to the UN General Assembly, President Bill Clinton becomes the first world leader to call for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. **December 1994** - The U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs releases HIDDEN KILLERS: The Global Landmine Crisis, the first report to estimate the magnitude of the landmine threat in terms of numbers of mines laid and numbers of mine-related deaths and injuries. The fourth and final edition of HIDDEN KILLERS, released fall 2001, with statistics on the generally reduced numbers of extant landmines and landmine casualties is still available at <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/hk/2001/6961.htm> <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/hk/2001/6961.htm>> . **1995** - U.S. Special Operations Forces, who are adept at teaching various skills to foreign troops, begin training foreign deminers around the world in the techniques of humanitarian demining as a part of the U.S. "Train-the-Trainer" program." **1995** - The U.S. Army's Night Vision and Sensors Directorate (NVESD) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is tasked with performing research on promising new technologies to detect and clear landmines for humanitarian demining programs using everything from cutting edge science to off-the-shelf equipment that can be adapted for robust clearance operations. Prototypes are made available for rigorous field tests, funded by the NVESD, in mine affected countries. Plans for locally producing equipment that has passed these field tests are freely given to interested countries. To learn more, visit www.nvl.army.mil/text/technology.html <<http://www.nvl.army.mil/text/technology.html>> . **March 1995** - Belgium becomes the first country to pass domestic laws banning the use or production of landmines as well as their export. **1996** - DC Comics mine awareness comic books, commissioned by the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency, are distributed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is the first attempt to disseminate mine awareness information (now called mine risk education) on a large scale using the easily accessible and attractive device of comic book heroes depicted in former war zone settings to help inculcate in children greater respect for the dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Subsequent customized editions are distributed in Central America in 1998 and in Kosovo in 1999-2000. **1996** - The first edition of Jane's Mines and Mine Clearance, edited by Colin King, is published by the Janes Information Group. This annually updated encyclopedia contains illustrations and technical detail on nearly all landmines and booby traps in existence along with the means to detect and clear them. **1996** - Sweden establishes the Swedish EOD and Demining Center (SWEDDEC) in Eksjö with responsibility for training Swedish and

Center (SWEDEC) in ERJG with responsibility for training Swedish and foreign personnel in all aspects of military explosive ordnance disposal and in conducting research and development. SWEDEC staff have deployed to support humanitarian mine action programs in Afghanistan, the Balkans, Eritrea and Sri Lanka. SWEDEC helped establish Cambodia's mine detection dog program. To learn more, visit www.swedec.mil.se <<http://www.swedec.mil.se/>> . **January 1996** - Menschen gegen Minen (MgM), a German non-governmental organization engaged in humanitarian demining in Angola, Mozambique and Namibia, sets up the MgM Network, a free, real-time Internet forum in which demining practitioners, international relief workers, researchers, and others from around the world with an interest in humanitarian mine action, may exchange vital information, post inquiries or simply monitor Network traffic in order to gain additional knowledge about this field. To subscribe to the forum, visit www.mgm.org <<http://www.mgm.org/>> , click on "Network," agree to abide by the rules, and follow the prompts. **May 1996** - The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Review Conference adopts the Amended Mines Protocol (AMP), which significantly improves the original 1980 Protocol. The AMP is made applicable to internal armed conflicts as well as international armed conflicts. To examine the AMP in detail, visit www.ccw-treaty.com/amendedmineprotocol.htm <<http://www.ccw-treaty.com/amendedmineprotocol.htm>> . **June 1996** - The U.S. Secretary of Defense directs implementation of the President's new policy on anti-personnel landmines (APL). Key elements of the policy include: research and procurement of alternatives to APLs, exploration of operational doctrine, tactics and plans to reduce or eliminate the reliance on APLs, removal of non self-destructing anti-personnel landmines from basic ammunition loads (South Korea excepted), and expansion of humanitarian demining research and development and humanitarian demining training efforts. **September 1996** - The United States unilaterally begins removing its anti-personnel and anti-tank mines from the perimeter of the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo, Cuba. Clearance of the United States' last permanent minefield is completed in 1999. Quality assurance/verification is completed in May 2000. **September 1996** - The Mine Action Information Center (MAIC), funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (and also now the U.S. Department of State), is established at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to collect, process, analyze and disseminate information on all aspects of humanitarian mine action. An information clearinghouse with a comprehensive website (http://maic.jmu.edu/about_us.htm <http://maic.jmu.edu/about_us.htm>) useful to laymen and

http://maic.jmu.edu/about_us.htm ; useful to laymen and specialists alike, the MAIC also hosts conferences and symposia on landmine-related topics, develops mine awareness materials, produces Geographic Information Services (GIS) products and conducts surveys to improve mine action. The MAIC's Journal of Mine Action, published three times a year, is available online at <http://maic.jmu.edu/journals/htm> <<http://maic.jmu.edu/journals/htm>> . **January 1997** - Princess Diana (1961-1997) visits Angola, a seriously mine-affected country, and helps to draw international attention to the global landmine problem. **February 1997** - The U.S. Department of Defense establishes the Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC) at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. The HDTC serves as the U.S. Government's training and information center for humanitarian mine action, researches techniques on landmine use and demining, and incorporates current data into training programs to meet U.S. Department of Defense requirements. All programs of instruction are taught in accordance with internationally recognized standards. U.S. military graduates of the HDTC have trained foreign deminers in all aspects of humanitarian mine action in over 32 countries. HDTC trains deploying personnel of other U.S. Government agencies prior to their posting to areas of risk. HDTC also manages a public outreach program (for example Landmine Studies students at Southwest Missouri State University have participated in hands-on familiarization events at the HDTC). To learn more visit www.wood.army.mil/hdtdc/ <<http://www.wood.army.mil/hdtdc/>> . **October 1997** - The United States designates a Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Global Humanitarian Demining and establishes a supporting office, now called the Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, at the U.S. Department of State. The mission is to increase international cooperation and coordination for humanitarian mine action, raise U.S. public awareness of and support for humanitarian mine action via public-private partnerships, and coordinate research and development in humanitarian mine action. Visit www.state.gov/t/pm/maip/ <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/maip/>> . Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, currently also serves as the Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Mine Action. Access his biography at www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/4303.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/4303.htm>> . **October 1997** - The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is formed to serve as the UN focal point for humanitarian mine action. At the global level, it is responsible for coordinating all aspects of mine action within the UN system to ensure an

coordinating all aspects of mine action within the UN system to ensure an effective and proactive response to landmine contamination. At the field level, UNMAS is responsible for providing mine action assistance during humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations. To learn more, visit www.mineaction.org <<http://www.mineaction.org/>> .

November 1997 - The United Kingdom Mine Information and Training Center (MITC) is a British military initiative established at the Combat Engineer School in Surrey, England, to facilitate the flow of information about landmines between military and civilian organizations, and to train military, government and non-government organizations, civilians and students both at the MITC and overseas. Courses are given in Basic Humanitarian Demining and the delivery and receipt of Mine Risk Education. To learn more, visit www.mitc.royalengineers.com <<http://www.mitc.royalengineers.com/>> .

December 1997 - The 1997 "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction," commonly referred to as the Ottawa Convention, is opened for signature in Ottawa, Canada. The United States participates in the Convention but ultimately declines to sign it due to unmet concerns relating to the protection of its forces and allies and the lack of exemptions for mixed munitions. To learn more about this Convention, visit <http://www.mineaction.org> <<http://www.mineaction.org/>> , click on "Advocacy and Conventions," then click on "AP Mine Ban Convention."

December 1997 - The first edition of ORDATA, "The International Deminers Guide to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Identification, Recovery and Disposal" is released to the public in CD-ROM format by the U.S. Department of Defense. It achieves immediate success in providing the international demining community with a free, first-of-its-kind unclassified reference tool for identifying, recovering and disposing of UXO and landmines. Over 18,000 copies of the ORDATA series database have been distributed free of charge to the international demining community, as well as U.S. and foreign military and civilian bomb disposal technicians. ORDATA has since been followed by ORDATA II and KORDATA, and went on-line in May 2002 at <http://maic.jmu.edu/ordata/mission.asp> <<http://maic.jmu.edu/ordata/mission.asp>> .

1998 - The Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), is established to support the mine action efforts of the international community and United Nations via mine action research, operational support for demining in the field and advocacy of the Ottawa Convention. The GICHD is an independent organization supported by Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Mexico,

Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Republic and Canton of Geneva. To examine the results of the GICHD's research on mine detecting dogs, socio-economic approaches to mine action, mechanical mine action systems, etc., visit www.gichd.ch <<http://www.gichd.ch/>> . **May 1998** - The U.S. Congress appropriates \$28 million for the International Trust Fund (ITF) for Demining and Victims Assistance, based in Ig, Slovenia, to assist mine affected countries in the Balkan region. The U.S. has since deposited a total of \$52 million as a match to contributions from other donor nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporations and individuals, enabling contributors to double the impact of their funding. In 2001, the ITF broadened its mandate to also support humanitarian mine action in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Contributions to the ITF, which have been matched by the United States, have come from a number of companies and NGOs, community-based organizations, schools, civic associations, faith-based groups and individuals, as well as the European Union, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Qatar, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. To learn more about the ITF, visit www.itf-fund.si <<http://www.itf-fund.si/>> . **June 1998** - The United States completes destruction of over 3.3 million of its non-self-destructing anti-personnel landmines, retaining only those necessary for training, research, and the defense of South Korea. **June 1998** - The United States establishes the Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. This Office is the lead U.S. Government entity that, as of July 2003, now manages humanitarian mine action assistance in 37 countries. This Office also publishes *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, an annual overview of the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action program that includes a synopsis of U.S. humanitarian mine action assistance to each country in the program, the nature of each country's landmine and unexploded ordnance problem, and progress being made in solving those problems. The publication is available online at www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/ <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/>> . For additional details about the Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/ <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/>> . **June 1998** - The first annual edition of *Landmine Monitor Report*, compiled under the auspices of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (see

under the auspices of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (see 1992 entry for ICBL), a comprehensive reference guide to landmine facts and statistics around the world including landmine casualties, is released. It is a valuable reference tool for all interested in humanitarian mine action. On-line issues may be downloaded from www.icbl.org/lm <<http://www.icbl.org/lm>> . **August 1998** - The Canadian Center for Mine Action Technologies (CCMAT) is established at the Canadian Forces Base Suffield in Southern Alberta to develop low cost, sustainable technology for humanitarian mine action as well as to support the development of the Canadian demining industry. CCMAT also now contributes its expertise and facilities to the International Test and Evaluation Program (see July 2000 entry for ITEP). To learn more, visit www.ccmat.gc.ca <<http://www.ccmat.gc.ca/>> . **September 1998** - Drawing on public data collected while under contract to the U.S. Department of Defense, AVS Consultants UK devises and disseminates the first database of demining accident victims. It includes details of the injuries sustained and how the accidents occurred. After its utility as a reference and training tool is established, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) support the release of an approved version in May 2002. Further updates are planned. The latest release is called the Database on Demining Accidents and is available from Mr. Paul Ellis at the GICHD. Email requests to p.ellis@gichd.ch <<mailto:p.ellis@gichd.ch>> . **December 1998** - The U.S.-drafted Amended Mines Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (AMP/CCW) enters into force. **1999** - The University of Denver's Center for Teaching International Relations (CTIR) develops a curricula about the global landmine problem commissioned by the U.S. Department of State for use by educators to help students advance their knowledge of geography, history and other social sciences in general while becoming aware of the landmine problem in particular. The curriculum is available in modules for upper elementary, middle and high school students and is now online. To download the modules, go to www.du.edu/ctir/pubs_freeForm.html <http://www.du.edu/ctir/pubs_freeForm.html> and follow the instructions. **January 1999** - The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) to improve humanitarian deminers' capabilities for decision-making, coordination and information policy becomes the UN-approved standard for information systems that support humanitarian demining. Data is collected and evaluated in mine-affected countries' Mine Action Centers and entered into the IMSMA Field Module. Countries can then better coordinate, prioritize and execute demining activities. Information can also be transferred to the IMSMA Web Services where

consideration and analysis is performed. IMSMA was developed by the Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich on behalf of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (see 1998 entry for GICHD). To learn more about IMSMA or to examine IMSMA Webreports for Chad and Yemen, visit www.imsma.ethz.ch <<http://www.imsma.ethz.ch/>> . **March 1999** - The Royal Military College of Sciences at Cranfield University in Shrivenham, England, part of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, forms the Cranfield Mine Action unit (CMA) to support mine action work of the British government and of the UN. CMA's mine action professionals, academicians, and management experts also train mid-level and senior program managers of foreign national mine action centers. The U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs has underwritten some of this training (see www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/10989.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/10989.htm>> for an example.) To learn more, visit www.rcms.cranfield.ac.uk/cma <<http://www.rcms.cranfield.ac.uk/cma>> . **April 1999** - Flail machines, originally not thought by many practitioners to be of use in humanitarian demining, prove their efficacy in vegetation clearance in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in order to prepare the ground for manual and mine detecting dog team operations, significantly reducing the cost of clearance. **May 1999** - The United States ratifies the Amended Mines Protocol of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (AMP/CCW). **May 1999** - The First Meeting of States Parties to the 1997 Ottawa Convention takes place in Maputo, Mozambique. A key outcome is the creation of "intersessional meetings" throughout the year to address thematic and technical issues. Meetings of nations that are signatories to this Convention continue to be held annually in mine-affected nations. **February 2000** - A Study on Deminer Injuries, conceived, initiated and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, is released to the international demining community. Initially intended to help the U.S. Government design personal protective equipment, it breaks new ground in the medical analysis of deminer injury data. To examine the study, visit www.humanitariandemining.org <<http://www.humanitariandemining.org/>> , click on "Personal Protection and Tools," then on "Personal Protection and Tools Publications," then on "Landmine Casualty Data Report: February 2000." **July 2000** - The United States, European Commission, Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Sweden sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the International Test and Evaluation Program (ITEP) for Humanitarian Demining Equipment, Processes and Methods. ITEP provides the framework for a global network to develop universally accepted standards for test methodology, collecting, generating and

accepted standards for test methodology, collecting, generating and disseminating objective data on humanitarian demining technology, and testing and evaluating demining equipment and systems in a cost-effective program. Germany became an ITEP participant in June 2002. To learn more, visit www.itep.ws/ <<http://www.itep.ws/>> . **August 2000** - The U.S. Department of Defense releases the final report of its Lower Extremity Assessment program which utilized full-body human cadavers to fully evaluate the mechanism of injury and determine current levels of protection provided by commercially produced landmine protective footwear. The research breaks new ground in the use of test instrumentation, in particular high-speed radiographic imaging (cineradiography). To examine this study, visit www.humanitariandemining.org <<http://www.humanitariandemining.org/>> , click on "Landmine Injuries," then click on "Publications," then scroll to "Volume II - Final Report of the Lower Extremity Assessment Program (LEAP 99-2)." **October 2000** - The first-ever national landmine survey in a mine-affected country is completed in Yemen. This landmark event, funded by the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan and the private United Nations Foundation, is carried out by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, the Survey Action Center, and the Mine Clearance Planning Agency, an Afghan non-governmental organization. To learn more, see <http://secretary.state.gov/www/briefings/statements/2000/ps001004a.html> <<http://secretary.state.gov/www/briefings/statements/2000/ps001004a.html>> . **November 2000** - During the first visit to Vietnam by a U.S. President since the end of the conflict there, President Clinton pledges U.S. Government support to help eliminate landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Vietnam. Subsequently, the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of State provide three demining computer/software suites and related training in the first U.S. military training deployment to Vietnam since 1975. The U.S. continues to assist Vietnam in conducting decontamination of mine and UXO-affected areas and to begin a series of socio-economic impact surveys of affected priority areas. **2001** - The French Army Engineer School creates the National Center of Humanitarian Demining Training, an outgrowth of its "Centre MINEX" first established in Angers, France in 1992 for post-war mine clearance. The Center's expertise is available to mine affected countries and mine action organizations. To learn more, visit www.genie-militaire.com <<http://www.genie-militaire.com/>> , click on "L'Ecole Supérieure et d'Application du Génie," click "Expertise," then click on "National Center for Humanitarian Demining Training" (toggle the appropriate flags for

for Humanitarian Demining Training (toggle the appropriate flags for English, French or Spanish text). **March 2001** - Dr. Ken Rutherford, a landmine survivor and co-founder of the Landmine Survivors Network, establishes Landmine Studies in the Department of Political Science at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield. Each semester, his students receive a hands-on orientation at the U.S. Department of Defense's Humanitarian Demining Training Center (see February 1997) in order to briefly experience the meticulous, thorough and safety-conscious operating procedures that characterize properly managed humanitarian demining operations. HDTC experts regularly lecture the Landmine Studies students as well. To learn more, visit www.smsu.edu/polsci/landmines <<http://www.smsu.edu/polsci/landmines>> . **April 2001** - In cooperation with the Republic of Mozambique, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs establishes a "Quick Reaction Demining Force" (QRDF). The QRDF is a permanent, professional humanitarian demining cadre composed primarily of 40 Mozambican mine clearance specialists who can deploy worldwide within 14 days of activation to provide immediate demining assistance in emergency humanitarian situations. In between deployments beyond Mozambique, the QRDF engages in humanitarian demining in support of Mozambique's National Demining Office, performing valuable service in that mine-affected nation while keeping its professional skills finely honed. To learn more about the QRDF, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/14876.htm <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/14876.htm>> . Also see April 2002 entry. **June 2001** - The United States proposes a Protocol to the Convention on Conventional Weapons to deal with mines other than anti-personnel landmines (MOTAPM), in particular anti-vehicle mines. **June 2001** - "Broken Earth," a documentary produced by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs on the global landmine problem, which includes vignettes on three mine-affected countries, is released. "Broken Earth" is broadcast by the PBS television network in approximately 70 U.S. markets and overseas in 26 countries. **July 2001** - The results of the International Pilot Project for Technology Cooperation are published. The U.S. Department of Defense conceived this milestone report, also known as the metal detector "consumer report," the first-ever attempt to conduct a multinational test and evaluation venture. Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the European Commission's Joint Research Center eventually joined the U.S. in evaluating 25 different detector models from 13 manufacturers. The project determined the best detector(s) for a given set of operational parameters and served as a pilot

detector(s) for a given set of operational parameters and served as a pilot project for the International Test and Evaluation Program. To examine the ultimate findings, visit www.humanitariandemining.org <<http://www.humanitariandemining.org/>> , click on "Publications," then click on "International Pilot Project for Technology Cooperation Final Report."

September 2001 - The European Commission's Directorate-General Joint Research Center establishes the Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC) in Ispra, Italy, one of whose Humanitarian Security Unit functions is to develop and apply appropriate technologies for minefield survey, and improved mine detection and clearance/destruction. The Secretariat of the International Test and Evaluation Program (see July 2001 entry for ITEP) is also hosted by the Unit. To learn more, visit <http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it> <<http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it/>> .

November 2001 - "Landmines: Clearing the Way," a comprehensive resource of information and field experience on the global landmine issue in CD-ROM-format, is released by Huntington Associates. The CD-ROM is a cooperative effort by the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and the Rockefeller Foundation, produced by Huntington Associates. **December**

2001 - At the Second Review Conference pertaining to the Convention on Conventional Weapons, 11 countries co-sponsor the U.S.-proposed protocol on anti-vehicle mines. In the most recent subsequent meeting in June 2003, the co-sponsoring countries, now numbering 14, agree to continue work on the proposed protocol. To learn more, visit

www.ccw-treaty.com <<http://www.ccw-treaty.com/>> . **April 2002** - The Quick Reaction Demining Force (see April 2001 reference) makes its first deployment outside of Mozambique to Sri Lanka in order to assess the landmine threat there and perform short-term clearance to protect some 200,000 internally displaced persons being resettled pending the start of UN relief operations. See www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/14849.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/14849.htm>> . Later, the QRDF makes subsequent emergency deployments to Sudan and Iraq.

June 2002 - Large format "Mined-area indicator" photographic portfolios, commissioned by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, are released by the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation. The portfolios, depicting typical indicators for Angola and Mozambique, provide detailed color photos of a variety of clues -- such as valuable window and door frames left in abandoned structures; the presence of discarded arming pins or landmine detonator containers;

presence of unsearched arming pins or landmine detector containers, improvised warning signs, etc. -- which indicate that land or infrastructure have been mined. The portfolios, designed to complement existing mine risk education programs in Angola and Mozambique, are to be used by people attending mine risk education courses and by those training deminers and mined-area surveyors. Programa Acelerado de Desminagem, Menschen gegen Minen, Mines Advisory Group, The HALO Trust, and Norwegian Peoples Aid contributed their expertise to this project. **September 2002** - The U.S. Department of State's Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships commissions the Mine Action Information Center to establish a Global Mine Action Directory (www.maic.jmu.edu/gmar <<http://www.maic.jmu.edu/gmar>>) listing non-governmental organizations that are engaged in one or more forms of support for or direct involvement in humanitarian mine action and to compile The Landmine Action Smart Book (<http://maic.jmu.edu/Products/items/Smartbook/1Introduction.pdf> <<http://maic.jmu.edu/Products/items/Smartbook/1Introduction.pdf>>), a primer to provide the general public with an overview of humanitarian mine action. **May 2003** - Two Warner Bros. public service messages in the Khmer language commissioned by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund, starring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and a Cambodian mine survivor specially created by Warner Bros. animators, are televised nationally in Cambodia and distributed in rural areas via videotape and other means. One has a mine risk education message; the other deals with mine survivors social reintegration. These innovative messages that blend animation and real film footage of Cambodia are designed to reinforce existing mine risk education and war victims rehabilitation programs already in place in Cambodia. See the press release at www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/20554.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/20554.htm>> . To view the messages, visit <http://maic.jmu.edu> <<http://maic.jmu.edu/>> , click on "U.S. Government," click on "U.S. Department of State," then click on "Bugs and Daffy Mine Awareness Film" under the Articles, Publications and Reports heading.

[End]

External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Commercial Taxes

Date: Monday, December 1, 2003 3:52 PM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Peter;

A bit busy right now, but just FYI:

Tax: To operate legitimately in many countries: you must be legally registered as a local enterprise (Proprietary or Limited Liability Company) in order to do trade or business. Sometimes you can set up a representative office and keep everything off-shore; however this only allows you to do marketing, not to do business. Corporate tax of the parent company is a totally different issue, as is coming in as UN contractor.

If you are competing for local contracts, including those sponsored by the WB or some other Development Bank and do not have an exception approved by the appropriate ministry, the director and manager of the locally registered company is responsible for ensuring all taxes are paid in full. Even though the Pty or LLC may be fully owned by the off-shore parent organization, however onus is on the local company.

My team and I went through many hoops to set up a fully legit and legal business in one country that was well known for wide-spread corruption, including paying all of the required taxes (verified as unavoidable by two of the top ex-pat lawyers in the country, Bob K knows one or possibly of them). We did not want to give anyone/any group a legal reason that would cause us to default a contract, so we made sure that everything was completely above board.

Import duties on vehicles and equipment are a major issues and can result in increasing the cost of a bid by a considerable margin (add between 200 to 400% on some items). However depending on the country, there are also a slew of taxes that can be added on to income earned on a project or even maintaining a functional business office.

Oddly enough: when you speak with the legal geeks at Ministries of Finance/Commerce, they will tell you up front that many of these "poor, developing countries" would not be so poor if taxes were paid. One of the reasons why the WB and ADB are not supposed to hire SoE or like-organizations.

Cheers

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Peter Isaacs
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2003 11:01 AM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
Andthealternative to statisticsis....

The claims by subscribers from both commercial and NGO "camps" that tax is a big issue in the tendering process makes me smile somewhat. Import duty on

equipment
perhaps, but "corporation tax" - on profits? Come off it you guys. There
are
armies of tax lawyers out there willing to tell those of you who don't know,
how
to legally avoid paying tax (as opposed to illegally evading). Setting up
subsidiaries in offshore tax havens is a simple process as is employing
expatriates through similar entities to avoid the expensive social security
payments that employers have to make in European and N American resident
companies. I would be very surprised indeed if any commercial company is
paying
more than minimal corporation type taxes on demining work undertaken in the
developing world.

PJI

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Liberia
Date: Monday, December 1, 2003 6:25 AM
From: William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear All,

Does anyone know which types of landmines and other ordnance have been used in Liberia?

Offline answers would be appreciated.

Many thanks

Willie Lawrence
22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne
Harare
Residence ++263 (4)499 743
Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Andthealternative to statisticsis....

Date: Monday, December 1, 2003 4:01 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

The claims by subscribers from both commercial and NGO "camps" that tax is a big issue in the tendering process makes me smile somewhat. Import duty on equipment perhaps, but "corporation tax" - on profits? Come off it you guys. There are armies of tax lawyers out there willing to tell those of you who don't know, how to legally avoid paying tax (as opposed to illegally evading). Setting up subsidiaries in offshore tax havens is a simple process as is employing expatriates through similar entities to avoid the expensive social security payments that employers have to make in European and N American resident companies. I would be very surprised indeed if any commercial company is paying more than minimal corporation type taxes on demining work undertaken in the developing world.

PJI

Robert Keeley wrote:

> Hi Peter

>

> Yes. You're right to make the point that the national authority is key to
> this process.

>

> Ideally, it would be they who collate a national plan and submit it to
> donors, and there are several different mechanisms by which donors can - and
> do - work in partnership with them to disburse funds.

>

> My point was merely that humanitarian demining can be carried out by
> commercial, NGO or parastatals (or any combination of same) if the
> appropriate contractual arrangements are in place... that would imply all
> those monitoring and management functions that you refer to, though of
> course it doesnt hurt to spell them out

>

> In fact, I would propose slightly altering Leonie's use of the terminology
> of 'client' and 'customer' to make these divisions clearer...

>

> The customer is the donor organisation that is paying
> The client is the national authority (which may also be the customer if they
> are paying for their own demining, as is sometimes the case, Korea for
> example?)

> The beneficiaries are the people living in and around the fields that we are
> clearing who will directly benefit from the work

>

> cheers

>

> Bob

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> Peter Isaacs

> Sent: 30 November 2003 13:51

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And

> the alternative to statistics...
>
> "He who pays the piper calls the tune" OK but where in your scenario does
> the
> national authority sit Bob?
>
> In most mine affected countries, the Government has ultimate authority for
> all
> mine action activities - priority setting is one of the most important roles
> of
> a national MAC.. Donors may well have particular interests - for example,
> clearance of an area in which that donor is funding a development project,
> refugee return etc. But donors should not seek to dictate to Governments
> where
> the priorities shall be. They should certainly question the priorities - and
> ask "why that area, instead of this" and should certainly ask "and what is
> the
> site intended for after clearance?"
>
> Your scenario seems to imply that the "client" - i.e. donor, has full
> responsibility for deciding which site the contractor (commercial or NGO)
> should
> clear. Any contract between donor and contractor should acknowledge the
> primacy of the Government in terms of site designation, prioritisation,
> contractor accreditation, QA and QC.
>
> Dave McDonnell and I have had an off line exchange about "sustainability"..
> It
> should not be seen as one of the answers to long term unemployment. The job
> must be completed as soon as possible and the people who do it, then get on
> with
> more economically sustainable (i.e. not so heavily dependent on donor
> support)
> activities. But even the totally commercial scenario has its drawbacks -
> Croatia
> has a "Demining Employers' Association" and a "Deminers' Trade Union". I
> suggest
> the existence of both these organisations will tend to prolong the life of
> the
> "industry" in Croatia.!

>
> PJI
>
> Robert Keeley wrote:
>
>> Hi Dave
>>
>> Another interesting point..."sustainable development"!
>>
>> There now seem to be two separate questions floating around in this thread
>> of messages. The first was that of 'performance indicators', i.e. what are
>> we doing and where, are we on time, late, expensive, cost-effective, etc.
>> The second question, though related, is one of equity, i.e. are we
>> allocating demining resources appropriately?
>>
>> A knotty question but I wonder if we, as deminers, cant come up with a
>> comparatively simple code of practice. How about this for starters?
>>
>> * Where the client is paying the demining organisation for the task then
> it
>> is for the client to decide on the applicability of the scope of works to

> > the client's own requirement. The client is encouraged to engage
> independent
> > assistance in drawing up appropriate contractual terms.
> >
> > * Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds
> > held by the demining organisation then the demining organisation shall
> > ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with any conditions
> > by which the funds are donated.
> >
> > * Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds
> > held by a third part donor then it is the responsibility of the donor to
> > ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with the donor's
> own
> > fund management constraints.
> >
> > * Where clients require to contract demining services for specific
> projects,
> > demining organisations should be allowed to bid on that work, on an open
> > competitive tender basis, where the nature of that work is within the
> > demining organisations terms of reference. Where the work is outside of
> the
> > scope of any capital donations (e.g. equipment) to the tendering
> > organisation, then the organisation is expected to recover the full costs
> of
> > the use of that equipment through an appropriate price structure.
> >
> > Perhaps these points would solve the equity side of this debate, i.e.
> > helping to make sure that the money is spent appropriately regardless of
> > what stripe of organisation carries out the work.
> >
> > cheers
> >
> > Bob K
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> > David McDonnell
> > Sent: 28 November 2003 07:11
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the
> > alternative to statisticsis....
> >
> > Gents,
> >
> > I refer to Hendriks email in which he "re posted" Paul Jeffersons mail of
> > some five years ago and marry that up with Willie's comments on statistics
> > (gained post PJ's mail?) and ask you to look at the final paragraph of
> Pauls
> > mail. We have or are creating an industry where non existed before the
> > mines arrived. Our job (and that of the mine clearance NGO's....if such a
> > thing exists) is to clear mines and UXO, not build schools etc etc. Though
> > this is indeed laudible, it is not what we are about. We are tasked to get
> > rid of a problem so people can go back to doing what it was they were
> doing
> > before we the problem arrived.
> >
> > It helps not one bit when an NGO comes along and inserts "sustainable
> > development" whatever that happens to be? Yes, train a local capacity,
> use
> > it and then disband it. Dont drag it out to the Nth degree. The way that
> > some programmes are run these deminers realise that it is not in their

> best
> > interests to solve the problem because their well paid jobs (and that of
> > their Expat handlers) are going to disappear so there is no incentive to
> > utilise the most effective method to get rid of the problem. Dogs and
> > machines? Far too radical.
> >
> > We by the very fact that we accept this type of programme or assistance
> > foster the reliance on aid, charity and the outside world in general and
> > it
> > does not help the local population as much as some would have you believe.
> > The educated in these countries resent the ongoing "assistance" while the
> > unscrupulous see it as an opportunity to get rich and syphon off the
> > cream.
> > And they manage it in pretty much like every country that has a mine
> > problem.
> >
> > I am happy to debate this with anyone offline, my address is
> > dmcdonnell@armorgroup.com but i would finish how i started, OUR job is to
> > get rid of the problem as quickly and cheaply as is possible. Give them
> > the
> > money afterwards and let them build their own schools, roads and bridges.
> > It
> > isnt difficult and shouldnt be made so.
> >
> > Regards
> >
> > Dave
> >
> > >From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>
> > >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to
> > >statisticsis....
> > >Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 14:37:32 +0100
> > >
> > >If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a
> > >number
> > >of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the
> > >result
> > >would make the donors very happy. You can statisticalise that scenario
> > >all
> > >you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting
> > >industry and should not be analyzed as such.
> > >
> > >Steve Hughes
> > >
> > >----- Original Message -----
> > >From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> > >To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:00 AM
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to
> > >statisticsis....
> > >
> > >
> > > > "...just give me the money, get out of my way, and
> > > > leave me alone"?
> > > > You sound very much like someone who doesn't like
> > > > performance indicators. There are far too many people
> > > > in early mine action programs who resented performance
> > > > criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and
> > > > under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far

> > > > smarter now.
> > > > Yes, statistics should be used to gather general
> > > > performace information but when making resource
> > > > allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
> > > > would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
> > > > "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
> > > > would be irresponsible.
> > > >
> > > > - joe
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > --- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
> > > > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > -----
> > > >
> > > > Dear Tim and all,
> > > >
> > > > Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in
> > > > mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
> > > > sometimes use them to beat each other over the head
> > > > with and to justify whatever program they are working
> > > > for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable
> > > > effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs.
> > > > I have heard that there are one or two folks who
> > > > wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't
> > > > have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify
> > > > their positions.
> > > >
> > > > Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against
> > > > programs or commercial activities or NGO work or
> > > > whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
> > > > me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I
> > > > don't recognise and have never seen before and the
> > > > likelihood is that I will never see them again because
> > > > I am usually too busy getting on with work to go
> > > > looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the
> > > > wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must
> > > > be if I don't even argue against his mighty
> > > > statistics.
> > > >
> > > > Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we
> > > > do, not only in mine action but in almost every other
> > > > human activity, they're as ubiquitous as
> > > > administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
> > > > even though we know we can't get by without it. But I
> > > > reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people
> > > > discussing the same set of statistics because people
> > > > like to use their own and are not always prepared to
> > > > share them. We should each have a statistics officer
> > > > to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the
> > > > other stuff or perhaps we should all share a
> > > > statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair
> > > > statistics are used and they can all be traced to
> > > > somewhere where we can all see how they have been
> > > > invented. I mean collated.
> > > >
> > > > But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty
> > > > and an office in a big building and a posh car with
> > > > four seats in each for each person...
> > > >

>>>> Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in
>>>> their place and we don't confuse them with reality.
>>>>
>>>> Best regards
>>>>
>>>> Willie
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> 22 Worpleston Way
>>>> Glen Lorne
>>>>
>>>> Harare
>>>>
>>>> Residence ++263 (4)499 743
>>>>
>>>> Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> >From: "Tim Horner"
>>>> >Reply-To:
>>>> >To:
>>>> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
>>>> Where Should The Money Go?
>>>> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
>>>>
>>>> >Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it
>>>> value for money sector"
>>>> >by any chance????
>>>>
>>>> >Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators"
>>>> actually are and how to
>>>> >quantify them to give a credible cost benefit
>>>> analysis.
>>>> >I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it
>>>> was deconstructed and
>>>> >trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to
>>>> selective use of stats)
>>>> >and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any more?).
>>>> >I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from
>>>> Bosnia (in the name of
>>>> >humanity where did he get all those stats?).
>>>> >How about someone from the "other side" coming in on
>>>> this?
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>>> Hi Dave and Steve,
>>>>>> >> Experiance says it all!!
>>>>>> >> Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value
>>>>>> >> for money and payment for
>>>>>> >> a
>>>>>> >> job well done.
>>>>>> >> With a commercial Vs others approach there will
>>>>>> >> always be a divide and
>>>>>> >> justification by all. However, value for money and
>>>>>> >> results, do and should
>>>>>> >> be, the key indicator for success!!
>>>>>> >> Take care both.

>>>>> Robb
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> >From: "David McDonnell"
>>>>> >Reply-To:
>>>>> >To:
>>>>> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
>>>>> Network: Where Should
>>>>> >The
>>>>> >Money Go?
>>>>> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
>>>>>
>>>>> >Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that
>>>>> i agree. If you want
>>>>> >value for money, a programme with an exit
>>>>> strategy and one that doesnt
>>>>> >create an industry where one didnt previously
>>>>> exist then go commercial
>>>>> >every time.
>>>>>
>>>>> >Just a thought
>>>>>
>>>>> >Dave
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> >>From: "steve hughes"
>>>>> >>Reply-To:
>>>>> >>To:
>>>>> >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
>>>>> The Money Go?
>>>>> >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
>>>>> >>
>>>>> >>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would
>>>>> advise they put it into
>>>>> >>COMMERCIAL clearance.
>>>>> >>
>>>>> >>Steve Hughes
>>>>> >>----- Original Message -----
>>>>> >>From: "Joe Lokey"
>>>>>
>>>>> >>To:
>>>>> >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
>>>>> >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
>>>>> Money Go?
>>>>> >>
>>>>> >>
>>>>> >> > All,
>>>>> >> > Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian
>>>>> Demining
>>>>> >> > R&D we site
>>>>> (<<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>>) has
>>>>> >> > been running a series of user polls on a
>>>>> variety of
>>>>> >> > issues. The latest seems like a good one for
>>>>> open
>>>>> >> > discussion here as well:
>>>>> >> >
>>>>> >> > Q: Which "investment" has the greater
>>>>> long-term
>>>>> >> > benefit?
>>>>> >> >

> > > > > > > > 1. Advocacy Efforts
> > > > > > > > 2. Victim Assistance
> > > > > > > > 3. Mine Clearance
> > > > > > > > 4. Mine Risk Education
> > > > > > > > 5. Research & Development
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > Given that funding levels in the last few
> > > > > > > > years have
> > > > > > > > failed to grow significantly and donors have
> > > > > > > > gotten
> > > > > > > > "smarter" about their funding, it seems this
> > > > > > > > question
> > > > > > > > will be more and more prevalent in future
> > > > > > > > funding
> > > > > > > > cycles as donors look to get the biggest
> > > > > > > > payback or
> > > > > > > > return on investment. Global priorities are
> > > > > > > > shifting
> > > > > > > > as more progress is made. At first glance, my
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > thoughts are:
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very
> > > > > > > > scarce)
> > > > > > > > money should you really put into telling
> > > > > > > > people
> > > > > > > > something they already know? Spending more
> > > > > > > > money than
> > > > > > > > you actually raise seems to be the norm here.
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > Victim Assistance? I can see money
> > > > > > > > "migrating" here as
> > > > > > > > clearance draws down but, as an "investment"
> > > > > > > > it's a
> > > > > > > > bit like closing the barn door after the
> > > > > > > > horse is out
> > > > > > > > while so many mines still provide even more
> > > > > > > > victims.
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the
> > > > > > > > face of
> > > > > > > > it. The question here is how long and at what
> > > > > > > > price
> > > > > > > > in terms of resources and lives expended?
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > MRE? Already proven to have a significant
> > > > > > > > impact on
> > > > > > > > reducing victims when done right and with the
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > appropriate tools. Still, this does little to
> > > > > > > > return
> > > > > > > > productive land or reduce potential
> > > > > > > > injury/death.
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd
> > > > > > > > think
> > > > > > > > we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a
> > > > > > > > stick
> > > > > > > > (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger
> > > > > > > > case here

>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>>> _____
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

Date: Monday, December 1, 2003 1:41 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Peter

Yes. You're right to make the point that the national authority is key to this process.

Ideally, it would be they who collate a national plan and submit it to donors, and there are several different mechanisms by which donors can - and do - work in partnership with them to disburse funds.

My point was merely that humanitarian demining can be carried out by commercial, NGO or parastatals (or any combination of same) if the appropriate contractual arrangements are in place... that would imply all those monitoring and management functions that you refer to, though of course it doesn't hurt to spell them out

In fact, I would propose slightly altering Leonie's use of the terminology of 'client' and 'customer' to make these divisions clearer...

The customer is the donor organisation that is paying
The client is the national authority (which may also be the customer if they are paying for their own demining, as is sometimes the case, Korea for example?)
The beneficiaries are the people living in and around the fields that we are clearing who will directly benefit from the work

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Peter Isaacs

Sent: 30 November 2003 13:51

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

"He who pays the piper calls the tune" OK but where in your scenario does the national authority sit Bob?

In most mine affected countries, the Government has ultimate authority for all mine action activities - priority setting is one of the most important roles of a national MAC.. Donors may well have particular interests - for example, clearance of an area in which that donor is funding a development project, refugee return etc. But donors should not seek to dictate to Governments where

the priorities shall be. They should certainly question the priorities - and ask "why that area, instead of this" and should certainly ask "and what is the site intended for after clearance?"

Your scenario seems to imply that the "client" - i.e. donor, has full responsibility for deciding which site the contractor (commercial or NGO) should clear. Any contract between donor and contractor should acknowledge the primacy of the Government in terms of site designation, prioritisation, contractor accreditation, QA and QC.

Dave McDonnell and I have had an off line exchange about "sustainability".. It should not be seen as one of the answers to long term unemployment. The job must be completed as soon as possible and the people who do it, then get on with more economically sustainable (i.e. not so heavily dependent on donor support) activities. But even the totally commercial scenario has its drawbacks - Croatia has a "Demining Employers' Association" and a "Deminers' Trade Union". I suggest the existence of both these organisations will tend to prolong the life of the "industry" in Croatia.!

PJI

Robert Keeley wrote:

- > Hi Dave
- >
- > Another interesting point..."sustainable development"!
- >
- > There now seem to be two separate questions floating around in this thread
- > of messages. The first was that of 'performance indicators', i.e. what are
- > we doing and where, are we on time, late, expensive, cost-effective, etc.
- > The second question, though related, is one of equity, i.e. are we
- > allocating demining resources appropriately?
- >
- > A knotty question but I wonder if we, as deminers, cant come up with a
- > comparatively simple code of practice. How about this for starters?
- >
- > * Where the client is paying the demining organisation for the task then
- it
- > is for the client to decide on the applicability of the scope of works to
- > the client's own requirement. The client is encouraged to engage
- independent
- > assistance in drawing up appropriate contractual terms.
- >
- > * Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds
- > held by the demining organisation then the demining organisation shall
- > ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with any conditions
- > by which the funds are donated.
- >
- > * Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds
- > held by a third part donor then it is the responsibility of the donor to
- > ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with the donor's
- own
- > fund management constraints

>
> * Where clients require to contract demining services for specific projects,
> demining organisations should be allowed to bid on that work, on an open
> competitive tender basis, where the nature of that work is within the
> demining organisations terms of reference. Where the work is outside of
> the
> scope of any capital donations (e.g. equipment) to the tendering
> organisation, then the organisation is expected to recover the full costs
> of
> the use of that equipment through an appropriate price structure.
>
> Perhaps these points would solve the equity side of this debate, i.e.
> helping to make sure that the money is spent appropriately regardless of
> what stripe of organisation carries out the work.
>
> cheers
>
> Bob K
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of
> David McDonnell
> Sent: 28 November 2003 07:11
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the
> alternative to statistics....
>
> Gents,
>
> I refer to Hendriks email in which he "re posted" Paul Jeffersons mail of
> some five years ago and marry that up with Willie's comments on statistics
> (gained post PJ's mail?) and ask you to look at the final paragraph of
> Pauls
> mail. We have or are creating an industry where non existed before the
> mines arrived. Our job (and that of the mine clearance NGO's....if such a
> thing exists) is to clear mines and UXO, not build schools etc etc. Though
> this is indeed laudible, it is not what we are about. We are tasked to get
> rid of a problem so people can go back to doing what it was they were
> doing
> before we the problem arrived.
>
> It helps not one bit when an NGO comes along and inserts "sustainable
> development" whatever that happens to be? Yes, train a local capacity,
> use
> it and then disband it. Dont drag it out to the Nth degree. The way that
> some programmes are run these deminers realise that it is not in their
> best
> interests to solve the problem because their well paid jobs (and that of
> their Expat handlers) are going to disappear so there is no incentive to
> utilise the most effective method to get rid of the problem. Dogs and
> machines? Far too radical.
>
> We by the very fact that we accept this type of programme or assistance
> foster the reliance on aid, charity and the outside world in general and
> it
> does not help the local population as much as some would have you believe.
> The educated in these countries resent the ongoing "assistance" while the
> unscrupulous see it as an opportunity to get rich and syphon off the
> cream.
> And they manage it in pretty much like every country that has a mine

> problem.
>
> I am happy to debate this with anyone offline, my address is
> dmcdonnell@armorgroup.com but i would finish how i started, OUR job is to
> get rid of the problem as quickly and cheaply as is possible. Give them
> the
> money afterwards and let them build their own schools, roads and bridges.
> It
> isnt difficult and shouldnt be made so.
>
> Regards
>
> Dave
>
> >From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>
> >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to
> statisticsis....
> >Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 14:37:32 +0100
> >
> >If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a
> >number
> >of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the
> result
> >would make the donors very happy. You can statisticalise that scenario
> all
> >you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting
> >industry and should not be analyzed as such.
> >
> >Steve Hughes
> >
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:00 AM
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to
> statisticsis....
> >
> >
> > > "...just give me the money, get out of my way, and
> > > leave me alone"?
> > > You sound very much like someone who doesn't like
> > > performance indicators. There are far too many people
> > > in early mine action programs who resented performance
> > > criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and
> > > under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far
> > > smarter now.
> > > Yes, statistics should be used to gather general
> > > performace information but when making resource
> > > allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
> > > would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
> > > "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
> > > would be irresponsible.
> > >
> > > - joe
> > >
> > >
> > > --- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
> > > wrote:
> > >

> > > -----
> > >
> > > Dear Tim and all,
> > >
> > > Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in
> > > mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
> > > sometimes use them to beat each other over the head
> > > with and to justify whatever program they are working
> > > for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable
> > > effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs.
> > > I have heard that there are one or two folks who
> > > wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't
> > > have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify
> > > their positions.
> > >
> > > Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against
> > > programs or commercial activities or NGO work or
> > > whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
> > > me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I
> > > don't recognise and have never seen before and the
> > > likelihood is that I will never see them again because
> > > I am usually too busy getting on with work to go
> > > looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the
> > > wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must
> > > be if I don't even argue against his mighty
> > > statistics.
> > >
> > > Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we
> > > do, not only in mine action but in almost every other
> > > human activity, they're as ubiquitous as
> > > administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
> > > even though we know we can't get by without it. But I
> > > reckon it is a rare thing to see two people
> > > discussing the same set of statistics because people
> > > like to use their own and are not always prepared to
> > > share them. We should each have a statistics officer
> > > to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the
> > > other stuff or perhaps we should all share a
> > > statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair
> > > statistics are used and they can all be traced to
> > > somewhere where we can all see how they have been
> > > invented. I mean collated.
> > >
> > > But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty
> > > and an office in a big building and a posh car with
> > > four seats in each for each person...
> > >
> > > Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in
> > > their place and we don't confuse them with reality.
> > >
> > > Best regards
> > >
> > > Willie
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > 22 Worpleston Way
> > > Glen Lorne
> > >
> > > Harare

> > >
> > > Residence ++263 (4)499 743
> > >
> > > Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > >From: "Tim Horner"
> > > >Reply-To:
> > > >To:
> > > >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
> > > >Where Should The Money Go?
> > > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
> > > >
> > > >Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it
> > > >value for money sector"
> > > >>by any chance????
> > > >
> > > >Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators"
> > > >actually are and how to
> > > >>quantify them to give a credible cost benefit
> > > >analysis.
> > > >>I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it
> > > >was deconstructed and
> > > >>trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to
> > > >selective use of stats)
> > > >>and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any more?).
> > > >>I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from
> > > >Bosnia (in the name of
> > > >>humanity where did he get all those stats?).
> > > >>How about someone from the "other side" coming in on
> > > >this?
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >> Hi Dave and Steve,
> > > >> Experiace says it all!!
> > > >> Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value
> > > >> for money and payment for
> > > >>a
> > > >> job well done.
> > > >> With a commercial Vs others approach there will
> > > >> always be a divide and
> > > >> justification by all. However, value for money and
> > > >> results, do and should
> > > >> be, the key indicator for success!!
> > > >> Take care both.
> > > >> Robb
> > > >>
> > > >>
> > > >> >From: "David McDonnell"
> > > >> >Reply-To:
> > > >> >To:
> > > >> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
> > > >> >Network: Where Should
> > > >> >The
> > > >> >>Money Go?
> > > >> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
> > > >> >
> > > >> >>Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that
> > > >> >i agree. If you want

>>>>> >value for money, a programme with an exit
>>> strategy and one that doesnt
>>>>> >create an industry where one didnt previously
>>> exist then go commercial
>>>>> >every time.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> >Just a thought
>>>>>>>
>>>>>> >Dave
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>From: "steve hughes"
>>>>>>>>>Reply-To:
>>>>>>>>>To:
>>>>>>>>>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
>>> The Money Go?
>>>>>>>>>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would
>>> advise they put it into
>>>>>>>>>>>>COMMERCIAL clearance.
>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>Steve Hughes
>>>>>>>>>>>>----- Original Message -----
>>>>>>>>>>>>From: "Joe Lokey"
>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>To:
>>>>>>>>>>>>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
>>>>>>>>>>>>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
>>> Money Go?
>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>>> All,
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian
>>> Demining
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> R&D we site
>>> (<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>) has
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> been running a series of user polls on a
>>> variety of
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> issues. The latest seems like a good one for
>>> open
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> discussion here as well:
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> Q: Which "investment" has the greater
>>> long-term
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> benefit?
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> 1. Advocacy Efforts
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> 2. Victim Assistance
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> 3. Mine Clearance
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> 4. Mine Risk Education
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> 5. Research & Development
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> Given that funding levels in the last few
>>> years have
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> failed to grow significantly and donors have
>>> gotten
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> "smarter" about their funding, it seems this
>>> question
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> will be more and more prevalent in future
>>> funding

>>>>>>> cycles as donors look to get the biggest
>>> payback or
>>>>>>> return on investment. Global priorities are
>>> shifting
>>>>>>> as more progress is made. At first glance, my
>>>
>>>>>>> thoughts are:
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very
>>> scarce)
>>>>>>> money should you really put into telling
>>> people
>>>>>>> something they already know? Spending more
>>> money than
>>>>>>> you actually raise seems to be the norm here.
>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Victim Assistance? I can see money
>>> "migrating" here as
>>>>>>> clearance draws down but, as an "investment"
>>> it's a
>>>>>>> bit like closing the barn door after the
>>> horse is out
>>>>>>> while so many mines still provide even more
>>> victims.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the
>>> face of
>>>>>>> it. The question here is how long and at what
>>> price
>>>>>>> in terms of resources and lives expended?
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> MRE? Already proven to have a significant
>>> impact on
>>>>>>> reducing victims when done right and with the
>>>
>>>>>>> appropriate tools. Still, this does little to
>>> return
>>>>>>> productive land or reduce potential
>>> injury/death.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd
>>> think
>>>>>>> we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a
>>> stick
>>>>>>> (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger
>>> case here
>>>>>>> than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible
>>> and
>>>>>>> incurable optimist in me that knows we can do
>>> this
>>>>>>> faster, cheaper and safer.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> I'm not suggesting any of this is an
>>> "either-or"
>>>>>>> proposition since a balanced approach is the
>>> only way
>>>>>>> to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of
>>> us. I
>>>>>>> suppose a good way to answer this would be to
>>> consider

> > > > >> > _____
> > > > >> > Do you Yahoo!?
> > > > >> > Protect your identity with Yahoo! Mail
> > > AddressGuard
> > > > >> > <http://antispam.yahoo.com/whatsnewfree>
> > > > >> >
> > > > >> >
> > > #####
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> > >-----
> > > Half price modem, FREE connection and one month FREE -
> > > click here to sign up to BT Broadband.
> > >
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> > > administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>
> > >
> > >
> > > _____
> > > Do you Yahoo!?
> > > Free Pop-Up Blocker - Get it now
> > > <http://companion.yahoo.com/>
> > >
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> > >
> > > _____
> > > online games and music with a high-speed Internet connection! Prices
> > > start
> > > at less than \$1 a day average. <https://broadband.msn.com> (Prices may vary
> > > by service area.)
> > >
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Sunday, November 30, 2003 5:08 PM

From: Tim Horner <timhorner@celltelnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Leonie

You wouldn't be half way through an MBA by any chance and stuck on the marketing module would you?

I'm sure there's a Freudian explanation on how you're mind drew an analogy between mine action and chocolate or was it in the module???

Hendrik

Don't apologise for giving us a lecture - I've worked for "both sides" but learned plenty from you're corporate NGO explanation.

It's not rocket science is it, as we all say, so why is it so complicated?

Cheers both

Tim

> Hi Sean,

>

> Perhaps the issue to be resolved is the inherent conflict between customer
> and client? In general marketing terms, the consumer is usually the
client.

> You buy a chocolate bar (OK - I'm dreaming - you can't buy any decent
> chocolate where I am) and you eat a chocolate bar. That's pretty easy to
> deal with - both customer and client needs satisfied at the same time. In
> not for profit marketing - this includes commercial and non commercial
> agencies involved in mine action, the client (the beneficiary) is not the
> customer (the donor). Just as hospital services may be outsourced to
various

> organisations (commercial or not) - the client is the patient and the
> customer is the donor - usually government in this case. Generally the
> client cannot distinguish between adequate care given and excellent care
> given - he just knows the food is bad! The customer should have the
> necessary expertise to ensure the product is sufficient to meet the
clients

> needs. In the case of mine action, it could be any donor - Govt, EU, ECHO,
> private funders etc etc.

> So - whose needs do we service? Obviously we should service the client,
but

> we would do that in accordance with the customers needs? How do reduce the
> dissonance between the two? Why is there such dissonance? As a group of
> concerned practitioners we tried to standardise the donor needs (see the
> last section of each IMAS "Obligations and responsibilities") and still we
> see so many instances of donor funds committed without consideration of
> their responsibilities under IMAS). Anyway, when there is too much of a
gap

> between the two.....we pack up and go home, because it all gets just too
> frustrating!

> Now - where's that chocolate bar?

> Leonie

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Sean Moorhouse" <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2003 1:31 AM

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

>
>

>> Hi all,

>> The underlying thread to all of the points brought up regarding commercial versus NGO is that the most efficient organisation, of whichever ilk, should win. NGOs and commercial operators approach the same problem from different angles and each has different advantages and disadvantages. It appears to me that the key to establishing which sort of organisation is better suited to a particular task would be to have a standardised set of comparators (cost per square metre cleared to IMAS standards in a specified time, for example). The problem lies in the lack of objectivity of the people collecting and supplying the statistics to the country MAC, or equivalent.

>> As Bob says, it shouldn't matter whether it is an NGO or commercial organisation that clears the mines, as long as the mines get cleared (I liked his use of the word 'Schwerpunkt' - something I haven't heard for a long time). The essential competition should be between the mines and the deminers rather than between the not-for-profits and the for-profits. Internecine fighting is generally a bad thing but, if we view the humanitarian demining world as a market, competition would be a better way to describe it. Competition in any market can be expected to improve standards and efficiency, while forcing the weaker organisations to go to the wall. The consumer, i.e. the donor, will choose the product he wants to buy based on whatever criteria he deems most important.

>> Cheers,

>> Sean

>> #####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Cramps vs Contracting

Date: Sunday, November 30, 2003 8:50 AM

From: Roger Hess <r Hess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Hendrik;

Good explanation on the realities of running NGO ops; I'm sure it did provide some revelations to many people on what is actually involved in organizing and managing a non-profit, charity clearance group.

When everything is kept on the level, then it can go the way you are saying and is what I prefer to see: everyone stays in their own lanes and we can all get on with the type of business that our parent organizations were meant to do.

However as I corrected Dave on "Clearance NGO Myths", I have to send out a couple on your last

>An NGO does not tender, it sends out proposals upon request. Actually,
>NGOs are excluded from tenders as any commercial activity immediately
>causes the end of the charitable status. This is why lots of charities
>have a commercial branch, which again is non-profit in a certain way -
>as all "profits" go to the mother charity to be spent within their
>charitable goals as described publicly in their statutes.

Maybe that is how it works in your neck of the woods. However while I was in a commercial capacity in other countries, I've found that myself in direct competition with NGO's and verified that they were using donor funded equipment and manpower to compete on projects that were clearly commercial in nature. They were actually not the only ones doing it: State Owned Enterprises (SoE) were also competing in these projects with donated equipment and government supplied manpower.

I'm not going to name the groups or the country as I am not on a witch-hunt. However in keeping discussion on a factual basis; Yes it did, and probably still does, happen.

>So, NGOs owing equipment from donors to be used in other projects and
>therefore causing an unfair advantage over a commercial operator is a
>largely spread myth like vaginal cramps and rolling spherical flash
>(Kugelblitz). It actually is the contrary. The commercial operator makes
>investment income tax deductible and can use it wherever he or she likes
>without above restrictions. In case the commercial operator does not do
>this, he or she has no ideas of the good use of money and should not be
>in this industry anyhow.

Not exactly the case in all instances; This depends on the contract guidelines, where you are at, and how you account for the capital investment (Direct Overhead; Time and Material; Firm, Fixed Price, or Cost + Fixed Fee).

If you take the expense on as an overhead item you can list it as capital property and depreciate it over its expected life span and bill it back to the projects it is used against. If it is a direct-project costs (T&M, FFP, C+FF), then they each have different means of accounting and billing, however commercial groups setting up and working in some of the developing countries do not get tax breaks and must pay full fare, including all taxes.

When compiling the costing of a bid, the commercial group tries to off-set the costs of these expenses in the loaded rates charged to the client. If they have many projects or the capital to carry the investment over a long term, then the loaded rates can go down. Often the group will try and make up the costs sooner rather than later as banks or share-holders want to see some return on their investment.

Commercial groups tend to go on the warpath (and rightly so) when they find that an NGO or SoE has just severely undercut their tender bid by a very considerable amount through the use of equipment and manpower that was donated for a non-profit activity or paid for through host nation-funds.

As I said; maybe this has not happened in your neck of the woods, but I've personally seen it happen in other countries. If we would all stay in the lanes that our parent organization was designed to do, then it would all be much easier.

Cheers

Roger

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

Date: Sunday, November 30, 2003 8:50 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

"He who pays the piper calls the tune" OK but where in your scenario does the national authority sit Bob?

In most mine affected countries, the Government has ultimate authority for all mine action activities - priority setting is one of the most important roles of a national MAC.. Donors may well have particular interests - for example, clearance of an area in which that donor is funding a development project, refugee return etc. But donors should not seek to dictate to Governments where the priorities shall be. They should certainly question the priorities - and ask "why that area, instead of this" and should certainly ask "and what is the site intended for after clearance?"

Your scenario seems to imply that the "client" - i.e. donor, has full responsibility for deciding which site the contractor (commercial or NGO) should clear. Any contract between donor and contractor should acknowledge the primacy of the Government in terms of site designation, prioritisation, contractor accreditation, QA and QC.

Dave McDonnell and I have had an off line exchange about "sustainability".. It should not be seen as one of the answers to long term unemployment. The job must be completed as soon as possible and the people who do it, then get on with more economically sustainable (i.e. not so heavily dependent on donor support) activities. But even the totally commercial scenario has its drawbacks - Croatia has a "Demining Employers' Association" and a "Deminers' Trade Union". I suggest the existence of both these organisations will tend to prolong the life of the "industry" in Croatia.!

PJI

Robert Keeley wrote:

> Hi Dave
>
> Another interesting point..."sustainable development"!
>
> There now seem to be two separate questions floating around in this thread
> of messages. The first was that of 'performance indicators', i.e. what are
> we doing and where, are we on time, late, expensive, cost-effective, etc.
> The second question, though related, is one of equity, i.e. are we
> allocating demining resources appropriately?
>
> A knotty question but I wonder if we, as deminers, cant come up with a
> comparatively simple code of practice. How about this for starters?
>
> * Where the client is paying the demining organisation for the task then it
> is for the client to decide on the applicability of the scope of works to
> the client's own requirement. The client is encouraged to engage independent
> assistance in drawing up appropriate contractual terms.
>
> * Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds
> held by the demining organisation then the demining organisation shall

> ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with any conditions
> by which the funds are donated.
>
> * Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds
> held by a third part donor then it is the responsibility of the donor to
> ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with the donor's own
> fund management constraints.
>
> * Where clients require to contract demining services for specific projects,
> demining organisations should be allowed to bid on that work, on an open
> competitive tender basis, where the nature of that work is within the
> demining organisations terms of reference. Where the work is outside of the
> scope of any capital donations (e.g. equipment) to the tendering
> organisation, then the organisation is expected to recover the full costs of
> the use of that equipment through an appropriate price structure.
>
> Perhaps these points would solve the equity side of this debate, i.e.
> helping to make sure that the money is spent appropriately regardless of
> what stripe of organisation carries out the work.
>
> cheers
>
> Bob K
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> David McDonnell
> Sent: 28 November 2003 07:11
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the
> alternative to statisticsis....
>
> Gents,
>
> I refer to Hendriks email in which he "re posted" Paul Jeffersons mail of
> some five years ago and marry that up with Willie's comments on statistics
> (gained post PJ's mail?) and ask you to look at the final paragraph of Pauls
> mail. We have or are creating an industry where non existed before the
> mines arrived. Our job (and that of the mine clearance NGO's....if such a
> thing exists) is to clear mines and UXO, not build schools etc etc. Though
> this is indeed laudible, it is not what we are about. We are tasked to get
> rid of a problem so people can go back to doing what it was they were doing
> before we the problem arrived.
>
> It helps not one bit when an NGO comes along and inserts "sustainable
> development" whatever that happens to be? Yes, train a local capacity, use
> it and then disband it. Dont drag it out to the Nth degree. The way that
> some programmes are run these deminers realise that it is not in their best
> interests to solve the problem because their well paid jobs (and that of
> their Expat handlers) are going to disappear so there is no incentive to
> utilise the most effective method to get rid of the problem. Dogs and
> machines? Far too radical.
>
> We by the very fact that we accept this type of programme or assistance
> foster the reliance on aid, charity and the outside world in general and it
> does not help the local population as much as some would have you believe.
> The educated in these countries resent the ongoing "assistance" while the
> unscrupulous see it as an opportunity to get rich and syphon off the cream.
> And they manage it in pretty much like every country that has a mine
> problem.
>

> I am happy to debate this with anyone offline, my address is
> dmcdonnell@armorgroup.com but i would finish how i started, OUR job is to
> get rid of the problem as quickly and cheaply as is possible. Give them the
> money afterwards and let them build their own schools, roads and bridges. It
> isnt difficult and shouldnt be made so.

>
> Regards

> Dave

>
> >From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>
> >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....
> >Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 14:37:32 +0100

> >
> >If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a
> >number
> >of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the result
> >would make the donors very happy. You can statisticalise that scenario all
> >you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting
> >industry and should not be analyzed as such.

> >
> >Steve Hughes

> >
> >----- Original Message -----

> >>From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> >>To: <network@mgm.org>
> >>Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:00 AM
> >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....

> >>
> >>> ..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and
> >>> leave me alone"?
> >>> You sound very much like someone who doesn't like
> >>> performance indicators. There are far too many people
> >>> in early mine action programs who resented performance
> >>> criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and
> >>> under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far
> >>> smarter now.

> >>> Yes, statistics should be used to gather general
> >>> performace information but when making resource
> >>> allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
> >>> would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
> >>> "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
> >>> would be irresponsible.

> >>>
> >>> - joe

> >>>
> >>> --- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
> >>> wrote:

> >>> -----

> >>> Dear Tim and all,

> >>>
> >>> Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in
> >>> mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
> >>> sometimes use them to beat each other over the head
> >>> with and to justify whatever program they are working

>>> for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable
>>> effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs.
>>> I have heard that there are one or two folks who
>>> wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't
>>> have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify
>>> their positions.

>>>
>>> Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against
>>> programs or commercial activities or NGO work or
>>> whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
>>> me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I
>>> don't recognise and have never seen before and the
>>> likelihood is that I will never see them again because
>>> I am usually too busy getting on with work to go
>>> looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the
>>> wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must
>>> be if I don't even argue against his mighty
>>> statistics.

>>>
>>> Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we
>>> do, not only in mine action but in almost every other
>>> human activity, they're as ubiquitous as
>>> administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
>>> even though we know we can't get by without it. But I
>>> reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people
>>> discussing the same set of statistics because people
>>> like to use their own and are not always prepared to
>>> share them. We should each have a statistics officer
>>> to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the
>>> other stuff or perhaps we should all share a
>>> statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair
>>> statistics are used and they can all be traced to
>>> somewhere where we can all see how they have been
>>> invented. I mean collated.

>>>
>>> But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty
>>> and an office in a big building and a posh car with
>>> four seats in each for each person...

>>>
>>> Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in
>>> their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

>>>
>>> Best regards

>>>
>>> Willie

>>>
>>>
>>>
>>>

>>> 22 Worpleston Way
>>> Glen Lorne

>>>
>>> Harare

>>>
>>> Residence ++263 (4)499 743

>>>
>>> Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>>>
>>>
>>>

>>> >From: "Tim Horner"

> > > >Reply-To:
> > > >To:
> > > >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
> > > >Where Should The Money Go?
> > > >>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
> > > >
> > > >Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it
> > > >value for money sector"
> > > >>by any chance????
> > > >
> > > >>Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators"
> > > >>actually are and how to
> > > >>quantify them to give a credible cost benefit
> > > >>analysis.
> > > >>I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it
> > > >>was deconstructed and
> > > >>trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to
> > > >>selective use of stats)
> > > >>and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any more?).
> > > >>I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from
> > > >>Bosnia (in the name of
> > > >>humanity where did he get all those stats?).
> > > >>How about someone from the "other side" coming in on
> > > >>this?
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >> Hi Dave and Steve,
> > > >> Experience says it all!!
> > > >> Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value
> > > >> for money and payment for
> > > >>a
> > > >> job well done.
> > > >> With a commercial Vs others approach there will
> > > >> always be a divide and
> > > >> justification by all. However, value for money and
> > > >> results, do and should
> > > >> be, the key indicator for success!!
> > > >> Take care both.
> > > >> Robb
> > > >>
> > > >>
> > > >>>From: "David McDonnell"
> > > >>>Reply-To:
> > > >>>To:
> > > >>>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
> > > >>>Network: Where Should
> > > >>>The
> > > >>>Money Go?
> > > >>>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
> > > >>>
> > > >>>>Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that
> > > >>>i agree. If you want
> > > >>>>value for money, a programme with an exit
> > > >>>strategy and one that doesnt
> > > >>>>create an industry where one didnt previously
> > > >>>exist then go commercial
> > > >>>>every time.
> > > >>>>
> > > >>>>>Just a thought
> > > >>>>>

> > > > > Dave
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > >>From: "steve hughes"
> > > > >>Reply-To:
> > > > >>To:
> > > > >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
> > > The Money Go?
> > > > >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
> > > > >>
> > > > >>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would
> > > advise they put it into
> > > > >>COMMERCIAL clearance.
> > > > >>
> > > > >>Steve Hughes
> > > > >>----- Original Message -----
> > > > >>From: "Joe Lokey"
> > >
> > > > >>To:
> > > > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
> > > > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
> > > Money Go?
> > > > >>
> > > > >>
> > > > >> > All,
> > > > >> > Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian
> > > Demining
> > > > >> > R&D we site
> > > (<<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>>) has
> > > > >> > been running a series of user polls on a
> > > variety of
> > > > >> > issues. The latest seems like a good one for
> > > open
> > > > >> > discussion here as well:
> > > > >> >
> > > > >> > Q: Which "investment" has the greater
> > > long-term
> > > > >> > benefit?
> > > > >> >
> > > > >> > 1. Advocacy Efforts
> > > > >> > 2. Victim Assistance
> > > > >> > 3. Mine Clearance
> > > > >> > 4. Mine Risk Education
> > > > >> > 5. Research & Development
> > > > >> >
> > > > >> > Given that funding levels in the last few
> > > years have
> > > > >> > failed to grow significantly and donors have
> > > gotten
> > > > >> > "smarter" about their funding, it seems this
> > > question
> > > > >> > will be more and more prevalent in future
> > > funding
> > > > >> > cycles as donors look to get the biggest
> > > payback or
> > > > >> > return on investment. Global priorities are
> > > shifting
> > > > >> > as more progress is made. At first glance, my
> > >
> > > > >> > thoughts are:
> > > > >> >

>>>>>>> Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very
>>> scarce)
>>>>>>> money should you really put into telling
>>> people
>>>>>>> something they already know? Spending more
>>> money than
>>>>>>> you actually raise seems to be the norm here.
>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Victim Assistance? I can see money
>>> "migrating" here as
>>>>>>> clearance draws down but, as an "investment"
>>> it's a
>>>>>>> bit like closing the barn door after the
>>> horse is out
>>>>>>> while so many mines still provide even more
>>> victims.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the
>>> face of
>>>>>>> it. The question here is how long and at what
>>> price
>>>>>>> in terms of resources and lives expended?
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> MRE? Already proven to have a significant
>>> impact on
>>>>>>> reducing victims when done right and with the
>>>
>>>>>>> appropriate tools. Still, this does little to
>>> return
>>>>>>> productive land or reduce potential
>>> injury/death.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd
>>> think
>>>>>>> we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a
>>> stick
>>>>>>> (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger
>>> case here
>>>>>>> than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible
>>> and
>>>>>>> incurable optimist in me that knows we can do
>>> this
>>>>>>> faster, cheaper and safer.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> I'm not suggesting any of this is an
>>> "either-or"
>>>>>>> proposition since a balanced approach is the
>>> only way
>>>>>>> to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of
>>> us. I
>>>>>>> suppose a good way to answer this would be to
>>> consider
>>>>>>> "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1
>>> million USD
>>>>>>> to make the biggest difference, where would
>>> you
>>>>>>> recommend he put it and why?"
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> These on-lines surveys are enlightening now
>>> and then

>>>>>>> and through these we've already learned:
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> a. More on-line information is sought
>>> regarding
>>>>>>> employment opportunities and equipment
>>> availability.
>>>>>>> With some of the drawdowns in larger country
>>> programs,
>>>>>>> this makes some sense.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> b. The biggest concerns in remote area are
>>> water and
>>>>>>> medical care.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology
>>> has
>>>>>>> improved the speed and safety of demining.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful
>>>>>>> integration of a metal detector with some
>>> other form
>>>>>>> of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a
>>> research
>>>>>>> priority.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> e. Well over 80% believe it's more important
>>> to detect
>>>>>>> the explosive than just metal.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer
>>> training is
>>>>>>> equipment and money. Language and literacy
>>> matter
>>>>>>> little. This may be self-evident to those
>>> training
>>>>>>> indigenous deminers but donors need these
>>> types of
>>>>>>> confirmations now and then.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> I'm sure there are a few opinions that
>>> diverge from
>>>>>>> these. I encourage you to visit the site now
>>> and then
>>>>>>> and let your voice be heard on the variety of
>>>
>>>>>>> questions raised throughout the year.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> - joe
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> e.
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> _____
>>>>>>> Do you Yahoo!?
>>>>>>> Protect your identity with Yahoo! Mail
>>> AddressGuard
>>>>>>> <http://antispam.yahoo.com/whatsnewfree>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> #####

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> > > > > This message is sent to you because you are
> > > subscribed to
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>>> >To switch to the Digest mode, E-mail to
>>> >Send administrative queries to
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> -----
>>> Half price modem, FREE connection and one month FREE -
>>> click here to sign up to BT Broadband.
>>>
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>>> E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>To switch to the
>>> Digest mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>Send
>>> administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>
>>>
>>>
>>> _____
>>> Do you Yahoo!?
>>> Free Pop-Up Blocker - Get it now
>>> <http://companion.yahoo.com/>
>>>
>>> #####
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>>>
>>> _____
>>> online games and music with a high-speed Internet connection! Prices start
>>> at less than \$1 a day average. <https://broadband.msn.com> (Prices may vary
>>> by service area.)
>>>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Sunday, November 30, 2003 8:50 AM

From: Sean Moorhouse <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Leonie, I will bring you some Toblerone next time I see you, to try to ease those chocolate cravings!

You are, of course, entirely correct in your analysis of the customer representing the donor and and the client representing the beneficiary. I think the phrase that the whole debate hinges upon is: 'The customer should have the necessary expertise to ensure that the product is sufficient to meet the client's needs.'; The key phrase being 'should have'. Donor education (what is the most effective way for them to spend their, finite, money) - is an absolutely essential part of ensuring that they are funding something that is important to them and to the mine affected communities.

Without customers (donors) there would be no mine action. Saying that, however, we all have a duty to try to ensure that we have the right mine action. I daresay that this arises from some synthesis of both the donor and the beneficiary needs but, as we all know, it is the donor who pays our salaries, so the donor's requirements come first. Tenders are written purely to achieve the precise terms of the contract; donor education would, hopefully, ensure that those contractual obligations are the primary needs of the beneficiaries. As we don't live a world even approximating perfection, I will go back to my white chocolate Toblerone!

Cheers,

Sean

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Requirements, Papers, and other stuff

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2003 2:00 PM

From: steve hughes <shughes@armorgroup.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Roger

I guess the only way you could put this issue to bed would be to breakdown the costs of any given NGO working in any given environment, I mean, all too often a MACC/MAC/MIC or national coordination body will produce results of orgs working in a Country/Region resulting in a total amount of revenue a commercial company generated in that year and m2 produced and then do the same for NGO's, however, we know that would not reflect the true account of the NGO's activities, so, why don't NGO's account for there activities by cost per activity instead of encouraging discussions like this through a lack of transparency. I think this would result in this discussion only having a fraction of the weight, enthusiasm it appears to have.

Cheers

Steve H

----- Original Message -----

From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@mweb.co.za>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:31 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Requirements, Papers, and other stuff

> Damn,.. is the pot getting stirred up again?
>
> OK, going by the questions:
>
> Tim;
>
> Nice photo; if the goal point were set up on a vertical approach rather
> then horizontal, it would be similar to some of the contracts I competed
> on
> in the past (gravity was not in my favor).
>
> Bob;
>
> Please send it to me off-line, I'd be interested in having a look.
>
> Hendrik;
>
> Given the conditions outlined; any potential commercial profit margin vs.
> allowable overhead expenses (both commercial and NGO) would be pretty
> obvious to a review board worth it's salt, so that would come out in the
> wash.
>
> Steve;
>
> >I take your point and infact a situation not unlike you have described (I
> >mean an unlevel playing field) just happened to an associate of mine, he
> >did
> >tender on a contract open to NGO's and lost.
>

> The unlevel playing field also happened to me a couple years ago while
> working commercially, which is why I took the time to do the background
> research regarding laws, regulations, and requirements. Technically; I
could
> have buried this groups country operations over it and had all the
firepower
> lined up to do it; however it would have only caused a delay the overall
> project and served no real constructive purpose. Sort of goes along with
the
> "Discretion vs. Valor" saying (it sucks, but sometimes it's better to use
> discretion).
>
> >the issue of commercial V none commercial is more about
> >the culture of an organization than the rules/guidelines that are imposed
> on
> >it in any particular Country
>
> I know what you are getting at and in some cases I fully agree with you;
> however we've both seen the same-but-different problems with the
commercial
> side of the coin while working in the Balkans. The "culture" from some of
> these groups would have been outclassed by anything collected on a swab
> during a medical checkup.
>
> Dave;
>
> >Our job (and that of the mine clearance NGO's....if such a
> >thing exists) is to clear mines and UXO, not build schools etc etc.
Though
> >this is indeed laudible, it is not what we are about. We are tasked to
get
> >rid of a problem so people can go back to doing what it was they were
doing
> >before we the problem arrived.
>
> Regardless of your personal views: Clearance NGO's are not a myth. They
> actually do exist and frankly they will be around for a quite a while.
There
> are times and conditions when they are the best option, the main variable
is
> in how they are managed and tasked.
>
> While working commercially, I was very proud of what my teams
accomplished
> under the conditions and terms that we took on. Some are still doing these
> tasks and still doing a damn good job. The value for money being received
by
> the client is exceptional and I seriously doubt that an NGO would be able
to
> do it in the manner that it is being accomplished.
>
> At the same time, I was (and still am), equally proud of what my teams
> accomplished when I was working under an NGO banner. However, knowing what
I
> know about the commercial side of things: The services and support we
> provided to both our partner and to the local community could not have
been
> done in a cost-effectively manner under commercial conditions since there
> were far too many variables.
>
> With the range of tasks that we took on; trying to capture the expenses,

> commitments, obligations, man-hours and other issues involved would have
> been a contracting and accounting nightmare. If you go back to the Points
> A-B and the legal taste-test I sent out: In these instances, it is
actually
> more streamlined and cost effective to bring in an NGO then a commercial
> group.
>
> BTW: Maybe I should have clarified the issue on schools, roads, etc:
> Sometimes the host nation requires some development activities in the
> project proposal in order to be accepted. This effects the NGO-side more
and
> it is in those situations where commercial groups are not allowed to
> operate, unless you are placed in the "commercial supporting an NGO" role.
>
> Cheers
>
> Roger
>
>
>
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: Cluster Munition Coalition Statement at CCW

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2003 2:00 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Cluster Munition Coalition Statement,
CCW Meeting of States Parties
27 November 2003

Thank you Chairperson for the opportunity to address the Meeting of States Parties. I speak on behalf of 92 member organizations from 43 countries, which constitute the newly created, and rapidly growing Cluster Munition Coalition.

Let me begin Mr. Chairman by thanking you for your hard work and effective leadership of this process. Let me also through you thank the two Coordinators, Ambassador Sanders and Mr. Kolorov for successfully guiding us through their respective mandates. The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) welcomes the new legally binding protocol on postconflict remedial measures of a generic nature on ERW. It has the potential to be a useful addition to international humanitarian law. It covers all types of munitions that may create explosive remnants of war and should lead to increased resources for clearance, victim assistance, and risk education.

We urge States Parties to ensure an early entry into force for the Instrument by ratifying it as soon as possible. We also urge States Parties to comply fully with all parts of Protocol V including the technical annex.

However, the CMC believes that the language within the Protocol remains weak. Due to the qualifiers and ambiguities, how countries implement and interpret obligations will be key and NGOs will be monitoring this closely.

Protocol V does not go as far as NGOs had been advocating. In particular, the instrument fails to put the onus on user responsibility, retroactivity is lacking, and there is an absence of deadlines that adequately reflect the urgency of the issue.

States Parties must ensure that existing standards do not slip. There is a need to continue resource mobilisation to ensure that existing standards continue and improve. The new instrument provides minimum standards below what many States are already doing and we expect all States Parties to achieve much more.

As NGOs, we are happy to work together with States Parties to achieve this. The Ottawa Treaty demonstrates that by working together better results can be achieved. The Cluster Munition Coalition is, however, disappointed that the new protocol only deals with one part of the ERW problem. It does not deal with cluster submunitions and other preventive measures. It also fails to adequately deal with existing ERW where much assistance is needed.

Cluster sub-munitions pose an especially high risk to civilians in the growing number of conflicts where they have been used. They now stand out as the weapon category most in need of stronger national and international regulation in order to protect civilians during armed conflict. There are thirty-three producers and 58 countries that own cluster submunitions around the world. Within the CCW, 39 States Parties and two signatories have

stockpiles of cluster munitions and/or are users of them: Argentina, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt (signatory), Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan (signatory), Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Uzbekistan. The CMC does welcome the mandate on preventive measures including cluster munitions. We are pleased that delegates have agreed to continue work in this important area, seeking to understand the issue more thoroughly as well as taking appropriate measures. We urge the Group of Governmental Experts to work expeditiously and to begin negotiations as soon as possible.

The CMC notes that a few states have stated that now is not the time for work on preventive measures. The clearance agencies in our membership believe there is considerable urgency for substantive work on submunitions and other preventive measures. The coalition members who work in the areas of victim assistance and risk education would echo that call for urgency. Indeed from the perspective of those working in the field, and especially those living in affected communities, the time is over-ripe for action on these matters. We very much appreciate the work of others states, who share this view such as Austria, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the EU, to push the group forward in its work.

The CMC also welcomes the continuation of work on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM). This work on a specific weapon demonstrates the need to do this with other weapon-types such as cluster submunitions. In addition, there will be some crossover within the work on MOTAPM as types of remotely delivered MOTAPM are cluster munitions. The Cluster Munition Coalition will continue to work within the CCW, watching developments and the progress with cluster submunitions as States Parties work on the second part of the mandate. We urge States Parties to work promptly on this important area of the ERW problem, aiming to finish work within a year.

The CMC will also take its work on cluster submunitions and other explosive remnants of war outside of the CCW process in a variety of fora at the national, regional and international levels. In particular, there will considerably more work at the domestic level in the next twelve months.

Already there are CMC members in 28 State Party countries and two signatories: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt (signatory), France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan (signatory), Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The Cluster Munition Coalition was created in response to the growing concern within civil society about the humanitarian problems caused by explosive remnants of war and especially the growing dangers to civilians posed by submunitions. We know many States Parties understand the importance of this work and share our sense of urgency. We look forward to working with you in the coming year within the CCW, domestically and in other fora.

Thank you. Delivered by Paul Hannon Mines Action Canada

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Cramps vs Kugelblitz

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2003 2:00 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Hendrik

Some very useful pointers here, but I am not sure that it is necessarily accurate to extend what you have achieved with MgM to say that all non-commercial operations are the same,

1. NGOs do not solely gain funds from proposal circulation. They can, and have, tendered for 'contracts'. It might be especially so in 'new' missions such as Kosovo, but I also have seen at least one embassy circulate a RFP from demining operators in an established mission.

2. I have seen the double-dipping of equipment, so I don't think it can necessarily be dismissed as 'vaginal cramps' (whatever they are!) and kugelblitz. Perhaps the problem is not all programs seem to employ the same forensic standards of accounting as you describe! This goes back to the need for performance indicators etc...

3. Your points about the structure of (some) clearance contracts are well made; but it seems that some NGOs are more prone to this than others (no names no pack drill). Some seem to be able to float such periods by seeking open-ended 'capacity building' contracts whereby it is the maintenance of the capacity itself that is the prime deliverable, rather than any particular output; others seem to use a 'rob peter to pay paul' approach...oops, sorry for such an anglocentric metaphor...for all non-Brits it means taking cash out of one fund to pay for activities that are supposed to be covered by another fund in the expectation of future income into that second fund...I've seen that too!

But commercial operators suffer similar problems. If a company includes too much of a buffer against downtime, it will lose the bid. I've made that mistake myself in the past (as I recently found out when I met up with someone who had evaluated a past bid I had submitted); on the other hand, people who under-bid risk losing money too! And, if we take this logic a bit further, why should donors be paying for a capacity that isn't needed anymore?

As I said in a previous email, given the extra requirement of the contractor to make a profit, an efficient NGO should always be able to underbid the contractor anyway, even where the responsible NGO is bound by the requirements that you describe. It would be good if there were more programs where the accountancy is of the standard that you describe, but then that's the benefit of open information exchange mechanisms such as this forum, as it allows people to learn about things they haven't seen for themselves, and I've never seen Angola...perhaps there's a way of building such accounting requirements into future programs?

cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of

Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC
Sent: 29 November 2003 12:37
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Cramps vs Kugelblitz

Folks,

There seems to be a bit of confusion here. For the ones amongst us who do not manage NGOs, the thing works as follows:

An NGO does not tender, it sends out proposals upon request. Actually, NGOs are excluded from tenders as any commercial activity immediately causes the end of the charitable status. This is why lots of charities have a commercial branch, which again is non-profit in a certain way - as all "profits" go to the mother charity to be spent within their charitable goals as described publicly in their statutes.

The easiest example is soccer clubs. They get donations from the government, municipalities and also can accept private donations from private people. The latter they receive because donations to a charity like Bayern Muenchen or Leeds United are tax deductible. The moment this soccer club sells T-Shirts to their fans, they lose their charity status and off they are. Therefore all these soccer clubs have a merchandising branch and it is strictly controlled by revenue that the profits go into a fund for training kids to play soccer etc.

MgM for example has two of these. One is WD (WorkShop Division), a UNHCR initiated vehicle repair workshop in Viana (Luanda) which only may accept other NGOs as clients and created the funds for our Luandan administration, and HEC, the R&D branch I am working for. Although commercial operators, no individual profit is gained but staff, facilities, funds and equipment for MgM clearance operations are created without using donor's programme funding. HEC stands for Hendrik Ehlers Consult, which I agree is a bit misleading. HEC was used initially for a micro contract, but turned into something rather large in the meantime. It was more of a joke, one of the members of the MgM board had to be a one-job contractor (Test of Rotar Mk I) and I volunteered and was chosen. So, we remain with that joke, because we really like the HEC logo.

In Angola we have some other charities running commercial contracts without a non-profit commercial status confirmed by the Angolan government. They will see very soon what happens. They will be taxed and lose it all. This is just how it works.

Now, a proposal gets accepted and it includes investment like - as a simple example again - an armored grader. This armored grader comes in tax-free, because it is in reality a donation to the host nation and we can only use it as long as the program runs. After this it has to be passed to the government. We may not sell it - as this would be a profit. This makes part of the contract that you have to sign with the foreign ministry of any host nation in order to get accredited as NGO and receive the import benefits. You also sign a second agreement with the respective donor, wherein it is said that the donation remains property of the donor and whenever this specific programme is successfully (or not) handed-over or the NGO as such gets bust, they reserve the right to pass it on to somebody else.

So, NGOs owing equipment from donors to be used in other projects and

therefore causing an unfair advantage over a commercial operator is a largely spread myth like vaginal cramps and rolling spherical flash (Kugelblitz). It actually is the contrary. The commercial operator makes investment income tax deductible and can use it wherever he or she likes without above restrictions. In case the commercial operator does not do this, he or she has no ideas of the good use of money and should not be in this industry anyhow.

Commercial operators often seem not to realize what it means to run an NGO clearance contract. Any money not spent has to be returned. So, by law NGOs may not make any provisions for the time between contracts. In reality this means that a small/medium size NGO like MgM with some 300 employees and an annual turnover between 3 to 5 Million Euro/Dollar, due to system requirements, is completely down to zero, zero, zero cents in the bank some 2 to 3 times per year. Not a nice pillow for the international management and national staff indeed.

Now we come to the real crux of the biscuit. Because many donors do not like to see their donated equipment getting wrecked by the host nation's best drivers etc, they do not allow for capital investment anymore. They allow rental. Now, where do you rent demining equipment to the standard that we require to be used in Angola for prices cheaper than buying?

.....Exactly, nowhere. But.....

This is now where the third non-profit commercial branch of MgM will come in. It does not exist yet, but will be created soon. We will tell you more about an entity to be named HD-Rental once its legal status is in concrete. It will be run and maintained by and under MgM - including all its transparent financial procedures- , but open to all operators, including commercials.

On other issues that some people think NGOs can do: We are externally audited by the donors on project budgets (there is a budget line for it) and expenses very very tightly by people who know nothing about our work but lots about numbers, we are audited by the German revenue in order to maintain our charity (tax-exempt) status, we have to balance annually through external chartered accountants and we enjoy evaluations for example by "expert" teams of GICHD. The worst you can do is staff- or equipment-double-dipping. If you're caught - you're dead. Better don't even think about it. So that point is completely dismissed.

I personally prefer to run an NGO, it feels nice to do good work and my personal income remains the same if we run one project or fifty (quite a difference to a commercial operator manager). From the financial and auditing aspects I'd prefer to run a company. This is what I was educated to do and I know from my own experience that it is so much easier - and you even can tender - and bid lower as you can bring in people and equipment paid for by previous contracts.

Sorry for the lecture

Cheers

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Cramps vs Kugelblitz

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2003 7:37 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Sorry for the lecture

Cheers

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2003 5:04 AM

From: Leonie Barnes <tadmao@sltnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Sean,

Perhaps the issue to be resolved is the inherent conflict between customer and client? In general marketing terms, the consumer is usually the client. You buy a chocolate bar (OK - I'm dreaming - you can't buy any decent chocolate where I am) and you eat a chocolate bar. That's pretty easy to deal with - both customer and client needs satisfied at the same time. In not for profit marketing - this includes commercial and non commercial agencies involved in mine action, the client (the beneficiary) is not the customer (the donor). Just as hospital services may be outsourced to various organisations (commercial or not) - the client is the patient and the customer is the donor - usually government in this case. Generally the client cannot distinguish between adequate care given and excellent care given - he just knows the food is bad! The customer should have the necessary expertise to ensure the product is sufficient to meet the clients needs. In the case of mine action, it could be any donor - Govt, EU, ECHO, private funders etc etc.

So - whose needs do we service? Obviously we should service the client, but we would do that in accordance with the customers needs? How do reduce the dissonance between the two? Why is there such dissonance? As a group of concerned practitioners we tried to standardise the donor needs (see the last section of each IMAS "Obligations and responsibilities") and still we see so many instances of donor funds committed without consideration of their responsibilities under IMAS). Anyway, when there is too much of a gap between the two.....we pack up and go home, because it all gets just too frustrating!

Now - where's that chocolate bar?

Leonie

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sean Moorhouse" <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2003 1:31 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

> Hi all,

>

> The underlying thread to all of the points brought up regarding
> commercial versus NGO is that the most efficient organisation, of
> whichever ilk, should win. NGOs and commercial operators approach the
> same problem from different angles and each has different advantages
> and disadvantages. It appears to me that the key to establishing which
> sort of organisation is better suited to a particular task would be to
> have a standardised set of comparators (cost per square metre cleared
> to IMAS standards in a specified time, for example). The problem lies
> in the lack of objectivity of the people collecting and supplying the
> statistics to the country MAC, or equivalent.

>

> As Bob says, it shouldn't matter whether it is an NGO or commercial
> organisation that clears the mines, as long as the mines get cleared (I
> liked his use of the word 'Schwerpunkt' - something I haven't heard for
> a long time). The essential competition should be between the mines and

> the deminers rather than between the not-for-profits and the
> for-profits. Internecine fighting is generally a bad thing but, if we
> view the humanitarian demining world as a market, competition would be
> a better way to describe it. Competition in any market can be expected
> to improve standards and efficiency, while forcing the weaker
> organisations to go to the wall. The consumer, i.e. the donor, will
> choose the product he wants to buy based on whatever criteria he deems
> most important.

>
> Cheers,

> Sean

>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:31 PM

From: Sean Moorhouse <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi all,

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Cheers,

Sean

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: From the Network Archives

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:31 PM

From: kettelle <kettelle@earthlink.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Al -

As you may know, this guy "speaks to my condition" with a vengeance. Including being in favor of self--destruct mines, etc. Whereas I seem to remember that you are prepared to support a total ban. Quick update?

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering

..

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:31 PM
From: David McDonnell <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik,

Please.....let us not confuse the word profit with commercial companies only!! We call it what it really is. When we have paid all that we have to pay out, what is left at the end is called EBITA, that means earnings BEFORE tax (not something the other half or the industry need worry about) once we have paid our tax, we keep the profit, usually very little from the actual programme. NGO's on the other hand call it such things as "overhead" and the less you spend, the more "overhead" you make.

I am reminded of the time when a very large NGO asked us to put together a project in a Balkan State. We wrote the proposal, submitted to them it with all of the required spreadsheets etc and nothing happened. A few months later another organisation starting working on the project so we asked a few questions, called in a couple of favours and got sight of the actual spreadsheets that the NGO submitted. The bottom line had an additional 12%(which was a lot of money) as a management fee. They actually had to do nothing at all for that fee, not a thing. Naturally this was all going to the needy and not new offices / landrovers etc etc

How does a commercial company make profit? Revenue = turnover = happy investors (they pay for the programme with their money) = positive stock market effect = share price rise = PROFIT and not a penny of it from the donor.

Cheers

Dave

>From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>
>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..
>Date: Fri, 28 Nov 2003 14:22:31 +0100
>
>Roger wrote:
>
>....a fair evaluation:
>
>1. The NGO must meet all the same tax obligations as the commercial
>group,
>
>
>Okay, to be really fair then, the commercial operator also is not
>allowed to make any profit.
>
>I think that tender is off in a sec..
>
>

>Cheers
>
>Hendrik
>
>
>
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Requirements, Papers, and other stuff

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:31 PM

From: Roger Hess <r Hess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Damn,.. is the pot getting stirred up again?

OK, going by the questions:

Tim;

Nice photo; if the goal point were set up on a vertical approach rather than horizontal, it would be similar to some of the contracts I competed on in the past (gravity was not in my favor).

Bob;

Please send it to me off-line, I'd be interested in having a look.

Hendrik;

Given the conditions outlined; any potential commercial profit margin vs. allowable overhead expenses (both commercial and NGO) would be pretty obvious to a review board worth it's salt, so that would come out in the wash.

Steve;

>I take your point and infact a situation not unlike you have described (I >mean an unlevel playing field) just happened to an associate of mine, he did >tender on a contract open to NGO's and lost.

The unlevel playing field also happened to me a couple years ago while working commercially, which is why I took the time to do the background research regarding laws, regulations, and requirements. Technically; I could have buried this groups country operations over it and had all the firepower lined up to do it; however it would have only caused a delay the overall project and served no real constructive purpose. Sort of goes along with the "Discretion vs. Valor" saying (it sucks, but sometimes it's better to use discretion).

>the issue of commercial V none commercial is more about >the culture of an organization than the rules/guidelines that are imposed on >it in any particular Country

I know what you are getting at and in some cases I fully agree with you; however we've both seen the same-but-different problems with the commercial side of the coin while working in the Balkans. The "culture" from some of these groups would have been outclassed by anything collected on a swab during a medical checkup.

Dave;

>Our job (and that of the mine clearance NGO's....if such a >thing exists) is to clear mines and UXO, not build schools etc etc. Though >this is indeed laudible, it is not what we are about. We are tasked to get

>rid of a problem so people can go back to doing what it was they were doing
>before we the problem arrived.

Regardless of your personal views: Clearance NGO's are not a myth. They actually do exist and frankly they will be around for a quite a while. There are times and conditions when they are the best option, the main variable is in how they are managed and tasked.

While working commercially, I was very proud of what my teams accomplished under the conditions and terms that we took on. Some are still doing these tasks and still doing a damn good job. The value for money being received by the client is exceptional and I seriously doubt that an NGO would be able to do it in the manner that it is being accomplished.

At the same time, I was (and still am), equally proud of what my teams accomplished when I was working under an NGO banner. However, knowing what I know about the commercial side of things: The services and support we provided to both our partner and to the local community could not have been done in a cost-effectively manner under commercial conditions since there were far too many variables.

With the range of tasks that we took on; trying to capture the expenses, commitments, obligations, man-hours and other issues involved would have been a contracting and accounting nightmare. If you go back to the Points A-B and the legal taste-test I sent out: In these instances, it is actually more streamlined and cost effective to bring in an NGO then a commercial group.

BTW: Maybe I should have clarified the issue on schools, roads, etc: Sometimes the host nation requires some development activities in the project proposal in order to be accepted. This effects the NGO-side more and it is in those situations where commercial groups are not allowed to operate, unless you are placed in the "commercial supporting an NGO" role.

Cheers

Roger

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: IMAS Compliant Playing Field

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 10:39 AM

From: MJ Pavey <maltesethreat@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Tim/Bob/Willie et al

Having played on that pitch, I can tell you the goalposts move as well. I can post the match statistics if anyone is interested. The slide tackle count per minute was phenomenal

Regards to all

Fred Pavey

>From: "Tim Horner" <timhorner@celltelnet.lk>
>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: IMAS Compliant Playing Field
>Date: Fri, 28 Nov 2003 10:24:55 +0100
>MIME-Version: 1.0
>Received: from mc10-f16.hotmail.com ([65.54.166.152]) by
>mc10-s2.hotmail.com with Microsoft SMTPSVC(5.0.2195.6713); Fri, 28 Nov 2003
>01:26:54 -0800
>Received: from ckunst.de ([82.212.219.20]) by mc10-f16.hotmail.com with
>Microsoft SMTPSVC(5.0.2195.6713); Fri, 28 Nov 2003 01:26:06 -0800
>X-Message-Info: xliTvSDExiI4DeQxeZ1oFE2vX66dbDlacNddStgaKbGk=
>X-ListServer: CommuniGate Pro LIST 4.1.6
>List-Unsubscribe: <mailto:network-off@mgm.org>
>List-ID: <network.mgm.org>
>List-Archive: <http://mgm.org:8100/Lists/network/List.html>
>Message-ID: <list-1054145@ckunst.de>
>Sender: <network@mgm.org>
>Precedence: list
>X-Original-Message-ID: <redirect-1054143@ckunst.de>
>Return-Path: network-report@mgm.org
>X-OriginalArrivalTime: 28 Nov 2003 09:26:06.0866 (UTC)
>FILETIME=[A6BAEF20:01C3B591]
>
> Hi Roger
>..... tendering for completely 'commerical' projects using tax
>free
>resources donated for charitable purposes...like you say,
>
>if the playing field is level ?????!!!!
>
>then the best man/woman/organisation should be allowed to
>win, based on a suitable contract structure and...er..some decent
>performance indicators, which is where we came in on this discussion I
>think!
>cheers
>
>> Bob
><< LevelPlayingField.jpg >>
>#####
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:47 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Hendrik

Surely the logic is exactly opposite...IF a commercial demining organisation can meet all the contractual obligations of a project, humanitarian or otherwise, meet all of the monitoring obligations, achieve all the performance indicators, underbid an NGO and STILL make a profit they should be allowed to, as after all this means that the donor/client gets more demining for their \$ and that the NGO was inefficient...

I remember John Dingley putting this the clearest. We were discussing the 'realpolitik' of donors seeking 'sustainable national development' (whatever that means) in 1998 and John said - succinctly - that "the end game is not sustainable national development, it's about having a country without a mine problem!"

In other words, we should, to quote Malcom X, be "using any means necessary"! If that's an NGO, a centralised MAC, or a commercial, or any combination of same, it shouldn't matter if we identify a common schwerpunkt of solving the humanitarian problem.

It seems to me that it's all in the contract specs...if the NGO is efficient they should always be able to underbid a commercial company precisely because of the commercial requirement to make a profit, without any need to specifically legislate against making profits per se.

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC
Sent: 28 November 2003 13:23
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Roger wrote:

....a fair evaluation:

1. The NGO must meet all the same tax obligations as the commercial group,

Okay, to be really fair then, the commercial operator also is not allowed to make any profit.

I think that tender is off in a sec..

Cheers

Hendrik

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:22 AM

From: David McDonnell <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Tim,

Commercial and proud to be. If only NGO's worked to commercial constraints but with all the added advantages of being an NGO we would have the perfect clearance organisation! If donors were as fussy as auditors (proper ones) and CFO's then some NGO's would have their wings clipped and their business (and ethics) practices looked at very carefully.

Anyway, statistics? Cost a lot of money to collect, can be used as a powerful tool or weapon depending on if you have money or need it, are terrific at justifying some peoples existance and academics (or those wishing to become academics) can get a fresh set each year, polish them up and become 'oligists. Why? because you can and cant argue with statistics. Its not the actual facts, its how you view them, who your audience (read funder or programme justifier) is and how good you are at presenting them.

Hope your well Tim

Dave

>From: "Tim Horner" <timhorner@celltelnet.lk>
>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
>Money Go?
>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
>
>Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it value for money sector"
>by any chance????
>
>Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators" actually are and how
>to
>quantify them to give a credible cost benefit analysis.
>I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it was deconstructed and
>trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to selective use of
>stats)
>and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any more?).
>I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from Bosnia (in the name of
>humanity where did he get all those stats?).
>How about someone from the "other side" coming in on this?
>
>
>
> > Hi Dave and Steve,
> > Experiance says it all!!
> > Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value for money and payment
>for

>a
> > job well done.
> > With a commercial Vs others approach there will always be a divide and
> > justification by all. However, value for money and results, do and
>should
> > be, the key indicator for success!!
> > Take care both.
> > Robb
> >
> >
> > >From: "David McDonnell" <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>
> > >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
>The
> > >Money Go?
> > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
> > >
> > >Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that i agree. If you want
> > >value for money, a programme with an exit strategy and one that doesnt
> > >create an industry where one didnt previously exist then go
>commercial
> > >every time.
> > >
> > >Just a thought
> > >
> > >Dave
> > >
> > >
> > >>From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>
> > >>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >>To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?
> > >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
> > >>
> > >>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would advise they put it into
> > >>COMMERCIAL clearance.
> > >>
> > >>Steve Hughes
> > >>----- Original Message -----
> > >>From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> > >>To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
> > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?
> > >>
> > >>
> > >> > All,
> > >> > Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian Demining
> > >> > R&D we site (<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>) has
> > >> > been running a series of user polls on a variety of
> > >> > issues. The latest seems like a good one for open
> > >> > discussion here as well:
> > >> >
> > >> > Q: Which "investment" has the greater long-term
> > >> > benefit?
> > >> >
> > >> > 1. Advocacy Efforts
> > >> > 2. Victim Assistance
> > >> > 3. Mine Clearance
> > >> > 4. Mine Risk Education
> > >> > 5. Research & Development

> > >> >
> > >> > Given that funding levels in the last few years have
> > >> > failed to grow significantly and donors have gotten
> > >> > "smarter" about their funding, it seems this question
> > >> > will be more and more prevalent in future funding
> > >> > cycles as donors look to get the biggest payback or
> > >> > return on investment. Global priorities are shifting
> > >> > as more progress is made. At first glance, my
> > >> > thoughts are:
> > >> >
> > >> > Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very scarce)
> > >> > money should you really put into telling people
> > >> > something they already know? Spending more money than
> > >> > you actually raise seems to be the norm here.
> > >> >
> > >> > Victim Assistance? I can see money "migrating" here as
> > >> > clearance draws down but, as an "investment" it's a
> > >> > bit like closing the barn door after the horse is out
> > >> > while so many mines still provide even more victims.
> > >> >
> > >> > Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the face of
> > >> > it. The question here is how long and at what price
> > >> > in terms of resources and lives expended?
> > >> >
> > >> > MRE? Already proven to have a significant impact on
> > >> > reducing victims when done right and with the
> > >> > appropriate tools. Still, this does little to return
> > >> > productive land or reduce potential injury/death.
> > >> >
> > >> > R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd think
> > >> > we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a stick
> > >> > (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger case here
> > >> > than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible and
> > >> > incurable optimist in me that knows we can do this
> > >> > faster, cheaper and safer.
> > >> >
> > >> > I'm not suggesting any of this is an "either-or"
> > >> > proposition since a balanced approach is the only way
> > >> > to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of us. I
> > >> > suppose a good way to answer this would be to consider
> > >> > "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1 million USD
> > >> > to make the biggest difference, where would you
> > >> > recommend he put it and why?"
> > >> >
> > >> > These on-lines surveys are enlightening now and then
> > >> > and through these we've already learned:
> > >> >
> > >> > a. More on-line information is sought regarding
> > >> > employment opportunities and equipment availability.
> > >> > With some of the drawdowns in larger country programs,
> > >> > this makes some sense.
> > >> >
> > >> > b. The biggest concerns in remote area are water and
> > >> > medical care.
> > >> >
> > >> > c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology has
> > >> > improved the speed and safety of demining.
> > >> >
> > >> > d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful
> > >> > integration of a metal detector with some other form
> > >> > of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a research

> > >> > priority.
> > >> >
> > >> > e. Well over 80% believe it's more important to detect
> > >> > the explosive than just metal.
> > >> >
> > >> > f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer training is
> > >> > equipment and money. Language and literacy matter
> > >> > little. This may be self-evident to those training
> > >> > indigenous deminers but donors need these types of
> > >> > confirmations now and then.
> > >> >
> > >> > I'm sure there are a few opinions that diverge from
> > >> > these. I encourage you to visit the site now and then
> > >> > and let your voice be heard on the variety of
> > >> > questions raised throughout the year.
> > >> >
> > >> > - joe
> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> > e.
> > >> >
> > >> > _____
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:22 AM

From: steve hughes <shughes@armorgroup.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Roger, long time.

I take your point and infact a situation not unlike you have described (I mean an unlevel playing field) just happened to an associate of mine, he did tender on a contract open to NGO's and lost. This happened because the NGO brought in equipment that was already paid for and you could say a Commercial org could do the same, except, there are amortization issues which would not be relevant to the NGO as they would not usually have to claw back the cost of there kit, it would probably be replaced by another donor on another contract. The upshot is that, that equipment was paid for by a donor at some point in time but none of the cost was attributable to that particular contract.

But I think you are missing probably the most important point which I believe almost all that have not experienced (I know you have) have a problem grasping , the issue of commercial V none commercial is more about the culture of an organization than the rules/guidelines that are imposed on it in any particular Country, when I think back to the EU program I worked on in Bosnia, which in essence was a none commercial program i.e. not money for m2 and the culture of a Company operating commercially, the attitude, approach to problems, project planning and general goal orientated environment are galaxies apart. I am sure that all who have experience on both sides of the fence will agree with this statement.

Regards

Steve Hughes

----- Original Message -----

From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@mweb.co.za>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:14 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

> Hi Steve;

>

> I'm a firm believer in the old phrase "competition breeds excellence",
> however if you'd like NGO's to compete with commercial groups as a
> comparison, then there are a few things required to keep the playing field
> level and ensure a fair evaluation:

>

> 1. The NGO must meet all the same tax obligations as the commercial group,
> or the commercial group gets the same tax breaks on items like importation
> of vehicles and equipment (some countries have a 400% import tax on 4WD
> vehicles).

>

> 2. The NGO cannot use personnel whose time is already paid for under a
> previous or current donation.

>

> 3. Nor can the NGO use equipment that has been provided through a previous
> or current donation.

>

> Commercial groups often work as part of a tax-exempt projects and
> purchase/import equipment under the tax exempt umbrella. However upon

> completion of the contract, they have a set period of time to either
export
> the assets purchased under the exemption, pay the taxes due, or liquidate
> the assets and allow the purchaser to pay the tax. This would also have to
> be required of the NGO who decided to compete.
>
> Once the field has been leveled in that manner, then a good comparison
> would be made. Some NGO's have competed on tenders in this manner, and
> sometimes have won when the conditions are right. Fair is fair and my hat
> goes off to them for winning. The UN monitors this pretty closely on their
> contracts to ensure that both entities are given the same opportunities
and
> unfair advantages are not given.
>
> The only fly in the ointment for this evaluation would be if the NGO was
> already working in the host nation as a tax-exempt entity. The Finance and
> Commerce Ministries are supposed to monitor any income generating
activities
> conducted by tax exempt groups and can require them to change their tax
> status if they are found abusing it (+ pay substantial fines if the abuse
is
> long standing). The legal geeks have a "taste test" for this is and base
it
> on the following factors:
>
> (a) the frequency and continuity of income producing operations;
> (b) the manner in which activities are conducted; and
> (c) are the activities comparable/similar to commercial activities of
> non-exempt organizations.
>
> There could be a few managers in SE Asia that upon reading this will get
as
> jumpy as a brand new convict on his first night in prison; however in many
> countries, those are the rules and if you want to play, then you need to
> play by them.
>
> Cheers
>
> Roger
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Steve Hughes
> Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 3:38 PM
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to
> statisticsis....
>
>
> If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a
number
> of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the
result
> would make the donors very happy. You can statisticalise that scenario
all
> you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting
> industry and should not be analyzed as such.
>
> Steve Hughes
>
>
>
>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..
Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:22 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Roger wrote:

....a fair evaluation:

1. The NGO must meet all the same tax obligations as the commercial group,

Okay, to be really fair then, the commercial operator also is not allowed to make any profit.

I think that tender is off in a sec..

Cheers

Hendrik

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 8:22 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Dave

Another interesting point..."sustainable development"!

There now seem to be two separate questions floating around in this thread of messages. The first was that of 'performance indicators', i.e. what are we doing and where, are we on time, late, expensive, cost-effective, etc. The second question, though related, is one of equity, i.e. are we allocating demining resources appropriately?

A knotty question but I wonder if we, as deminers, cant come up with a comparatively simple code of practice. How about this for starters?

* Where the client is paying the demining organisation for the task then it is for the client to decide on the applicability of the scope of works to the client's own requirement. The client is encouraged to engage independent assistance in drawing up appropriate contractual terms.

* Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds held by the demining organisation then the demining organisation shall ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with any conditions by which the funds are donated.

* Where the client is appealing for demining paid for by the use of funds held by a third part donor then it is the responsibility of the donor to ensure that the intended use of the land is compatible with the donor's own fund management constraints.

* Where clients require to contract demining services for specific projects, demining organisations should be allowed to bid on that work, on an open competitive tender basis, where the nature of that work is within the demining organisations terms of reference. Where the work is outside of the scope of any capital donations (e.g. equipment) to the tendering organisation, then the organisation is expected to recover the full costs of the use of that equipment through an appropriate price structure.

Perhaps these points would solve the equity side of this debate, i.e. helping to make sure that the money is spent appropriately regardless of what stripe of organisation carries out the work.

cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of David McDonnell
Sent: 28 November 2003 07:11

To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....

Gents,

I refer to Hendriks email in which he "re posted" Paul Jeffersons mail of some five years ago and marry that up with Willie's comments on statistics (gained post PJ's mail?) and ask you to look at the final paragraph of Pauls mail. We have or are creating an industry where non existed before the mines arrived. Our job (and that of the mine clearance NGO's....if such a thing exists) is to clear mines and UXO, not build schools etc etc. Though this is indeed laudible, it is not what we are about. We are tasked to get rid of a problem so people can go back to doing what it was they were doing before we the problem arrived.

It helps not one bit when an NGO comes along and inserts "sustainable development" whatever that happens to be? Yes, train a local capacity, use it and then disband it. Dont drag it out to the Nth degree. The way that some programmes are run these deminers realise that it is not in their best interests to solve the problem because their well paid jobs (and that of their Expat handlers) are going to disappear so there is no incentive to utilise the most effective method to get rid of the problem. Dogs and machines? Far too radical.

We by the very fact that we accept this type of programme or assistance foster the reliance on aid, charity and the outside world in general and it does not help the local population as much as some would have you believe. The educated in these countries resent the ongoing "assistance" while the unscrupulous see it as an opportunity to get rich and syphon off the cream. And they manage it in pretty much like every country that has a mine problem.

I am happy to debate this with anyone offline, my address is dmcdonnell@armorgroup.com but i would finish how i started, OUR job is to get rid of the problem as quickly and cheaply as is possible. Give them the money afterwards and let them build their own schools, roads and bridges. It isnt difficult and shouldnt be made so.

Regards

Dave

>From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>
>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....
>Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 14:37:32 +0100
>
>If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a
>number
>of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the result
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>you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting
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>

>Steve Hughes

>

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:00 AM

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....

>

>

>> ..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and
>> leave me alone"?

>> You sound very much like someone who doesn't like
>> performance indicators. There are far too many people
>> in early mine action programs who resented performance
>> criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and
>> under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far
>> smarter now.

>> Yes, statistics should be used to gather general
>> performance information but when making resource
>> allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
>> would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
>> "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
>> would be irresponsible.

>>

>> - joe

>>

>>

>> --- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

>> wrote:

>>

>> -----

>>

>> Dear Tim and all,

>>

>> Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in
>> mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
>> sometimes use them to beat each other over the head
>> with and to justify whatever program they are working
>> for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable
>> effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs.
>> I have heard that there are one or two folks who
>> wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't
>> have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify
>> their positions.

>>

>> Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against
>> programs or commercial activities or NGO work or
>> whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
>> me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I
>> don't recognise and have never seen before and the
>> likelihood is that I will never see them again because
>> I am usually too busy getting on with work to go
>> looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the
>> wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must
>> be if I don't even argue against his mighty
>> statistics.

>>

>> Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we

> > do, not only in mine action but in almost every other
> > human activity, they're as ubiquitous as
> > administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
> > even though we know we can't get by without it. But I
> > reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people
> > discussing the same set of statistics because people
> > like to use their own and are not always prepared to
> > share them. We should each have a statistics officer
> > to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the
> > other stuff or perhaps we should all share a
> > statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair
> > statistics are used and they can all be traced to
> > somewhere where we can all see how they have been
> > invented. I mean collated.

> >
> > But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty
> > and an office in a big building and a posh car with
> > four seats in each for each person...

> >
> > Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in
> > their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

> >
> > Best regards

> >
> > Willie

> >
> >
> >
> >
> > 22 Worpleston Way
> > Glen Lorne

> >
> > Harare
> >
> > Residence ++263 (4)499 743

> >
> > Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

> >
> >
> >
> > >From: "Tim Horner"
> > >Reply-To:
> > >To:
> > >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
> > Where Should The Money Go?
> > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100

> > >
> > >Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it
> > value for money sector"
> > >by any chance????

> > >
> > >Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators"
> > actually are and how to
> > >quantify them to give a credible cost benefit
> > analysis.
> > >I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it
> > was deconstructed and
> > >trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to
> > selective use of stats)
> > >and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any more?).
> > >I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from

> > Bosnia (in the name of
> > >humanity where did he get all those stats?).
> > >How about someone from the "other side" coming in on
> > this?
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Hi Dave and Steve,
> > > Experiance says it all!!
> > > Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value
> > for money and payment for
> > >a
> > > job well done.
> > > With a commercial Vs others approach there will
> > always be a divide and
> > > justification by all. However, value for money and
> > results, do and should
> > > be, the key indicator for success!!
> > > Take care both.
> > > Robb
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >From: "David McDonnell"
> > > >Reply-To:
> > > >To:
> > > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
> > Network: Where Should
> > >The
> > > >Money Go?
> > > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
> > > >
> > > >Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that
> > i agree. If you want
> > > >value for money, a programme with an exit
> > strategy and one that doesnt
> > > >create an industry where one didnt previously
> > exist then go commercial
> > > >every time.
> > > >
> > > >>Just a thought
> > > >
> > > >>Dave
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >>From: "steve hughes"
> > > >>Reply-To:
> > > >>To:
> > > >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
> > The Money Go?
> > > >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
> > > >>
> > > >>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would
> > advise they put it into
> > > >>COMMERCIAL clearance.
> > > >>
> > > >>Steve Hughes
> > > >>----- Original Message -----
> > > >>From: "Joe Lokey"
> >
> > > >>To:
> > > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM

> > > > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
> > Money Go?
> > > > >>
> > > > >>
> > > > > All,
> > > > > Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian
> > Demining
> > > > > R&D we site
> > (http://www.humanitarian-demining.org) has
> > > > > been running a series of user polls on a
> > variety of
> > > > > issues. The latest seems like a good one for
> > open
> > > > > discussion here as well:
> > > > > >
> > > > > Q: Which "investment" has the greater
> > long-term
> > > > > benefit?
> > > > > >
> > > > > > 1. Advocacy Efforts
> > > > > > 2. Victim Assistance
> > > > > > 3. Mine Clearance
> > > > > > 4. Mine Risk Education
> > > > > > 5. Research & Development
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Given that funding levels in the last few
> > years have
> > > > > > failed to grow significantly and donors have
> > gotten
> > > > > > "smarter" about their funding, it seems this
> > question
> > > > > > will be more and more prevalent in future
> > funding
> > > > > > cycles as donors look to get the biggest
> > payback or
> > > > > > return on investment. Global priorities are
> > shifting
> > > > > > as more progress is made. At first glance, my
> >
> > > > > > thoughts are:
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very
> > scarce)
> > > > > > money should you really put into telling
> > people
> > > > > > something they already know? Spending more
> > money than
> > > > > > you actually raise seems to be the norm here.
> >
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Victim Assistance? I can see money
> > "migrating" here as
> > > > > > clearance draws down but, as an "investment"
> > it's a
> > > > > > bit like closing the barn door after the
> > horse is out
> > > > > > while so many mines still provide even more
> > victims.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the
> > face of

>>>>> it. The question here is how long and at what
>> price
>>>>> in terms of resources and lives expended?
>>>>>
>>>>> MRE? Already proven to have a significant
>> impact on
>>>>> reducing victims when done right and with the
>>
>>>>> appropriate tools. Still, this does little to
>> return
>>>>> productive land or reduce potential
>> injury/death.
>>>>>
>>>>> R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd
>> think
>>>>> we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a
>> stick
>>>>> (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger
>> case here
>>>>> than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible
>> and
>>>>> incurable optimist in me that knows we can do
>> this
>>>>> faster, cheaper and safer.
>>>>>
>>>>> I'm not suggesting any of this is an
>> "either-or"
>>>>> proposition since a balanced approach is the
>> only way
>>>>> to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of
>> us. I
>>>>> suppose a good way to answer this would be to
>> consider
>>>>> "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1
>> million USD
>>>>> to make the biggest difference, where would
>> you
>>>>> recommend he put it and why?"
>>>>>
>>>>> These on-lines surveys are enlightening now
>> and then
>>>>> and through these we've already learned:
>>>>>
>>>>> a. More on-line information is sought
>> regarding
>>>>> employment opportunities and equipment
>> availability.
>>>>> With some of the drawdowns in larger country
>> programs,
>>>>> this makes some sense.
>>>>>
>>>>> b. The biggest concerns in remote area are
>> water and
>>>>> medical care.
>>>>>
>>>>> c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology
>> has
>>>>> improved the speed and safety of demining.
>>>>>
>>>>> d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful
>>>>> integration of a metal detector with some

> > other form
> > > > > of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a
> > research
> > > > > priority.
> > > > >
> > > > > e. Well over 80% believe it's more important
> > to detect
> > > > > the explosive than just metal.
> > > > >
> > > > > f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer
> > training is
> > > > > equipment and money. Language and literacy
> > matter
> > > > > little. This may be self-evident to those
> > training
> > > > > indigenous deminers but donors need these
> > types of
> > > > > confirmations now and then.
> > > > >
> > > > > I'm sure there are a few opinions that
> > diverge from
> > > > > these. I encourage you to visit the site now
> > and then
> > > > > and let your voice be heard on the variety of
> >
> > > > > questions raised throughout the year.
> > > > >
> > > > > - joe
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > > e.
> > > > >
> > > > > _____
> > > > > Do you Yahoo!?
> > > > > Protect your identity with Yahoo! Mail
> > AddressGuard
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> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > _____
> > Do you Yahoo!?
> > Free Pop-Up Blocker - Get it now

> > <http://companion.yahoo.com/>
> >
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: IMAS Compliant Playing Field

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 4:24 AM

From: Tim Horner <timhorner@celltelnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Roger

..... tendering for completely 'commerical' projects using tax
free
resources donated for charitable purposes...like you say,

if the playing field is level ?????!!!!!!

then the best man/woman/organisation should be allowed to
win, based on a suitable contract structure and...er..some decent
performance indicators, which is where we came in on this discussion I
think!
cheers

> Bob



This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Lies damned lies and statistics.

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 4:24 AM

From: Adam Lewis <adam.lewis@jrc.it>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Tim, Bill and all,

Is part of the problem with stats simply that too much of the footwork of making them internationally comparable has been thrown back onto local demining organisations who are too busy doing their own job? For example, to a MAC that already has its own record system, switching to IMSMA probably seems just a tiresome burden, with no advantage for them. Of course it can be *made* to their advantage, in a negative sense, if donors refuse to fund projects without it, but it does mean that part of the funding has then been used for statistics and not actual demining.

Underneath this argument, there is a real dilemma: without international comparisons, it is impossible to identify good and bad practices. But getting comparable stats costs money, which comes from the overall budget available for demining.

BTW Mark Twain, in his autobiography, attributed the famous quotation to Disraeli but no one has ever found it in the latter's own writings or recorded speeches. Some say that Twain mistook the attribution and some say that he just made up the saying himself!

Adam.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:11 AM

From: David McDonnell <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Gents,

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Regards

Dave

>From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

>Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 14:37:32 +0100

>

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>
>Steve Hughes

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:00 AM
>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....

>
>
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>> -----
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>> whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
>> me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I
>> don't recognise and have never seen before and the
>> likelihood is that I will never see them again because
>> I am usually too busy getting on with work to go
>> looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the
>> wielder of the statistics growing how accurate he must

> > be if I don't even argue against his mighty
> > statistics.
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> > Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we
> > do, not only in mine action but in almost every other
> > human activity, they're as ubiquitous as
> > administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
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> > reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people
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> > statistics are used and they can all be traced to
> > somewhere where we can all see how they have been
> > invented. I mean collated.
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> > Best regards
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> >
> > 22 Worpleston Way
> > Glen Lorne
> >
> > Harare
> >
> > Residence ++263 (4)499 743
> >
> > Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524
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> > >From: "Tim Horner"
> > >Reply-To:
> > >To:
> > >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
> > >Where Should The Money Go?
> > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
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> > > >>Reply-To:
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> > > >>Steve Hughes
> > > >>----- Original Message -----

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> > > >>To:
> > > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
> > > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
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>>>>>>> questions raised throughout the year.
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>>>>>>>> - joe
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>>>>>>>> e.
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>>>>>>>> _____
>>>>>>>> Do you Yahoo!?
>>>>>>>> Protect your identity with Yahoo! Mail
>> AddressGuard
>>>>>>>> <http://antispam.yahoo.com/whatsnewfree>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is....

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:11 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Anyone in partcular Willie?

William Lawrence wrote:

No Joe, performance indicators are fine with me for 99.6% of the time, and as I think I said, statistics are great. We need statistics and we all use them all the time; they are another tool in the box. What I sometimes find annoying are a few of the folks who make the statistics fit what they want to do, who are sometimes like conspiracy theorists; they think that they are the only ones who can see the truth. Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>From: Joe Lokey

>Reply-To:

>To:

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is....

>Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 11:00:54 +0100

>

> ..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and

>leave me alone"?

> You sound very much like someone who doesn't like

>performance indicators. There are far too many people

>in early mine action programs who resented performance

>criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and

>under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far

>smarter now.

> Yes, statistics should be used to gather general

>performace information but when making resource
>allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
>would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
>"statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
>would be irresponsible.

>

> - joe

>

>

>--- William Lawrence

>wrote:

>

>-----

>

>Dear Tim and all,

>

>Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in
>mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
>sometimes use them to beat each other over the head
>with and to justify whatever program they are working
>for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable
>effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs.
>I have heard that there are one or two folks who
>wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't
>have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify
>their positions.

>

>Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against
>programs or commercial activities or NGO work or
>whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
>me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I
>don't recognise and have never seen before and the
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> > > >> >
> > > >> > - joe
> > > >> >
> > > >> >
> > > >> >
> > > >> > e.

> > > >> >
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> > > >> > Do you Yahoo!?
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Statistics--The Dark Side

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:11 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Willie,

Couldn't agree more. That's where the education of donors and mine action managers and become so critical in the last few years.

And, as was just stated, this isn't rocket science so why is data collection and reporting so varied and complicated and dissimilar for essentially the same functions around the globe?

I'll bait Reto into joining this one because he's very familiar with IMSMA and the illusory Headquarters Management Module as it used to be called.

When IMSMA was designed, it was to answer "global" questions that had no other sources. The UN's DPKO and DHA were constantly irking each other as to who had "oversight" of humanitarian demining but neither could answer, with any certainty, aggregate questions from donors about the scope or dimensions of the landmine problem. It was in this information "vacuum" that stupid figures like 22,000 victims per year were fabricated with no empirical support whatsoever.

Tore Skedsmo led the push for a solution and that solution was IMSMA. He and I talked about this in Maputo and he also recognized the achilles heel as the suggested reporting to headquarters. The original design had IMSMA modules located in each country Mine Action Center which programmatically extracted data and reported it to UNMAS who would aggregate the country numbers into a regional and country-wide picture of the landmine problem. Reasonable on the face but, as the saying goes, the devil is always in the details.

Country program managers who were working bilaterally with donors realized that information from their programs passed to the UN could very well be used against them in a punitive fashion. No one wanted to spend time or effort answering the inevitable UN questions that would naturally occur like:

1. Why is the cost per hectare only .32 cents in Zimbabwe but .56 cents in Croatia?
2. Why do demining teams in Cambodia use 12 person teams but the Sudanese manage with only six?
3. Why the huge difference in dog food costs between Pakistan and Afghanistan?

These and other inane questions were/are certain to come flowing like a gushing river from a busted dam from any "information" sent to any higher headquarters in any organization. This is especially true if that headquarters is looking to distribute funds based on responses to these questions. They could also foresee managers being fired for poor "performance" that might be reflected in this reported data. The "dark side," of course, is the ability to now inject politics and

regional bias into empirical systems using "statistics" to cover these decisions in a cloak of credibility. For this reason alone, we may never see a global system to manage the mine crisis.

Donors also have their own criteria for requesting "metrics" before funding and during the resourcing of a project as well. Some are really laughable and barely unmonitored eyewash. Others are truly innovative and unobtrusive while many are so burdensome that NGOs and others wind up either ignoring them altogether or being "creative" in their reporting just to make the donor happy. All donors have them--few enforce them or follow up.

Then there are the Mine Action Centers and others who embellish either what they have done or what they can do in an effort to attract more funds. These, I believe, are the subject of your specific criticisms and deservedly so. I'd love to be part of a team that just went around and basically provided performance audit and verification services to donors. The "fat" and waste in the system would pay for this. It would also be a great way to restore some credibility and veracity to hogwash being reported to unwitting donors today.

I'm sure others have like examples but this, very simply, seems to be the dark side of stats and numbers.

Cheers,

- joe

--- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
wrote:

No Joe, performance indicators are fine with me for 99.6% of the time, and as I think I said, statistics are great. We need statistics and we all use them all the time; they are another tool in the box.

What I sometimes find annoying are a few of the folks who make the statistics fit what they want to do, who are sometimes like conspiracy theorists; they think that they are the only ones who can see the truth.

Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>From: Joe Lokey

>Reply-To:

>To:

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the
alternative to statistics is....

>Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 11:00:54 +0100

>

> ..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and

>leave me alone"?

> You sound very much like someone who doesn't like

>performance indicators. There are far too many people

>in early mine action programs who resented
performance

>criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and

>under-delivered to a naive donor community that is
far

>smarter now.

> Yes, statistics should be used to gather general

>performace information but when making resource
>allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
>would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
>"statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
>would be irresponsible.

>

> - joe

>

>

>--- William Lawrence

>wrote:

>

>-----

>

>Dear Tim and all,

>

>Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics
>in

>mine action are great; for entertainment people I
>know

>sometimes use them to beat each other over the head

>with and to justify whatever program they are working

>for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable

>effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as
>laughs.

>I have heard that there are one or two folks who

>wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't

>have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify

>their positions.

>

>Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against

>programs or commercial activities or NGO work or

>whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at
>me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I

>don't recognise and have never seen before and the
>likelihood is that I will never see them again
because
>I am usually too busy getting on with work to go
>looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the

>wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he
must
>be if I don't even argue against his mighty
>statistics.
>
>Of course we need statistics, they are part of what
we
>do, not only in mine action but in almost every other

>human activity, they're as ubiquitous as

>administration, which we all like to call
"paperwork",
>even though we know we can't get by without it. But I

>reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people
>discussing the same set of statistics because people
>like to use their own and are not always prepared to
>share them. We should each have a statistics officer
>to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the

>other stuff or perhaps we should all share a
>statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair
>statistics are used and they can all be traced to
>somewhere where we can all see how they have been
>invented. I mean collated.
>

>But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of
twenty

>and an office in a big building and a posh car with

>four seats in each for each person...

>

>Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in

>their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

>

>Best regards

>

>Willie

>

>

>

>

>22 Worpleston Way

>Glen Lorne

>

>Harare

>

>Residence ++263 (4)499 743

>

>Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>

>

>

> >From: "Tim Horner"

> >Reply-To:

> >To:

> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
Network:

>Where Should The Money Go?

> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100

> >

> >Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it
>value for money sector"

> >by any chance????

> >

> >Robb, there are volumes written on what
>"indicators"

>actually are and how to

> >quantify them to give a credible cost benefit
>analysis.

> >I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it
>was deconstructed and

> >trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due
>to

>selective use of stats)

> >and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any
>more?).

> >I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from
>Bosnia (in the name of

> >humanity where did he get all those stats?).

> >How about someone from the "other side" coming in
>on

>this?

> >

> >

> >

> > > Hi Dave and Steve,

> > > Experiance says it all!!

> > > Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value

>for money and payment for

> >a

> > > job well done.

> > > With a commercial Vs others approach there will

>always be a divide and

> > > justification by all. However, value for money

and

>results, do and should

> > > be, the key indicator for success!!

> > > Take care both.

> > > Robb

> > >

> > >

> > > >From: "David McDonnell"

> > > >Reply-To:

> > > >To:

> > > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

>Network: Where Should

> >The

> > > >Money Go?

> > > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100

> > > >

> > > >Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say

that

>i agree. If you want

> > > >value for money, a programme with an exit

>strategy and one that doesnt

> > > >create an industry where one didnt previously

>exist then go commercial

> > > >every time.

> > > >

> > > >Just a thought

> > > >

> > > >Dave

> > > >

> > > >

> > > >>From: "steve hughes"

> > > >>Reply-To:

> > > >>To:

> > > >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where
Should

>The Money Go?

> > > >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100

> > > >>

> > > >>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would

>advise they put it into

> > > >>COMMERCIAL clearance.

> > > >>

> > > >>Steve Hughes

> > > >>----- Original Message -----

> > > >>From: "Joe Lokey"

>

> > > >>To:

> > > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM

> > > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
The

>Money Go?

> > > >>

> > > >>

> > > >> > All,

> > > >> > Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian

>Demining

> > > >> > R&D we site

>(http://www.humanitarian-demining.org) has

> > > >> > been running a series of user polls on a
>variety of
> > > >> > issues. The latest seems like a good one
for
>open
> > > >> > discussion here as well:
> > > >> >
> > > >> > Q: Which "investment" has the greater
>long-term
> > > >> > benefit?
> > > >> >
> > > >> > 1. Advocacy Efforts
> > > >> > 2. Victim Assistance
> > > >> > 3. Mine Clearance
> > > >> > 4. Mine Risk Education
> > > >> > 5. Research & Development
> > > >> >
> > > >> > Given that funding levels in the last few
>years have
> > > >> > failed to grow significantly and donors
have
>gotten
> > > >> > "smarter" about their funding, it seems
this
>question
> > > >> > will be more and more prevalent in future
>funding
> > > >> > cycles as donors look to get the biggest
>payback or
> > > >> > return on investment. Global priorities are
>shifting
> > > >> > as more progress is made. At first glance,

my

>

> > > >> > thoughts are:

> > > >> >

> > > >> > Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very
>scarce)

> > > >> > money should you really put into telling
>people

> > > >> > something they already know? Spending more
>money than

> > > >> > you actually raise seems to be the norm
here.

>

> > > >> >

> > > >> > Victim Assistance? I can see money

>"migrating" here as

> > > >> > clearance draws down but, as an
"investment"

>it's a

> > > >> > bit like closing the barn door after the
>horse is out

> > > >> > while so many mines still provide even more

>victims.

> > > >> >

> > > >> > Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the

>face of

> > > >> > it. The question here is how long and at
what

>price

> > > >> > in terms of resources and lives expended?

> > > >> >

> > > >> MRE? Already proven to have a significant
> impact on
> > > >> reducing victims when done right and with
the
>
> > > >> appropriate tools. Still, this does little
to
> return
> > > >> productive land or reduce potential
> injury/death.
> > > >>
> > > >> R&D? With the millions "invested" here,
you'd
> think
> > > >> we still wouldn't be looking for mines with
a
> stick
> > > >> (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger
> case here
> > > >> than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible
> and
> > > >> incurable optimist in me that knows we can
do
> this
> > > >> faster, cheaper and safer.
> > > >>
> > > >> I'm not suggesting any of this is an
> "either-or"
> > > >> proposition since a balanced approach is
the
> only way
> > > >> to truly solve the enormous problems ahead
of
> us. I

> > > >> > suppose a good way to answer this would be to

>consider

> > > >> > "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1

>million USD

> > > >> > to make the biggest difference, where would

>you

> > > >> > recommend he put it and why?"

> > > >> >

> > > >> > These on-lines surveys are enlightening now

>and then

> > > >> > and through these we've already learned:

> > > >> >

> > > >> > a. More on-line information is sought

>regarding

> > > >> > employment opportunities and equipment

>availability.

> > > >> > With some of the drawdowns in larger country

>programs,

> > > >> > this makes some sense.

> > > >> >

> > > >> > b. The biggest concerns in remote area are

>water and

> > > >> > medical care.

> > > >> >

> > > >> > c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology

>has

> > > >> > improved the speed and safety of demining.

> > > >> >

> > > >> > d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful

> > > > integration of a metal detector with some
>other form
> > > > of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be
a
>research
> > > > priority.
> > > >
> > > > e. Well over 80% believe it's more
important
>to detect
> > > > the explosive than just metal.
> > > >
> > > > f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer
>training is
> > > > equipment and money. Language and literacy
>matter
> > > > little. This may be self-evident to those
>training
> > > > indigenous deminers but donors need these
>types of
> > > > confirmations now and then.
> > > >
> > > > I'm sure there are a few opinions that
>diverge from
> > > > these. I encourage you to visit the site
now
>and then
> > > > and let your voice be heard on the variety
of
>
> > > > questions raised throughout the year.
> > > >

> > > >> > - joe

> > > >> >

> > > >> >

> > > >> >

> > > >> > e.

> > > >> >

> > > >> > _____

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Date: Friday, November 28, 2003 2:11 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Roger

Yes, you have touched some interesting points there, especially with NGOs (and MACs) tendering for completely 'commerical' projects using tax free resources donated for charitable purposes...like you say, if the playing field is level then the best man/woman/organisation should be allowed to win, based on a suitable contract structure and...er..some decent performance indicators, which is where we came in on this discussion I think!

I would be interested on your feedback on the paper I have written on this, which, not surprisingly, comes to many of the same conclusions, although I am concentrating for the moment on the 'humanitarian' aspect

Hope all is well out there

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Roger Hess

Sent: 27 November 2003 16:14

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: NGO's Tendering ..

Hi Steve;

I'm a firm believer in the old phrase "competition breeds excellence", however if you'd like NGO's to compete with commercial groups as a comparison, then there are a few things required to keep the playing field level and ensure a fair evaluation:

1. The NGO must meet all the same tax obligations as the commercial group, or the commercial group gets the same tax breaks on items like importation of vehicles and equipment (some countries have a 400% import tax on 4WD vehicles).
2. The NGO cannot use personnel whose time is already paid for under a previous or current donation.
3. Nor can the NGO use equipment that has been provided through a previous or current donation.

Commercial groups often work as part of a tax-exempt projects and purchase/import equipment under the tax exempt umbrella. However upon completion of the contract, they have a set period of time to either export the assets purchased under the exemption, pay the taxes due, or liquidate the assets and allow the purchaser to pay the tax. This would also have to be required of the NGO who decided to compete.

Once the field has been leveled in that manner, then a good comparison would be made. Some NGO's have competed on tenders in this manner, and sometimes have won when the condition are right. Fair is fair and my hat goes off to them for winning. The UN monitors this pretty closely on their contracts to ensure that both entities are given the same opportunities and unfair advantages are not given.

The only fly in the ointment for this evaluation would be if the NGO was already working in the host nation as a tax-exempt entity. The Finance and Commerce Ministries are supposed to monitor any income generating activities conducted by tax exempt groups and can require them to change their tax status if they are found abusing it (+ pay substantial fines if the abuse is long standing). The legal geeks have a "taste test" for this is and base it on the following factors:

- (a) the frequency and continuity of income producing operations;
- (b) the manner in which activities are conducted; and
- (c) are the activities comparable/similar to commercial activities of non-exempt organizations.

There could be a few managers in SE Asia that upon reading this will get as jumpy as a brand new convict on his first night in prison; however in many countries, those are the rules and if you want to play, then you need to play by them.

Cheers

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of steve hughes
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 3:38 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....

If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a number of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the result would make the donors very happy. You can statisticalise that scenario all you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting industry and should not be analyzed as such.

Steve Hughes

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Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:14 AM

From: Roger Hess <r Hess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Cheers

Roger

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From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of steve hughes
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 3:38 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statisticsis....

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Steve Hughes

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 8:37 AM

From: steve hughes <shughes@armorgroup.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

If are worried about naive donors, simply ask a number of NGO's and a number of Commercial organizations to tender on the same job, I suspect the result would make the donors very happy. You can statisticalise that scenario all you like but results are results. This is not really a Atom splitting industry and should not be analyzed as such.

Steve Hughes

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 11:00 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics....

> ..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and
> leave me alone"?

> You sound very much like someone who doesn't like
> performance indicators. There are far too many people
> in early mine action programs who resented performance
> criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and
> under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far
> smarter now.

> Yes, statistics should be used to gather general
> performace information but when making resource
> allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
> would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
> "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
> would be irresponsible.

>
> - joe

>
> --- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
> wrote:

>
> -----

> Dear Tim and all,

>
> Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in
> mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
> sometimes use them to beat each other over the head
> with and to justify whatever program they are working
> for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable
> effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs.
> I have heard that there are one or two folks who
> wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't
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> Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we
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> administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
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> four seats in each for each person...

>
> Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in
> their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

>
> Best regards

>
> Willie

>
>
>
>
> 22 Worpleston Way
> Glen Lorne
>
> Harare
>
> Residence ++263 (4)499 743
>
> Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524
>
>
>

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> >Reply-To:
> >To:
> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
> Where Should The Money Go?
> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is.. ..

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 8:37 AM

From: Reto Haeni <haeni@sipo.gess.ethz.ch>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I do agree with Joe on this. While statistics are not perfect they do give some indicator on where the money is going. Ideally we have a "standardized" set of statistics that help to compile a more unbiased picture.

However, in my personal view the question is often not so much be to whom the money is going (NGO or commercial - Roger gave a good answer to that) but rather that the organizations that receive the money work at the right spot. Coordination of activities (in my view rather at a country level than by individual donors) is in my view more important. Only with a coordination body in place (whoever, UN, HIC, MAC, Government - as long as it is actually coordinating) one can avoid that areas are cleared twice (or more) and that areas are cleared where it matters most (and not where it is most convenient or where a large press coverage can be achieved).

Obviously this then all goes towards a need for (better) information management and information management tools - but I "might" be a bit biased in that regard :-)

Cheers

Reto

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Lokey [mailto:parallax53@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, 27 November, 2003 11:01

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is....

..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and leave me alone"?

You sound very much like someone who doesn't like performance indicators. There are far too many people in early mine action programs who resented performance criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far smarter now.

Yes, statistics should be used to gather general performance information but when making resource allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise, would be irresponsible.

- joe

--- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

wrote:

Dear Tim and all,

Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in mine action are great; for entertainment people I know sometimes use them to

beat each other over the head with and to justify whatever program they are working for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs. I have heard that there are one or two folks who wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify their positions.

Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against programs or commercial activities or NGO work or whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I don't recognise and have never seen before and the likelihood is that I will never see them again because I am usually too busy getting on with work to go looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must be if I don't even argue against his mighty statistics.

Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we do, not only in mine action but in almost every other human activity, they're as ubiquitous as administration, which we all like to call "paperwork", even though we know we can't get by without it. But I reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people discussing the same set of statistics because people like to use their own and are not always prepared to share them. We should each have a statistics officer to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the other stuff or perhaps we should all share a statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair statistics are used and they can all be traced to somewhere where we can all see how they have been invented. I mean collated.

But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty and an office in a big building and a posh car with four seats in each for each person...

Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

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>Reply-To:

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>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100
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> > >> > I'm sure there are a few opinions that
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> > >> >
> > >> > - joe

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> > >> > e.

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is....

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 8:37 AM

From: William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

No Joe, performance indicators are fine with me for 99.6% of the time, and as I think I said, statistics are great. We need statistics and we all use them all the time; they are another tool in the box.

What I sometimes find annoying are a few of the folks who make the statistics fit what they want to do, who are sometimes like conspiracy theorists; they think that they are the only ones who can see the truth.

Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way

Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>From: Joe Lokey

>Reply-To:

>To:

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is....

>Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2003 11:00:54 +0100

>

> ..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and

>leave me alone"?

> You sound very much like someone who doesn't like

>performance indicators. There are far too many people

>in early mine action programs who resented performance

>criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and

>under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far

>smarter now.

> Yes, statistics should be used to gather general

>performace information but when making resource
>allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I
>would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many
>"statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise,
>would be irresponsible.

>
> - joe
>
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>Dear Tim and all,
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>mine action are great; for entertainment people I know
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>don't recognise and have never seen before and the
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>Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we
>do, not only in mine action but in almost every other
>human activity, they're as ubiquitous as
>administration, which we all like to call "paperwork",
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>to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the
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>and an office in a big building and a posh car with
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>their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

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> >From: "Tim Horner"

> >Reply-To:

> >To:

> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
>Where Should The Money Go?

> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100

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> > > >> >
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> > > >> > e.

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:00 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Willie

You touch on an important point here.

If we dont put out any statistics, there is a fair to middling chance that, especially considering how much demining costs, the donors will pull the plug if they cant see what the output is.

On the other hand, spurious bull masquerading as true data (like the stuff you talk about) don't help, and can make matters worse once the truth comes out...as it often does!

The key is, as you say, to agree on a mechanism for agreeing how we - as a sector - should cost things.

As it happens, I have a paper coming out in the next JMU that sets out a few ideas on this very thing...it is part of my current research project and I would welcome comments on it when it appears. It is - again - put out for discussion rather than claiming to be the last word!

cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]**On Behalf Of**
William Lawrence

Sent: 26 November 2003 18:32

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Dear Tim and all,

Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in mine action are great; for entertainment people I know sometimes use them to beat each other

over the head with and to justify whatever program they are working for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs. I have heard that there are one or two folks who wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify their positions.

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But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty and an office in a big building and a posh car with four seats in each for each person...

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: And the alternative to statistics is....

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:00 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

..."just give me the money, get out of my way, and leave me alone"?

You sound very much like someone who doesn't like performance indicators. There are far too many people in early mine action programs who resented performance criteria and, quite simple, over-promised and under-delivered to a naive donor community that is far smarter now.

Yes, statistics should be used to gather general performance information but when making resource allocation decisions, especially BIG resources, I would advise every donor to rely heavily on as many "statistics" as they could find. To do otherwise, would be irresponsible.

- joe

--- William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
wrote:

Dear Tim and all,

Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in mine action are great; for entertainment people I know sometimes use them to beat each other over the head with and to justify whatever program they are working for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs. I have heard that there are one or two folks who wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify their positions.

Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against programs or commercial activities or NGO work or whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I don't recognise and have never seen before and the likelihood is that I will never see them again because I am usually too busy getting on with work to go looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must be if I don't even argue against his mighty statistics.

Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we do, not only in mine action but in almost every other human activity, they're as ubiquitous as administration, which we all like to call "paperwork", even though we know we can't get by without it. But I

reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people discussing the same set of statistics because people like to use their own and are not always prepared to share them. We should each have a statistics officer to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the other stuff or perhaps we should all share a statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair statistics are used and they can all be traced to somewhere where we can all see how they have been invented. I mean collated.

But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty and an office in a big building and a posh car with four seats in each for each person...

Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>From: "Tim Horner"

>Reply-To:

>To:

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
Where Should The Money Go?

>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100

>

>Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it
value for money sector"

>by any chance????

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>Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators"
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>trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to
selective use of stats)

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>
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> > With a commercial Vs others approach there will
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> > be, the key indicator for success!!
> > Take care both.
> > Robb
> >
> >
> > >From: "David McDonnell"
> > >Reply-To:
> > >To:
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
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> > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
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> > >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
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> > >>Steve Hughes
> > >>----- Original Message -----
> > >>From: "Joe Lokey"

> > >>To:
> > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
> > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The
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> > >>

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> > >> > Q: Which "investment" has the greater
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> > >> > I'm not suggesting any of this is an "either-or"
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> > >> > "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1 million USD
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> > >> > and through these we've already learned:
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> > >> > With some of the drawdowns in larger country programs,
> > >> > this makes some sense.
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> > >> > b. The biggest concerns in remote area are water and
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> > >> > c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology has
> > >> > improved the speed and safety of demining.
> > >> >
> > >> > d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful
> > >> > integration of a metal detector with some other form
> > >> > of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a research
> > >> > priority.

> > >> >
> > >> > e. Well over 80% believe it's more important
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> > >> >
> > >> > f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer
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> > >> > little. This may be self-evident to those
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> > >> > indigenous deminers but donors need these
types of
> > >> > confirmations now and then.
> > >> >
> > >> > I'm sure there are a few opinions that
diverge from
> > >> > these. I encourage you to visit the site now
and then
> > >> > and let your voice be heard on the variety of

> > >> > questions raised throughout the year.
> > >> >

> > >> > - joe

> > >> >

> > >> >

> > >> >

> > >> > e.

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> > >> >

> > >> > _____
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:00 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Most attribute this to Mark Twain but some believe it was "borrowed" from Benjamin Disraeli.

- joe

--- Dave & Jayne Humphreys <dcjhl@hotmail.com> wrote:

> On a lighter note who was it that said
> "there are lies, damn lies and then statistics!"

>

>

> >From: "William Lawrence"

> <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

> >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

> >To: <network@mgm.org>

> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

> Network: MgM Demining

> >Network: Where Should The Money Go?

> >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 19:32:18 +0100

> >

>

>

> Hot chart ringtones and polyphonics. Go to
> <http://ninemsn.com.au/mobilemania/default.asp>

>

> ATTACHMENT part 2 message/rfc822

> To: <network@mgm.org>

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> > >> > I'm sure there are a few opinions that diverge from
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> > >> > questions raised throughout the year.

> > >> >
> > >> > - joe

> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> > e.

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle Protection or not

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:00 AM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Ashley

I'm absolutely agreed: one chance is some better than nothing, mainly in limited finances. You offer not the worse protection. According to results of test, you sent me, this vehicle is protecting from blasting itself (AP-mine), but, I think, not sufficiently well from fragments. It's better than nothing.

Best regards,

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 10:18 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle Protection or not

> I still feel that some protection is better than nothing AS LONG AS THE
> 'USERS' ARE MADE AWARE OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE EQUIPMENT.

>

> The same argument raged when seat belts first came in - they do not
> guarantee that you will walk away from any crash but they do improve your
> survival chances in certain circumstances. I argue that this logic should
> be applied to all walks of life including the protection of people working

/

> living in areas where there are mines.

>

> Ashley

>

> --Original Message-----

> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of EOD UK

> Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 6:27 PM

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle Protection

>

> Andy and Roger,

>

> Sound comments on the vehicle protection issue, the only safe and proven
> option is the MPV. However the problem lies with budget holders who
> sometimes can only see the cost of things and the value of none, hence the
> procurement of ballistic mats and other products over the MPV.

>

> Gonz.

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2003 5:46 PM

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UNDP and RPGs

>

>

>> Roger, many thanks for your information regarding IEDs in Iraq, and the
>> implications for after-market protection against IED threats generally.

> Yup,
> > it can't really be done. Some argue that any additional protection is
> better
> > than none - but I disagree when that gives the user an unwarranted
feeling
> > of safety.
> >
> > Those interested should contact regis@pixie.co.za for the revamped South
> > African machines, or Hendrik for the sparkling new Werewolves... These
> > machines will not reliably take any armour-piercing munition,
> incidentally,
> > so they are vulnerable to common RPGs.
> >
> >
> > Maj Gen B S Kataria,
> >
> > Is it right that Sarvatra Technical Consultants works under UNDP
auspices?
> > If so, how can UNDP be involved in using trimmers and detector-rakes in
> HD?
> > I thought the UN had patched up some of its internal contradictions -
was
> I
> > that wrong? Can anyone set me straight?
> >
> > Regards all,
> > Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: From the Network Archives
Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:00 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Dave & Jayne Humphreys
Sent: 26 November 2003 11:35 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

On a lighter note who was it that said
"there are lies, damn lies and then statistics!"

Well, it was Paul Jefferson in an open letter, which - at least on my PC - is dated 15 November 1998. Five years flew, hey? Enjoy below...

Regs

Hendrik Ehlers
Director of MgM & HEC

+++++

LANDMINES, DAMN LIES AND STATISTICS

By PAUL A.S. JEFFERSON

The Oslo Conference, the penultimate staging post of the Ottawa Process to ban anti-personnel (AP) mines, is now over. The ban-the-landmine media circus has moved on. The workshops on "Women's Issues in Demining", on "Landmine survivors describing new Skills Training Programmes", on "Better Sharing of Information on Mine Victim Assistance", on "Using the International Campaign as a model for other issues and future possibilities for global and civil society networked action and cooperation", are now thankfully over.

Remarkably, most of the major mine clearance organizations were not invited and their opinions were not sought, which is odd considering that these are the people who deal with the mines problem daily, who put themselves at risk, and therefore presumably know what they are talking about. However it was seen as necessary to fly a number of mine victims to Oslo, including the "professional victims" of the Land Mine Survivors Group, no doubt to get the message across. Emotive knee jerk responses, as ever, counting

for
more than rational informed opinion.

On the diplomatic front, the Americans have insisted on exceptions to an outright AP mine ban in the case of South Korea and for mines with self-destruct mechanisms. The lobbyists of the ban campaign regard this as a setback as they do not recognize the legitimacy of any security or military considerations and overemphasize the significance of the Americans in the mines problem. I presume they are more concerned by the political kudos of having America comply with a ban than by any practical impact it may have on the world's landmine problem. Other than America's reasonable security considerations, a mine ban will not work because the major producer and user nations will not subscribe to it. A ban could not be effectively policed. Also, the technology to produce mines cannot be denied even to the most industrially backward nations. And the logic of the victim operated trap as a weapon is so simple as to be undeniable. But notwithstanding these points, even if a mines ban were successful, fulfilling the wildest dreams of the lobbyists, it would not even begin to reduce casualties for fifteen years or more, by which time concerted and properly funded clearance could have removed 80 per cent of the problem. As mine casualties are a function of the density of mine contamination, the density of population and the time the population is exposed, the longer a population is exposed to mines the higher the casualty figures. Since population densities cannot be reduced, except by establishing large refugee camps, it must be the density of mines that is dealt with. Only clearance can do this in the foreseeable future. It is argued that a ban will stop vast numbers of mines going into the ground, but in reality there are nothing like as many mines being laid as is claimed - certainly nothing even approaching the figure of 2,000,000 a year commonly quoted. Deminers on the ground in Afghanistan now estimate the number of mines in that country to be around 600,000 (as opposed to the official figure of 10 million), after eighteen years of fighting. Do the lobbyists seriously suggest that the equivalent of nearly four Afghanistan's is happening every year?

So what has been achieved: what is the real impact of the staggeringly successful campaign to ban AP mines? The problem with AP mines is not the mines themselves: it is the casualties they cause. Beyond medical attention and rehabilitation of the injured, any action taken must be measured by its effectiveness in reducing casualties and returning land to the population. Anything else is wasted effort.

After five years' successful campaigning, a ban on AP mines will, I am sure, be ratified - by all but the major producer nations, such as Russia, China and North Korea. But the campaign, the ban, the lobbying, the

media and celebrity involvement and the heightened public awareness will not have reduced the landmine casualty count by one leg. Indeed, rather the opposite.

The reason for this is that the problem with AP mines casualties is an entirely practical one which can only really be addressed by mine clearance. A landmine is removed from the ground by one of two methods: it is either trodden on and detonated, or it is cleared.

The ban campaign and all the lobbying and publicity associated with it have succeeded in hijacking the issue of demining, turning a practical problem into a bureaucratic, legalistic and media gravy-train. As Tore Skedsmo, head of U.N. demining, says: "Sometimes I am frustrated at being among all these people who have made theoretical demining a nice way of living." The landmine issue provides a wealth of employment for bureaucrats, aid workers, lobbyists, lawyers and administrators, which would not matter were it not for the counter productive aspect. It diverts resources and attention from the real problem. Crucially, by distorting statistics, it presents the landmine problem as being too vast to be addressed by clearance. I will explain.

It is repeatedly stated that there are 119 million mines laid around the world, and it is therefore worked out that at the current rate of clearance it will take 1000 years to clear them. This figure needs to be looked at closely; its acceptance is one of the central tenets of the ban campaign. The figure is often heard quoted by Mike Whittam of the Red Cross, and other such luminaries of the ban campaign, who have no on-the-ground experience (although they may imagine that the odd "fact-finding" visit qualifies them to speak authoritatively) and who rely on lobbyist briefing sheets. These figures gain currency, and government ministers, public funding bodies and the general public believe them. The issue is thus presented as intractable - like flood management in Bangladesh, something beyond our capabilities to address. Who wants to get involved in a project that will take hundreds of years to bear fruit? Instead, people support a landmine ban, feeling that at least they are doing something. Typically, George Soros's foundation, The Open Society, has put three million dollars into the ban campaign but, understandably, will not fund clearance mainly because it is seen as too big an issue to get involved in. Thus a whole industry is generated - a displacement activity which avoids addressing the real issue.

However, the figure of 119 million mines, along with the claim of 2 million mines going into the ground each year, is a gross exaggeration, possibly

by
the order of as much as tenfold. In the seven countries in which the
HALO
Trust works, the official UN figure for the number of mines is 40
million.
But their deminers on the ground estimate that the total for these seven
countries is 1.7 million. This does not reduce the mines problem,
statistics are irrelevant to demining on the ground - but the
exaggerated
figures do discourage funding bodies from supporting them.

I predict that during the next year we will see bodies such as the UN
and
the International Committee of the Red Cross backing down from these
figures in the face of criticism by many deminers on the ground. They
will
come to recognize they have been misled by the ban campaign, and that
their inadvertent scare tactics are unhelpful to mine clearance, so they
will take refuge in non-specific "millions".

If the lobbyists can be so wrong, so inaccurate as to the figures upon
which their appraisals are based, why should we have faith in the other
planks of their argument, such as the feasibility of enforcing a ban?
The other downside of these exaggerated statistics is that when more
realistic estimates are arrived at, the general public and funding
bodies
can be excused for thinking: "Ah, so the problem isn't as big as we
thought." Wrong. The problem is just as big as it ever was - namely the
casualties. And the only thing that has addressed this problem during
the
past five years is mine clearance.

Where concerted clearance has been undertaken, casualty figures have
fallen
off dramatically, noticeably in parts of Afghanistan, Cambodia and
Mozambique; more clearance could have been going on and would be going
on
if the quick-fix, feel-good solution of the ban lobby did not divert
attention and resources.

Heightened public awareness of the mines issue has not resulted in a
major
increase in funding for demining. Lobbyists always pay lip-service to
the
idea of clearance, but only as secondary to their main bureaucratic and
legislative initiative. Of course: there are no careers for them in
practical demining. I would estimate that for every European mine
clearer
there must be 40 or 50 lobbyists.

At the end of the Second World War, Europe was more heavily contaminated
with mines and ordnance than the entire world is today. Ninety per cent
of
the problem in Europe was dealt with in 10 years because there were the
financial resources and the political will to deal with it. At the end
of
the Gulf War in 1991, Kuwait was also heavily mined. It was cleared
within
about two years. Of course, like Europe, it is a valuable piece of real
estate. Effort was put into demining - not into displacement activities.
But the professional careers of the aid world have jobs to keep and

those
jobs are not in minefields.

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where did the money go,.. and what color was it?

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2003 5:00 AM

From: Roger Hess <r Hess@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Tim (+ Willy, Robb, David, et all);

The issues regarding the benefits of commercial vs. NGO can bounce back and forth as fast as a Chinese Ping-Pong tournament. Tim, you asked for something from someone who's worked the other side of the fence; OK, I've worked commercial, NGO, and have also done a mix (commercial supporting NGO projects).

I'm sure Tim already knows this, but for everyone else; While it may sound simple, however there is more involved in this than many people realize. At the end of the day, it depends on what is expected from the project and the "color" of the money.

1. If clearance is needed from point A to point B, the playing field is level for all competitors, and the lowest cost per m2 is the driving issue: then commercial groups are generally the most cost effective. They will come in, do the job, and leave. For the most part there is no community development or value-added programs; they are there to do a specific task and if it is not done to the standards agreed in the contract, they don't get paid. Simple.

2. If the project includes community development and tax-exempt donor money is used, then NGO's will generally be the way to go. They will clear from point A to point B and will often help build up the social structure while they are at it (bridges, schools, wells, etc). These value-added expenses are often absorbed out of the donor funding and done in conjunction with project, so the visible price per m2 is more however more is often put in. If they do accomplish points A to B under budget, they will normally keep working until the funds are expended as to where a commercial contractor will take this as additional profit margin.

There are trade-offs:

A commercial clearance contract will generally be cheaper per m2 and the contractors feet are held to the fire if they don't perform. But on the flip side: if it's not outlined in the contract, then do not expect it to be done. Everything has a cost and if you want it done, you pay for it. If it's not up to expectations, then you don't pay for it, however free-bee's are not handed out on a regular basis, so don't expect them.

An NGO-sponsored project will be more expensive, but more is put into the communities, they will often do additional tasks as an inherent part of the project, and they will go the extra mile to support their implementation partner (or should, anyway). However as it is based on a "donation" and not a contract; the funding agency has fewer courses of action if the project is not completed to what they expected. The primary course is simply not to provide future funding.

Both have pros & cons; some of it depends on who owns the money (donations) and on the contractual regulations/bidding requirements (commercial). Past projects have shown a bright side, a dark side, and in some cases, a dim

side. This occurs when the less-the-scrupulous manager is too stupid to make it to the "dark side", but tries anyway.

A private donor wanting to assist a war torn country will normally contribute towards a charity. Even though some people call these donations "Feel Good" money, there is also the tax deduction aspect from the donors side that must be considered. Money donated from large, commercial enterprises to a charity lowers their tax bracket as long as the charity is properly registered. These enterprises could hire a commercial group to do the same job if they want to, however the money spent does not lower their tax bracket, which is part of what they are after (one color of money).

Social Development entities like the World Bank, ADB, or large construction companies will hire commercial groups for specific tasks to support their projects. Many of the development banks have strict laws about not employing state-owned enterprises (SoE) as they are tax free, government sponsored, and have unfair advantages over privately-owned business. Hiring SoE does nothing to stimulate the economy in their eyes, which is what they are after (another color of money).

Government entities normally also have very strict acquisition laws and any commercial "contract" awarded is normally done through competitive bidding, which is often time intensive and can be very complicated. However these laws do not regulate donations to charities; so if an NGO is already in country, set up, has a working project, and a commercial group is not already established; it can be more cost effective to simply make a donation to that NGO allowing them to include the task in their project.

In some countries however, there is a fine line with this approach and "donation" is the operative word: If the NGO is working under a tax-free charity status, then the funding agency needs to structure the project as a donation, not a contract. If it's a "contract", then taxes need to be paid and tax-free equipment brought in under the charity umbrella cannot legally be used, otherwise it would be the same as hiring a SoE with an unfair advantage over a private business.

Research and Development money has a separate color to it all together; it shares some of the aspects of donor money with some of the contractual requirements of commercial funds. I would have to let someone like George Z better explain these issues, however I believe his hands are pretty full in Iraq right now.

Both charity and commercial groups have all shown bright sides and when everything is kept above board, the money is often spent in accordance of what the funding agency intended. It's always easier to point out mistakes and flaws, however not all of it has been bad and many good things have been accomplished.

Unfortunately there have been certain groups, both commercial and charity based, that were not as responsible as they should have been that have caused problems for everyone else. I could spell out many cases of this, however it would not really accomplish much or serve the real purpose of this forum, so I'll let that ride.

For now,.. anyway.

Cheers

Roger

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 4:35 PM

From: Dave & Jayne Humphreys <dcjhl@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

On a lighter note who was it that said
"there are lies, damn lies and then statistics!"

>From: "William Lawrence" <willielawrence@hotmail.com>
>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
>Network: Where Should The Money Go?
>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 19:32:18 +0100
>

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<http://ninemsn.com.au/mobilemania/default.asp>

From: "William Lawrence" <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 19:32:18 +0100

To: <network@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Dear Tim and all,

Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in mine action are great; for entertainment people I know sometimes use them to beat each other over the head with and to justify whatever program they are working for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs. I have heard that there are one or two folks who wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify their positions.

Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against programs or commercial activities or NGO work or whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I don't recognise and have never seen before and the likelihood is that I will never see them again because I am usually too busy getting on with work to go looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must be if I don't even argue against his mighty statistics.

Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we do, not only in mine action but in almost every other human activity, they're as ubiquitous as administration, which we all like to call "paperwork", even though we know we can't get by without it. But I reckon it is a rare thing to see two people discussing the *same* set of statistics because people like to use their own and are not always prepared to share them. We should each have a statistics officer to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the other stuff or perhaps we should all share a statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair statistics are used and they can all be traced to somewhere where we can all see how they have been invented. I mean collated.

But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty and an office in a big building and a posh car with four seats in each for each person...

Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way

Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>From: "Tim Horner"

>Reply-To:

>To:

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100

>

>Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it value for money sector"

>by any chance????

>

>Robb, there are volumes written on what "indicators" actually are and how to quantify them to give a credible cost benefit analysis.

>I've seen CBA documents on a country programme (it was deconstructed and

>trashed by an economist lecturer in Cranfield due to selective use of stats)

>and I've seen one on and NGO, anyone got any more?).

>I've also read Eddies statistical gymnastics from Bosnia (in the name of

>humanity where did he get all those stats?).
>How about someone from the "other side" coming in on this?
>
>
>
>> Hi Dave and Steve,
>> Experience says it all!!
>> Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value for money and payment for
>a
>> job well done.
>> With a commercial Vs others approach there will always be a divide and
>> justification by all. However, value for money and results, do and should
>> be, the key indicator for success!!
>> Take care both.
>> Robb
>>
>>
>>>From: "David McDonnell"
>>>Reply-To:
>>>To:
>>>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
>The
>>>Money Go?
>>>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100
>>>
>>>Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that i agree. If you want
>>>value for money, a programme with an exit strategy and one that doesnt
>>>create an industry where one didnt previously exist then go commercial
>>>every time.
>>>
>>>Just a thought
>>>
>>>Dave
>>>
>>>
>>>>From: "steve hughes"
>>>>Reply-To:
>>>>To:
>>>>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?
>>>>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
>>>>
>>>>If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would advise they put it into
>>>>COMMERCIAL clearance.
>>>>

> > >> Steve Hughes
> > >>----- Original Message -----
> > >>From: "Joe Lokey"
> > >>To:
> > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
> > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?
> > >>
> > >>
> > >> > All,
> > >> > Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian Demining
> > >> > R&D we site (<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>) has
> > >> > been running a series of user polls on a variety of
> > >> > issues. The latest seems like a good one for open
> > >> > discussion here as well:
> > >> >
> > >> > Q: Which "investment" has the greater long-term
> > >> > benefit?
> > >> >
> > >> > 1. Advocacy Efforts
> > >> > 2. Victim Assistance
> > >> > 3. Mine Clearance
> > >> > 4. Mine Risk Education
> > >> > 5. Research & Development
> > >> >
> > >> > Given that funding levels in the last few years have
> > >> > failed to grow significantly and donors have gotten
> > >> > "smarter" about their funding, it seems this question
> > >> > will be more and more prevalent in future funding
> > >> > cycles as donors look to get the biggest payback or
> > >> > return on investment. Global priorities are shifting
> > >> > as more progress is made. At first glance, my
> > >> > thoughts are:
> > >> >
> > >> > Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very scarce)
> > >> > money should you really put into telling people
> > >> > something they already know? Spending more money than
> > >> > you actually raise seems to be the norm here.
> > >> >
> > >> > Victim Assistance? I can see money "migrating" here as
> > >> > clearance draws down but, as an "investment" it's a
> > >> > bit like closing the barn door after the horse is out
> > >> > while so many mines still provide even more victims.
> > >> >
> > >> > Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the face of

> > >> > it. The question here is how long and at what price
> > >> > in terms of resources and lives expended?
> > >> >
> > >> > MRE? Already proven to have a significant impact on
> > >> > reducing victims when done right and with the
> > >> > appropriate tools. Still, this does little to return
> > >> > productive land or reduce potential injury/death.
> > >> >
> > >> > R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd think
> > >> > we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a stick
> > >> > (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger case here
> > >> > than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible and
> > >> > incurable optimist in me that knows we can do this
> > >> > faster, cheaper and safer.
> > >> >
> > >> > I'm not suggesting any of this is an "either-or"
> > >> > proposition since a balanced approach is the only way
> > >> > to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of us. I
> > >> > suppose a good way to answer this would be to consider
> > >> > "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1 million USD
> > >> > to make the biggest difference, where would you
> > >> > recommend he put it and why?"
> > >> >
> > >> > These on-lines surveys are enlightening now and then
> > >> > and through these we've already learned:
> > >> >
> > >> > a. More on-line information is sought regarding
> > >> > employment opportunities and equipment availability.
> > >> > With some of the drawdowns in larger country programs,
> > >> > this makes some sense.
> > >> >
> > >> > b. The biggest concerns in remote area are water and
> > >> > medical care.
> > >> >
> > >> > c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology has
> > >> > improved the speed and safety of demining.
> > >> >
> > >> > d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful
> > >> > integration of a metal detector with some other form
> > >> > of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a research
> > >> > priority.
> > >> >
> > >> > e. Well over 80% believe it's more important to detect
> > >> > the explosive than just metal.

> > >> >
> > >> > f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer training is
> > >> > equipment and money. Language and literacy matter
> > >> > little. This may be self-evident to those training
> > >> > indigenous deminers but donors need these types of
> > >> > confirmations now and then.

> > >> >
> > >> > I'm sure there are a few opinions that diverge from
> > >> > these. I encourage you to visit the site now and then
> > >> > and let your voice be heard on the variety of
> > >> > questions raised throughout the year.

> > >> >
> > >> > - joe

> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> >
> > >> > e.

> > >> >
> > >> > _____
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 1:32 PM

From: William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Tim and all,

Speaking strictly statistically, I think statistics in mine action are great; for entertainment people I know sometimes use them to beat each other over the head with and to justify whatever program they are working for. Statistics are often the cause of considerable effort and regularly raise eyebrows as well as laughs. I have heard that there are one or two folks who wouldn't have a job in this industry if they didn't have their (self-generated) statistics to to justify their positions.

Statistics sometimes create arguments for or against programs or commercial activities or NGO work or whatever and I've seen and had statistics chucked at me all over the place. Mostly they are figures that I don't recognise and have never seen before and the likelihood is that I will never see them again because I am usually too busy getting on with work to go looking for the source - which sometimes leaves the wielder of the statistics crowing how accurate he must be if I don't even argue against his mighty statistics.

Of course we need statistics, they are part of what we do, not only in mine action but in almost every other human activity, they're as ubiquitous as administration, which we all like to call "paperwork", even though we know we can't get by without it. But I reckon it is a a rare thing to see two people discussing the *same* set of statistics because people like to use their own and are not always prepared to share them. We should each have a statistics officer to throw and catch numbers for us while we do all the other stuff or perhaps we should all share a statistics ombudsman so that only factual and fair statistics are used and they can all be traced to somewhere where we can all see how they have been invented. I mean collated.

But I guess the ombudsman would need a staff of twenty and an office in a big building and a posh car with four seats in each for each person...

Statistics are alright, as long as they are kept in their place and we don't confuse them with reality.

Best regards

Willie

22 Worpleston Way

Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

>From: "Tim Horner"

>Reply-To:

>To:

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 16:06:41 +0100

>

>Do you three work for the "commercial lets call it value for money sector"

>by any chance????

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> > Hi Dave and Steve,

> > Experiance says it all!!

> > Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value for money and payment for

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> > job well done.

> > With a commercial Vs others approach there will always be a divide and justification by all. However, value for money and results, do and should

> > be, the key indicator for success!!

> > Take care both.

> > Robb

> >

> >

> > >From: "David McDonnell"

> > >Reply-To:

> > >To:

> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should
>The

> > >Money Go?

> > >Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100

> > >

> > >Dont hear much from you Steve but got to say that i agree. If you want
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> > >every time.

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> > >Just a thought

> > >

> > >Dave

> > >

> > >

> > >>From: "steve hughes"

> > >>Reply-To:

> > >>To:

> > >>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

> > >>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100

> > >>

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> > >>Steve Hughes

> > >>----- Original Message -----

> > >>From: "Joe Lokey"

> > >>To:

> > >>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM

> > >>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 10:06 AM

From: Tim Horner <timhorner@celltelnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: BAM Detector Workshop 16-17 Dec 03

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 8:09 AM

From: bobkeeley@compuserve.com <bobkeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello Everyone

I have been asked to post a message here by Christina Mueller of BAM (the German non-destructive testing agency)

They are running a workshop in Berlin on 16 - 17 Dec 03. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss and evaluate findings of some mine detector trials they have run, as part of the CEN workshop agreements for metal detector testing. The test results appear to show some interesting connections between training, site conditions and ability to detect mines.

Christina tells me that not many people have signed up for this workshop. This might be a shame as the results could be interesting for future developments...Christina - who is away from her desk at the moment - says please try to find time to come!

Field people...yes, I know we've been invited to loads of these things over the years, and, yes, I know they haven't seemed to produce much, but without field input there is a chance that results will be misinterpreted by the scientists! This might only store up problems for us all in the future.

Detector people...the findings of the test might highlight training issues that would help you improve your product training packages...

Research people... a chance to discuss and cross-fertilise ideas with field people...

You can get more details from the BAM website at www.bam.de

The flyer for the conference is at

<http://www.bam.de/aktuell/veranstaltungen/pdf/demining.pdf>

Look forwards to seeing you all there!

Bob K

Original Message:

From: David McDonnell mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com

Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where ShouldThe Money Go?

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 8:09 AM

From: Tim Horner <timhorner@celltelnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

You're right Dave, we don't here much from Steve (Steve drop me a line direct and we can talk about who's where, why and what's new).

On the "where to put a million bucks" subject - I agree with Dave on not creating an industry, getting value for money, setting exit strategies and all the other good stuff but I know one or two people who might argue against the commercial route.

Some people have worked only for commercial organisations and others have worked exclusively for NGO's. I've heard beer talk from both stating emphatically that they would never go against their principles and work for "the other side".

My view, for what its worth having worked for both sides and now for the oft criticised UN, is that all aspects of mine action need to be addressed in a complimentary fashion. Put the ego's aside and work together.

Its all politics and economics making the decisions not IMAS, UNMAS or anyone else in our gang.

The best practises and logical procedures often take second place because of donor conditionalities or because the administration in the mine affected country hasn't read the lessons learned from other countries.

The money should be dispersed according to the needs adequately covering MRE, survey - marking and clearance, victim support and advocacy to get as close to a total mine ban as is possible.

We all know R&D costs money and so does the overall management, coordination, databases and everything else; its our job to be as cost effective as is possible in all areas.

There's no such thing as a free lunch especially when a donor is buying.

Tim

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

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> >From: "steve hughes" <shughes@armorgroup.com>
> >Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?
> >Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
> >
> >If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would advise they put it into

> >COMMERCIAL clearance.
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> >Steve Hughes
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM
> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 8:09 AM

From: Robb Jones <robbjones40@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Dave and Steve,

Experiance says it all!!

Lets not call it "commercial" lets call it value for money and payment for a job well done.

With a commercial Vs others approach there will always be a divide and justification by all. However, value for money and results, do and should be, the key indicator for success!!

Take care both.

Robb

>From: "David McDonnell" <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

>Date: Wed, 26 Nov 2003 08:53:00 +0100

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>Dave

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>>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>>To: <network@mgm.org>

>>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

>>Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100

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>>----- Original Message -----

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>>To: <network@mgm.org>

>>Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 2:53 AM

From: David McDonnell <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MAG attacked again in Iraq

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 2:53 AM

From: KBiritan@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Blast shakes British mine clearance agency in Iraq

ARBIL, Iraq (Reuters) - An explosion occurred outside the office of a British-based mine clearance agency in the northern Iraqi city of Arbil Friday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, security officers at the scene said.

A small gasoline tanker was destroyed in the blast, which smashed windows in the Mine Action Group's two-story office building. No structural damage was visible. There were conflicting reports as to what had caused the explosion.

Emergency vehicles raced to the scene and security forces sealed off surrounding streets after the blast.

Arbil's governor Akram Moutak and Karim Sinjari, the interior minister of the Kurdish regional government, inspected the scene of the explosion but declined to speak to reporters.

11/21/03

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 2:53 AM

From: Ruth J. Clark <dblamputee@earthlink.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Joe,

Some of the items you bring up here are 'close to my heart'. Improved efficiency, improved safety and high quality support of any one injured by Mines (deminers and others) are my focus.

Joe Lokey wrote:

All,

Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian Demining R&D we site (<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>) has been running a series of user polls on a variety of issues. The latest seems like a good one for open discussion here as well:

Q: Which "investment" has the greater long-term benefit?

1. Advocacy Efforts
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5. Research & Development

<snip>

R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd think we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a stick (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger case here than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible and incurable optimist in me that knows we can do this faster, cheaper and safer.

—
Earlier this year I took part in an R&D project sponsored by Ft. Belvoir. My company was the concept initiator, design and manufacturing part of the contract. We developed 3 versions of a device that will provide protection for a deminer's hand while he/she is prodding the earth holding the prod in a bare hand. Some of the options included with the project are:

- extension to allow up to 20 inches of stand-off while prodding

- a clear blast shield to deflect any explosion that may occur
- an easy-on harness that will take the weight of the metal detector, thus reduce arm and shoulder fatigue
- replacement hand function (and the ability to reenter the work force) for anyone who has lost hand function but still has part or all of their hand intact.

With the main R&D done I am now looking for a working / manufacturing partner to make these devices available so those of you in the field can add another tool to your choices.

I am based in British Columbia and am often in Washington State if anyone would like to contact me for additional information. I will be in the North Carolina / Florida area during the 1st week of December also.

Ruth Clark
Prestige Health Care Technologies
info@czbiomed.md
(250) 314-1849

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle Protection or not

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003 2:18 AM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I still feel that some protection is better than nothing AS LONG AS THE 'USERS' ARE MADE AWARE OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE EQUIPMENT.

The same argument raged when seat belts first came in - they do not guarantee that you will walk away from any crash but they do improve your survival chances in certain circumstances. I argue that this logic should be applied to all walks of life including the protection of people working / living in areas where there are mines.

Ashley

--Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of EOD UK

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 6:27 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle Protection

Andy and Roger,

Sound comments on the vehicle protection issue, the only safe and proven option is the MPV. However the problem lies with budget holders who sometimes can only see the cost of things and the value of none, hence the procurement of ballistic mats and other products over the MPV.

Gonz.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2003 5:46 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UNDP and RPGs

> Roger, many thanks for your information regarding IEDs in Iraq, and the
> implications for after-market protection against IED threats generally.
Yup,
> it can't really be done. Some argue that any additional protection is
better
> than none - but I disagree when that gives the user an unwarranted feeling
> of safety.
>
> Those interested should contact regis@pixie.co.za for the revamped South
> African machines, or Hendrik for the sparkling new Werewolves... These
> machines will not reliably take any armour-piercing munition,
incidentally,
> so they are vulnerable to common RPGs.
>
>
> Maj Gen B S Kataria,
>
> Is it right that Sarvatra Technical Consultants works under UNDP auspices?
> If so, how can UNDP be involved in using trimmers and detector-rakes in

HD?
> I thought the UN had patched up some of its internal contradictions - was
I
> that wrong? Can anyone set me straight?

> Regards all,
> Andy

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The Network now free from Spam, Worms, Virus etc

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2003 3:09 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi all

Henry Ehlers wrote about his endeavour to keep MGM's NETWORK clean form unwanted subscribers and/or transmissions and referred to their idea of >>>netiquette<<<.

There is Arlene Rinaldi's "User Guidelines and Netiquette" available (Arlene Rinaldi + Florida Atlantic University)

<http://wise.fau.edu/netiquette/net/netiquette.html>

probably the best resource on the net for information about netiquette.

Excerpt:

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR COMPUTER ETHICS
from the Computer Ethics Institute

1. Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people.
2. Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.
3. Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's files.
4. Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.
5. Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.
6. Thou shalt not use or copy software for which you have not paid.
7. Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization.
8. Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output.
9. Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you write.
10. Thou shalt use a computer in ways that show consideration and respect.

With best regards,
Willy Meurer, Toronto
Phone: ..1 416 444 2038
Fax: ..1 416 44 0876
mail: willke@primus.ca

Henry Ehlers wrote:

>Folks,
>You all know that we had to shut down the server for maintenance. It was
>just at the very last minute as some vendors of some really great
>products and incredible business opportunities were about to hammer us.
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>We had only two possibilities to keep the network free from unwanted
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>The decision was simple: We respect the anonymity of some of the
>subscribers as long as their submissions are interesting within our idea
>of netiquette.
>What we really do not want is people to sent porn, nazi stuff, religious

>fanatics, anti-donor-to-MgM etc. In the very end this is our own private
>initiative funded and maintained by nobody but our own enthusiasm and we
>very well may reserve the right to preserve and protect it. By screening
>the ID entries only, we would not be able to control their inputs,
>including unintentional virus, large attachment etc spreading.
>It is a bit more work for us now, but we decided to moderate the network
>manually. This could cause delays of a few hours between sending and
>forwarding for which we apologize upfront. It is also a bit sad after 7
>years of complete freedom of speech and anarchy, but times have changed
>also for the use of the internet and we are sure that this decision is
>in the interest of all meaning well to the cause.

>
>Yours truly,
>Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
>Director OPS + HEC-R&D
>Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
>ehlers@mgm.org
>www.mgm.org
>cel +264 81 1277020
>fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: a dog's life instead of rat race

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003 9:33 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

From the "Congressional Quarterly Homeland Security Daily," 12 August:

Dog Day Afternoons: Bomb-Sniffing Canines Land in LAX of Luxury

Having searched high and low for million-dollar technology to sniff out bombs hidden in airport luggage, the federal government has yet to find anything more reliable than a well-trained hound. Since the innate sensitivity of the canine nose is an essential tool for keeping air travelers safe, the government wants to keep its growing cadre of "detector dogs" not just safe and well fed, but comfortable, fit and smelling reasonably sweet. Monday, the Department of Agriculture sought bids for kennel services for 12 dogs who work at Los Angeles International. The contractor must provide air-conditioned private pens for each dog along with daily housekeeping, at least two baths a month, an "in-house grooming service" and "two sessions of grass play time per day." Deadline for the solicitation, now posted on fedbizopps.gov, is Aug. 22. - Jim McGee

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The Network now free from Spam, Worms,Virus etc

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003 9:33 AM

From: bobkeeley@compuserve.com <bobkeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Hendrik

Entirely understandable, and helping to filter out large attachments would certainly be a bonus to those without the luxury of broadband connections (I have one myself at the moment and its easy to get into bad habits!)

I wonder though if it would be possible to include a more detailed policy statement, perhaps somewhere on your website, on what content you would reject, just so people are informed/prepared?

cheers

Bob K

Original Message:

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC hec01@mail2.mgm.org
Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 12:37:13 +0100
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: The Network now free from Spam, Worms,Virus etc

Folks,

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Director OPS + HEC-R&D
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mail2web - Check your email from the web at
<http://mail2web.com/> .

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003 6:37 AM

From: Art Krenzel <phoenix98604@earthlink.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Matts,

I have used a \$300 weather station from RADIO SHACK which gives me all the same information for the past year. It has a serial output if you want to feed it into a computer for data logging and data display. It automatically records wind speed and direction, indoor and outdoor temperatures and humidity, atmospheric pressure and rainfall (rate per hour, yesterday's accumulation and amount since last reset)

Art Krenzel, P.E.
PHOENIX TECHNOLOGIES
10505 NE 285TH Street
Battle Ground, WA 98604
360-666-1883 voice
phoenix98604@earthlink.net

----- Original Message -----

From: Matts Gustavsson <mailto:matts.gustavsson@foi.se>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 10:27 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Hi,

I have been working with three different types of more or less automatic weather stations, the VAISALA MAWS (and MILOS 500) (<http://www.vaisala.com>), DAVIS (<http://www.davisnet.com>) and Oregon Scientific (<http://www.oregonscientific.com>). They are all capable of recording the basic weather data (wind speed, wind direction, indoor and outdoor temperature, indoor and outdoor humidity, atmospheric pressure and precipitation) but

the VAISALA and the DAVIS offers more expansion possibilities. They can all be configured with a data logger for contiguous data recording. Crucial for equipment in the type of environment that you are working in is of course reliability and power consumption and I assume that the price is of some importance for you too. The VAISLA is the type of weather station that is used at air ports and when reliability and accurate recordings is important, the price is more than 3000\$US. The Oregon Scientific works OK but does not give you the same possibilities to expansions of the station with more sensors for soil temperature, soil moisture and solar radiation as the DAVIS. The power consumption for the Davis is low so instead of buying a solar panel an external car battery can be used and replaced every time the data is downloaded from the station. The price for a DAVIS weather station is about 1500 \$US.

I have helped the APOPO project to get their weather stations; they have 1 station in Tanzania and 2 stations in Mozambique now and as far as I know they are quite pleased with them.

Matts Gustavsson Senior Research Officer

Swedish Defence Research Agency

FOI ^ Systems Technology

Stockholm

SWEDEN

matts.gustavsson@foi.se

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] **On**

Behalf Of Hugh Lawrence

Sent: den 10 november 2003 10:04

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Hi,

Can anybody point me towards a reliable manufacturer of solar powered automatic weather station equipment. My intent is to price suitable models to determine if one is suitable for inclusion into a national dog test site proposal. Additionally any individuals/ organisations with experience in AWS please feel free to provide comment and advice.

Regards,

Hugh Lawrence

Technical Advisor - Operations

Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND)

Maputo

Mozambique

Subject: MgM Demining Network: The Network now free from Spam, Worms, Virus etc

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003 6:37 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks,

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where is Randall Stuart ?

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003 6:37 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks,

Becky is not on the network, in case you know anything, please respond directly to her.

Hendrik Ehlers
Director of MgM

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Becky Stuart [mailto:BSTuart@emmis.com]

Gesendet: Donnerstag, 20. November 2003 15:15

An: info@mgm.org

Betreff: Information on a possible employee

Hello-

I have a situation that I was hoping you could help me with. My brother, Randall Stuart, had left the U.S. over a year ago to do some demining work. He never gave anyone any details. The problem is, no one has heard from him in months (our only method of contact was email). I am hoping that you could look for his record to verify that he is ok and see if there is any way to contact him. Any help or suggestions you can offer are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and help!!

Sincerely,

Becky Stuart

Becky Stuart

Corporate Traffic Director

Emmis Communications

Phone/Fax 317.684.2986

bstuart@emmis.com

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003 6:37 AM

From: steve hughes <shughes@armorgroup.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

If a donor has a spare \$1 Million, I would advise they put it into COMMERCIAL clearance.

Steve Hughes

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 11:14 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

> All,

> Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian Demining
> R&D we site (<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>) has
> been running a series of user polls on a variety of
> issues. The latest seems like a good one for open
> discussion here as well:

>

> Q: Which "investment" has the greater long-term
> benefit?

>

- > 1. Advocacy Efforts
- > 2. Victim Assistance
- > 3. Mine Clearance
- > 4. Mine Risk Education
- > 5. Research & Development

>

> Given that funding levels in the last few years have
> failed to grow significantly and donors have gotten
> "smarter" about their funding, it seems this question
> will be more and more prevalent in future funding
> cycles as donors look to get the biggest payback or
> return on investment. Global priorities are shifting
> as more progress is made. At first glance, my
> thoughts are:

>

> Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very scarce)
> money should you really put into telling people
> something they already know? Spending more money than
> you actually raise seems to be the norm here.

>

> Victim Assistance? I can see money "migrating" here as
> clearance draws down but, as an "investment" it's a
> bit like closing the barn door after the horse is out
> while so many mines still provide even more victims.

>

> Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the face of
> it. The question here is how long and at what price
> in terms of resources and lives expended?

>

> MRE? Already proven to have a significant impact on
> reducing victims when done right and with the
> appropriate tools. Still, this does little to return

> productive land or reduce potential injury/death.
>
> R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd think
> we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a stick
> (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger case here
> than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible and
> incurable optimist in me that knows we can do this
> faster, cheaper and safer.
>
> I'm not suggesting any of this is an "either-or"
> proposition since a balanced approach is the only way
> to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of us. I
> suppose a good way to answer this would be to consider
> "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1 million USD
> to make the biggest difference, where would you
> recommend he put it and why?"
>
> These on-lines surveys are enlightening now and then
> and through these we've already learned:
>
> a. More on-line information is sought regarding
> employment opportunities and equipment availability.
> With some of the drawdowns in larger country programs,
> this makes some sense.
>
> b. The biggest concerns in remote area are water and
> medical care.
>
> c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology has
> improved the speed and safety of demining.
>
> d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful
> integration of a metal detector with some other form
> of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a research
> priority.
>
> e. Well over 80% believe it's more important to detect
> the explosive than just metal.
>
> f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer training is
> equipment and money. Language and literacy matter
> little. This may be self-evident to those training
> indigenous deminers but donors need these types of
> confirmations now and then.
>
> I'm sure there are a few opinions that diverge from
> these. I encourage you to visit the site now and then
> and let your voice be heard on the variety of
> questions raised throughout the year.
>
> - joe
>
>
>
> e.
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Deputy Secretary Armitage's speech at private HMA fund raiser

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2003 5:14 AM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

CONTEXT: Following is the transcript of a speech given by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage at a private fund-raising event organized by Freedom Fields USA, a non-profit organization based in Carmel, California. Around \$140,000 (at last count) was raised to demine an area in Battambang Province, Cambodia. The event was held at a country club owned by actor Clint Eastwood whose wife is a member of Freedom Fields USA. The Eastwoods generously made the club available for this event. Various pieces of Cambodian art, artifacts and Cambodian-style decor were used to help inspire the guests with appreciation for Cambodia's rich culture - and its heavy landmine burden. Freedom Fields USA is one of about 40 organizations that work in partnership with the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs to reinforce official humanitarian mine action efforts with the aid, energy and ideas of civil society and the private sector. End context.

"Evening in Cambodia: A Benefit for Humanitarian Landmine Action"

Richard L. Armitage, Deputy Secretary
Hosted by Freedom Fields USA
Carmel, California
November 15, 2003

Thank you very much. Well, I am delighted to be here today to mark Monday's inauguration of Governor Eastwood. Oh, wait. Wrong script. Wrong city, at any rate. But when you get right down to it, who wouldn't rather be here than Sacramento? And I mean no disrespect whatsoever to your new governor - although it's true, I don't have many opportunities to pick on someone my own size - I believe he is a fine man and will make a fantastic leader.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is fair to say that our host tonight has long been known for a tenacity leavened by true humanity and a commitment to local community, in spite of an uncommon star quality. Indeed, it is no surprise that this remarkable event would have the name Eastwood all over it. Dina Eastwood, that is. And Mrs. Eastwood, it was very kind of you to bring along your lovely husband tonight. You must be very proud of him.

Truly, I thank you, Mrs. Eastwood, for your activism on behalf of this and so many other worthy causes and for agreeing to act as our host tonight. And thank you, as well, Mr. Eastwood. It is safe to say that only your hospitality exceeds your introduction in generosity.

I believe that one of Clint Eastwood's great talents as an actor and a director is to imagine places he has never seen and people he has never met and make them more real to us than our own lives. In that sense, he is, indeed, an apt co-host for this event, because that is precisely what Freedom Fields has done.

Indeed, I suspect that even Mr. Eastwood would have difficulty conjuring up a more idyllic spot than Carmel by the Sea and a more disparate reality than

that of Battambang, Cambodia. Battambang, in many ways, embodies the challenges facing Cambodia today, the terrors of its past, and the promise of its future.

In a country that is one of Asia's poorest, Battambang is the heartland. A rice bowl to our bread basket. And a symbol of the potential of the country's economy. It is home to some one million souls and, unfortunately, to thousands of landmines. An estimated 1,800 square kilometers in this region, almost 18 percent of the land, is mined. There are some 200 casualties every year, many of them children. The presence of so many mines prevents the people of the region from realizing the full potential of the land and this is a tragic story played out across all of Cambodia today. Mines and unexploded ordnance affect almost half of the country's villages.

This region is also a reminder of a far more horrific and heart-breaking past. Battambang was one of the central battlefields in the struggle for control of the country and it was one of the bloodiest killing fields. The Khmer Rouge forced millions of Cambodians from their homes in cities and towns across the country and many ended up in Battambang, where they perished from hunger, disease, and hard labor, torture and summary execution.

Even so, Battambang today has tremendous potential to be an engine of growth for Cambodia. And indeed, the whole country is profiting from 10 years of peace, a gradually maturing political system, and a growing economy. Even the human rights situation, which remains grim, is showing signs of improvement. But this is also a country still coming to terms with a terrible past and landmines are like an anchor, dragging people back to those bloodsoaked days.

In reaching out to the people of Battambang, Freedom Fields and all of you here tonight are extending a lifeline of support, one that is both moral and material. You are helping the people of Cambodia to see and to seize a better future. And, indeed, I am honored to be here tonight to recognize the importance of your efforts. Cambodia is, unfortunately, a part of the world I know something about. I say that it is unfortunate because, of course, my experience of Southeast Asia came through combat in both Vietnam and Cambodia. I appreciate the opportunity to celebrate the constructive legacy our country is capable of leaving.

And while Cambodia is certainly one of the more afflicted countries in the world, it is by no means the only nation so troubled. There are more than 100 countries today struggling with the detritus of war. And for 60 of those countries, that adds up to some 50 million landmines, which kill or maim on the order of 10,000 people every year. But what that devastating math doesn't account for is the associated cost in land that can't be used, roads that can't be traveled, and people who are psychologically and physically scarred for life.

The U.S. Government, your government, is committed to being a part of the solution. Our nation does not sell landmines and our own use of these weapons of war is extremely limited, always mapped and never indiscriminate. By principle and by treaty, we never target civilians or civilian areas. Indeed, that particular treaty, the Convention on Conventional Weapons, also places broad limits on the use and trade in mines, to include a prohibition on any use of undetectable anti-personnel or anti-vehicle landmines and an obligation on parties to the treaty to remove mines. Moreover, President Bush is now reviewing our own country's landmine practices.

Landmines are not just about national policy, however. This is also about a backlogged human tragedy and the United States is offering considerable

humanitarian mine assistance. Some \$90 million this year alone to 40 countries around the world. We are helping to clear mines, including by equipping and training individuals all over the world, which multiplies the effect of our own capability. We are supporting and creating life-saving programs to educate about the risks that landmines pose. Consider, for example, that over 50 percent of Cambodia's population is under the age of 18 and so the need to teach children about the dangers of mines is perpetual. We also offer help for survivors, including medical assistance and vocational training, to give those who directly bear the costs some hope for their own futures.

Indeed, I have had an opportunity to see some of the places where we are working today. I went to Sri Lanka last August and honestly, some of the areas I saw looked as barren as a moonscape. But for the first time in 20 years, there appears to be some hope for a settlement to a very bloody civil war, notwithstanding the recent political turmoil, and that has allowed some mine-clearing activities to begin. In a little over a year, U.S.-sponsored demining teams have already cleared more than 60 thousand square meters.

And that has contributed to a sense of optimism the people in the region feel, as they can see for the first time some tangible benefit to the prospect of peace. More recently, I again traveled to Afghanistan. I'm not sure I can adequately describe the destruction that so many years of war have wrought. But even in the most devastated sections of West Kabul, people were getting back to normal life. There were tea stands and market stalls in the rubble and kids playing soccer in the streets. Of course, the security situation is still hampering the recovery of both the human and physical infrastructure, but we are making important progress, including in demining. We have already destroyed more than one million landmines and pieces of unexploded ordnance, which has allowed millions of people to go home and thousands of farmers to go back to work. I know everyone wants this to be over quickly, but the sad truth is that there simply is no substitute for this kind of hard work. We will have to continue to take the country back from the Taliban and their terrorist patrons one minefield at a time, if necessary.

I saw a similar situation earlier this week in Iraq. Now, there's no question that we remain on war-footing there, and that every day brings terrible news of more lives lost - American and coalition soldiers and Iraqi civilians. But even while the security situation continues to be alarming, there are some encouraging developments. Just as in Afghanistan, everywhere you go, you see the unmistakable signs that the people of Iraq not only are determined to survive, they are determined to thrive. And so across the country, children are back in school, parents are back at work, and families are beginning to plan for the future. The challenges remain huge, of course. And that is especially clear when we consider the issue of landmines, which is not something you hear much about right now. There are an estimated 10 to 15 million landmines in Iraq - 10 to 15 million - some of which date back as far as World War II. There are also large amounts of unexploded ordnance all over the place. And let me be clear: I am not talking about materiel we dropped in recent operations. I am talking about bombs and shells from the Iran-Iraq War, the 1991 Gulf War and the considerable stocks recently and randomly abandoned by Iraqi soldiers. A comprehensive program for humanitarian demining and ordnance disposal, including risk education, mine clearance, and victims' assistance, will continue to be an important part of the recovery effort in Iraq.

Indeed, the landmine issue highlights the scale of difficulty facing Iraq today. This is a country that has to deal with many decades of neglect and abuse, including the cost of three major wars. I believe the international community realizes how monumental this task is and that the people of Iraq

deserve their sympathy and their support. The recent Donors' Conference in Madrid was an important step to delivering both, and, I hope, the beginning of a sustained commitment.

I know that is a great deal to ask of other countries and certainly of our own people. But we all turn away from the turbulence and the tyranny in places such as Iraq at our own peril. We certainly learned that on September 11th. What happens in a small village in Cambodia or in a repressive failing state such as Afghanistan is not just a compelling call to us as human beings, it is also a matter of our own wellbeing here at home. We have learned that we leave the responsibility for reaching out to the world to chance or to someone else at our own risk.

I'm sure on that terrible, beautiful September day and in the days since, many of us have stopped and taken stock of our lives and perhaps realized we've been leaving too much up to chance or someone else. But Mia Hamwey did more than reflect. She took action. And, as I understand it, she co-opted her book club, although I suspect it was more like a coalition of the willing. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the person who most directly inspired Mia, and that is her sister, Kara Bue, who also happens to be a dynamic member of the Department of State and a Deputy Assistant Secretary in our Political-Military Affairs Bureau. It was Kara who first suggested that Mia channel her desire to make a mark by looking into the issue of humanitarian landmine action. And that led Mia straight to Jim Lawrence. Jim, who joins us here today, is the Director of the group affiliated with this effort in our office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. Now I know that is not an especially catchy title. Not something that I suspect would ever roll off the nimble fingers of Hollywood, Mr. Eastwood, but it's music to our numb tongues inside the Beltway. In any case, I'm sure Jim makes it all very exciting.

That desire to make a difference, and the determination to find out how - that's all it took for this band of 13 people to have a profound effect on the lives of thousands of Cambodians and to make a lasting impression of the good will of the American people. Mia says that if this group can do it, anyone can. And while I think she is selling herself short, if not all of you, it is certainly true that Freedom Fields is not alone. This country has a long and honorable tradition of global philanthropy and citizen diplomacy. Last year alone, Americans gave some \$4 billion of their private funds to a variety of international causes.

At the same time, while all of you in this room are part of this history of helping people overseas, you are also helping the people of America. Reaching out in this way is directly in our own interests. This country has long thrived on the kind of enrichment of our culture we have seen here tonight. California alone is home to some 70,000 Americans of Cambodian descent. And it is this free flow of people, ideas, and goods that has made this country so overwhelmingly strong and successful.

And so it is also in our own interests to find common cause with people around the world at a national level but also, at the most fundamental human level. I know a great deal of attention has been focused of late on the rise of anti-Americanism in the world, but we need to consider the poll numbers more closely. Even people who register their anger or angst toward our country are also likely to point to their admiration for who we are and what we believe in whether it is freedom of action and belief, the equal right to opportunity, or the ability to live in dignity with the full protection of the rule of law. There is nothing exceptional or uniquely American about these values.

And I think to understand just how our values can link us to people around

the world you need look no further than what links together the founders of Freedom Fields - other than a love of books, of course - and that is your love for your children. This is a group of people engaged in some of the most noble and, at times, the most demanding and draining work of humankind. And that is to rear children and raise a family.

And so ultimately, the founders of Freedom Fields want what the citizens of Cambodia want, but also the people of Sri Lanka, of Afghanistan and Iraq. They want to see their children grow up without fear and in freedom. They want their children to enjoy a more peaceful and prosperous world. I am confident that this incredible motivation, the unquenchable desire to find a better life and brighter future, for ourselves and our progeny, will continue to link America to the rest of the world.

So while we at the Department of State will continue to do our part, I believe that direct citizen-to-citizen contact is a far more powerful message than any public diplomacy we might come up with. And so your effort here tonight is not just about helping the people of Cambodia or even of America, it is also about reminding the world of the promise inherent in this nation. And what that promise actually means in practice. Thank you all for your commitment, and for your kindness in delaying dinner to listen to me tonight.

[End]

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Where Should The Money Go?

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2003 5:14 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All,

Since late summer, the U.S Humanitarian Demining R&D we site (<http://www.humanitarian-demining.org>) has been running a series of user polls on a variety of issues. The latest seems like a good one for open discussion here as well:

Q: Which "investment" has the greater long-term benefit?

1. Advocacy Efforts
2. Victim Assistance
3. Mine Clearance
4. Mine Risk Education
5. Research & Development

Given that funding levels in the last few years have failed to grow significantly and donors have gotten "smarter" about their funding, it seems this question will be more and more prevalent in future funding cycles as donors look to get the biggest payback or return on investment. Global priorities are shifting as more progress is made. At first glance, my thoughts are:

Advocacy? Well, maybe. But how much (very scarce) money should you really put into telling people something they already know? Spending more money than you actually raise seems to be the norm here.

Victim Assistance? I can see money "migrating" here as clearance draws down but, as an "investment" it's a bit like closing the barn door after the horse is out while so many mines still provide even more victims.

Mine Clearance? The logical choice...on the face of it. The question here is how long and at what price in terms of resources and lives expended?

MRE? Already proven to have a significant impact on reducing victims when done right and with the appropriate tools. Still, this does little to return productive land or reduce potential injury/death.

R&D? With the millions "invested" here, you'd think we still wouldn't be looking for mines with a stick (prod). Actually, I could make a stronger case here than elsewhere but that's the incorrigible and incurable optimist in me that knows we can do this faster, cheaper and safer.

I'm not suggesting any of this is an "either-or" proposition since a balanced approach is the only way

to truly solve the enormous problems ahead of us. I suppose a good way to answer this would be to consider "If a donor asked you where to invest \$1 million USD to make the biggest difference, where would you recommend he put it and why?"

These on-lines surveys are enlightening now and then and through these we've already learned:

a. More on-line information is sought regarding employment opportunities and equipment availability. With some of the drawdowns in larger country programs, this makes some sense.

b. The biggest concerns in remote area are water and medical care.

c. Respondents agree (80%) that technology has improved the speed and safety of demining.

d. Nearly 90% of you believe the successful integration of a metal detector with some other form of sensor (IR, acoustic, QR, etc) should be a research priority.

e. Well over 80% believe it's more important to detect the explosive than just metal.

f. The biggest barrier to expanded deminer training is equipment and money. Language and literacy matter little. This may be self-evident to those training indigenous deminers but donors need these types of confirmations now and then.

I'm sure there are a few opinions that diverge from these. I encourage you to visit the site now and then and let your voice be heard on the variety of questions raised throughout the year.

- joe

e.

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<http://antispam.yahoo.com/whatsnewfree>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: German ban on Cluster bombs?

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2003 5:14 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Press Release

German Initiative to Ban Landmines

Members of the German Government and the German Parliament call for a ban on cluster bombs

German Armed Forces continue stockpiling millions of cluster munitions

Berlin/Mainz, 19th November 2003. For several years, the German Initiative to Ban Landmines and its 17 member organisations* have pressed for a comprehensive ban of all mines and mine-like weapons such as cluster bombs. Now a group of high ranking German politicians, members of the German Parliament as well as German celebrities support this position.

During the war against Iraq, the use of cluster bombs by the United States and Great Britain caused protest worldwide, because many civilians, among them children, get killed or injured.

Meeting over 17-28th November in Geneva, ninety states Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) currently negotiate on the creation of a new protocol to reduce the threat to civilians caused by all types of remnants of war (ERW). „Unfortunately there is no mandate to negotiate on a ban on cluster bombs“, regrets Thomas Küchenmeister, Director of the German Initiative to Ban Landmines.

In a German TV broadcast (REPORT MAINZ) on the 17th November the German Ministry of Defence acknowledged that the German Air Force stockpiles cluster bombs that are capable of scattering 147 explosive devices (BL 755). Furthermore, the army holds over at least 36.000 MLRS M26 artillery missiles, capable of delivering 23 million M77 bomblets without self-destruct mechanism. According to experts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, these munitions can have a dud rate between 20 and 40 percent, which means, using this weapon could lead to 9 million unexploded bomblets.

„In comparison to the banned antipersonnel mines, some types of unexploded cluster bomblets like M77 are even more likely to be activated by a person“, Küchenmeister said to REPORT MAINZ. He urges the German government for a unilateral moratorium on the use, production and trade of cluster bombs and cluster munitions, until an international and legally binding agreement on the prohibition of this kind of weapon has been reached.

The President of the German Parliament, Wolfgang Thierse (SPD) summoned the German Ministry of Defence to remove cluster munitions from German Army stockpiles. Thierse said: „I truly wish

that the German Armed Forces will abandon this kind of weapon. The German Minister for Development and member of the German Federal Security Council, Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul (SPD) said to REPORT MAINZ: "The most important aspect about cluster bombs is a worldwide prohibition, in all areas. The governmental commissioner for human rights, Claudia Roth (Green Party), also supports the prohibition of cluster munitions which is also more and more adopted by German celebrities. Among others news broadcaster Anne Will told REPORT MAINZ: "The production of cluster bombs has to be prohibited. This is the only way to make sure they won't be used again. Therefore anyone should support their prohibition." For further information please contact: REPORT MAINZ, Tel.: +49-6131-929-3351 Thomas Küchenmeister, Tel.: +49-30-446858-14

German Initiative to Ban Landmines:
Brot für die Welt · Christoffel Blindenmission · Deutsche Kommission
Justitia et Pax · Deutsche Welthungerhilfe · Deutscher Caritasverband
Diakonisches Werk der EKD · EIRENE-International · Jesuiten
Flüchtlingsdienst (JRS) · Handicap International (Deutschland) ·
Kindernothilfe · medico international · Misereor · OXFAM Deutschland ·
Pax Christi · Solidaritätsdienst International (SODI) · terre des hommes
·
UNICEF-Deutschland

www.landmine.de

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FAX +49 (0)30 42801688

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Sarvartra

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2003 3:21 PM

From: Leonie Barnes <tadmao@sltnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Andy,

Just to respond to your question re Sarvartra and UNDP. No they do not work under UNDP auspices. No organisation does here in Sri Lanka. Each agency is working under a separate and individual agreement with the Sri Lankan Government. None of the mine action agencies in Sri Lanka are accredited under IMAS - nor are they likely to be so in the near future (or so it would appear). Sarvartra is an Indian NGO funded through the Norwegian Government.

And, the last I checked neither Judy Grayson (CTA), Tim Horner (TA Jaffna) or myself had any internal contradictions.

Best wishes

Leonie Barnes

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle Protection

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 1:27 PM

From: EOD UK <webmaster@eoduk.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andy and Roger,

Sound comments on the vehicle protection issue, the only safe and proven option is the MPV. However the problem lies with budget holders who sometimes can only see the cost of things and the value of none, hence the procurement of ballistic mats and other products over the MPV.

Gonz.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2003 5:46 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UNDP and RPGs

> Roger, many thanks for your information regarding IEDs in Iraq, and the
> implications for after-market protection against IED threats generally.
Yup,
> it can't really be done. Some argue that any additional protection is
better
> than none - but I disagree when that gives the user an unwarranted feeling
> of safety.
>
> Those interested should contact regis@pixie.co.za for the revamped South
> African machines, or Hendrik for the sparkling new Werewolves... These
> machines will not reliably take any armour-piercing munition,
incidentally,
> so they are vulnerable to common RPGs.
>
>
> Maj Gen B S Kataria,
>
> Is it right that Sarvatra Technical Consultants works under UNDP auspices?
> If so, how can UNDP be involved in using trimmers and detector-rakes in
HD?
> I thought the UN had patched up some of its internal contradictions - was
I
> that wrong? Can anyone set me straight?
>
> Regards all,
> Andy
>
>
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Gardens replace Lebanon minefields, but danger lurks By Cynthia Johnston BEIT

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 1:27 PM

From: KBiritan@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Gardens replace Lebanon minefields, but danger lurks

By Cynthia Johnston

BEIT YAHOUN, Lebanon (Reuters) - Where rows of powerful Israeli landmines once snaked across barren land, Fatima Ma'asher has planted a garden of apples and lemons.

In her house in the south Lebanon village of Beit Yahoun, she smiles as she points out barely waist-high trees -- planted after more than 3,000 mines were cleared from area last year.

"People said how can you go back. But we were not scared," she said, standing on a porch overlooking the garden. "I come and go normally, every day."

Israel and its Lebanese militia ally criss-crossed south Lebanon with landmines during a 22-year Israeli occupation. Most were the signature Israeli "shoebox" anti-personnel blast mines, designed to maim the victim.

Since Israel's withdrawal in 2000 under pressure from attacks by Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas, deminers financed by \$50 million from the United Arab Emirates have cleared nearly 60,000 mines. Places like Beit Yahoun have sprung back to life.

"All of the houses here are new," Ma'asher said.

But the mine danger is far from over. Experts say roughly 400,000 to 500,000 mines and an unknown amount of unexploded ordnance, including deadly small cluster bombs, are still littered across Lebanon, predominantly along the southern border.

Most of the mines were planted by the Israelis and their Lebanese militia ally after the first Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1978. Factions from Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war also laid minefields -- often unmapped.

SKULL AND CROSSBONES

Along Lebanon's southern border near Israel, rusty coils of barbed wire and red triangles emblazoned with a skull and crossbones mark off more than 1,000 minefields containing 360,000 known mines.

Politics prevent international deminers from working on the border, where the Lebanese army has not deployed. Border clashes between Israel and militants in Lebanon killed an Israeli soldier this month.

Landmines have killed 24 people and maimed scores more in south Lebanon alone since the Israeli withdrawal, though injuries have decreased since clearance work began. Deminers say a 57-year-old man was badly hurt in early October while gathering firewood in a minefield on the border.

"We would expect an increase in the coming month or so as people venture out more to cut firewood for winter, and of course in the spring as people are starting to need to sow crops," said Chris Clark, United Nations program officer at the Tyre-based Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC).

Analysts say mines have inhibited investment in the South -- where the roads are filled with potholes and jobs are slim after decades of neglect.

"Even when it is cleared, people will still think it is unsafe for their children. It's a major discouragement," said one development worker.

DEMINERS AT WORK

North of the border in an area once dominated by the now defunct pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA), mine clearers imported from Africa for wages of roughly \$650 a month are hard at work in the minefields.

In the shadow of an old SLA base and barracks in what deminers have dubbed the "Qlaiaa belt" that protected the former SLA stronghold of Marjayoun, puffs of gray smoke rise from demolition blasts that destroy detected mines.

Deminers clearing known Israeli minefields at a roughly 8,073-square-foot site within the belt have destroyed 457 mines in eight days, replacing them with yellow sticks representing cleared mines that stretch across the rocky ground in four rows.

"We have just found there was another belt we didn't know about up close to the barracks," one deminer said, adding that the mines were planted by the SLA.

Emirate-funded deminers estimate most of their southern mandate area will be cleared by the end of the year, and are in talks to expand to parts of the former occupied zone north of the Litani River not included in the current program.

Even after all of south Lebanon is scoured by deminers, bomb experts say there will be no guarantee it will be completely mine-free.

"There could be a one-off deep mine," said Kerei Ruru, a MACC operations officer, adding that unexploded bombs dropped by planes could in rare instances sink several yards into the ground if the soil was soft.

"Forty to 50 years later, they will still be finding items here," he said.

10/27/03

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 1:27 PM

From: Matts Gustavsson <matts.gustavsson@foi.se>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi,
I have been working with three different types of more or less automatic weather stations, the VAISALA MAWS (and MILOS 500) (<http://www.vaisala.com> <<http://www.vaisala.com/>>), DAVIS (<http://www.davisnet.com> <<http://www.davisnet.com/>>) and Oregon Scientific (<http://www.oregonscientific.com> <<http://www.oregonscientific.com/>>). They are all capable of recording the basic weather data (wind speed, wind direction, indoor and outdoor temperature, indoor and outdoor humidity, atmospheric pressure and precipitation) but the VAISALA and the DAVIS offers more expansion possibilities. They can all be configured with a data logger for contiguous data recording. Crucial for equipment in the type of environment that you are working in is of course reliability and power consumption and I assume that the price is of some importance for you too. The VAISLA is the type of weather station that is used at air ports and when reliability and accurate recordings is important, the price is more that 3000\$US. The Oregon Scientific works OK but does not give you the same possibilities to expansions of the station with more sensors for soil temperature, soil moister and solar radiation as the DAVIS. The power consumption for the Davis is low so instead of buying a solar panel an external car battery can be used and replaced every time the data is downloaded from the station. The price for a DAVIS weather station is about 1500 \$US.

I have helped the APOPO project to get their weather stations; they have 1 station in Tanzania and 2 stations in Mozambique now and as far as I know they are quit pleased with them.

Matts Gustavsson Senior Research Officer
Swedish Defence Research Agency
FOI – Systems Technology
Stockholm
SWEDEN

matts.gustavsson@foi.se

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] **On Behalf Of** Hugh Lawrence
Sent: den 10 november 2003 10:04
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Hi,

Can anybody point me towards a reliable manufacturer of solar powered automatic weather station equipment. My intent is to price suitable models to determine if one is suitable for inclusion into a national dog test site proposal. Additionally any individuals/organisations with experience in AWS please feel free to provide comment and advice.

Regards,

Hugh Lawrence

Technical Advisor - Operations

Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND)

Maputo

Mozambique

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Temporary Server Shut-Down

Date: Monday, November 10, 2003 7:39 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks

In order to make this server safer against trojans, worms etc we will have to close it temporarily down.

Thx for understanding, see you soon.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: CEN PPE standard

Date: Monday, November 10, 2003 4:52 AM

From: Adam Lewis <adam.lewis@jrc.it>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andy,

Your information is correct.

PPE was discussed by CEN Working Group BT/WG 126 two years ago but no real decisions were made at that time. At the last meeting of BT/WG126, on 28th October, it was decided to set up a Workshop on PPE.

The requirements:

- . a statement of request from the end users
- . a driving force (e.g. a humanitarian organization)
 - i.e. if anyone is interested, now is your chance!
- . a little later, financial support

The Working Group Secretary is Carl Michael Ilving [cmi@ds.dk]

Please contact him if you would like to be a member of this Workshop,

Best wishes,

Adam Lewis

Institute for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen
Humanitarian Security Unit
Post Point TP 723
European Commission Joint Research Centre
Via E. Fermi, 1
21020 Ispra (VA) Italy
Phone: +39 0332 785786
Fax +39 0332 785469

Adam.Lewis@jrc.it

To find out more about our work in Humanitarian Demining, please visit our website:
<http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it/demining/demining.htm>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Date: Monday, November 10, 2003 4:03 AM

From: Hugh Lawrence <hlawrence@ind.gov.mz>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi,

Can anybody point me towards a reliable manufacturer of solar powered automatic weather station equipment. My intent is to price suitable models to determine if one is suitable for inclusion into a national dog test site proposal. Additionally any individuals/organisations with experience in AWS please feel free to provide comment and advice.

Regards,

Hugh Lawrence
Technical Advisor - Operations
Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND)
Maputo
Mozambique

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: UNDP and RPGs

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2003 12:46 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Roger, many thanks for your information regarding IEDs in Iraq, and the implications for after-market protection against IED threats generally. Yup, it can't really be done. Some argue that any additional protection is better than none - but I disagree when that gives the user an unwarranted feeling of safety.

Those interested should contact regis@pixie.co.za for the revamped South African machines, or Hendrik for the sparkling new Werewolves... These machines will not reliably take any armour-piercing munition, incidentally, so they are vulnerable to common RPGs.

Maj Gen B S Kataria,

Is it right that Sarvatra Technical Consultants works under UNDP auspices? If so, how can UNDP be involved in using strimmers and detector-rakes in HD? I thought the UN had patched up some of its internal contradictions - was I that wrong? Can anyone set me straight?

Regards all,
Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Address

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2003 10:45 AM

From: Didier LEONARD <didierleo@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

>From: "Yves Cabaraux" <yves.cabaraux@skynet.be>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Address

>Date: Fri, 7 Nov 2003 18:11:30 +0100

>

>Dear All,

>I'm looking after John Kirby (Jabba)

>email.

>Thanks for your help

>Yves CABARAUX

Yves,

Jabba est actuellement en Iraq, plus precisement a Erbil ou il travaille pour MAG. Je l'y ai rencontre. Je n'ai pas son e-mail personnel mais je pense que tu peux le contacter via celui de MAG a ERbil:

cpm@magiraq.org

Si tu n'y arrives pas, recontactes moi, j'essaierai par un autre moyen.

Salut

Didier Leonard

didierleo@hotmail.com

MSN Search, le moteur de recherche qui pense comme vous !

<http://search.msn.fr>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: A worm is on your computer!

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2003 7:18 AM

From: Nakura <mnak@sky.plala.or.jp>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Help:

I also receive spam-mails as you mentioned in the original message.

This will be dealt with by a specialist over this weekend .

Please advise me if I should unsubscribe of your list temporarily till the worm is removed.

----- Original Message -----

From: <info@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2003 2:15 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: A worm is on your computer!

> I permanently get Spam-Mails from you and inside is a virus!!

> You should remove these thing.

> Read the document, before another or my mailbox explode!

>

> Yours sincerely:

> info@mgm.org

> #####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: smaller Anti Vehicle mines

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2003 1:17 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@telkomsa.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Ashley;

> Roger, please advise what you think is a typical anti-vehicle IED - and whether or not any after-market armour could >protect against it....

Andy is spot-on. While IED's are generally constructed from whatever is locally available, however if Iraq is being used as an example, then large caliber artillery ammunition is normally used as the main charge and are often set up in a daisy chain. 100mm rounds are generally the smallest ones used, but 122mm, 130mm and 152mm artillery rounds or 122/127mm rocket warheads seemed to be the preferred main charges.

The net explosive weight for these projectiles ranges between 2kg to 7kg (depending on the caliber), however at close range the high-speed fragments from even the smaller projos will most likely punch through any ballistic weave materials that could be installed on the sides and under-body of a normal 4x4 SUV. This does not take the side windows into consideration, which places the head, throat and shoulders of a grown person in a terribly exposed position to an off-route device.

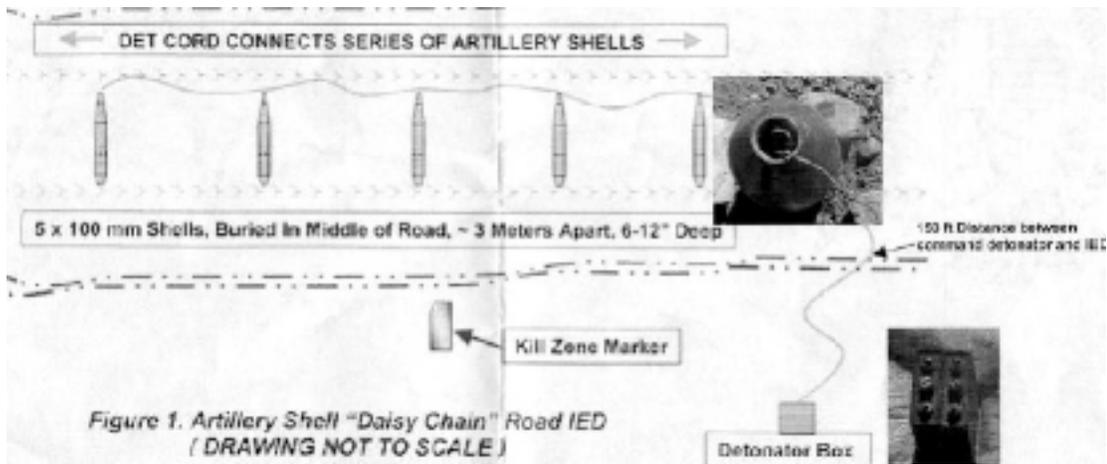
Attached are two cut-down examples of IED's that were used in Iraq, one set up for under-vehicle attack and the other as an off-route attack. They don't show exact diagrams of how they were wired up, however it doesn't take much imagination to see what they can do.

If you want to protect people against these types of threats; then a properly designed and constructed MRV needs to be used, not a modified SUV.

Those two beauties from WMF that Hendrik just posted are a pinnacle of what can be obtained (BTW: Hendrik; Please tell Hannes I'm impressed and am looking forward to a test-drive). However if you can't afford the price tag that goes with those, which is actually not too far above what some of those so-called "armored" Gucci-looking SUV's cost, then other vehicles like Casspirs, Wolfs, Armored Samils, and Mamba's should be looked at, and seriously considered.

Cheers

Roger



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rakes and after-armouring

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 2:43 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Ashley,

Excuse the long story work up but the last months not been easy for me....

Last month 2 Guys I know were Killed, the driver lived with severe bleeding, no amputations (I have no idea how he managed) and 3 Injured from the veh behind when they ran over stacked Anti tank Mines in kabul. The Mines were laid in ambush most likely as the locals probably watched the clearance team from my own old troop clear the road and waited till a lull as they knew the route would be travelled if being proved-thats the general accepted consensus. Either that or the Route proving methods of just driving over the ground with the Mamba and proclaiming it good to go(and not properly EOD Clearing it and wondering what happened after an accident) low threat low risk missed Deep Mines. I never really agreed with that Route proving method. 4 tires for me dont constitute clear and I think the Military should have to go by IMAS- I really didnt like being forced to drive up grassy overgrown Bosnian Mountain paths using that method in even a protected Recce Veh or armoured Vehicle with a V Hull....

Funny how coincidentally another freind in the front end loader just hit another Mine removing the road surface down a bit deeper last week. Right after the accident The first thing the public was all over was the fact that they were in a 4 x 4 small Jeep and not in an Armoured Veh with a Boat shaped V hull that would have survived if Canada had equiped the troops properly . The fact that they had blast mats and were wearing personal protective kit didnt save them either. The driver who survived said the fact he was in a roofless vehicle may have amounted for why he survived. Its like you say guys, Blast mats aernt going to do much. Its easy to do the math.

Never Changes, it takes somebody to die till people want to spend money for proper kit. Sounds like when I was tasked with advising the Prime Minister of Canadas Office when they wanted(and did) to buy the 27 Pearson Plows for the LAV. People(even at my Regiment) kept talking about and wanting to use it for a Mineplow for Mines in all areas for which I was glad to give Operational Soldier operator level input to curb. Always Seems to me that when theres a shortage of money(or lack of proper leadership in procurement and spending) in the govt or in HD it always encourages the same type of people to cut corners and sacrifice saftey, until of course someone dies. I'm not suprised that company refused to produce Blast mats that they knew would make the finger point at them.

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Croatia

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, November 07, 2003 11:26 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rakes and after-armouring

> Dear Andy,

> I agree re the AP mine issue. We are offering something for the smaller
> Anti Vehicle mines and IED. With our TABREshield we are trying to offer
> upgraded protection that is lighter than the steel equivalent. Our system
> has performed well in tests using Range Rovers with Anti Vehicle type
> blasts.
> The problem that you have no doubt spotted is that when you start talking
> about AT mines a 4x4 is likely to go into orbit no matter how much
> protection you have. My interest is understanding what the threats are.
> Regards,
> Ashley
> Aigis Engineering
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Didactylos
> Sent: Friday, November 07, 2003 2:28 PM
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rakes and after-armouring
>
> Maj Gen B S Kataria, Vice President, Sarvatra Technical Consultants,
please
> forgive my tardy response. I am just working through a huge backlog of
> messages and came across your "introduction" from Sri Lanka.
>
> Sir, can you tell me whether you represent the "professional" group that
> uses petrol-trimmers in front of men "detecting" mines using rakes? If
this
> is right, can you confirm whether your group includes any individual who
has
> actually read the IMAS or understood the principles of Humanitarian Mine
> Action?
>
> Ashley,
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> Anyone who after-armours a 4x4 against an AP blast mine is wasting their
> time. An AP blast mine (up to 300g TNT) under a 15" wheel is not likely to
> injure those inside the vehicle at all. So a floor-mat serves no purpose.
A
> large and bounding AP fragmentation mine (such as the PROM-1, VALMARA-69
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> OZM-72) will rupture thin skinned vehicles easily. If the main charge goes
> off against the vehicle floor, a Tabre or Kevlar mat will not do much good
> and at least "some" fragments will come inside at high speed. But, in any
> case, the chances of a bounding fragmentation mine going off against the
> vehicle floor are extremely low (I know of no such cases in HD).
>
> So, an after market AP blast-mine protection serves no purpose. It is just
> "window dressing" giving false confidence to occupants. The attached is
what
> happened to a Toyota after-armoured with ROFI-mats when it hit the real
> threat - an AT blast mine - in Angola. The vehicle was not protected at
all
> and the occupants died. I understand that ROFI (a very respectable
> manufacturer of PPE) withdrew their mats afterwards because they did not
> want to be associated with selling something pointless. ROFI, please
correct
> me if I am wrong about this.
>
> Regards
> Andy
>
>

>
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Kinshasa Calls for More Support in Landmine Removal

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 12:34 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Kinshasa Calls for More Support in Landmine Removal

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks <http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=

[UN%20Integrated%20Regional%20Information%20Networks&passed_location=Nairobi](http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=UN%20Integrated%20Regional%20Information%20Networks&passed_location=Nairobi)>

November 7, 2003

Nairobi

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has requested increased support in its efforts to rid the country of landmines.

The call came on Thursday during a UN General Assembly discussion of the UN mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005.

Among other aid, the DRC ambassador to the UN, Fabien-Emery Zulu Kilo-Abi, said his nation needed legal, financial, technological and human assistance in its efforts to draw up and implement an anti-landmine programme, which would also help care for victims.

"There must be support for the destruction of stockpiles, as well as for the training of a national demining capacity," he added.

He said that although his was not one of the countries most affected by mines, many people had nevertheless been wounded and maimed.

Zulu Kilo-Abi recalled that the DRC had on 1 November 2002 become a state party to the Ottawa Convention to ban landmines, and continued to identify minefields within its territory and stockpiles of the devices in order to destroy them. He said that many challenges remained, but that the collective awareness of the scope of the problem could help rally support.

[For the complete General Assembly communique, go to <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2003/ga10206.doc.htm>]

Subject: MgM Demining Network: A worm is on your computer!

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 12:15 PM

From: info@mgm.org

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I permanently get Spam-Mails from you and inside is a virus!!

You should remove these thing.

Read the document, before another or my mailbox explode!

Yours sincerely:

info@mgm.org

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Address

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 12:11 PM

From: Yves Cabaraux <yves.cabaraux@skynet.be>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear All,

I'm looking after John Kirby (Jabba)
email.

Thanks for your help

Yves CABARAUX

Subject: MgM Demining Network: AT mine
Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 11:55 AM
From: Art Krenzel <phoenix98604@earthlink.net>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Does anyone have any information on the AT mine which killed two crewmembers on the Abrams tank in Iraq about a week ago? Was it a stacked set or single mine? What was unique about the mine or location that it struck the tank that two of the three crewmembers were killed?

Art Krenzel, P.E.
PHOENIX TECHNOLOGIES
10505 NE 285TH Street
Battle Ground, WA 98604
360-666-1883 voice
phoenix98604@earthlink.net

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: smaller Anti Vehicle mines

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 11:33 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Ashley,

I wonder which mines you are talking about when you say you "are offering something for the smaller Anti Vehicle mines"? Which mines, and where are they anticipated please? And also, which IEDs do you have in mind? I ask because many use mixed munitions with much more to protect against that simply blast.

The truth is, you cannot after-armour any production vehicle against AT/AV mines truly effectively. If you want to stop launching the vehicle when a large blast strikes, you must design from the wheels upward so that wheels and/or stub-axles can break away and the blast can be kept at least a metre and a half away, and then deflected. If you want to protect against typical IEDs, well what is typical? Roger, please advise what you think is a typical anti-vehicle IED - and whether or not any after-market armour could protect against it....

In theory, you could make a new chassis and stretch the wheels fore and aft to achieve both standoff and frangibility - but frankly this is then a new vehicle, not an after-armouring exercise - and to do it properly would mean ending up with either a two-seater or a stretch-limo. Doing it only for the front wheels is not good enough at all.

I have never tested Tabre - but have heard stories and have argued against the claims for it and blast-boots. I am glad that you have not reiterated any of the earlier claims over boots. But I am interested in the material and would like some samples to "test" next time I am blowing things up. Any chance?

Another "new" product was touted a couple of years ago and armour made from it was sold for demining. Called "Dyneema" it was similar to puffed polythene - and performed very well against single fragments fired in a NATO STANAG PPE test. Very light and seemingly attractive. But in real situations, the mine fragments were far faster and hotter and the material withdrew from the heat as polythene would from a hot-poker. Small fragments left large - and fatal - holes.

Someone told me that a new CEN standard for testing appropriate PPE performance is being devised. I hope it makes sense because we need it.

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Keeping your staff alive

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 10:58 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Last Thursday MgM finally received two HEC-Wolves. These are HEC designed WMF Wervolves which features MAN engine/drive train in an armored 4x4 all-terrain monocoque.

They were donated to MgM by the US DoS HDP and are going up to Angola next week. Where as a basic military Werwolf starts at around US\$ 190.000 ex-Windhoek untaxed, the full HEC HD version with high roof, aircon, comms, storage, removable front armor glass, side cab doors etc can cost up to USD 230.000.

They take 21 kg TNT under any wheel, 14 kg under the hull, 10 kg IED from 3 meters side and AK's etc are a mere joke. The vehicle has a modular loading bay. This means you can put anything from anti-aircraft guns to ambulance modules onto its back, MgM only uses the cargo and personnel carrier modules so far. The cab takes four people, the personnel carrier module takes eight.

With these superb vehicles, any of the accidents we heard about during the last days would possibly have been incidents only.

MgM's heartfelt thanks to the US Government making the lives of our staff in Angola a much safer one. BTW, they were baptized by HE the US Ambassador to Namibia. They are "Pat" and "Debbie".

Cheers, and: Vorsprung durch Technik !

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rakes and after-armouring

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 9:56 AM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Andy,

I agree re the AP mine issue. We are offering something for the smaller Anti Vehicle mines and IED. With our TABREShield we are trying to offer upgraded protection that is lighter than the steel equivalent. Our system has performed well in tests using Range Rovers with Anti Vehicle type blasts.

The problem that you have no doubt spotted is that when you start talking about AT mines a 4x4 is likely to go into orbit no matter how much protection you have. My interest is understanding what the threats are.

Regards,

Ashley

Aigis Engineering

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos

Sent: Friday, November 07, 2003 2:28 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rakes and after-armouring

Maj Gen B S Kataria, Vice President, Sarvatra Technical Consultants, please forgive my tardy response. I am just working through a huge backlog of messages and came across your "introduction" from Sri Lanka.

Sir, can you tell me whether you represent the "professional" group that uses petrol-strimmers in front of men "detecting" mines using rakes? If this is right, can you confirm whether your group includes any individual who has actually read the IMAS or understood the principles of Humanitarian Mine Action?

Ashley,

Anyone who after-armours a 4x4 against an AP blast mine is wasting their time. An AP blast mine (up to 300g TNT) under a 15" wheel is not likely to injure those inside the vehicle at all. So a floor-mat serves no purpose. A large and bounding AP fragmentation mine (such as the PROM-1, VALMARA-69 and OZM-72) will rupture thin skinned vehicles easily. If the main charge goes off against the vehicle floor, a Tabre or Kevlar mat will not do much good and at least "some" fragments will come inside at high speed. But, in any case, the chances of a bounding fragmentation mine going off against the vehicle floor are extremely low (I know of no such cases in HD).

So, an after market AP blast-mine protection serves no purpose. It is just "window dressing" giving false confidence to occupants. The attached is what happened to a Toyota after-armoured with ROFI-mats when it hit the real threat - an AT blast mine - in Angola. The vehicle was not protected at all and the occupants died. I understand that ROFI (a very respectable manufacturer of PPE) withdrew their mats afterwards because they did not want to be associated with selling something pointless. ROFI, please correct me if I am wrong about this.

Regards

Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rakes and after-armouring

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 9:28 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: The Network now Virus Protected

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 8:14 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <hec01@mail2.mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks

As you realized, our server is now protected against virus.
RAV deleted the attachment before it was mailed out.

Greetings

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: New internet virus!

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 7:19 AM

From: ehlers@mgm.org

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Kaspersky Lab Int. and Norton Anti Virus have found a new typ of worm.

He calls itself "ODIN" and he is very variable!

This mail was spread with this Worm, too. BUT, the attachement is a AntiVirus!!

Norton and Kaspersky Lab has create this bomb.

You should use the <RemovalTool> to check and kill this thing.

Message<ID>: #92648336

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: insurance and training in Africa

Date: Friday, November 7, 2003 5:26 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dave/Jayne asked for insurance contacts and Mark sent them along the HMT route....

One or two recent events have made people concerned about the meteoric rise in the cost of insurance - even for those who have never made a claim. HMT has generally ruled the roost, and its underwriters have dictated price based entirely on the profit they feel happy to make. Their rates have been revised to reflect increased risk in recent conflicts - and it seems that everyone must pay even when not working in those areas. I am insured with HMT - but unlikely to renew.

Because, at last, the dominant position of HMT and its Lloyds underwriters has been challenged.

The best value insurance for deminers and ex-pats is now offered by a German company. You can get more for the same price, or the same for a lower price.

Contact: Frank Braun
Philosophenweg 23
47051 Duisburg
Phone: (02 03) 5 70 66-24
Fax: (02 03) 5 70 66-90
braun@aktiv-assekuranz.de

On training, Pete asked for advice relevant to Africa without saying where in Africa he may be working. Bob is right - "let them teach you how to teach them". You will learn at least as much as you pass-on.

It is also well to remember the approach of previous "teachers" and to tailor your approach to overcome any traps the old-Colonials dug for you.

While National characteristics are always no more than a guide, in general, the nature of the Colonial power affects the attitude of many people to the white-faced expert. Risking argument, I will say that the Portuguese seem to have been least overtly racist - anyone could rise to the top - and this means that there is a higher degree of self confidence (sometime unfounded) in their ex-colonies. This is great when training - because you can teach facts fairly easily, but giving people the confidence to use the information and pass it on between themselves is much harder. There are also far more mixed-race people in Portuguese ex-colonies than in some other places - but National pride means that you MUST speak Portuguese. The Brits were (usually) essentially benevolently racist - "we are so obviously superior to these people that we should look after them while harvesting any useful resources around". The result can be a lack of self-confidence and a willingness to wait to be told what to do at all times. The Germans and Belgians had a slightly different approach - "we are so obviously superior to these people that we had better kick them while harvesting and useful resources". The results can be a sullen resentment mingled with an inferiority complex. The French were some kind of mixture - sometimes like the Ports, and sometimes like the Germans.

Anywhere that has had recent US economic imperialism imposed, tends to

resent Westerners for treating them as if they were sub-human because they don't think blobby-TV, McDonalds and freeways are the key to happiness... As a Canadian, Pete, you will always find that you have some anti-US feelings to overcome throughout Africa - because very few of us can distinguish between the drawls (or indeed the politics). Unfair perhaps, but true because while the ignorance/contempt for other cultures throughout North America is widely presumed, the same ignorance of reality in the US and Canada leads to a counter contempt. (You guys control the media so it is basically your fault that people don't see the real picture about North America.) The Muslim faith is also very widespread, usually tolerant and benign, along with a growing mixture of magic and Christianity that can leave fundamentalist Christians frothing but which fits the local needs rather well.

Keep an open mind and, as Bob said, find out what you need to know before telling anyone what they need to know. The purpose of MRE varies dramatically from place to place - along with the threats and the level of knowledge already held. In general, don't tell people not to do things that they MUST do, and don't feel obliged to have all the answers - tease the answers from the people and let them OWN the knowledge. Basic teaching stuff. You'll do well.

Funny old f***ed-up world....

Regards all,
Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: mozambique contact

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2003 8:14 AM

From: Hugh Lawrence <hlawrence@ind.gov.mz>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Visit the Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND) website at www.ind.gov.mz where you will find a list of accredited demining operators whom are licensed to conduct demining operations within the criteria listed.

Regards,

Hugh Lawrence

----- Original Message -----

From: <emacepo@dimec.unige.it>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2003 2:18 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: mozambique contact

> Hi,
> can someone please give me an email address of some mine clearance
organization
> in Mozambique I can contact for a minefield visit and survey?
> Thank you very much,
> Emanuela Cepolina
>
>
> #####
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: mozambique contact

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2003 8:12 AM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Here you go: ELS are doing some work in Mozambique
els.mozambique@tvcabo.co.mz

Ashley

ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of
emacepo@dimec.unige.it
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2003 12:19 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: mozambique contact

Hi,
can someone please give me an email address of some mine clearance
organization
in Mozambique I can contact for a minefield visit and survey?
Thank you very much,
Emanuela Cepolina

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: mozambique contact

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2003 7:18 AM

From: emacepo@dimec.unige.it

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi,
can someone please give me an email address of some mine clearance organization
in Mozambique I can contact for a minefield visit and survey?
Thank you very much,
Emanuela Cepolina

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Turkey: Land Mines Near Syria To Be Cleared

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2003 11:42 PM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

New York Times

November 5, 2003

Turkey: Land Mines Near Syria To Be Cleared

Turkey will clear 615,000 land mines along its border with Syria, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener announced. The mines, planted from 1957 to 1959, will be destroyed by the military. Turkey joined the international ban on antipersonnel mines in March.

--Sebnem Arsu (NYT)

Subject: MgM Demining Network: 2 from Knox firm die in Iraq

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2003 4:40 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

2 from Knox firm die in Iraq

Contractors worked for EOD Technology; third employee was wounded

CYNTHIA YELDELL,

Knoxville News-Sentinel

November 4, 2003

Two contractors working for a Knoxville company were killed and one was slightly wounded Sunday morning outside Baghdad when an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated along the roadside as their truck passed. EOD Technology Inc. employees Roy Buckmaster, 47, of Lake Oswego, Ore., and David Dyess, 53, of Havelock, N.C., were killed, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

They were in Iraq working as ordnance and explosive experts. EOD has about 200 employees and specializes in disposal of unexploded ordnance and munitions. It was one of several companies contracted through the Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., to support the Captured Enemy Ammunition program. The program began in September to handle demolition of conventional ammunition and weapons stockpiled by the previous Iraqi regime, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. "We are a small business, our people are very close and this is a devastating and tragic event," company Vice President Matt Kaye said Monday. "We are concentrating on supporting these families. It just happened yesterday. We have been dealing with it for a very short period of time and we are trying to help these families get through this difficult period." E. Frank Johnson, 51, of Bruceville, Texas, was wounded in the attack and was reportedly treated for minor cuts and released, the Army Corps said. Buckmaster and Dyess were Air Force veterans and Johnson is a Navy veteran. Business writer Cynthia Yeldell may be reached at 865-342-6320.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Dept of State Supports "Night of a Thousand Dinners" To Combat the Global Landmine Problem

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2003 10:46 AM

From: Albert M. Bottoms <amb@demine.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

SCOT enthusiastically endorses this initiative. I wish that we could have known about this sooner so as to organize some effective support. Next time.

--

Albert M. Bottoms amb@demine.org <http://www.demine.org>
President, Society for Counter-Ordnance Technology
849 Coast Blvd AL506, La Jolla, CA 92037-4223 Tel. (858)456-4255

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Dept of State Supports "Night of a Thousand Dinners" To Combat the Global Landmine Problem

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2003 9:54 AM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

U.S. Department of State
Media Note
Office of the Spokesman
Washington, D.C.
November 4, 2003

Department of State Supports "Night of a Thousand Dinners" To Combat the Global Landmine Problem

To help raise public awareness of the persistent landmine problem that affects over 60 countries, the U.S. Department of State is conducting outreach activities in the United States and at some of its embassies overseas for the third consecutive year to support the annual "Night of a Thousand Dinners" on Thursday, November 6, 2003. Officers from the Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and some other bureaus will speak at various "Night of a Thousand Dinners" events in the United States.

This global event is built around dinners, from casual barbecues to formal events, which are hosted in private homes, U.S. and foreign embassies, restaurants and other settings around the world. Each dinner educates people about the persistent landmine problem and encourages their support for humanitarian mine action. November 6 has been set as the main date for the event this year but dinners may also be held later in 2003.

"Night of a Thousand Dinners" is an initiative created by the Canadian Landmine Foundation to benefit Adopt-A-Minefield. Adopt-A-Minefield is a program of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, in partnership with the United Nations and the Better World Fund. These organizations participate in the Department of State's public-private partnership program that is managed by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. The partnership program encourages civil society and corporations to help make the world safe from the dangers posed by persistent landmines that remain from past conflicts.

To learn how you can host your own "Night of a Thousand Dinners" to support humanitarian mine action, visit www.1000dinners.com <<http://www.1000dinners.com>>.

For information about the Department of State's humanitarian mine action program, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/wra <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra>>.

[End]

Released on November 4, 2003

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Explosive Device Awareness Top Priority for Troops in Iraq

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2003 6:12 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Explosive Device Awareness Top Priority for Troops in Iraq
Spc. Blake Kent, USA
Special to American Forces Press MOSUL, Iraq, Nov. 4, 2003 – With hundreds wounded and scores killed by improvised explosive devices, coalition forces are doing everything possible to prepare their troops with needed awareness training. "There is approximately 600,000 tons of ordnance out on the ground throughout the country," said Army Maj. Adam Boyd, of the 1138th Mine, Explosive and Ordnance Information Coordination Center, "and the enemy is getting smarter every single day on how to use it." Soldiers may encounter a number of different forms of the devices, such as disguised static IEDs, disguised movable IEDs, improvised grenades, and IEDs placed in, on or under the target. Vehicles attacks are the most prevalent. According to Army Staff Sgt. Jon Kibbler, also from the 1138th center, the enemy targets vehicles at intersections and roundabouts, on and under bridges and overpasses, on verges and breaks in the median strips, when passing through defiles, and on the open highways. The enemy is also employing multiple IEDs in a daisy-chain fashion; targeting ground forces and fixed installations; employing "come on" tactics, items that attract personnel into the kill zone; and secondary IEDs, after the initial devices have detonated, Kibbler said. Complacency is one of the worst enemies for the coalition forces, he noted. "It isn't the soldiers that are just coming into theater that are getting hurt," he said. "It's the guys that have been here for a year that are getting complacent." Soldiers can do things to help make themselves less of a target for these devices, Kibbler said, and help prepare themselves for IEDs encounters. Altering routes, times and commonly witnessed procedures can make it more difficult for the enemy to pick a target. Soldiers should have clearly understood and well-rehearsed procedures, and always be on the lookout for suspicious activity and indicators of possible IEDs. They should maintain regular communication among themselves. When individuals do come across an IED, they should confirm what they see, evacuate the area, secure the site and control the area until an explosive ordnance detachment arrives. Soldiers should also follow report-filing procedures to help inform the EOD team of the situation. Kibbler warned troops to be at least 100 meters away from unexploded ordnance when radio-transmitting, because some frequencies can set off these devices. "The two biggest things that are going to help you an IED situation is vigilance and communication," he concluded. (Spc. Blake Kent is assigned to the 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: please delete
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2003 2:17 PM
From: Christina Müller <Christina.Mueller@bam.de>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear colleagues,

since my account is always overflowing I would like to have my name deleted from the your mailing list. I would prefer to look via the web to the news.
Thank you

kind regards

Christina Müller

--
begin: vcard
fn: Dr. Christina Mueller
n: Mueller;Dr. Christina
org: BAM Berlin
adr: Unter den Eichen 87;;;Berlin;;D 12205;Germany
email;internet: Christina.Mueller@bam.de
title: Laborleiterin BAM VIII.33 "Zuverlässigkeit zerstörungsfreier Pr
tel;work: +49 30 8104 1833
tel;fax: +49 30 8104 1837
tel;home: mobil +49 171 699 8491
x-mozilla-cpt: ;0
x-mozilla-html: FALSE
end: vcard

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: E-mail address search /Pete Hindy

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2003 8:51 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Pete Hindy wrote:

>> Anyone have the email for NPA Mine Action Human resources, Minetech?

>>

UBIQUE!! Pete Hindy Croatia

Good Morning Pete,

I rceived today the following information:

Dear Willy Meurer,

Here is the website of Minetech:

<http://www.minetech.co.uk/>Here is the e-mail address of the person in charge of human resources with the Norwegian Peoples Aid Mine Action Programme:

heha@npaid.org

I hope this helps you further. Our AMAC people are not in today.

(<http://www.prio.no/research/project.asp?ProsjektID=12>)

Please contact me again if you need to get in touch with any of these.

All the best, Agnete

Agnete Schjønby

Information Director

International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO)

Tel: +47 22 54 77 10

Mobile: +47 90 57 15 03

Hope, this helps.

All the best,

Willy Meurer, Toronto

Phone: ..1 416 444 2038

Fax: ..1 416 444 0876

mail: willke@primus.ca

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Monday, November 3, 2003 12:20 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Robin

This may be missing the point though unless the MRMs (or the HI mines, come to that) are the same types as the mines found in Sri Lanka!

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Robin Collins

Sent: 03 November 2003 15:43

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

CCMAT in Canada also developed some "mechanical reproduction mines". I'm not sure where you can get hold of them, but check out:
http://www.ccmat.gc.ca/TechnologyField/index_e.html

Robin

>
> From: "Manuel GONZAL" <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>
> Date: 2003/11/03 Mon AM 05:46:04 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

>
> Dear all,
> Making models of mines is not very difficult and cheap. I make models sometimes with epoxy resin, for the demining exhibitions of Handicap International like the "pyramid of shoes" last week end on Trafalgar Square. The problem is the aim of these models. If you need models as simple form to show the panel of mines in a specific region I am able to transfer the knowledge. If you need mine or UXOs to teach how to neutralize it, you need the complete mechanism inside, it's more difficult and you would need to contact a factory. The prices could be very high and as I tried to find models before being able to make what I need I give the link of a small French factory which is able to do good quality models. Here is the web link:

> http://www.sedial.com/bienvenue_sedial_2003.htm

>
> The site is in French but I am available to give you information about them. And there are in copy list.

> Regards

>
> Manuel GONZAL

> CT déminage

> poste 7961

>
> -----Message d'origine-----

> De : Joe Lokey [mailto:parallax53@yahoo.com]

> Envoyé : vendredi 31 octobre 2003 18:31

> À : network@mgm.org
> Objet : Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models
>
>
> All,
> If I'm not mistaken, didn't Handicap International
> have an outfit somewhere in Cambodia that made some
> very detailed mine replicas out of wood a few years
> ago? I also believe they were landmine survivors who
> made them. I don't any contact info on that but if
> someone knows Susan Walker's contact info, they might
> want to pass it on to this gent.
> Cheers,
> - joe
>
>
> --- info <info@sarvatrademiners.com> wrote:
> >
> ----- Original Message -----
> > From: info
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:40 PM
> > Subject: Fw: Mine Models
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: general
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Cc: info@sarvatrademiners.com
> > Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:33 PM
> > Subject: Mine Models
> >
> >
> > Dear Sir/Ma'am,
> >
> > Sarvatra Technical Consultants is a premier NGO
> > engaged in Humanitarian Demining.
> >
> > As of today, we are actively involved in demining
> > operations in Sri Lanka under the Indo - Sri Lanka -
> > Norway Cooperation programmes operating under the
> > overall supervision of UNDP. Our project in Sri
> > Lanka stands extended for another two years and
> > force level increased by three times. Currently
> > Sarvatra is working in three different areas in Sri
> > Lanka.
> >
> > Sarvatra has developed an integrated humanitarian
> > demining system that is highly accurate, safe and
> > cost effective in mine-infested countries.
> >
> > We are in need of mine models for training purposes.
> > These models are intended for our training school
> > where we educate the deminers on various mines and
> > UXOs they can encounter. In case these models are
> > not available with you, we shall feel grateful to
> > get some referrals we can correspond with for the
> > same.
> >
> > Looking forward to hear from you soon.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Two American [EOD] Contractors killed in Iraq Sunday

Date: Monday, November 3, 2003 10:59 AM

From: James Rolig <james.rolig@schiebel.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I haven't seen this tragedy posted yet - it seems to have been overshadowed in the major news outlets by the downed Chinook.

From a US Army Corps of Engineers Press Release:

Two American Contractors killed in Iraq Sunday

Baghdad, Iraq -- Two American private contractors were killed and one was slightly wounded Sunday morning outside of Baghdad when an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated along the roadside as the truck passed in which they were traveling. The injured man was reportedly treated for minor cuts and released.

Roy Buckmaster, 47, of Lake Oswego, Ore. and David Dyess, 53, of Havelock, N.C. were killed when an explosion rocked their vehicle in the town of Fallujah, Iraq. A third man, E. Frank Johnson, 51, of Bruceville, Texas was wounded in the attack.

Buckmaster and Dyess were Air Force veterans. Johnson is a Navy veteran.

The three were traveling to a base camp outside of Baghdad when the incident occurred. The men were working in Iraq to support the Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA) program contracted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

The CEA mission handles demolition of conventional ammunition and weapons stockpiled by the previous Iraqi regime. All three men were working for EOD Technology, Inc. (EODT) as ordnance and explosive experts. EODT, based in Knoxville, Tenn., specializes in disposal of unexploded ordnance and munitions and is one of several companies awarded contracts for the CEA demolition operations that began Sept. 11, 2003.

The incident is currently under investigation.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
P.O. 1600
Huntsville, AL 35807-4301

Contact: Public Affairs 256.895.1690

Fax: 256.895.1689

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Monday, November 3, 2003 10:42 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

CCMAT in Canada also developed some "mechanical reproduction mines". I'm not sure where you can get hold of them, but check out:

http://www.ccmata.gc.ca/TechnologyField/index_e.html

Robin

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> From: "Manuel GONZAL" <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>
> Date: 2003/11/03 Mon AM 05:46:04 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

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> Regards

>
> Manuel GONZAL
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> poste 7961

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> De : Joe Lokey [mailto:parallax53@yahoo.com]
> Envoyé : vendredi 31 octobre 2003 18:31
> À : network@mgm.org
> Objet : Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

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> want to pass it on to this gent.

> Cheers,
> - joe

>
> --- info <info@sarvatrademiners.com> wrote:
> >

> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: info

>
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Monday, November 3, 2003 5:46 AM

From: Manuel GONZAL <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear all,

Making models of mines is not very difficult and cheap. I make models sometimes with epoxy resin, for the demining exhibitions of Handicap International like the "pyramid of shoes" last week end on Trafalgar Square. The problem is the aim of these models. If you need models as simple form to show the panel of mines in a specific region I am able to transfer the knowledge. If you need mine or UXOs to teach how to neutralize it, you need the complete mechanism inside, it's more difficult and you would need to contact a factory. The prices could be very high and as I tried to find models before being able to make what I need I give the link of a small French factory which is able to do good quality models. Here is the web link: http://www.sedial.com/bienvenue_sedial_2003.htm

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Cheers,

- joe

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>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: info

> To: network@mgm.org

> Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:40 PM

> Subject: Fw: Mine Models

>

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: general

> To: network@mgm.org

> Cc: info@sarvatrademiners.com

> Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:33 PM

> Subject: Mine Models

>
>
> Dear Sir/Ma'am,
>
> Sarvatra Technical Consultants is a premier NGO
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>
> As of today, we are actively involved in demining
> operations in Sri Lanka under the Indo - Sri Lanka -
> Norway Cooperation programmes operating under the
> overall supervision of UNDP. Our project in Sri
> Lanka stands extended for another two years and
> force level increased by three times. Currently
> Sarvatra is working in three different areas in Sri
> Lanka.
>
> Sarvatra has developed an integrated humanitarian
> demining system that is highly accurate, safe and
> cost effective in mine-infested countries.
>
> We are in need of mine models for training purposes.
> These models are intended for our training school
> where we educate the deminers on various mines and
> UXOs they can encounter. In case these models are
> not available with you, we shall feel grateful to
> get some referrals we can correspond with for the
> same.
>
> Looking forward to hear from you soon.
>
>
>
> Regards,
>
> Maj Gen B S Kataria
>
> Vice President
>
> Sarvatra Technical Consultants
>
>
>
>

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Exclusive Video Premiere - Britney Spears
<http://launch.yahoo.com/promos/britneyspears/>

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Halo Trust Clears 21 Landmine Fields

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2003 2:46 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Halo Trust Clears 21 Landmine Fields

Angola Press Agency <http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=Angola%20Press%20Agency&passed_location=Luanda> (Luanda)

October 28, 2003

Posted to the web October 28, 2003

Luanda

Twenty-one areas have been cleared of landmines between January and September this year in the Angolan provinces of Huambo and Benguela (centre) and Kuando-Kubango (southeast) by the British NGO "Halo Trust".

According to the deputy director of the organization, Jose Agostinho, 3,655 anti-personal and 367 anti-tank mines have been removed.

1,500 mines were cleared in the localities of Ucuma, Longonjo, Caala and Calenga (Huambo), 1,050 in Kuando-Kubango, 1,650 around Kuito, Bie province (centre), 367 in Ganda and Cubal, Benguela Province.

The Halo Trust Gets assistance in materials and foodstuffs food from the United State of America, Holland, NGO Doctors Without Border, Belgium and the United Nations.

Jose Agostinho said that landmine areas are reached through 66 vehicles among 50 jeeps and 16 trucks. Halo Trust is in Angola since 1994 and operates in clearing mines in Bie, Huambo, Kuando-Kubango and Benguela.

Currently it operates with 700 local workers of which 470 are sappers, 54 chiefs of section and 33 supervisors.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Landmine Blast Kills And Destroys Lorry

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2003 2:46 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Landmine Blast Kills And Destroys Lorry

Angola Press Agency <http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=Angola%20Press%20Agency&passed_location=Luanda> (Luanda)

October 31, 2003

Katchiungo (huambo)

One citizen got killed and another one wounded following a landmine explosion Thursday morning on the road linking Katchiungo Village to Tchinhama commune, in the east region of central Huambo province.

The landmine exploded after being ignited by a Volvo lorry, and immediately killed the driver, whose identity is still unknown.

The truck was at the service of a private construction company which is building a primary school and a health post, under a program by the local Government meant to improve the provision of basic services to the population.

The wounded citizen received first aid treatment at Katchiungo health centre and is to be rushed to Huambo city's Hospital on this Friday.

On Tuesday, a machine that belongs to Huambo Roads Brigade drove over a landmine, when carrying out repair works on the stretch linking Sambo and Samboto localities, at Tchicala-Tcholohanga district, in the same east region.

Local authorities said these are "old landmines" which are emerging from the soil, due to the frequent rains falling in the last days there.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Friday, October 31, 2003 1:03 PM

From: Ftrikerfox@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

In a message dated 31/10/2003 17:57:49 GMT Standard Time, robinco@sympatico.ca writes:

network-off@mgm.org

please unsubscribe

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Friday, October 31, 2003 12:56 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Susan Walker:
walker@icbl.org

>
> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> Date: 2003/10/31 Fri PM 12:31:18 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

>
> All,
> If I'm not mistaken, didn't Handicap International
> have an outfit somewhere in Cambodia that made some
> very detailed mine replicas out of wood a few years
> ago? I also believe they were landmine survivors who
> made them. I don't any contact info on that but if
> someone knows Susan Walker's contact info, they might
> want to pass it on to this gent.

> Cheers,
> - joe

> --- info <info@sarvatrademiners.com> wrote:

> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: info
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:40 PM
> > Subject: Fw: Mine Models

> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: general
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Cc: info@sarvatrademiners.com
> > Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:33 PM
> > Subject: Mine Models

> > Dear Sir/Ma'am,

> > Sarvatra Technical Consultants is a premier NGO
> > engaged in Humanitarian Demining.

> > As of today, we are actively involved in demining
> > operations in Sri Lanka under the Indo - Sri Lanka -
> > Norway Cooperation programmes operating under the
> > overall supervision of UNDP. Our project in Sri
> > Lanka stands extended for another two years and
> > force level increased by three times. Currently
> > Sarvatra is working in three different areas in Sri
> > Lanka.

> >

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Friday, October 31, 2003 12:31 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All,

If I'm not mistaken, didn't Handicap International have an outfit somewhere in Cambodia that made some very detailed mine replicas out of wood a few years ago? I also believe they were landmine survivors who made them. I don't any contact info on that but if someone knows Susan Walker's contact info, they might want to pass it on to this gent.

Cheers,

- joe

--- info <info@sarvatrademiners.com> wrote:

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: info

> To: network@mgm.org

> Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:40 PM

> Subject: Fw: Mine Models

>

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: general

> To: network@mgm.org

> Cc: info@sarvatrademiners.com

> Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:33 PM

> Subject: Mine Models

>

>

> Dear Sir/Ma'am,

>

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>

> As of today, we are actively involved in demining

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> Norway Cooperation programmes operating under the

> overall supervision of UNDP. Our project in Sri

> Lanka stands extended for another two years and

> force level increased by three times. Currently

> Sarvatra is working in three different areas in Sri

> Lanka.

>

> Sarvatra has developed an integrated humanitarian

> demining system that is highly accurate, safe and

> cost effective in mine-infested countries.

>

> We are in need of mine models for training purposes.

> These models are intended for our training school

> where we educate the deminers on various mines and

> UXOs they can encounter. In case these models are

> not available with you, we shall feel grateful to

> get some referrals we can correspond with for the
> same.
>
> Looking forward to hear from you soon.
>
>
>
> Regards,
>
> Maj Gen B S Kataria
>
> Vice President
>
> Sarvatra Technical Consultants
>
>
>
>

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Exclusive Video Premiere - Britney Spears
<http://launch.yahoo.com/promos/britneyspears/>

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Email address

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2003 12:07 PM

From: Mike Robinson <marobinson@uxb.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello Pete,

I have **AN** address of Minetech, not sure it's who you want but it's a start

linsey.walker@minetech.co.uk

Mike Robinson

----- Original Message -----

From: Pete Hindy <mailto:phindy@webhart.net>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2003 8:48 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Email address

Anyone have the email for NPA Mine Action Human resources, Minetech?

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Croatia

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Email address

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2003 2:48 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Anyone have the email for NPA Mine Action Human resources, Minetech?

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Croatia

Subject: MgM Demining Network: "Smart" timers and detonators?

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2003 2:37 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@telkomsa.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

To All;

This piece showed up in the EOD news today: I'm not sure where Mr. Ripley gets his information from. Some of his observations are correct, but the remark about "Stealing 'smart' electronic timers and detonators from international mine-clearing groups" is a potential source for knee-jerk reactions on multiple continents.

As far as I know, all of us who are/were working in Iraq used normal electric and non-electric dets for initiation. The smartest item in the chain is the person pushing the fire button.

NPA, MAG, Ronco, HI: Have any of your people been taking captive and used as timers?

Cheers

Roger

Rocket strike shows new bravado

ANALYSIS

TIM RIPLEY

YESTERDAY,S brazen rocket attack on the Al Rashid hotel in Baghdad showed that the Iraqi resistance to the US-led occupation has dramatically increased the sophistication of its arsenal and has the confidence to use it in the very centre of the Iraqi capital.

Initial reports suggest that a trailer-mounted battery of GRAD rockets, similar to those used by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, were used in the attack that almost killed the US assistant secretary of defence, Paul Wolfowitz. The attackers set the rockets on a timer and then made their escape, in a form of hit-and-run strike the US army has not encountered in Iraq before.

The availability of such weaponry will come as no surprise to US and British troops in Iraq, who have faced attacks of growing sophistication over the past seven months.

Saddam Hussein,s multi-billion-dollar arms spending spree in the 1980s has left a huge legacy of abandoned weaponry around Iraq. The Iraqi army boasted some 130 huge ammunition dumps that have been left largely unguarded since April when the old regime collapsed. Scavengers looking for scrap and potential guerrillas have been ransacking these dumps, many of which contain thousands of shells, rockets, guided missiles and millions of bullets, as well as hundreds of tons of plastic explosive and propellant.

Much of the material has been recycled by the Iraqi resistance, with US and British forces coming under attack by rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, high-powered sniper rifles and shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles. A growing threat has been the construction of large lorry or car bombs, and smaller improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that are used as booby-traps to kill unsuspecting US and British soldiers.

While "bulk" explosive is easily available from the unguarded ammunition dumps, the guerrillas have begun stealing the "smart" electronic timers and detonators for their bombs from international mine-clearing groups.

They would normally be used for disposing of minefields and unexploded bombs that threaten civilians, but are being diverted for less benign purposes.

British troops in Basra report that they have faced attack from at least four distinct types of device, including radio-controlled, magnetically and electronically detonated devices. To counter this growing threat, the British Army has deployed two teams of bomb-disposal experts equipped with all the hi-tech devices developed for use in Northern Ireland, including the famous "Wheelbarrow" robots that can allow IEDs to be made safe without putting human life at risk.

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: another virus
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2003 5:45 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks

The next Trojan/Virus uses my brother Michael's MgM alias.
Delete mails you received today from me@mgm.org

Thx

PS Since RAV was bought by Bill Gates, mailserver protection has become
a problem. We are working on it.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Advise who I am!

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2003 2:08 AM

From: me@mgm.org

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I have a new fake mail name!

This was not my idea!

You'll never check who I am!!

That's tooooooo hard for you...

De-Crypt the picture mystery and ...

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: bomb-sniffing pig....

Date: Monday, October 27, 2003 10:49 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear all,

I found this morning the attached press release in the TORONTO STAR.

The attached pdf-file shows also a picture (to be opened with Acrobat Reader).

All the best,

Willy Meurer, Toronto.

(Sorry, I had to take out the attached picture, because the mail couldn't be delivered as follows:

>Failed to deliver to 'network@mgm.org'

>LIST module(list network@mgm.org) reports:

> Your message size (398K) is bigger than

> the allowed maximum for the list (100K)

Oct. 27, 2003. 01:00 AM

Bomb-sniffing pig roots out danger

CRAIG NELSON

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

KIBBUTZ LAHAV, Israel-

Israel boasts of giving the world many great inventions, including drip irrigation, the Uzi submachine gun \ and the "electrical hand-held leg-hair removing device," otherwise known as the Epilady.

Now come bomb-sniffing pigs.

If Geva Zin, 26, has his way, a creature that is largely taboo in Israel will be its next gift to the world.

At this collective farm in southern Israel, Zin is training pigs to sniff out land mines and the other discarded garbage of modern warfare that maim and kill long after the guns have fallen silent.

"The pigs are for Angola and Mozambique. We're going to use them for humanitarian missions ...

We're training them, not for food, but to save lives."

During a stint in the Israeli army in the late 1990s, Zin trained dogs to detect land mines. Last year, he travelled to Croatia to train dogs to detect mines in that battle-scarred Balkan nation. It was there where pigs flourish like sheep in the Middle East, he had a revelation about a new use for the pig's powerfully probing proboscis.

Back in Israel, he approached the Institute for Animal Research at Lahav with the idea of training boars to sniff out explosives. The institute approved.

"There's no doubt. Look at their noses! God designed them to go into the field and find mines."

COX NEWS SERVICE

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: plaxo
Date: Monday, October 27, 2003 5:10 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Subscribers to the MgM Network,

In case you have received mail from me asking you to sign up for PLAXO address data exchange, please ignore it. It was sent my a Trojan/robot.

In case you installed the software already, remove it from your system.

Sorry

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: 1127327021,
Date: Sunday, October 26, 2003 5:51 PM
From: William <william@waddilove.co.uk>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

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**Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Insurers for EOD / UXO/ Demining
Companys**

Date: Friday, October 24, 2003 6:41 AM
From: Mark Ranson <protean@netvigator.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Dave/Jayne,

Try:

William Dyson-Laurie Esq
H.M.T. Insurance Brokers Ltd
Old Bank House
26 Station Approach
Hinchley Wood
Esher
Surrey
KT10 0SR

Tel: 44 - (0)20 8398 2362
Fax: 44 - (0)20 8398 4568
Email: hmt@hmtib.co.uk

HMT have plenty of experience in the insurance of EOD/demining projects.

Best wishes,

Mark Ranson
Director
Specialist Gurkha Services UK Limited
Hong Kong
Tel: 852 - 94684007

On 10/24/03 5:48 PM, "Dave & Jayne Humphreys" <dcjhl@hotmail.com> wrote:

- > Anyone with any reccomendations and contact details please.
- > Thank you
- > Dave H
- >
- > _____
- > Protect your inbox from harmful viruses with new ninemsn Premium. Click here
- > <http://ninemsn.com.au/premium/landing.asp>
- >
- >
- > #####
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Insurers for EOD / UXO/ Demining Companys

Date: Friday, October 24, 2003 5:48 AM

From: Dave & Jayne Humphreys <dcjlh@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Anyone with any reccomendations and contact details please.

Thank you

Dave H

Protect your inbox from harmful viruses with new ninemsn Premium. Click here
<http://ninemsn.com.au/premium/landing.asp>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: SWEDEC International HMA Pool.

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2003 9:47 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

From: Thomas Jarnehed [mailto:thomas.jarnehed@swedec.mil.se]

Sent: 23 October 2003 02:13 PM

Subject: SWEDEC International HMA Pool.

Introduction:

SWEDEC (Swedish EOD and Demining Centre) was established in Eksjö after a decision taken by the Swedish Government in 1996. As the Swedish Centre of Excellence within EOD and mine clearance, all information and knowledge held at SWEDEC is available not only to the Swedish Armed Forces, but also to organizations interested in this kind of activity. Our main co-operation partners are The Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA), the Swedish National Board of Police (RPS) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). International organizations such as Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Test and Evaluation Program (ITEP) and Nordic Demining Research Forum (NDRF) are also co-operating partners.

In order to meet the requirements of international and national commitments, the activity at SWEDEC consists mainly of: Training, Development, Information and Mine Action.

Aim:

The aim of the attached letter is to provide HMA related organisations/ individuals relevant information about the SWEDEC International pool

Scope:

When utilizing the SWEDEC pool, it is important that organizations are aware that SWEDEC will endorse only those personnel that have successfully undertaken and passed the SWEDEC psychometric examination as detailed in the attached letter. No comment will be made about any person who has either not undertaken SWEDEC's examination or who has not met the requirements of the examination.

Apologies are offered to addressees to whom this information is not relevant.

With the best regards

Major Thomas Jarnehed
Deputy Head Mine Action Support Section
SWEDEC

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Productivity versus Profit

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2003 8:25 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Now, now Florian, never knock the donors! Without their generosity, very little mine action would be achieved.

I think it is the responsibility of mine action managers to make donors aware of the many complications - including seasonal aspects when bidding for funds. As you say, there is little point in mobilising effort at the beginning of a bad weather period when productivity will be very poor and hence the task will be more costly than doing the same job a few months later when weather conditions are suitable and higher productivity is possible. . It is brought out in the Banks' article - commercial operators do not pay staff when there is no work. Where the manpower is employed by Government MACs and in some cases, NGOs, there is often a great reluctance to terminate employment, so large numbers are listed as "training" for several months when operations are not possible. I think we all know that it is quite often a "sham".

But no situation is perfect!

PJI

"florian ." wrote:

> >Presumably, the same situation might well apply in other mine affected
> >countries. Is sufficient consideration given to the variation in
> >vegetation
> >growth during the seasons?
> >
> >PJI
> >
> Peter,
> >
> I'm afraid it's even worse.
> We had projects in the Balkans starting in September or October when it was
> pretty obvious that they would not be completed before the winter. Lots of
> money intended for mine clearance was wasted on low productivity or even
> de-mobilisation during the cold and snowy season. And this was only because
> of donors who were not able to provide funds earlier during the year.
> I'm afraid there are far too many accountants deciding on funding for
> de-mining and too few people who understand what it is all about.
> So, to answer your question: serious consideration (on the donor side) is
> given mainly to the financial aspects of mine action - everything else we
> have to sort out on the ground...
> >
> Cheers
> >
> Florian
> >
> >
> _____
> The new MSN 8: smart spam protection and 2 months FREE*
> <http://join.msn.com/?page=features/junkmail>
> >
> #####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: no words
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2003 5:45 AM
From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks Hendrik

Nice photo! It's not dangerous, but good looking. As I see local militarists has the same exactness as Russian. Ones in Soviet military storage I saw S8 rocket bending about 30 grad.

Regards
Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 6:30 PM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: no words

>
>
> Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
> Director OPS + HEC-R&D
> Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
> ehlers@mgm.org
> www.mgm.org
> cel +264 81 1277020
> fax +264 61 243477
>
>
>

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: no words
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 3:53 PM
From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Nature culling the heard?:):)

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Croatia

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 12:00 PM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: no words

>
>
> Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
> Director OPS + HEC-R&D
> Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
> ehlers@mgm.org
> www.mgm.org
> cel +264 81 1277020
> fax +264 61 243477
>
>
>

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> Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>
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To switch to the Digest mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>
Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Productivity versus Profit

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 11:37 AM

From: florian . <flo517@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

>Presumably, the same situation might well apply in other mine affected
>countries. Is sufficient consideration given to the variation in
>vegetation
>growth during the seasons?
>
>PJI

Peter,

I'm afraid it's even worse.
We had projects in the Balkans starting in September or October when it was pretty obvious that they would not be completed before the winter. Lots of money intended for mine clearance was wasted on low productivity or even de-mobilisation during the cold and snowy season. And this was only because of donors who were not able to provide funds earlier during the year. I'm afraid there are far too many accountants deciding on funding for de-mining and too few people who understand what it is all about. So, to answer your question: serious consideration (on the donor side) is given mainly to the financial aspects of mine action - everything else we have to sort out on the ground...

Cheers

Florian

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**Subject: MgM Demining Network: South-East Europe Mine Detection Dog Center
Opens: Scope of Assistance to Grow Beyond Landmines**

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 10:32 AM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

U.S. Department of State
Media Note
Office of the Spokesman
Washington, D.C.
October 21, 2003

South-East Europe Mine Detection Dog Center Opens: Scope of Assistance to
Grow Beyond Landmines

2003/1071

Balkan countries have a major new asset to help speed humanitarian demining with the creation of the Mine Detection Dog Center for the Region of South-East Europe, located near Konjic in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Center was established by the U.S. Department of State in coordination with the Slovenian International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance and with the assistance of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Konjic municipality.

While the safe and thorough detection of persistent landmines will be the initial focus of the dog training, the Center also will train dogs and human handlers to find narcotics, provide security, and perform search and rescue operations.

This important project has been brought to completion through the combined efforts of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, and our Embassy in Sarajevo. The Mine Detection Dog Center was established within the framework of the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) as an integral part of the regional approach to humanitarian mine action. The U.S. Department of State will provide approximately \$3.5 million dollars of support to the Center for the first three years. The Center will subsequently be sustained by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. To learn more about the U.S. Department of State's humanitarian mine action efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere around the world, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/wra <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra>>.

[End]

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: no words

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 10:30 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477



Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 1:00 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thank you Marty,

It was from the invaluable experience gained by all parties during that first WB funded programme, that procedures for the second (much larger) programme were developed. These included PIU Regional supervisors, site monitors, categorisation of ground, contract specification, bidding conditions, dispute procedures and accident investigation.. As you may know, all contracts during the second programme were awarded to international contractors - who subcontracted to local companies. This had the advantage of ensuring financial viability and compliance with international standards in that the international prime contractor had to ensure compliance by its sub contractor.

There were of course, numerous problems during the second programme and again, lessons were learned. The ITF adopted many of them when it began its own programme.

Best regards,

Peter

martyb49@mac.com wrote:

> I would just like to comment on the quote 'the first project was a
> failure'. Firstly i will point out that i was one of the technical
> advisors who worked on the first WB project back in the early days of
> the commercial aspect back in 1996, and this is entirely a personal
> opinion. Yes i agree from some points that the project probably was a
> failure but it also had a great many plus points to come out of it
> especially at the grass root level on the ground. We must also remember
> that these were very early days of trying to mix both the commercial
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> humanitarian mine clearance. Many of the problems we encountered were
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> deminers and we cleared ground safely without any accidents. Companies
> began devising SOP's and understanding the necessity of safety
> standards in line with International standards. Yes if it were repeated
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> originally done.

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> Marty Bowler

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> >
> >
> > PJI
> >
> >
> > Peter Isaacs wrote:
> >
> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars
> >> Date: Sat, 18 Oct 2003 17:53:52 +0200
> >> From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@telkomsa.net>
> >> Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >>
> >> Hi All;
> >>
> >> As usual, there was a slew of messages while I couldn't answer and
> >> now that
> >> I'm back in normal email contact, everyone has gone quiet.
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> >> Oh well, I seem to have that same effect at parties (Drives my wife
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> >> Question: I have a possible client who is looking for new/used
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> >> Anyone know of any that are sitting around?
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network:

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 11:33 AM

From: martyb49@mac.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Productivity versus Profit

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 5:59 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Roger,

I don't think it is a case of "productivity versus profit", rather "safety should not be used as an excuse for poor productivity". A soundly administered accreditation system coupled with a proper tender evaluation procedure is the means of denying the incapable commercial organisations (or indeed NGOs) from being in a position to underbid and then have to cut corners by sacrificing safety. In mid 1999, the BHMIC was accrediting far too many small commercial companies that were not capable - hence the problems you mentioned.

The Banks's article ignores socio-economic factors in deciding priorities. It states that season was usually ignored resulting in tasks being undertaken when vegetation had become dense. That is certainly correct and ideally work should have started with a view to tackling first, (with due regard to urgent tasks like refugee returns) those task sites that would become overgrown during the summer. Sadly, there many reasons why funds were not available to commence tasks earlier in the year.- at least during 98 99.

Presumably, the same situation might well apply in other mine affected countries. Is sufficient consideration given to the variation in vegetation growth during the seasons?

PJI

Roger Hess wrote:

> Hi Peter;

>

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> >Banks's refer to as "political" aspects, they make observations on
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> As you know, I was brought in during that time-frame to take over two
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> Being objective about what I witnessed during my tour; it was sort of a
> damned either way situation.

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> Some of the NGO's kept flashing the "We will not put productivity above
> safety" card, however they also failed to look at ways that could safely
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> project out as long as possible in order to keep donor funding coming in
> (not good).

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> On the other side of the coin; some of the commercial groups, specifically
> the home-grown ones, lacked the technical expertise and equipment to safely
> move the project ahead at a better pace and pushed their people far too hard

> in order to make a profit. Some commonly under-bid the projects just to get
> a contract, often without even doing a full site-recce. When they finally
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> A balance needed to be developed between the two efforts and a good amount
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: Mine Models

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 5:35 AM

From: info <info@sarvatrademiners.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

----- Original Message -----

From: info <mailto:info@sarvatrademiners.com>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:40 PM

Subject: Fw: Mine Models

----- Original Message -----

From: general <mailto:general@del6.vsnl.net.in>

To: network@mgm.org

Cc: info@sarvatrademiners.com

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:33 PM

Subject: Mine Models

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Sarvatra Technical Consultants is a premier NGO engaged in Humanitarian Demining.

As of today, we are actively involved in demining operations in Sri Lanka under the Indo - Sri Lanka - Norway Cooperation programmes operating under the overall supervision of UNDP. Our project in Sri Lanka stands extended for another two years and force level increased by three times. Currently Sarvatra is working in three different areas in Sri Lanka.

Sarvatra has developed an integrated humanitarian demining system that is highly accurate, safe and cost effective in mine-infested countries. We are in need of mine models for training purposes. These models are intended for our training school where we educate the deminers on various mines and UXOs they can encounter. In case these models are not available with you, we shall feel grateful to get some referrals we can correspond with for the same.

Looking forward to hear from you soon.

Regards,

Maj Gen B S Kataria

Vice President

Sarvatra Technical Consultants

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Productivity versus Profit

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 4:06 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@telkomsa.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Peter;

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>Banks's refer to as "political" aspects, they make observations on
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Cheers

Roger

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Armoring Options

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 4:06 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@telkomsa.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Ashley;

I'm not sure about sand-filled boxes being used; for personnel transport many of the UN Toyota's were outfitted with the Rofi blast mats, there were a handful of armored SUV's for the big dogs, and we also had some Mamba's purchased through Regis.

The biggest threat all of us faced was being ambushed either by gun fire from a moving vehicle (as what happened to IOM and MAG) or being hit by one of the off-route or on-route IED's (as what happens on a daily basis to the CF). Most of the IED's are command-detonated devices with artillery ammunition used as the main charge.

Some were buried in the actual roadways, however most are placed along side the roads and concealed as trash (which there is no shortage of). The largest off-route IED during my time in Iraq was ten 130mm projectiles evenly spaced along the road and set up in a daisy chain. The ambush techniques often include RPG and concentrated small-arms fire, either before or after initiating the IED.

As you recognize, the blast mats would only provide protection for AP mines that were accidentally driven over and would not have helped in either of the primary threats. What you need in these environments is a proper hull made of high quality steel and good armored glass.

The Mamba's provided far more protection then the blast-mat equipped Landcruisers and armored SUV's, however the open-road performance is pretty slow. You can hit about 85km/h on a nice flat road as long as the tail winds are in your favor, but any type of a slope makes it drop substantially. Since Iraq's highways are in pretty good shape, this did not make the Mamba's very popular with many of the groups who wanted to travel at 140km/h +. The only properly protected, wheeled MRV that I know of which comes close to reaching this speed would be the WMF Wer'wolf, however the price and lead time for delivery makes it less available for "emergency based" programs.

We had quite a few maintenance challenges on the Mamba's, which Regis has been very good about reacting on, however these problems came close to sending our fleet manager over the edge. However due to the Mamba's small size (relative in terms for MRV's), once inside the cities they were fine. I selected one as my own transport/response vehicle, personally maintained on a daily basis and drove it nearly everywhere in Baghdad with very little trouble. Granted, a Casspir or Wolf would have provided more protection, however it would also have been far more difficult to maneuver in the daily traffic jams that plague the Baghdad area.

Based on lessons learned in Southern Africa, CSIR found that any vehicle with an axle weight of less then 5t will not survive very well in the event of an under-chassis blast, which puts the Mamba down at the bare minimum. Casspir's, Wolfs, Wer'wolfs, etc, are much better suited if off-road mobility is a bigger issue and your prominent threat is a double-stack of anti-tank mines. For what we needed in Baghdad, the Mamba is fine; but I'm still beating up Regis to make a more powerful, urban-version of this vehicle since the size and layout of the cabin makes it quite good for these

environments.

While nothing short of main battle tank will protect you against the RPG threat, high-speed frag from artillery-based IED's may penetrate the hull or glass if blown in very close proximity, and heavy machinegun fire (12.7mm and above) will likely make it through regardless, but you do the best with what you have to improve your chances of surviving.

Cheers

Roger

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Ashley Dean
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 8:30 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

That will teach me for not reading all of the correspondence!!

While we are on the subject what thoughts do you guys out there have on the anti mine protection which is available for 4x4s?

My understanding is that there is a lot of choice if you want protection from the likes of AP mines but not much choice if you want to protect against something bigger. I have heard stories of people in Iraq covering their vehicle floors with boxes of sand in an attempt to protect themselves.

Regards

Ashley

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 6:31 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Ashley, I'm sure the best protective equipment is the head! For every tank can be finding his antitank mine. This is law of conservation of safety: summed head and armor is constant. And this constant is level of safety. Then less head, then stronger must be armor.

If serious, the safety measures must be adequate to level of danger and volume of purset. To my regret usually level of protection is defined by possible money. That's why in all cases the best addition to protective equipment is the head.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 10:29 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

> That will teach me for not reading all of the correspondence!!

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> While we are on the subject what thoughts do you guys out there have on the

> anti mine protection which is available for 4x4s?

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> from the likes of AP mines but not much choice if you want to protect

> against something bigger. I have heard stories of people in Iraq covering

> their vehicle floors with boxes of sand in an attempt to protect them

> selves.

>

> Regards

>

> Ashley

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of A. Kostioukov

> Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 6:47 PM

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

>

> Dear Ashley

> As you understand it was a joke about Cherokee. I think he is dead. When it

> will be better time, I will buy armored car only produced by your firm.

> Good luck

> Andrey

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 7:30 PM

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

>
>
> > Dear Andre / Roger,
> >
> > I may be able to help in two ways, My company can up armour the
underside
> > vehicles, with a materials system called TABREshield, to offer
> significantly
> > more protection from blast than the normal anti frag. Levels. - have a
> look
> > at our web site www.aigis.co.uk.
> >
> > I can also get hold of armoured landcruisers for a very good price (I
> > think!). Please contact me directly and I will give you more
information.
> >
> > Regards,
> >
> > Ashley
> >
> > Ashley Dean
> > Sales Manager
> >
> > AIGIS Engineering Solutions Ltd. World Wide Blast Protection
> > +44 (0) 1332 273577 office
> > ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk
> > +44 (0) 7736 105 233 mobile website
> > www.aigis.co.uk
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> > or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of
> > email transmission.
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: network@mgm.org [<mailto:network@mgm.org>] On Behalf Of A. Kostioukov
> > Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2003 7:07 PM
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@telkomsa.net>
> > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2003 7:53 PM

> > Subject: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars
> >
> >
> > > Hi All;
> > >
> > > As usual, there was a slew of messages while I couldn't answer and
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Plants may aid in hunt for mines

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 5:01 PM

From: Lawrence Carter <lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Willy

Thanks for this posting. Another point is that where the mined environment is GM-free, this technique would be adding a second long-term pollutant, eliminating any possibility of future organic or GM-free use of the land. Sounds like a complete waste of money to me.

Regards

Lawrence

>From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>
>To: <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Plants may aid in hunt for mines
>Date: Tue, Oct 21, 2003, 3:58 am
>

> October 20. 2003

>

> Dear readers,

> I want to bring the following publication of "THE TORONTO STAR" to your
> attention:

> *****REPORT*****

> Oct. 14, 2003. 01:00 AM

> Plants may aid in hunt for mines

> STEVE LAMBERT

> CANADIAN PRESS

>

> The Canadian and U.S. militaries are developing a new weapon in the war
> against land mines -genetically modified plants.

> Researchers with defence departments on both sides of the border are
> working with the University

> of Alberta on developing the plants over the next two years at a cost of
> \$135,000.

> The United States government has also contracted a number of universities
> to do similar work.

> If successful, the plants would be modern-day versions of canaries in coal
> mines, whose deaths

> alerted miners of years gone by to dangerous underground gas levels.

> Instead of dying like birds, the

> plants would change colour if they came into contact with soil containing
> TNT and other chemical

> compounds commonly used in land mines, thereby warning people to stay away.

> "Various land mines leak (into the soil) at different rates," said Anthony

> Faust, a researcher with the

> land mine detection branch of the Department of National Defence.

> Professor Michael Deyholos, who is leading the research effort at the

> University of Alberta's biological sciences department, said many questions
> remain.

>

> "The truth is, we don't know exactly how it's going to work," said

> Deyholos. "But we do know that

> there are bacteria and other organisms that can detect things like TNT in
> the soil. And we might take
> a gene from those bacteria and put that in the roots of the plant."
> "And then when TNT binds to the receptor that gene makes, it will cause a
> series of signals to be sent to the plant. Ultimately, those signals will
> end up in the flower or the leaves of the plant and change the colour of
> the flower or leaves."
> Because the plants could take months to grow, they would not be useful in
> most combat zones.
> But during a lengthy peacekeeping mission, or after a war is over and
> civilians want to reclaim their
> land, seeds of the plants could be spread by airplane or helicopter and
> indicate whether an area is safe.
>
> The United Nations estimates there are more than 110 million land mines
> buried around the world.
> Angola alone has 10 million land mines and an amputee population of 70,000
> - 8,000 of whom are children.
>
> It could be five years before the plants are developed and ready to be
> spread, said Deyholos.
>
> _____
> End of Report
> *****
> If somebody wants the original TORONTO STAR report - I have it available
> as .pdf file
> please inform me at: willke@primus.ca
> *****
>
> And a few responding readers 'letters to the editor':
>
> 1.) Oct. 15, 2003. 01:00 AM
> LAND MINE PROJECT AVOIDS THE OBVIOUS
>
> Re.: Plants may aid in hunt for mines / Oct. 14.
> This ridiculous project is an appalling example of wasting time, money and
> brainpower on a
> problem to which the solution is obvious. The manufacture, sale and use of
> land mines must be stopped.
> International pressure must be brought to bear on countries that do not
> join the 1997 Convention on
> the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
> Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. This trade in misery is a
> disgrace and I, for one, am pleased with the leading role Canada has
> assumed in campaigning against it.
> Gregory Soucie, Vienna, Austria
>
> _____
> October 19, 2003, 8:30 AM.
> 2.) STORY BRINGS UP A TRICKY QUESTION
>
> Re,: Plants may aid in hunt for mines / Oct. 14.
> What a lovely idea - plants that change colour to indicate where to find
> these lethal land mines.
> Who is going to plant the plants?
> Jenny Thomas, Burk's Falls, Ontario
>
> _____
>
> Have a good day all
> Willy Meurer
> Toronto
>

> Phone: ..1 416 444 2038
> Fax: ..1 416 444 0876
> e-mail: willke@primus.ca
> Web: http://www.vitasteel.com

>
>
>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 2:29 PM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

That will teach me for not reading all of the correspondence!!

While we are on the subject what thoughts do you guys out there have on the anti mine protection which is available for 4x4s?

My understanding is that there is a lot of choice if you want protection from the likes of AP mines but not much choice if you want to protect against something bigger. I have heard stories of people in Iraq covering their vehicle floors with boxes of sand in an attempt to protect themselves.

Regards

Ashley

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of A. Kostioukov

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 6:47 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

Dear Ashley

As you understand it was a joke about Cherokee. I think he is dead. When it will be better time, I will buy armored car only produced by your firm.

Good luck

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 7:30 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

> Dear Andre / Roger,

>

> I may be able to help in two ways, My company can up armour the underside
> vehicles, with a materials system called TABREshield, to offer
significantly

> more protection from blast than the normal anti frag. Levels. - have a
look

> at our web site www.aigis.co.uk.

>

> I can also get hold of armoured landcruisers for a very good price (I
> think!). Please contact me directly and I will give you more information.

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> Regards,

>

> Ashley

>

> Ashley Dean

>

> Sales Manager

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 1:47 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Good luck

Andrey

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Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 7:30 PM

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> Regards,

>

> Ashley

>

> Ashley Dean

> Sales Manager

>

> AIGIS Engineering Solutions Ltd. World Wide Blast Protection

> +44 (0) 1332 273577 office

> ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk

> +44 (0) 7736 105 233 mobile website

www.aigis.co.uk

>

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> or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of
> email transmission.

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of A. Kostioukov
> Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2003 7:07 PM
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

>
>
> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@telkomsa.net>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2003 7:53 PM
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

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> > Hi All;

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> > As usual, there was a slew of messages while I couldn't answer and now
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> > Cheers
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: My apology

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 12:31 PM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

October 20, 2003

Dear subscribers to network@mgm.org.

I need to apologize for unintentionally closing my e-mail from earlier today regarding a

TORONTO STAR report with my full signature - including my commercial web-address.

It was not intended in any way to promote the steel building technology within this network, since it has nothing in common with the international de-mining business.

Have a good day,
Willy Meurer

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 11:30 AM

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Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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I can also get hold of armoured landcruisers for a very good price (I think!). Please contact me directly and I will give you more information.

Regards,

Ashley

Ashley Dean
Sales Manager

AIGIS Engineering Solutions Ltd.	World Wide Blast Protection
+44 (0) 1332 273577 office	
ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk	
+44 (0) 7736 105 233 mobile	website www.aigis.co.uk

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars
Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 11:23 AM
From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Ashley

Ashley Dean
ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 7736 105 233

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of A. Kostioukov
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2003 7:07 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Plants may aid in hunt for mines

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 10:58 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

October 20, 2003

Dear readers,

I want to bring the following publication of "THE TORONTO STAR" to your attention:

*****REPORT*****

Oct. 14, 2003. 01:00 AM

Plants may aid in hunt for mines

STEVE LAMBERT

CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadian and U.S. militaries are developing a new weapon in the war against land mines -genetically modified plants.

Researchers with defence departments on both sides of the border are working with the University

of Alberta on developing the plants over the next two years at a cost of \$135,000.

The United States government has also contracted a number of universities to do similar work.

If successful, the plants would be modern-day versions of canaries in coal mines, whose deaths

alerted miners of years gone by to dangerous underground gas levels.

Instead of dying like birds, the

plants would change colour if they came into contact with soil containing TNT and other chemical

compounds commonly used in land mines, thereby warning people to stay away.

"Various land mines leak (into the soil) at different rates," said Anthony Faust, a researcher with the

land mine detection branch of the Department of National Defence.

Professor Michael Deyholos, who is leading the research effort at the University of Alberta's biological sciences department, said many questions remain.

"The truth is, we don't know exactly how it's going to work," said

Deyholos. "But we do know that

there are bacteria and other organisms that can detect things like TNT in the soil. And we might take

a gene from those bacteria and put that in the roots of the plant."

"And then when TNT binds to the receptor that gene makes, it will cause a series of signals to be sent to the plant. Ultimately, those signals will end up in the flower or the leaves of the plant and change the colour of the flower or leaves."

Because the plants could take months to grow, they would not be useful in most combat zones.

But during a lengthy peacekeeping mission, or after a war is over and civilians want to reclaim their

land, seeds of the plants could be spread by airplane or helicopter and indicate whether an area is safe.

The United Nations estimates there are more than 110 million land mines buried around the world.

Angola alone has 10 million land mines and an amputee population of 70,000 - 8,000 of whom are children.

It could be five years before the plants are developed and ready to be spread, said Deyholos.

End of Report

If somebody wants the original TORONTO STAR report - I have it available as .pdf file
please inform me at: willke@primus.ca

And a few responding readers 'letters to the editor':

1.) Oct. 15, 2003. 01:00 AM
LAND MINE PROJECT AVOIDS THE OBVIOUS

Re.: Plants may aid in hunt for mines / Oct. 14.
This ridiculous project is an appalling example of wasting time, money and brainpower on a problem to which the solution is obvious. The manufacture, sale and use of land mines must be stopped.
International pressure must be brought to bear on countries that do not join the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. This trade in misery is a disgrace and I, for one, am pleased with the leading role Canada has assumed in campaigning against it.
Gregory Soucie, Vienna, Austria

October 19, 2003, 8:30 AM.
2.) STORY BRINGS UP A TRICKY QUESTION

Re,: Plants may aid in hunt for mines / Oct. 14.
What a lovely idea - plants that change colour to indicate where to find these lethal land mines.
Who is going to plant the plants?
Jenny Thomas, Burk's Falls, Ontario

Have a good day all
Willy Meurer
Toronto

Phone: ..1 416 444 2038
Fax: ..1 416 444 0876
e-mail: willke@primus.ca
Web: http://www.vitasteel.com

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fwd: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003 4:30 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Maybe this will start some discussion Roger.

Has anyone read Eddie & Pat Banks' article "In the Name of Humanity" in the current JMU Mine Action Journal? Better still, read the full version that it refers to.

An excellent example of a "clear, unbiased and logical thesis"!

If you ignore the wholly inaccurate view and faulty timescale of what the Banks's refer to as "political" aspects, they make observations on productivity upon which I would like to hear both commercial and non commercial operators comment - particularly from those who were in BiH at the time

When the World Bank commenced to fund a second Entity Government implemented survey and clearance programme in Bosnia & Herzegovina in 1997 (the first project was a failure) it was on the basis of getting the job done as fast as possible by employing experienced international commercial contractors. Long term sustainability was considered too slow and in the end, too costly. Local commercial companies acted as subcontractors.

As one of three technical advisors on that project (Eddie forgot Claude Milleriat) I fully supported the WB view and am a great supporter of commercial mine action as a means of getting clearance done quickly and at least cost. That does not mean I am "anti-NGO" but I believe (like the Banks's), that it is incumbent upon all organisations to be as efficient as possible. There are many ways to skin a cat and I support any moves towards improvements in productivity. We have all seen deminers hanging around doing nothing or very little, usually because of management shortcomings associated with logistics or indeed with tasking delays from MACs. It is far less common with commercial contractors because "lost time is lost money"

So, I commend the full version of the Banks' article for reading and although it is pretty turgid; it is livened up enormously by the frequent and many times repeated accusations of all sorts of malpractice, malfeasance and down right skulduggery by the UN, UNDP, UNHCR OHR, EU, Board of Donors et al.

Before I am accused of bias, I admit to being:

- a. Technical Advisor to the Federation Project Implementation Unit (Sarajevo / Tuzla / Bihac sectors) Jun - Dec 1007 (There were two other - Eddie Banks - Republika Srpska PIU / Claude Milleriet - Fed PIU - Mostar sector)
- b. Technical Advisor to the Demining Commission (Bosniac and Croat members) Jan - Jun 1998 (Eddie Banks was the TA to the Serb member but continued as TA to the RS PIU)
- c. UNDP Programme Manager and Chief Technical Advisor BHMIC Jul 1998 - September 1999 (Eddie Banks was the TA to all three members of the Demining Commission, from Jul 1998 until its members were sacked by the HR)

PJI

Peter Isaacs wrote:

> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars
> Date: Sat, 18 Oct 2003 17:53:52 +0200
> From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@telkomsa.net>
> Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
>
> Hi All;
>
> As usual, there was a slew of messages while I couldn't answer and now that
> I'm back in normal email contact, everyone has gone quiet.
>
> Oh well, I seem to have that same effect at parties (Drives my wife nuts)!
>
> Question: I have a possible client who is looking for new/used armored VIP
> vehicles (Not former military vehicles). They must be left-hand drive,
> reliable, and exportable to SE Asia.
>
> Anyone know of any that are sitting around?
>
> Cheers
>
> Roger
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2003 2:06 PM
From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

----- Original Message -----
From: "Roger Hess" <rhess@telkomsa.net>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2003 7:53 PM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Armored VIP cars

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Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Navy EOD Joins Forces with Army, Helps Clear Ordnance Out of Baghdad

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2003 10:12 AM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Navy EOD Joins Forces with Army, Helps Clear Ordnance Out of Baghdad

Story Number: NNS031016-06

Release Date: 10/16/2003 12:30:00 PM

By Lt. Cmdr. Lisa L. Brackenbury, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq (NNS) -- While much of the media's attention remains focused on the hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel are diligently working to protect coalition troops and Iraqi citizens from smaller and more deadly tools of individual devastation.

Buried mines, unexploded ordnance, rocket-propelled grenades, and objects called Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, are just a few of the malicious objects threatening the future peace and stability of Iraq.

For the past six months, 14 Navy EOD technicians from Norfolk, Va., and currently assigned to Special Operations Task Force 56 based in Bahrain, have been fully integrated into U.S. Army EOD units spread throughout Baghdad, responding to daily calls from U.S. and coalition military police, Iraqi police, and even Iraqi citizens, to investigate suspicious objects. While conditions are improving daily in Iraq, there are still those opposed to the U.S. presence who continue to attack people and infrastructure with explosives designed to wreak havoc on military convoys, innocent civilians and ultimately, the rebuilding process.

"Probably the biggest threat to coalition personnel in Iraq, and especially in Baghdad, comes from the enemy hiding explosives within mostly commonplace objects, such as cola cans, trash bags, and even MRE [Meals-Ready-to-Eat] packages, making them very dangerous IEDs," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Charles Hashek, who is working with the Army's Third Brigade Combat Team (BCT) operating in Baghdad. Hashek is the current Navy EOD record holder thus far in his one-month-old deployment, with 24 disarmed IEDs.

"One of the positive aspects of the work we're doing is that we're all gaining a lot of experience in handling IEDs. We've had to continually adjust our tactics and how we employ ourselves and our equipment in order to keep up with the changing tactics of the enemy. We're keeping a long list of lessons learned to pass down to our

training commands."

"Neither the Navy nor the Army has ever dealt with this number of IEDs in such a short period of time," said Army Lt. Col. Tim Eberhard, commander of all EOD forces in country.

"Thirty-seven teams handle between 3800 to 4000 incidents per year in the U.S. Here in Iraq, our teams have responded to more than 4500 IED calls in the past three months alone."

Small, inexpensive, easily constructed, and now with relatively sophisticated remote-detonation capability, material for constructing IEDs is easy enough to find.

"Any explosives that can be looted, stolen or easily obtained are used by the insurgents to make IEDs," explained Army 1st. Sgt. Larry Cushing. "The city has ammunition all over the place - in schools, mosques, and even hospitals. We find it everywhere, from World War I-era bombs, to rocket-propelled grenades."

Insurgents simply steal the hardware, remove the explosives, and pack the material into items that would normally not warrant a passing glance. In a densely packed city teeming with loose trash on sidewalks, streets and in buildings, IEDs are almost impossible to find until it is too late.

The solution for reducing and ultimately eliminating the IED threat is to collect this unexploded ordnance (UXO) and destroy it using demolition procedures in controlled environments. The challenge is moving the UXO from locations throughout the country to captured ammo holding areas (CAHAs) or safe holding areas (SHAs), then destroying the weapons in safe disposal areas (SDAs).

"We are now moving roughly 60 five-ton truckloads of ammunition per day out of Baghdad alone," said Eberhard. "With the help of the four civilian contracting companies we recently hired, we should be able to get up to 100 truckloads per day. That should give you an idea of just how much ammo is still out there."

The joint Navy and Army EOD forces of Third BCT dispose of about 2,000 to 2,500 pounds of ordnance each week. Any arms not destroyed by coalition EOD forces will be stored for possible future use by the Iraqi Army currently being developed and trained by coalition forces.

Although a few of the Navy EOD members had previously worked with Army personnel in exercises such as Bright Star in Egypt, most had never before operated with their counterparts. Fortunately, thanks to their common language revolving around "blowing stuff up," these unique teammates quickly bonded into cohesive units capable of effectively working together to save lives and Iraqi property.

"The Navy is strong on water, and the Army is strong on land," said Army Sgt. Keith Adams. "Since we've been working together, we've tried to use each other's strengths to our advantage. I wish we worked more together during our training, but at least the situation here is giving us a chance to learn from each other."

Army Sgt. Micah Long agreed. "At first there were challenges. The Navy teams are organized differently than our Army teams, for example the Navy's team leader is an E-7 [Chief Petty Officer]. Our team leader is an E-6 [Staff Sgt.]. Our teams are also different sizes, and some of the equipment we use is different. But overall, because we have the same goals, the integration is working," Long said.

Navy EOD's ability to deploy quickly with minimal equipment and personnel also worked in the Army's favor.

"Navy EOD teams are highly mobile, and with the Army already stretched a bit thin, it made sense for us to step in and integrate with their highly capable teams already in place," Hashek said. "U.S. forces have never had to deal with IED situations like this before. Our primary challenges revolve around Baghdad's urban environment and not having enough interpreters to assist us in dealing with the crowds that result from our presence during IED calls. We're not doing training missions out here."

The teams expect to be in country until at least after Christmas. But even though they'd like to be home with their families during the holidays, these dedicated Sailors and Soldiers know their mission is important.

"I miss my family, but I love the work," Long said. Hashek agreed, "It's been an experience so far. It feels good to be contributing to the future of Iraq."

Subject: MgM Demining Network: EOD Related: Weapons caches discovered daily in Iraq

Date: Friday, October 17, 2003 12:29 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Weapons caches discovered daily in Iraq

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

BAGHDAD, Iraq - When U.S. troops invaded Iraq last March, what they found astounded them: The country was a vast munitions dump, a problem that American military planners had seriously underestimated.

The U.S. military's chief engineer in Iraq said yesterday that up to 1 million tons of bombs, artillery shells, land mines and other ammunition were scattered in storage dumps and bunkers across the country.

"We think our initial estimate of 600,000 tons is low," Brig. Gen. Larry Davis said. "We think 600,000 tons could be as much as 1 million tons. They had an inordinate amount of ammunition in this country."

Securing it seems an impossible challenge, even as Saddam Hussein's alleged stocks of chemical and biological weapons remain undiscovered.

Even though 6,000 American soldiers from two artillery brigades are guarding the known munitions sites, military officials in Baghdad admit that even those aren't fully secure. And an untold number of weapons and ammo caches still haven't been found, easy pickings for the guerrillas who are attacking U.S. troops 18 to 20 times a day in increasingly sophisticated and deadly ways.

"It is a problem," said a senior military officer, who asked not to be named. "There are so many weapons caches all over this country. There are not enough troops. We don't have enough troops to guard them."

More than 105 large ammo dumps have been identified across the country so far, Davis said. A large dump is defined as one that has 100 or more bunkers. Some of them have as many as 700 open pits full of artillery shells and ordnance. One site is about nine miles square.

"We find new caches every day," Davis said.

In one sector in northern Iraq, at least 1,089 weapons and ammo caches have been found. In one small victory, an unidentified Iraqi man handed over 165 surface-to-air missiles to American troops with the 101st Airborne Division in the northern town of Mosul, U.S. military officials said earlier this week.

But coalition military officials estimate that as many as 5,000 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles remain unaccounted for, a potentially fatal threat to low-flying aircraft and a primary reason that Baghdad International Airport remains closed to commercial flights.

Coalition military officials plan to consolidate Saddam's ammunition stocks in six locations. Most of the munitions are in such poor shape that as much as 85 percent will have to be destroyed. That will take three to five years

and will cost \$285 million the first year alone.

So far, coalition troops have destroyed about 1 million pounds of munitions, but they don't have the expertise to handle the job alone, Davis said. The plan is to hand the job over to contractors by December.

Four U.S. firms - EOD Technology Inc. of Knoxville, Tenn., USA Environmental Inc. of Tampa, Fla., Tetra Tech Inc. and Parsons Corp., both of Pasadena, Calif. - and more than 400 contract personnel will operate the six disposal sites. Contractors have destroyed 2.5 million pounds of ordnance in a three-week period alone, Davis said.

But the supply seems endless.

"We're destroying 100 tons a day, but we're also finding that much a day," said the senior military officer.

(Published: October 17, 2003)

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Russian Military Says 'Practically' No Minefields Left in Chechnya

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2003 12:17 PM

From: Manuel GONZAL <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

The Chechnians also Andrei!

Manuel GONZAL

-----Message d'origine-----

De : A. Kostioukov [mailto:fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru]

Envoyé : jeudi 16 octobre 2003 17:25

À : network@mgm.org

Objet : Re: MgM Demining Network: Russian Military Says 'Practically' No Minefields Left in Chechnya

I would be very glad if information about minefields would be truth!
Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: <ACARLG@aol.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 7:04 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Russian Military Says 'Practically' No Minefields Left in Chechnya

> Russian Military Says 'Practically' No Minefields Left in Chechnya
> Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 1038 GMT 14 Oct 03
>
> Moscow, 14 October: Minefields were a major issue for the public in
> Chechnya until recently but there are virtually none left now,
> according to federal engineering and survey services. Disposal experts
> are currently dealing with the remnants of explosive devices at sites
> of recent fighting and removing mines freshly planted by rebels near
> administrative buildings and on routes used by military convoys.
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> "There are practically no minefields as such in the republic but
> some explosive materials still remain in places where there was combat
> action recently, such as unexploded rounds, grenades and mines," Col
> Aleksey Vasilyev, the head of the engineering service with the
> Interior Ministry's 46th brigade, told ITAR-TASS today. "And our job
> is to destroy these," he added.
>
> In their attempts at terrorism and sabotage the rebels increasingly
> use casings packed with metal shards or home-made devices stuffed with
> nuts and bolts, which are especially dangerous when detonated in
> public places, Vasilyev said. The terrorists conceal explosive devices
> in clocks, cigarette lighters, mobile phones and children's toys.
>
> Every day in Chechnya, federal military engineers survey over 600 km
> of roads used by military convoys, Col Vasilyev said. "Our sappers

> have discovered over 100 home-made bombs planted by rebels on routes
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Russian Military Says 'Practically' No Minefields Left in Chechnya

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2003 11:25 AM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: EOD Question: "Pillow Bomb" effectiveness

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 6:16 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I think it will be some problems if anybody tries to produce nitrocellulose at kitchen. It will be needed very strong acids. May be it will be real for low nitrogen cellulose (collodion cot), but I'm not sure. Of course, if it will be lively need, it's possible to buy some quantity of nitric and sulfuric acids, increase its concentration and produce pyroxylin, but it's needed more than 3 balls in chemistry.

Another side, this explosive can be detected by dogs and gas analyzers.

For its initiation it will be need blasting cap. It may be use igniter, but in case metal body for charge.

By my opinion there are number of another, more easy ways. But theoretically this variant is real.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: <ACARLG@aol.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 11:56 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: EOD Question: "Pillow Bomb" effectiveness

> The following sounds like media exaggeration. Anyone with experience care to
> estimate how effective a bag of untamped nitrocellulose would be - beyond
> a
> simple flash fire?
>
> Pillow Bombs Feared on Planes
> U.S. Says Al Qaeda Explosives Could Also Be Stuffed Into Coats, Toys
> By John Mintz and Sara Kehaulani Goo
> Washington Post Staff Writers
> Tuesday, October 14, 2003; Page A05
>
> Airport screeners in this country and overseas are on the lookout for
> suspicious pillows, coats and even stuffed animals after U.S. intelligence
> concluded
> that al Qaeda operatives are being trained to apply special chemicals to
> the
> material inside to transform them into bombs.
>
> American intelligence officials have picked up several indications that al
> Qaeda is attempting to create a chemical called nitrocellulose to fashion
> explosive devices that could be smuggled aboard jetliners, according to a
> warning
> the Department of Homeland Security sent in August to airlines and airport
> security officials around the world.
>
> "We judge this type of threat to be real and continuing," the department
> said
> in the Aug. 8 warning. It noted there has been "persistence [in a] line of
> reports from several credible, independent sources" that al Qaeda is

training to
> build such bombs. Among other things, confiscated al Qaeda training manuals
> show the sophistication of its preparations, the document said.
>
> Explosives experts said that the detonating power of a nitrocellulose bomb
> depends on numerous factors -- but most particularly on how tightly the
> cottonlike material is packed into an area. If small free-standing wisps
of it are set
> on fire, they could blaze up quickly and die down just as fast. But large
> wads of it tightly crammed into a container of some kind could create a
booming
> detonation, they said.
>
> "It has to be confined in an area to be explosive," said Gregory G. Baur,
a
> former director of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and
> Investigators. "Producing this requires somebody who has some
sophistication and who
> knows what he's doing."
>
> Items such as buttons, zippers or wristwatches could be used in tandem
with
> tightly packed nitrocellulose as power sources or ignition components to
set
> off a detonation, the directive said.
>
> Baur, who retired in 2000 after 23 years with the Milwaukee police
> department's bomb squad, said that he had not heard of terrorists using
nitrocellulose
> but that it is similar in its combustibility to black powder, a substance
used
> as a propellant in ammunition.
>
> U.S. officials said that while airport X-ray machines cannot detect
> nitrocellulose, another type of technology called a trace-detection
machine can.
> Screeners rub the inside of, say, a briefcase or jacket with a specially
treated
> cotton swab or piece of gauze and then insert the swab into the machine.
The
> machine heats the swab and can detect from the vapors whether explosive
chemicals
> or narcotics are present.
>
> The Homeland Security Department's Transportation Security Administration
> (TSA) has purchased several thousand trace-detection machines in the past
year as
> part of a broader effort to check for explosives in checked luggage.
>
> Nitrocellulose, also called guncotton or cellulose nitrate, can be created
by
> combining cotton or cottonlike material with nitric acid or sulfuric acid,
> substances that are used in various forms to clean drains and by artists
in
> metal etching. Mixing in nitroglycerine makes the mixture even more
dangerous.
>
> If dried carefully, it emits no odor, but if dried incompetently, it has a
> slight etherlike smell, the August memo said.
>

> The existence of the warning was reported by the Spanish newspaper El Mundo
> earlier this month. In the warning, later obtained by The Washington Post,
> Homeland Security officials told recipients that the document should not be shared
> with the media or public.
>
> TSA spokesman Brian Turmail said his agency and its predecessor, the Federal
> Aviation Administration, have circulated memos on the threat of explosives
> hidden in clothing or toys for three years.
>
> "This is a threat that has been anticipated in the design and development of
> the procedures our screeners follow," he said. That's why passengers are asked
> to remove their jackets and place them, as well as stuffed animals and
> pillows, on X-ray machines, he said.
>
> Many passengers have complained that such procedures don't seem to make
> sense. But the TSA pointed to an incident in July when airport screeners
> found a
> .22-caliber handgun hidden inside a teddy bear at a Florida airport
> checkpoint.
>
> "Our screening procedures call for the full scrutiny of jackets, pillows
> and
> toys," Turmail said.
>
> The TSA is experimenting with new walk-through portals at airports that
> blow
> puffs of air on people to shake loose invisible chemical residue on their
> clothes, possibly revealing explosives.
>
>
> #####
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: EOD Question: "Pillow Bomb"effectiveness

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Pillow Bombs Feared on Planes

U.S. Says Al Qaeda Explosives Could Also Be Stuffed Into Coats, Toys

By John Mintz and Sara Kehaulani Goo

Washington Post Staff Writers

Tuesday, October 14, 2003; Page A05

Airport screeners in this country and overseas are on the lookout for suspicious pillows, coats and even stuffed animals after U.S. intelligence concluded that al Qaeda operatives are being trained to apply special chemicals to the material inside to transform them into bombs.

American intelligence officials have picked up several indications that al Qaeda is attempting to create a chemical called nitrocellulose to fashion explosive devices that could be smuggled aboard jetliners, according to a warning the Department of Homeland Security sent in August to airlines and airport security officials around the world.

"We judge this type of threat to be real and continuing," the department said in the Aug. 8 warning. It noted there has been "persistence [in a] line of reports from several credible, independent sources" that al Qaeda is training to build such bombs. Among other things, confiscated al Qaeda training manuals show the sophistication of its preparations, the document said.

Explosives experts said that the detonating power of a nitrocellulose bomb depends on numerous factors -- but most particularly on how tightly the cottonlike material is packed into an area. If small free-standing wisps of it are set on fire, they could blaze up quickly and die down just as fast. But large wads of it tightly crammed into a container of some kind could create a booming detonation, they said.

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The TSA is experimenting with new walk-through portals at airports that blow puffs of air on people to shake loose invisible chemical residue on their clothes, possibly revealing explosives.

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: canine

Date: Monday, October 13, 2003 2:18 PM

From: Cpl A. Kaldewaay <knpv2@zoominternet.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Cpl. Kaldewaay,

Thank you very much for your message. We do not, at the present time, have a programme for trials of techniques using dogs and therefore we do not intend to purchase animals in the near future. However, in general, we are interested in all demining methods and your company information is therefore of interest to us.

If you have not already done so, I would recommend putting out a message on the Menchen Gegen Minen e-mail network network@mgm.org. This is read by a large number of people in the demining world, including organizations using dogs.

Your sincerely,

Adam Lewis
Scientific Officer

Institute for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen
Humanitarian Security Unit
Post Point TP 723
European Commission Joint Research Center
Via E. Fermi, 1
21020 Ispra (VA) Italy
Phone: +39 0332 785786
Fax +39 0332 785469

Adam.Lewis@jrc.it

To find out more about our work in Humanitarian Demining, please visit our website: <http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it/demining/demining.htm>

Well here it is:

K-9 Center LLC
310 Catamount Rd
Oxford PA, 19363
Chester County
USA
Phone: 610-476-9412
Fax: 610-444-0171
knpv2@zoominternet.net

[Http://www.k9-center.com](http://www.k9-center.com)

We would like to introduce ourselves to you. We are a small company that imports and sells police dogs and trains federal, state, company landmine dogs throughout the world. We are not a large broker or large kennel that does a large amount of volume. We import the dogs from Holland, Czech, Slovak Rep, and Belgium, and only the dogs we have seen, worked and picked are brought into our kennel. Although you might have sources for dogs from Europe now, we would like the opportunity to do business with you.

Some of our other services:

K-9 Center LLC provides narcotics and explosive/landmine detection services utilizing professionally trained and certified canines. We also provided in-service training at your location. Maybe you already have an in-house trainer that needs some help or needs some updating in his training techniques. We can help, when we help you train your dogs we get them certified through an outside certifying police dog organization which in return helps protect the agency against law suites.

Our web site is <http://www.k9-center.com>

This biography will give you a little more insight on who we are:

Alain Kaldewaay a native of the Netherlands, who has been training dogs since 1987. Alain has completed various dogs to Schutzhund / narcotics / explosives / obedience / patrol and tracking levels.

I am a certified police dog trainer who has competed with my Malinois and German Shepherd dogs in the United States Police Canine Assoc, PA Police Canine Assoc, Schutzhund and various other disciplines.

I offer one-on-one training, monthly training and in-kennel training programs.

Alain holds a Bond Voor Diensthond diploma (canine instructor certification from Holland.)

Jos van Calmthout a native of the Nederland's is now residing in the United States. Jos, who is now part of our team, worked for one of the largest police export dog companies in Holland and brings a world of experience in the purchase and selection of working dogs.

Jos has full knowledge of the KNPV and has handled various dogs in this discipline. Jos was a decoy in one of the local clubs. Jos is available for consulting and training.

Stephanie E. Thomas joined K-9 Center LLC in 1998. Stephanie is a talented instructor, blessed with the ability to serve the needs of customers and vendors under all circumstances and has exceptional organizational ability, interest in the Company, dogs and horses. She manages day-to-day care for all the dogs, and oversees daily office / kennel management. Stephanie is also a successful horse trainer with 24 years of experience in horse breeding. Stephanie who has trained various dogs from puppy to green dogs is an excellent obedience instructor.

If you have more questions please don't hesitate to call us,

Sincerely,

Cpl A. Kaldewaay

Subject: MgM Demining Network: details of detonations on stokpiles in Artemovsk , Ukraine

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2003 4:18 PM

From: Yuri Donskoy <donskoy@abc.com.ua>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

UaToday.net | 20:30]Ministry of Defence of Ukraine reported: in Artemovske blazes storehouse with rockets to MLRS "GRAD"
October 10 2003 | 18:32 Details

In editing of the site "Details" has entered the official commentary a Ministry of Defense on cause of the situations with blast and fire on ammunition dump on one of the soldierly parts Artemovsk:

"Today, October 10, around 12.30 on united composition of 52-mechanized brigade of 6 Army Corps of the Southern Operative Command of the Land Forces Ukrainian AF, located for devil of the city Artemovsk Doneckoy area, began the fire. This has brought about detonations prestored on ammunition stockpiles.

Right after begin fire operative man on duty officers informed local population, duty service of the State Fire Safety Department of Ministry of Emergency of Ukraine on questions exceeding situation and on deals of protection population from effect Chernobyl catastrophes. About exceeding event was reported to managements and Political leaders of the Ukraine.

Together with that, immediately own power were organized liquidation of problems and guard of the dangerous region. Through several minutes to military were joined firefighters, which beginning to take all necessary measures on localizations and liquidation of fire. Presently in this operations are used beside 50 fire departments. The Military have all control for dangerous zone. Completely completed evacuation from it all children and adult population.

On preliminary data, the is no victims.

For clarification circumstance exceeding event to place has flown the task force a Ministry of defense Ukraine, the head of Joint Task Force - the first deputy of the Chief of the Arms of Armed Forces of the Ukraine - Major General Valeriy Boykov.

Reference

The United compositions of 52 Brigade of 6- Army Corps of the Southern Operative Command of the Land troops AF Ukraine are intended for keeping rocket-artillery projectile.

In particular, rockets to system "GRAD" in amount 31160 pieces (the reactive projectile M21OF). These ammunitions are found in beton vault by size 50 H 18, served by defensive

gross.

All projectiles is kept in unequipped condition that is to say, combat part is not joined.

Presently detonated only vault for conservation missile projectile to system GRAD. From detonation has vented cut vault. The known that detonated, to say the least, two rockets. One has flown to duty station , but the second - toward kindergarten.

The Projectile M21OF have possibility overpunch the earth gross by thickness before 1 meter. In not combat type can fly on distance - 10 000 meters. The Whole on united composition 52 Brig kept located - 47 wagons (one wagon - 60 ton) of ammunition.

This ammunitions to small arms, tanks, field artillery, artillery projectiles (partly equipped) and mortar mines.

In particular, 100-mm shells - 13 057 pieces or 12 wagon's

120-mm mortar mines - 3 wagon's

125-mm tank shots - 9 wagon's

152-mm artillery projectiles - 12 wagon's

112-mm shells - 4 wagon's."

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Good Use for Landmines

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2003 5:19 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Greetings from Iraq. I thought forum members might be intrested in seeing some antitank mines being put to good use. Here they are being used as donor material to destroy Russian 130mm mortar rounds at an old Iraqi ammo depot north of Baghdad.

George



Subject: MgM Demining Network: Mines Take Toll Of Children As Kabul Aid Fades

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2003 5:10 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

London Sunday Times

October 5, 2003

Mines Take Toll Of Children As Kabul Aid Fades

Thousands of people in Afghanistan are dying or losing eyes or limbs each year because of delays in foreign aid for clearing landmines and unexploded devices left by decades of conflict, *writes Christina Lamb.*

The country is one of the most heavily mined on earth. Mines and bombs that failed to explode on impact kill or maim more than 100 people every month.

More than half the victims are children. Many have been hurt picking up unexploded cluster bombs — dropped by British and American aircraft during the 2001 war — fooled by their yellow covers into thinking they are toys or biscuits.

Removing the weapons is critical to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. But this year de-miners have not been paid for four or five months because of shortfalls in international funding, while others are unable to work because of worsening security in the south where the Taliban are active. Two de-miners were murdered recently and others have received death threats.

“It’s a very frustrating situation,” said Dan Kelly, the United Nations mine clearance chief for Afghanistan. Only a third of the £47m needed for January of this year to March of next has been paid; another third has been pledged but the final third has yet to be found.

“We’re having a real problem getting pledged money actually paid,” he said. “Pledges can’t pay de-miners’ salaries.”

One of the late payers was Britain which made good its pledge of £2m only last month despite assurances that it would clear up the cluster bombs dropped during

the war.

A UN report issued last month said 17,000 deaths or injuries could be averted over the next 10 years if the de-mining were accelerated. Richard Lloyd of Landmine Action, a British organisation campaigning for a ban on the use of cluster bombs, said: "Afghans are aware of the danger of landmines but not of unexploded ordnance."

"We are still getting more than 20 victims a month," said Abdul Qader Qayoumi, area manager of the UN mine action centre for the Herat region, where an estimated 30% of the cluster bombs dropped by the allies did not go off on impact.

In Shartar village on the outskirts of Herat, where 15 people have already been injured or killed by cluster bombs, the weapons have started to appear in the muddy canal which flows through the centre — a favourite place for children to splash.

Clearing Afghanistan's landmines is increasingly becoming a race against time with the Taliban laying new mines in the south to prevent development work and thus increase frustration with the western-backed government. Landmines are also being used by poppy-growers to prevent any attempts to eradicate their crops: Afghanistan has once again become the world's biggest producer of opium.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: first detonations on stokpiles of Southern Military Command in Artemovsk , Donetsk region

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2003 2:53 PM

From: Yuri Donskoy <donskoy@abc.com.ua>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi All,

Sorry, not good news from Ukraine.

As you know we fight all time before against some military idiots which all time like to put block and stop of Ukrainian - NATO cooperation on destruction old weapons, ammunitions and liquidation of stockpiles in Ukraine.

On 10 October we see first detonations on stockpiles of Southern Military Command in Artemovsk , Donetsk region, where will be next?

Ministry of Emergency reported about evacuation of 60.000 people in Artemovsk.

Some stockpiles located in other regions near Nuclear Stations and other dangerous objects.

We must have more active cooperation for safety of life our Civilian People.

Lt.Col (R.) Yuri Donskoy
Ukraine , UJMAT

Subject: MgM Demining Network: The U.S. perspective on the global landmine problem and mine acti on

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2003 3:48 PM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

MgM network readers are cordially invited to click on this link, <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rm/24987.htm>, in order to download an article by Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Mine Action, entitled "Detritus of Conflict: The U.S. Approach to the Humanitarian Problem Posed by Landmines and Other Hazardous Remnants of War." This article was originally published by Seton Hall University's Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations in April, 2003.

For those who are unfamiliar with Seton Hall University, it is a respected center of higher learning in the United States that was founded in 1856. The University is located in South Orange, New Jersey. The Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations is produced by the University's John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations. We were honored by the Journal's invitation to contribute an article by Special Representative Bloomfield.

Readers who took note of the announcement (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/24910.htm>) that I recently posted on the MgM network regarding the formation of the State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, will find in this article some passages that foreshadow the creation of our new office.

Sincerely,

JOHN

John E. Stevens
Foreign Affairs Officer
Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA)
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
Suite 1826
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20547

Tel: (202) 647-0676
Fax: (202) 647-2465
Unclassified Email: SteveJE@State.Gov
PM/WRA website: www.state.gov/t/pm/wra

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: workshop - reliability tests of MD

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2003 7:21 AM

From: Mate Gaal <Mate.Gaal@bam.de>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

ITEP WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT
16-17 December 2003, BAM, Berlin.
Reliability Tests for Humanitarian Demining

The Workshop will concentrate on the following topics:

- Discussion of results of three fieldtrials within the ITEP Project 2.1.1.2 "Reliability Model for Test and Evaluation of Metal Detectors" in Germany and Croatia;
- Conception of performance demonstration and modular reliability transfer from NDT to demining;
- Plan of experiments and statistical evaluation of reliability tests for metal detectors;
- Conclusion for research and future development.

The workshop is mainly aimed to discuss an addendum to the currently valid CEN workshop agreement 14747: 2003 for test and evaluation of metal detectors. For details please see the flyer, available in pdf:

<http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it/demining/cw07/index.htm>

or

<http://www.itep.ws/>

--

Mate Gaal, Dipl.-Phys.

tel. +49-30-8104-4616

BAM - Federal Institute for
Materials Research and Testing
Lab. VIII.33
Unter den Eichen 87
12205 Berlin
Germany

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Formation of Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

Date: Monday, October 6, 2003 4:30 PM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

U.S. Department of State
Media Note
Office of the Spokesman
Washington, D.C.
October 6, 2003

Formation of Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

2003/1010

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has realigned its Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships, and Small Arms/Light Weapons unit of its Office of Plans, Policy and Analysis into an Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (www.state.gov/t/pm/wra <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra>>). Its mission is to contain the weapons and their aftereffects that are most responsible for fueling regional conflicts, unrest and terrorist activity worldwide.

"The menace to regional stability and public safety posed by persistent landmines, readily available small arms, light weapons, abandoned ordnance, and poorly secured munitions are interrelated and should be addressed in a comprehensive manner," said Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs who also serves as the Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Mine Action. "The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, building upon the skills and successes of its predecessors, is designed and empowered to deal with these threats worldwide."

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement exercises oversight of all U.S. Department of State humanitarian mine action efforts as well as policy and programs relating to landmines, small arms/light weapons and other remnants of war. It also develops public-private partnerships to support humanitarian mine action and related initiatives to help mitigate threats from other destabilizing weapons and improve the conditions for people and societies to recover from conflict.

KEY FACTS

- - About 60 countries are affected by persistent landmines that can remain a danger for decades. These "hidden killers" kill and maim thousands of people annually, keep valuable agricultural land out of production, and hinder economic recovery, humanitarian assistance and international peacekeeping efforts.

- - Man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), widely available and easy to conceal and deploy, pose a threat to civil aviation worldwide. Illicit MANPADS in global black markets and poorly secured stocks held by governments lacking effective controls, risk falling into the hands of terrorists, insurgent groups and organized criminals.

- - The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (such as automatic rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and light mortars) exacerbates conflict, contributes to crime and terrorism, and is a proven obstacle to peace, economic development and post-conflict reconstruction.

- - Caches of abandoned ordnance and poorly secured or maintained stockpiled munitions, often located in or near communities, can and do produce catastrophic explosions.

[End]
Released on October 6, 2003

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Afghanistan dotted with millions of land mines

Date: Friday, October 3, 2003 12:59 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Afghanistan dotted with millions of land mines
Terrorists' weapon
Isabel Vincent
National Post
Friday, October 03, 2003

Efforts to ban land mines, especially the historic anti-mine treaty signed in Ottawa six years ago, have severely cut down the manufacture of land mines around the world, but have done almost nothing to prevent their use by terrorist and guerrilla groups.

That's the view of many land mine experts who say mine clearance efforts and the international treaty to ban land mines, now signed by 147 countries, have had little effect on the use of mines, many of which can be home-made for less than \$5 each.

There are also millions of mines left over from previous conflicts, ready for use. Landmine Action, a U.K.-based group that studies land mines, says there are more than 200 million mines stockpiled around the world, mostly in China and Russia.

"There are very mixed results on the land mine treaty because while it prevents state signatories from using mines, it does not address non-state actors, who are responsible for most of the world's conflicts today," said Nicole Kreger, assistant editor for the Journal of Mine Action, at the Mine Action Information Center, a think-tank funded by the U.S. State Department.

Terrorist groups in Afghanistan and Iraq are not bound by any treaty, and have millions of mines at their disposal, weapons experts say.

"These could be mines left over from the Soviet conflict or from as far back as the Sixties," said Colin King, editor of Janes Mines and Mine Clearance. "Other countries also supplied mines to the mujahedeen, and people don't give up weapons too easily in Afghanistan."

Land mines are easy to use, and planting a mine or cluster bomb does not require a great deal of skill, Mr. King said.

"The mine that killed the Canadian soldiers could have easily been planted by someone engaging in vandalism," he said. "Planting mines is not a highly organized movement and they have always been an effective weapon."

Afghanistan is one of the world's most heavily mined countries, although Hamid Karzai, President of the Afghan Transitional Authority, last year added his country's name to the international treaty and promised to destroy stockpiled mines and clear the ones currently deployed.

But Mr. Karzai seems to have his work cut out for him. The UN Mine Action Program for Afghanistan estimates there are between five and seven million mines there, most planted by Soviet and pro-Soviet Afghan government forces from 1979 to 1992.

Although there has been a massive effort to clear them (7,000 Afghans have been trained in mine clearing) since the end of the Soviet conflict in 1989, land mines in Afghanistan still inflict about 300 civilian casualties per month, according to the UN Mine Action Program for Afghanistan. All but two of Afghanistan's 29 provinces are dotted with land mines.

Still, efforts to clear and destroy the mines have met with some success, and experts believe that if vigorous mine clearing continues, Afghanistan will be "substantially safe from mines" within a decade. However, such efforts have been severely hampered by terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda, whose members regularly plant mines as terrorist tools. Numerous non-governmental organizations working under the auspices of the UN mine program have destroyed nearly two million land mines.

In addition to Afghanistan, Angola has an estimated nine million mines, and recently India and Pakistan engaged in a massive operation to lay landmines along the disputed border of Kashmir.

ivincent@nationalpost.com

Subject: MgM Demining Network: enose
Date: Friday, October 3, 2003 10:45 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Cdns Killed by AT Mine

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 5:22 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sgt Short 3 RCR was a good man. Did a few Ops with him and lots of cold night unloading barbed wire and pickets, he was a Vet from Sarajevo 92.

They shall grow not older as we that are left grow Older.

Age shall not weary them or the years condemn.

At The going down of the Sun and In the Morning, we will remember them.

UBIQUE!!

PRO PATRIA!!

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

2 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan

Last Updated Thu, 02 Oct 2003 12:23:06

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - Two Canadian soldiers were killed Thursday in Afghanistan when their jeep struck a landmine. The soldiers were on a routine patrol in Kabul when the explosion occurred.

The two who died are Sgt. Robert Allan Short and Cpl. Robbie Christopher Barrenfinger.

The three men injured are M/Cpl. Jason Cory Hamilton, Cpl. Thomas Jarret Stirling and Cpl. Cameron Lee Laidlaw.

BACKGROUND: Afghanistan

Canada has about 1,800 soldiers stationed with a 31-country force of 5,500 in Kabul. The Canadians left for Afghanistan in August.

Canada is one of the largest contributors to the Kabul force.

FROM MAY 23, 2002: Canadian soldiers strike landmine on Afghan road

The jeeps used by Canadian soldiers on patrols in Afghanistan are older vehicles and are not protected against landmines.

Four Canadian soldiers died last year in Afghanistan when a U.S. fighter jet mistakenly bombed their position during a training exercise near Kandahar.

Written by CBC News Online staf

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Online Demo stuff

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 4:44 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

In my ow Newfoundland tounge, "you gotter brother!!" I agree and that was partially my argument with these guys.

Take care!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete

----- Original Message -----

From: Roger Hess <mailto:rhess@telkomsa.net>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003 1:05 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Online Demo stuff

Hi All;

I'm finally out of Baghdad, am now cooling my heels for a bit, and once again have somewhat normal communications. To all of my working partners who are still doing the daily "duck and weave" in the greater Baghdad area; keep your eyes open, your head down, and keep up the good work.

Due to a slew of spam on the webmail version of my email server; there is a lot that I've missed over the past couple months, but hopefully nothing too critical was passed over.

Pete

> I realize there must be many guys here who have served also in dangerous high threat of ambush and attack areas

Yeah, there are many of us who did and many who still do, and I agree that too much info is available on how to set these traps; however putting a cap on the availability of publications that show how to do this now may be "Too little, too late" since the only thing it will do is drive up the cost for those books that currently exist and increase the profit margins made by groups like Paladin Press.

Unfortunately, the information has been available for years and is almost as common as a repair manual for a 1965 Volkswagen.

"Freedom of the Press" has been distorted just as "The right to bear arms" has.

Cheers

Roger

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Online Demo stuff

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 12:27 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All,

In a big argument thats still not over on the the public online publication of certain Demolition information and US Pams, formulas thats published on some US and other Sites. A guy started in his explanation of the WW2 Panzer faust describing on top of the obvious what works materials best, for shaped charges, like glass, detonation waves and best explosives, cone depths etc etc and the capabilities of some nato AT ammo in penetration. These guys proceded to freak on me for being paranoid as I kept beating a dead horse decribing how much these sites and info despite their appearance of looseness online are flagged and watched by Law enforcement. Without getting into describing counter counter measures methods apart from the obvious reason I belive the stuff in this detail should not be published outside officail licenced use I am wondering what do you guys think of the availability of this information (apartf rom IMAS and in the context of Military manuals) and whether it is a direct result of the advent of more "good sons" and terrorist acts around the world? Am I not right that it ls not a "good thing" that there are "not" needed materials avaiable easily and more books describing EOD and homemade stuff for these people to start speculation and intrests. Bob K backed me up and said: "This thankfully removes alot of them from the gene pool as they cant follow the described recipes correctly most of the time" What do you guys think to add? I realize there must be many guys here who have served also in dangerous high threat of ambush and attack areas...

Regards,

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

011-385-1-388-3071

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Online Demo stuff

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 11:35 AM

From: Roger Hess <rhess@telkomsa.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi All;

I'm finally out of Baghdad, am now cooling my heels for a bit, and once again have somewhat normal communications. To all of my working partners who are still doing the daily "duck and weave" in the greater Baghdad area; keep your eyes open, your head down, and keep up the good work.

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Unfortunately, the information has been available for years and is almost as common as a repair manual for a 1965 Volkswagen.

"Freedom of the Press" has been distorted just as "The right to bear arms" has.

Cheers

Roger

Subject: MgM Demining Network: One Friday Afternoon at the Minwara Bar
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 11:01 AM
From: Albert M. Bottoms <amb@demine.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Why not? We have had plenty of the other kind (bores).

--
Albert M. Bottoms amb@demine.org http://www.demine.org
President, Society for Counter-Ordnance Technology
849 Coast Blvd AL506, La Jolla, CA 92037-4223 Tel. (858)456-4255

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Nature article: Explosives: A microsensor for trinitrotoluene vapour

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 10:14 AM

From: burritrg@jmu.edu

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Your friend or colleague burritrg@jmu.edu thought this article from Nature would be of particular interest to you. Their message is below.

Nature article: Explosives: A microsensor for trinitrotoluene vapour

The address is:

http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v425/n6957/full/425474a_fs.html

Their message:

Here is the article you wanted.

Nature (www.nature.com)

To view the whole range of information available in Nature and its portals, visit www.nature.com/nature

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: "Dogs may sigh"

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 8:23 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

is the title of an article DER SPIEGEL today quoting from an article in "Nature" about a new electro-nose device built by Dr Jesse Adams of the University of Nevada.

I will spare you the translation, can somebody try to find the source, possibly in English? The principle sounds stunning - at least in German.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: One Friday Afternoon at the Minwara Bar
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 6:06 AM
From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Better than a flock of bores! Sorry, couldnt resist it!

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of
MgM Intl.Desk, Namibia
Sent: 02 October 2003 09:58
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: One Friday Afternoon at the Minwara Bar

Albert,

Do I get it right ? You'd like to see a flock of boars at the Minware
meeting ?
Easy.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Albert M.
Bottoms
Sent: 01 October 2003 06:55 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: New Israeli Bio Sensor

We are very interested in featuring a Technical Session on Issues
involving use of Biological Systems in Demining at the SIXTH
International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem. Monterey, CA
May 9-13. Please see the website at www.minwara.org or
www.demine.org/scot for additional information.

--

Albert M. Bottoms amb@demine.org <http://www.demine.org>
President, Society for Counter-Ordnance Technology
849 Coast Blvd AL506, La Jolla, CA 92037-4223 Tel. (858)456-4255

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: One Friday Afternoon at the Minwara Bar
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2003 4:58 AM
From: MgM Intl.Desk, Namibia <office.windhoek@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Albert,

Do I get it right ? You'd like to see a flock of boars at the Minwara meeting ?
Easy.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Albert M. Bottoms
Sent: 01 October 2003 06:55 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: New Israeli Bio Sensor

We are very interested in featuring a Technical Session on Issues involving use of Biological Systems in Demining at the SIXTH International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem. Monterey, CA May 9-13. Please see the website at www.minwara.org or www.demine.org/scot for additional information.

--
Albert M. Bottoms amb@demine.org <http://www.demine.org>
President, Society for Counter-Ordnance Technology
849 Coast Blvd AL506, La Jolla, CA 92037-4223 Tel. (858)456-4255

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: USA EOD Injured

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2003 3:37 PM

From: C. Thomas Eisele <rangerat1@mail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

"Forwarded from undisclosed"
Subject: Injured Soldier

Staff Sergeant Mickey VanDyke is a Team Leader of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team currently deployed to Afghanistan. A few days ago he and his team ran over a landmine of some sort that was placed in the road. He sustained serious shrapnel in his legs and was immediately flown to Germany where he has undergone two surgeries. He will be stateside soon where he will have his third surgery. It is a possibility depending upon the success of his surgeries that he may lose one of his feet. I would greatly appreciate it if you keep this soldier and all the others in harms way in your thoughts and prayers.

C. Thomas Eisele
Senior EOD Tech
Kwajalein Range Services LLC

--

Sign-up for your own personalized E-mail at Mail.com
<http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup>

CareerBuilder.com has over 400,000 jobs. Be smarter about your job search
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: New Israeli Bio Sensor

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2003 12:54 PM

From: Albert M. Bottoms <amb@demine.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

We are very interested in featuring a Technical Session on Issues involving use of Biological Systems in Demining at the SIXTH International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem. Monterey, CA May 9-13. Please see the website at www.minwara.org or www.demine.org/scot for additional information.

--

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: New Israeli Bio Sensor

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2003 7:45 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Interesting. It's true about their noses - French farmers use pigs rather than dogs to find truffles. However, as I understand it, (truffle) pigs are food motivated so will they work when they're not hungry? What's more, it's hardly kosher, is it? Or halal, for that matter...

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC
Sent: 01 October 2003 10:22
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: New Israeli Bio Sensor

DER SPIEGEL reports today

The Israeli Army's landmine search in future will be supported by wild boars. According to the animal trainer Gewa Taim, a first trial is currently running in Jordan Valley. The boars are foreseen to find old landmines with their sensitive snouts.

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: New Israeli Bio Sensor
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2003 5:22 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Victim's assistance

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 11:35 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Ruth

Why not approach Handicap International? their website is www.handicap-international.org They are good at this type of thing!

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Ruth J. Clark
Sent: 29 September 2003 21:49
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Victim's assistance

A few weeks ago someone posed a question about Victim's assistance (sorry I can not find the original message)

This is my key area of interest and I find that there is lots of talk but I am finding it very difficult to find individuals/agencies/groups to work with me and bring our technology forward to those who need it. I am told by U.S. federal agencies that there are plenty enough prosthetic limb available but that is not what I hear from individuals in the field.

I represent a new Prosthetic technology that does not use a full containment socket. This socketless technology is well proven around the world (including people in the U.S.). the Below-Elbow device can be made in a central location, shipped to the area of need and fit onto the amputee in under 30 minutes, with no fancy machinery or equipment needed. The system will accommodate limb change and we have children who have worn it from age 4 to age 6 with no major change needed. The open design of the mounting system allows for full air movement around the residual limb and no water and/or dirt can get entrapped and cause subsequent injury to the skin. This is particularly important in hot climates and with people who have extensive thermal or chemical burns on their residual limb. The system is ideal for a full Technology Transfer for in-country manufacture and deployment.

We have also successfully completed an R&D project with the U.S. DoD to modify one of our systems to be used as a PPE device. With this we can provide dexterous function with up to 12 inches of stand off or more.

I have had requests from many individuals, groups and governments from around the world. The key thing is that they want me to provide my own funding.

If anyone has any ideas on how to get a start-up off and running, I would be very appreciative. Or if anyone would like more information or just has general comments, please feel free to contact me.

I would also be pleased to work with anyone who had identified a specific

need and wants to provide assistance for the amputee. At the moment we have the Below-elbow system complete and the Above-Knee and Below-Knee systems are being tested and still need some refinement.

I have not seen much response from the original post but I know that the concern is there.

Thanks.
Ruth Clark
info@czbiomed.md
(250) 314-1849

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Zeus of Sparta

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 11:03 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I had a conversation with a sales rep at a UXO/Countermine Forum meeting several years ago who said it was scheduled to run tests at range clearance operations at (I think) Ft Ord and Kahoolawe ranges. They brought the full blown Humvee with Zeus mounted into the exhibit hall - impressive but still no test data to report at that time, mostly "this is what we think it can do" kinds of stuff. Maybe the JUXOCOE has something else on it?

- joe

--- burritrg@jmu.edu wrote:

> Funny you bring this up. About four months ago, I
> inquired on
> the MgM net if anyone was using this device. I spoke
> with Dr.
> Owen C. Hofer who developed it and he informed me it
> was in
> use in Iraq. So if anyone is using this device, I
> would be
> interested in hearing about its performance.

> ----- Original message -----

> >Date: Tue, 30 Sep 2003 11:23:12 +0200
> >From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC"
> ><ehlers@mgm.org>
> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: Zeus of Sparta
> >To: <network@mgm.org>

> >FYI

> >Hendrik

> ><http://www.zeus.sparta.com/overview.html>

> >Dr. Owen C. Hofer - SPARTA, Inc.

> >Telephone: (256) 837-5282 Ext. 2600

> >FAX: (256) 890-2041

> >Postal Address: 6000 Technology Drive, Building 3,
> Huntsville, AL 35805

> >Electronic Mail: zeus@huntsville.sparta.com

> >_____

> >winmail.dat (5k bytes)

> >_____

> #####

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> De Oppresso Liber
>
> Robert Burritt
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Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Shopping - with improved product search
<http://shopping.yahoo.com>

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Zeus of Sparta

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 7:36 AM

From: burritrg@jmu.edu

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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----- Original message -----

>Date: Tue, 30 Sep 2003 11:23:12 +0200
>From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Zeus of Sparta
>To: <network@mgm.org>

>
>FYI
>Hendrik
>
><http://www.zeus.sparta.com/overview.html>
>
>
>Dr. Owen C. Hofer - SPARTA, Inc.
>Telephone: (256) 837-5282 Ext. 2600
>FAX: (256) 890-2041
>Postal Address: 6000 Technology Drive, Building 3,
Huntsville, AL 35805
>Electronic Mail: zeus@huntsville.sparta.com

>
>
>
>_____

>winmail.dat (5k bytes)

>_____

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De Oppresso Liber

Robert Burritt
MAIC
540-568-2332

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Spoiling somebody's day

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 6:56 AM

From: MgM Intl.Desk, Namibia <office.windhoek@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Alfred

Yes, Bob is correct if you consider Claymores as something that comes from outerspace and the fact that it is mainly used as an AP is only an unwanted side effect that the users are not responsible for. So far for checking info upfront or wish/washing it afterwards.

Hendrik Ehlers

This Side towards Enemy

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 6:45 AM

From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@comcast.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks.

Bob S.

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Alfred djama

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 5:42 AM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Dear Bob

I have received your answers and I think next time I will check my informations very well.

Cheers

Alfred

>From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@comcast.net>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that
>make the most important production of APLs

>Date: Fri, 26 Sep 2003 21:53:48 -0400

>

>Dear Alfred,

>The USA is not a member of the Ottawa Convention and does not continue to
>produce APLs.

>

>I hope this answers your question.

>

>Cheers,

>Bob S.

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Alfred djama

>Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 9:09 AM

>To: network@mgm.org

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that
>make

>the most important production of APLs

>

>Dear Andrey

>In your view,tell me why are USA members of ATTAWA's treaty and continue to
>produce APLs?

>Cheers

>Alfred

>

>

>>From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

>>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most
>important
>
> >production of APLs
> >Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 23:31:15 +0400
> >
> >Hi Alfred.
> >APLs? Russia of course!
> >If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers. But
> >large number of countries are producing its own mines.
> >Good luck on minefields!
> >Andrey
> >
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM
> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important
> >production of APLs
> >
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> > > regards.
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> > >
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 5:42 AM

From: Alfred djama <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Bob

I have received your answers and I think next time I will check my informations very well.

Cheers

Alfred

>From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@comcast.net>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that
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>Date: Fri, 26 Sep 2003 21:53:48 -0400

>

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>Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 9:09 AM

>To: network@mgm.org

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that
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>the most important production of APLs

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>Dear Andrey

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>Alfred

>

>

>>From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

>>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>>To: <network@mgm.org>

>>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most
>important

>

>>production of APLs

>>Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 23:31:15 +0400

>>

>>Hi Alfred.

>>APLs? Russia of course!

>>If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers. But

>>large number of countries are producing its own mines.

> >Good luck on minefields!
> >Andrey
> >
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM
> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Zeus of Sparta
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 5:23 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

FYI
Hendrik

<http://www.zeus.sparta.com/overview.html>

Dr. Owen C. Hofer - SPARTA, Inc.
Telephone: (256) 837-5282 Ext. 2600
FAX: (256) 890-2041
Postal Address: 6000 Technology Drive, Building 3, Huntsville, AL 35805
Electronic Mail: zeus@huntsville.sparta.com

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Victim's assistance

Date: Monday, September 29, 2003 4:48 PM

From: Ruth J. Clark <info@czbiomed.md>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

A few weeks ago someone posed a question about Victim's assistance (sorry I can not find the original message)

This is my key area of interest and I find that there is lots of talk but I am finding it very difficult to find individuals/agencies/groups to work with me and bring our technology forward to those who need it. I am told by U.S. federal agencies that there are plenty enough prosthetic limb available but that is not what I hear from individuals in the field.

I represent a new Prosthetic technology that does not use a full containment socket. This socketless technology is well proven around the world (including people in the U.S.). the Below-Elbow device can be made in a central location, shipped to the area of need and fit onto the amputee in under 30 minutes, with no fancy machinery or equipment needed. The system will accommodate limb change and we have children who have worn it from age 4 to age 6 with no major change needed. The open design of the mounting system allows for full air movement around the residual limb and no water and/or dirt can get entrapped and cause subsequent injury to the skin. This is particularly important in hot climates and with people who have extensive thermal or chemical burns on their residual limb. The system is ideal for a full Technology Transfer for in-country manufacture and deployment.

We have also successfully completed an R&D project with the U.S. DoD to modify one of our systems to be used as a PPE device. With this we can provide dexterous function with up to 12 inches of stand off or more.

I have had requests from many individuals, groups and governments from around the world. The key thing is that they want me to provide my own funding.

If anyone has any ideas on how to get a start-up off and running, I would be very appreciative. Or if anyone would like more information or just has general comments, please feel free to contact me.

I would also be pleased to work with anyone who had identified a specific need and wants to provide assistance for the amputee. At the moment we have the Below-elbow system complete and the Above-Knee and Below-Knee systems are being tested and still need some refinement.

I have not seen much responce from the original post but I know that the concern is there.

Thanks.
Ruth Clark
info@czbiomed.md
(250) 314-1849

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 9:53 PM

From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@comcast.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Alfred,

The USA is not a member of the Ottawa Convention and does not continue to produce APLs.

I hope this answers your question.

Cheers,

Bob S.

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Alfred djama

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 9:09 AM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Dear Andrey

In your view, tell me why are USA members of ATTAWA's treaty and continue to produce APLs?

Cheers

Alfred

>From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important

>production of APLs

>Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 23:31:15 +0400

>

>Hi Alfred.

>APLs? Russia of course!

>If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers. But

>large number of countries are producing its own mines.

>Good luck on minefields!

>Andrey

>

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important

>production of APLs

>

>

> > Hi all

> > Can somebody tells me that countries make the most important production

>of

> > APLs in the world?

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 6:17 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Alfred

To my regret I know nothing about producing APLs in US in present time. I took in view that in last US was one of the largest producers of it. I'm so sorry, my English is not the best.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 5:09 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

> Dear Andrey

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> >Good luck on minefields!

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: re[2]: MgM Demining Network: Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 4:55 PM

From: Earl Elster <earl.elster@cartographic.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Shawn,

Congratulations, you have done a nice job on your website. However as I know both your website and our book, I can tell you that more than ninety percent of the content of the book will not be found at your URL. We also have the advantage that in book form, the information is portable and easy to carry and use in the field without requiring a high speed internet connection to be viewed.

Earl

>> or you can get it all for free, using real names, and all updated from
>> www.aims.org.pk . the full set of 50k maps are also available digitally
>> on
>> site (Kabul, Kandahar, Hirat, mazar, kunduz, jalalabad) and at MAPA. I
>> know
>> , I put them together.

>> Shawn

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: "Earl Elster" <earl.elster@cartographic.com>

>> To: <network@mgm.org>

>> Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 1:43 PM

>> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan

>> East View Cartographic is proud to announce the publication of the first
>> in
>> a series of books called Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan, which will
>> eventually be followed by similar geographic analysis books for additional
>> countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, China, and others. The contents
>> of
>> this 390 page volume are derived from detailed ground level survey work of
>> Afghanistan performed during the 1980's by the Soviet military mapping
>> agency VTU (Military-Topographic Directorate).

>> Published in English for the first time, this book provides sub-province
>> local terrain analysis with detailed reports for 128 local regions, each
>> of
>> which corresponds to a specific region of Afghanistan defined by
>> Soviet/Russian topographic maps at 1:200,000 scale. An individual map
>> quadrangle covers an area measuring approximately 74 by 92 kilometers (40
>> minutes lat. by 60 minutes long.), with the name of each area based on the
>> English translation of the largest population center appearing on the map.
>> The narrative information contained in this volume overwhelmingly comes
>> from
>> terrain analysis studies appearing on the verso side of the
>> above-mentioned
>> maps.

>> For each of the 128 map sheets there exist six categories of information.
>> They are:

>> 1. Populated Places describes populated centers ranging from small towns
>> and
>> villages to major cities and includes local road and street conditions,
>> building characteristic, water resources, housing density, sanitary
>> conditions, telecommunications infrastructure and population levels.

>> 2. Roads describes road and bridge conditions throughout the country and
>> includes load capacities, surface materials (e.g. dirt, gravel, asphalt),
>> width of the roads and beds in meters, elevation ranges, and passage
>> conditions as impacted by change of seasons, snow, and flooding etc.

>> 3. Topography and Soils contains localized analysis of soil and terrain
>> conditions including altitude and slope characteristics for mountainous
>> areas, types of soils (e.g. sandy, clay), water table levels, river bottom
>> conditions, and seismic activity.

>> 4. Hydrology describes major rivers in each area including widths, depths,
>> and flow rates, along with banks/islands, silting, freezing, pollution,
>> and
>> other conditions which can affect their passage or usage.

>> 5. Vegetation is described as to whether it is grassy, forested, shrubs,
>> and
>> other. Tree heights and types are identified, as are the predominant
>> types
>> of grasses and the crops that are raised in each area by local farmers.

>> 6. Climate ranges in Afghanistan range from subtropical and continental to
>> wintery and mountain arid. Temperature ranges are chronicled by season
>> along with snow, rainfall, and wind conditions.

>> As it is anticipated that many users of these volumes will have more
>> intensive geospatial requirements, the appendix contains Russian and
>> American topographic map indices at various scales, all of which are
>> available in paper or digital formats. The overview copy of the Russian
>> 200k topographic map sheet shows the location by page number of the
>> chapter
>> coverage for the individual map sheets. Additionally, the individual 200k
>> map sheets contain thousands of geographic place names translated into
>> English in accordance with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN)
>> standards. Multi-color soil maps are also provided for each region
>> indicating by color if the local soil condition is clay, sand, loam,
>> stone,
>> boulder or other.

>> Given the total lack of this type of information from other sources, this
>> book represents an invaluable reference source for the many companies,
>> governmental agencies, NGO's, individuals and others who will be involved
>> in
>> helping the government of Hamid Karzai in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

>> We are offering this book at the special sale price of US \$295 per copy
>> plus
>> shipping, additional discounts are available for quantity purchases,
>> please
>> inquire as indicated below regarding this option. To obtain more details
>> regarding this publication please go to the following locations on our

>> website.

>> http://www.cartographic.com/whats_new.asp

>> <http://www.cartographic.com/documents/Afghan%20Terrain.pdf>

>> http://www.cartographic.com/xq/ASP/RegionID.18/AreaID.6/ClassID.1100/TypeID.1113/ProductID.18890/qx/other_maps.asp#view

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>> We look forward to hearing from you.

>> Best regards,
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>> Director of Sales and Marketing
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 2:35 PM

From: Shawn Messick <semessick@worldnet.att.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

or you can get it all for free, using real names, and all updated from www.aims.org.pk . the full set of 50k maps are also available digitally on site (Kabul, Kandahar, Hirat, mazar, kunduz, jalalabad) and at MAPA. I know , I put them together.

Shawn

----- Original Message -----

From: "Earl Elster" <earl.elster@cartographic.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 1:43 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan

East View Cartographic is proud to announce the publication of the first in a series of books called Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan, which will eventually be followed by similar geographic analysis books for additional countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, China, and others. The contents of this 390 page volume are derived from detailed ground level survey work of Afghanistan performed during the 1980's by the Soviet military mapping agency VTU (Military-Topographic Directorate).

Published in English for the first time, this book provides sub-province local terrain analysis with detailed reports for 128 local regions, each of which corresponds to a specific region of Afghanistan defined by Soviet/Russian topographic maps at 1:200,000 scale. An individual map quadrangle covers an area measuring approximately 74 by 92 kilometers (40 minutes lat. by 60 minutes long.), with the name of each area based on the English translation of the largest population center appearing on the map. The narrative information contained in this volume overwhelmingly comes from terrain analysis studies appearing on the verso side of the above-mentioned maps.

For each of the 128 map sheets there exist six categories of information. They are:

1. Populated Places describes populated centers ranging from small towns and villages to major cities and includes local road and street conditions, building characteristic, water resources, housing density, sanitary conditions, telecommunications infrastructure and population levels.
2. Roads describes road and bridge conditions throughout the country and includes load capacities, surface materials (e.g. dirt, gravel, asphalt), width of the roads and beds in meters, elevation ranges, and passage conditions as impacted by change of seasons, snow, and flooding etc.
3. Topography and Soils contains localized analysis of soil and terrain conditions including altitude and slope characteristics for mountainous areas, types of soils (e.g. sandy, clay), water table levels, river bottom conditions, and seismic activity.
4. Hydrology describes major rivers in each area including widths, depths,

and flow rates, along with banks/islands, silting, freezing, pollution, and other conditions which can affect their passage or usage.

5. Vegetation is described as to whether it is grassy, forested, shrubs, and other. Tree heights and types are identified, as are the predominant types of grasses and the crops that are raised in each area by local farmers.

6. Climate ranges in Afghanistan range from subtropical and continental to wintery and mountain arid. Temperature ranges are chronicled by season along with snow, rainfall, and wind conditions.

As it is anticipated that many users of these volumes will have more intensive geospatial requirements, the appendix contains Russian and American topographic map indices at various scales, all of which are available in paper or digital formats. The overview copy of the Russian 200k topographic map sheet shows the location by page number of the chapter coverage for the individual map sheets. Additionally, the individual 200k map sheets contain thousands of geographic place names translated into English in accordance with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) standards. Multi-color soil maps are also provided for each region indicating by color if the local soil condition is clay, sand, loam, stone, boulder or other.

Given the total lack of this type of information from other sources, this book represents an invaluable reference source for the many companies, governmental agencies, NGO's, individuals and others who will be involved in helping the government of Hamid Karzai in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

We are offering this book at the special sale price of US \$295 per copy plus shipping, additional discounts are available for quantity purchases, please inquire as indicated below regarding this option. To obtain more details regarding this publication, please go to the following locations on our website.

http://www.cartographic.com/whats_new.asp

<http://www.cartographic.com/documents/Afghan%20Terrain.pdf>

http://www.cartographic.com/xq/ASP/RegionID.18/AreaID.6/ClassID.1100/TypeID.1113/ProductID.18890/qx/other_maps.asp#view

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We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
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Director of Sales and Marketing
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM on PDA-GiS-Reality SOW

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 10:40 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik this makes sense

However, I think you need to add one extra point: the system should be completely open and free to any user, similar to linux or freeware.

There has been some confusion in the past in the application of the word "standard" in the past when it comes to IT in demining circles. A standard for information exchange is saying something like "every form should be in a .dbf format (for example) and dates should always be entered in dd/mm/yy format (again for example). Any platform that can do this can be used as the information can be easily exchanged. Thats an appropriate 'standard' for IT and indeed similar systems allow emails to be exchanged between someone operating outlook on a PC and someone else using an apple mac or even a PDA.

However, when someone says "you must use THIS software" - and if that software is controlled - there is room for anti-competititive behavior and restricted practices.. look at microsoft and internet explorer as an example. We dont need to standardise on one set of software as long as the information exchange protocols are standardised

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC

Sent: 26 September 2003 15:14

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM on PDA-GiS-Reality SOW

Ladies and Gentlemen and Members of the MgM Network

Since I asked via the MgM Network if there was any hands-on experience with the use of hand-held computers for data collection in HD operations, I am getting inundated with proposals of business and cooperation matters.

It is no coincidence that other large organizations like GICHD, Swedec etc are looking into the problem, it is also no coincidence that the EU is interested to invest in research in the matter. It is no coincidence, as hand-held computers are part of a development that will be absolutely normal in the technical world - especially under circumstances that prevent the use of heavier or more sensitive and therefore costly to maintain equipment.

For us as MgM there are a number of design parameters which are absolutely essential and instead of writing to each of you, I would like to make a general design description. The specialists among you, I kindly ask for forgiveness to be rather non-technical. I am aware that there is much more to it then we simple-minded end-users even dare to

guess.

Any system may not cost more than US\$ 1.000 per unit total (with Dell coming into the market, this could be US\$ 500 soon)

Any system must be multilingual with universal/standard data output.

Any system must be IMSMA compatible. (see above)

Any system must be multi-functional.

Any system must have a fool-proof wizard leading through its use.

The systems do not have to comply with MilSpec, we learned a long time ago, that user-electronics are made with better components inside and instead of paying the price for heavy duty packed garbage, it is better to replace broken stuff cheaply from the shelf and load it up to standards via established procedures.

The machine we envision is something anybody can hang around his neck. Now, key to the usage/application would be a wizard. Let me take you through a routine as it happens everyday.

A member of eg MgM in the field in Angola opens his PDA in the morning. A welcome screen says: Good Morning, Bom Dia, Guten Morgen, Bon Jour. The man tips with his finger on the screen Bom Dia and the operating language is selected. It will then intelligently ask (in Portuguese) for the ID of the user, like: Are you Jose Joao or somebody else (Jose Joao is the man who used it last.) Jose clicks on his name and the next screen comes up. Jose is a mechanic at Ondjiva Workshop and the screens offers following options: Start of work, Access damaged car, Repair Log, End of Work, Order Parts etc. Let's say he tips on Order Parts. The machine knows the range of MgM vehicles like Toyota 4x4 Version Gibraltar Model 1998. Yes. Is it the car of Hendrik Ehlers or Ken O'Connell? Click and on and click and on until it is finished. In case it is an accident report on site, Jose would be prompted to connect his GPS (which he carries somewhere in his overall or borrows from a deminer/surveyor/supervisor for two minutes) via a cable and the entry gets a GPS ID. (Allow me a little excursion here. It is a widespread error to believe that we need GPS information to localize certain things on a map, it is simply, in combination with the date the best way to give any event a clearly identifiable ID, this is because it is - generally spoken- impossible for two different things to happen at the same place at the same time to the same person, and this - even more important - is also valid the other way around... Got it?)

Now, Jose could be a surveyor and while the wizard leads him through a series of screens to click the choices, he produces a full IMSMA report.

Same for the paramedic, same for the section commander, same for project manager if not visually retarded, same for QA/QC under the age of 80, logistician, same for whoever is involved in HD but known exceptions.

If the PDAs are kitted with CF cards, we talk 2G memory here, a download or exchange of CF card once in a while or whenever needed can be done by CF card readers anywhere. If the data amount is urgent, it can be connected via serial cable to a Satphone (something that exists in every MgM operation) and send the data to one specific computer as sms/email. Otherwise, nothing wrong with a laptop or Desktop PC that collects all the data, identifies what should do to the financial department, what to operational reporting and what to the National database via CD-ROM.

What does this mean? Other than many people think, WE are not interested in interactive Bluetooth RangeFinding Binoculars at USD 5.000 a piece etc, we do not want rugged laptops that allow to play games (and load dust and Virusses), we do not need devices that allow to change the

desktop image, delete dlls or show moving maps of possible danger areas or high social impact zones. All of that is very important, but neither for our local operating staff nor for the creation of social-impact analysis or operational planning/reporting back at the National Database or international users of the GICHD IMSMA Network. All of the latter can be done in air-conditioned offices by trained specialists. We are looking for a cheap, simple, accurate and "intelligent", IMSMA compatible data collection tool.

It is very clear that the lead in such a development has to be taken by GICHD (and they do already) and it is quite a challenge to make the architecture open in terms of identifying each machine on planet to avoid creation of consecutive reports in the same geographical area on the same topic, but by different people, respectively avoid that the order of a shock-absorber for my MgM car is turned into a miraculously encrypted social-impact report by MAG. I am looking very much forward to trial the results within our operations, but if they do not do what I asked for above, just save my time, because laptops, binoculars, digicams, compass, meter, pen and paper we already have.

Okay, I go one step back here. We could use differently loaded same type PDAs feeding into the same database which has an IMSMA end. One for Surveyors, one for Fleet Managers, one for me etc. But the target is what is described above.

So, for many in the R&D community the above requirement is to easy. Nobody will make it and we will have to do it ourselves (we have quite some programmers in HEC, MgM's R&D). Then the rest of the R&D community will come up and say: Oh, that is what you wanted, we could have made that for you easily, but we thought you wanted integrated BlueTooth RangeFinders?

No, we don't want, we want above and now it is public. But that should R&D not stop to go further than our requirement, because there is quite a wealthy community out there craving for it. And when they are done, we come to clean up their mess.

In case you decide to phone me, I am using a Handspring Treo 270, a hand-held computer with mobile phone functions. I bought it in Washington DC for USD 500 two years ago. I could use it to calculate in Excel the costs of re-sending this message anywhere or better prior convert the Excel sheet into a PDF file and send it along - if there is network coverage....

I very much hope that this answers some questions.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM on PDA-GiS-Reality SOW

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 10:14 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 9:09 AM

From: Alfred djama <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Andrey

In your view, tell me why are USA members of ATTAWA's treaty and continue to produce APLs?

Cheers

Alfred

>From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

>Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 23:31:15 +0400

>

>Hi Alfred.

>APLs? Russia of course!

>If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers. But

>large number of countries are producing its own mines.

>Good luck on minefields!

>Andrey

>

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

>

>

> > Hi all

> > Can somebody tells me that countries make the most important production of

> > APLs in the world?

> > regards.

> > Alfred

> >

> >

> >

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Leap back to the light?

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 7:03 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Charlie, you ask...

> In 2003/04 with the additional knowledge base and a better database of
> injuries is it worth while to spend limited R & D dollars on foot
> protection for deminers?

Please do not undervalue the achievements of the LEAP study. I consider it one of the very few real R&D successes because its results have saved ALL IMAS compliant demining groups a great deal of money - and stopped deminers from taking unprotected risks while wearing ineffective foot protection.

I am sorry if you did not know this, because it is a pat on the back for NVESD. Because I was there, I know that the LEAP study was indirectly responsible for the current IMAS PPE entry on boots. Blast-boots kept being inserted as a "requirement" - and there was a commercial group invited to advise who would not be reasonable (guess which?). LEAP's objective research helped eventually to persuade the User Focus Group on PPE to ignore the blatant self-interest and prejudice that might otherwise have prevailed (thanks to Colonel Z specifically, who brought an advance copy of LEAP to one meeting).

I have also used LEAP to support my informal advice to one of the major insurers in the HD industry that he should not make the wearing of blast-boots a requirement for cover.

I have directed dozens of interested people to the LEAP study - because if any boot both worked and were wearable they would have some use.... Not for everyday use, but for the times when things have gone wrong or are uncertain.

You know that the US government has also given blast-boots to demining groups as "aid" in the past. While this was undoubtedly a well-meant humanitarian gesture - the choice of gift was ill-informed. LEAP provides information that makes this kind of error less likely to occur.

Many HD advisors and managers are ex-military and have a bias towards believing in the value of equipment issued to the military. If the soldiers are issued blast-boots - these guys wonder whether they should also do so....

At least one demining group I know bought "blast boots" because they believed it was part of their "duty of care". The commercial supplier sold them half of the system (inner boots only) regardless of the fact that the vendor knew that this reduced any protection to zero. Commercial companies exist to sell - and will make misleading or erroneous claims with the excuse that the onus is on the purchaser to understand what he wants. LEAP helps the purchaser understand that he cannot have what he wants.

It is of immense value to have objective research done. Whether the result indicates something positive or negative, it is the result that matters. As you say, the research was not about awarding points - so the outcome was not as "direct" and "judgemental" as I would have preferred. But the diligent reader reaches a "judgement" for themselves - and this is OK. I believe that

it would be better if the conclusions were more "directly drawn" because this would give access to those whose English or educational standard is not good.... but that is just my preference.

This research is, very legitimately, of value to both Humanitarian Demining and military personnel. The latter must sometimes take risks - and if the boots genuinely reduce that risk, this is good. However, if the manufacturer's sales-blurb is misleading and gives false confidence, this is bad for the soldier who takes unprotected risks - and bad for the folks back home who first pay for useless equipment then pay again for the Victim's rehabilitation. But if you leave this research to the military, the results will not (as you observe) be in the public domain - so will not be of any value to HD. However, if this research is done under the HD umbrella, the results should be available to all....

So my opinion is, "Yes" it is worth evaluating the efficacy of the foot protection being touted as being capable of "mine-protection". Despite our personal experiences, we should keep an open mind about the possibility that some lateral thinking will bring a breakthrough. Depending on the outcome, if a LEAP 2 were conducted, you could save deminers money by preventing them buying something that does not perform - or you could identify when a "breakthrough" has occurred and so allow deminers who want boots for emergency situations to choose the right sort. Either way, this sort of research is a winner for HD - and for the military as a "spin-off".

[You will not be at all surprised to hear that I prefer HD research to serve HD first and the military as a poor second. Confusion over the interests of the two groups often gets this the wrong way around - but in this case, I believe this is not so.]

I strongly recommend that this research be "put out to tender" rather than controlled by in-house staff. The politics of an in-house study always impinge on the outcome - whereas a well-planned external study can be required to reach and deliver readily accessible and directly relevant conclusions regardless of the "political interests" that exist in any governmental institution. This would prevent the effort being side-tracked into trying to meet so many research aims that it failed to achieve any of them well. For example, the pressure-transducers and hi-speed x-ray photography aspects of LEAP were not strictly necessary and the former almost certainly distorted the outcome while the latter did not really show what would happen to a live leg. Using cadavers in good condition, all we need to know is - what happens when the threat mine detonates under the centre of the sole, and then under the heel.

I would also like the result to "name and shame" those manufacturers who make false claims. Only when

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: Charlie answers on Mine Boots

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 5:15 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

-----Original Message-----

From: Chichester, Charles W Jr Mr RDECOM CERDEC NVESD
[mailto:charles.chichester@nvl.army.mil]
Sent: 25 September 2003 08:56 PM
To: 'network@mgm.org'
Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: FW: Mine Boots

Bob, You hit the point right on the head (not the point on my head). We have not invested any funds into the development of a new or improved boot. We only tested existing foot wear. The reason the testing took place was based on the fact there were significant leg injuries occurring to deminers. Accidents by definition are preventable if everyone was perfect. None of us are, so is protection against our own human faults required?

Andy, sorry for the misquote. The statement was not intended to be misleading but was based on the facts as were available in 1999 which was of 295 reported injuries 185 involved injuries to one or both legs. You are correct not all of those reported injuries involved stepping on the mine but did assist in driving the need to better understand the injuries and conduct the LEAP study.

In 2003/04 with the additional knowledge base and a better database of injuries is it worth while to spend limited R & D dollars on foot protection for deminers? Some new and some improved boots have evolved since the initial LEAP study, but I don't believe the outcome will be much better and will probably fall short of the PMN requirement and be ergonomically acceptable. Many of the militaries have since picked up the research to protect soldiers, but we all agree HD has different requirements than the worlds war fighters, and the results of there work probably would not be available to the broad community.

Charles (Charlie) W Chichester
Deputy Program Manager
RDECOM, CERDEC, NVESD
Humanitarian Demining Program
10221 Burbeck Rd STE 430
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Phone 703 704 1055
Fax 703 704 3001

Visit the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Web Pages
at <http://www.humanitariandemining.org/>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 3:49 AM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

They may well be referring to Zim Dollars....the way inflation is running in Zimbabwe, currently 2% per day, anything is possible.

Dave O'Connor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 10:33 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project

> \$10 million I'd believe -- \$10 BILLION is just
> ridiculous...another Mugabe attempt at extortion?
>
>
> --- ACARLG@aol.com wrote:
> > Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project
> > <A
> >
>
HREF="http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=Financial%20Gazette&passed_location=Harare">Financial
> > Gazette (Harare)
> > September 25, 2002
> > Godfrey Maravanyika
> > Harare
> >
> > ZIMBABWE'S participation in the tripartite Great
> > Limpopo Transfrontier Park,
> > now hangs in the balance as it emerged this week
> > that the cash-strapped
> > southern African country will require an estimated
> > \$10 billion to clear its side of
> > the park of landmines planted in the area during the
> > 1970s war of liberation.
> >
> > The project - which also involves South Africa and
> > Mozambique and is on the
> > Zimbabwean side - is being hampered by problems of
> > land mines strewn within the
> > Gonarezhou National Park area which borders the
> > Kruger National Park of South
> > Africa, the Financial Gazette established yesterday.
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> >
> > There is no money with which to remove the land
> > mines from the Zimbabwean
> > side of the park.
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> > Although other partners in the project, Mozambique

> > and South Africa, have
> > made significant progress in developing their sides
> > of the park, Zimbabwe which
> > has failed to shed its financial handcuffs against a
> > background of bleak
> > near-term economic outlook, has made very little, if
> > any, progress, amid lingering
> > fears the project implementation clock could grind
> > to a halt.
> >
> > This has made Zimbabwe the only country among the
> > three failing to implement
> > the project, or at least move at the same speed with
> > its counterparts.
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> > This means Zimbabwe will not immediately benefit
> > from the park, the world's
> > largest wildlife sanctuary straddling the borders of
> > three countries.
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> > The regional wildlife park was set up to promote
> > tourism in the region. In
> > Zimbabwe, tourism was at one time the only bright
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> > international tourist arrivals in the face of dented
> > international credibility.
> >
> > Tourism industry sources who cited a string of
> > last-minute complications and
> > financial glitches, as having scuppered developments
> > on the Zimbabwean side of
> > the park, yesterday said Zimbabwe, facing a
> > crippling foreign exchange
> > crunch, needed to raise at least US\$2 million to
> > clear the mines. This is a top line
> > ripple for a crisis-hit economy struggling to break
> > out of the doldrums.
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> > week confirmed they were
> > facing problems of land mines in the Gonarezhou.
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> > "It is true we are facing some problems of land
> > mines but it is not the whole
> > Gonarezhou that is affected but just a portion of
> > the park," said Nhema who
> > could not indicate the cost of the exercise nor the
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> > "Last time we managed to remove some of the mines
> > because of the assistance
> > we received from the Germany embassy who financed
> > the de-mining exercise.
> >
> > "However, there is still a portion to be cleared,"
> > he said.
> >
> > The government, in the face of an unprecedented
> > economic melt-down that has

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Dollar for Dollar

Date: Friday, September 26, 2003 1:19 AM

From: W E Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Joe,

The \$10 Billion quoted in the (Zimbabwe) Financial Gazette article refers to Zimbabwe Dollars, not US\$.

Considering that the US\$ is currently selling for around Z\$6,000, the budget for landmine clearance in Gonarezhou doesn't seem so high after all. I make it less than US\$2,000,000.

But with inflation here reaching something like 400%, it is anybody's guess as to how much the job will cost once it begins to be tackled.

Best regards

Willie Lawrence

W E Lawrence

22 Worpleston Way

Glen Lorne

Harare

Zimbabwe

++263 4 499 743

++263 91 908 524 (Mobile)

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 10:33 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project

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> ridiculous...another Mugabe attempt at extortion?

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href="http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=Financial%20Gazette&passed_location=Harare">Financial

> > Gazette (Harare)

> > September 25, 2002

> > Godfrey Maravanyika

> > Harare

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> > Environment and Tourism Minister Francis Nhema this

> the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Korea
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 11:38 PM
From: GZahaczews@aol.com
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Be cautious how you read this. The section of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that the Koreans have demined is approximately is less than a kilometer wide and four kilometers deep. The remainder of the DMZ is over 120 kilometers long and four kilometers deep. There is still a lot of demining remaining over there, when the two countries decide to finally eliminate all their emplaced mines.

George

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 4:33 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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> we received from the Germany embassy who financed
> the de-mining exercise.
>
> "However, there is still a portion to be cleared,"
> he said.
>
> The government, in the face of an unprecedented
> economic melt-down that has
> seen business scale back on expansion and instead
> mount a wave of cost-cutting
> measures, does not have the wherewithal to finance
> the mine clearing exercise,
> casting a pall over the country's early
> participation in Africa's biggest
> transnational park.
>
> The situation is worsened by the fact that
> international support for
> Zimbabwe, now increasingly considered a bad debtor
> and a pariah state, has since
> evaporated

>
> "The South Africans have made a lot of progress in
> developing their side
> compared to us.
>
> " Even the Mozambican side has so far progressed
> well," said one official.
> "However, our problem so far has to do with the
> issue of land mines, because
> there is a portion that has to be cleared and that
> is hampering everything.
>
> "Besides the land mine problem, infrastructure that
> was ruined by cyclone El
> Nino is still to be repaired," he said.
>
>
>
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Martin Donoghue/United Nations is out of the office.

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 3:57 PM

From: Martin Donoghue <donoghue@un.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I will be out of the office starting 25/09/2003 and will not return until 03/10/2003.

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Korea

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 3:51 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hallo all

It's very interesting information about demining in Korea. It is Internet information sending to me from South Korea. As I understand, they were made all demining last Saturday and will finishing other trifles for next three month. Kindly!

Best regards

Andrey

Koreas to Complete Demining Work Today

SEOUL (Yonhap) -- South and North Korea will clear Saturday all landmines in the sections of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) to be used for the reconnection of two sets of cross-border railways and roads, Defense Ministry officials said Friday.

"The South Korean side has already removed mines near the military demarcation line (MDL) on the western side and is now finishing up similar work near iron railings in the south of the MDL," an official said, adding that it has taken almost three months to complete the mine removal work.

Both sides began clearance work for the opening of the Kyongui Line on the western side and Donghae Line on the eastern side of the Korean Peninsula and their adjacent roads after signing a military accord to ensure the security of the project Sept. 17.

South Korea was originally scheduled to complete the operations by Tuesday but experienced delays due to heavy snowfalls and freezing weather conditions. The North, however, finished its part of the work Dec. 6 as scheduled.

No agreement has been reached as yet between South and North Korean military authorities concerning the passage of personnel and vehicles across the MDL, the official said. "The issue will be settled soon when the timetable for the test tour of Mt. Kumgang using an overland route across the border is fixed," he added.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 3:08 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I would say Blast overpressure and shock wave and its effect on bones and organs even where the boots and PPE give some protection (they aernt the be all answer). Plus gas gangrene plays a role in the damage as well where doctors have a new ball game to deal with there after an amputation.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

011-385-1-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Maavarim" <maavarim@netvision.net.il>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 8:09 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

> Dear Friends,

>

> I do not mean to show any disrespect to any body, nor to any product,
> because I know that all the boots, which were mentioned earlier are
> produced by serious people for serious and important causes. I also do
> not know all the test details ("human limbs and cadavers").

>

> However, I am sure that most types of protective boots are being tested
> in lab conditions, using dummy limbs, the scientists sit in the
> air-conditioned room, and in the end we get a report, that shows how the
> foot is well protected.

>

> Did anybody really examined the result of a real step over a mine,
> suppose a PMN, with these boots? The foot stays unharmed, but I am not
> sure that it is a part of the body any more! And what about the rest of
> the leg? What about the other lag? What about the groin?

>

> WHY DETONATE A MINE IN THE FIRST PLACE? I am against this concept.

>

> The only products that proved itself operationally, although serves
> different concept, are the Checkmate shoes or the MiCS (the same
> product, but with an emergency inflation). They are not the ultimate
> products, but enable you to walk REAL SAFELY in a minefield.

>

>

> Ishay

>

> Maavarim

>

>

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos

> Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 11:57 PM
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....
>
> Tony F wrote:-
>
> > Aegis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has
> been
> tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavers, is
> comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all
> in
> all my choice is the PPE 100 any thoughts ?
>
> "human limbs AND cadavers????!!" You mean someone really wore it with
> 400g
> underneath??
>
> Thought not.
>
> Ok Anthony Falconbridge, here's a challenge.
>
> Get me the Aegis boot you talk about before Sunday and I will test it
> during
> the following week using a 400g TNT charge in Africa. Being reluctant to
> lose a lower limb, I will not be able to load it with a realistic
> mannequin
> for the actual blast - but I will try them on (size 9.5 UK), move around
> a
> bit, then do my best to simulate a realistic loading for the blast. This
> way
> I will be able to get an idea of just how far off the wall you are.
>
> OK, if you insist - I will reduce that to a 240g PMN.... the most
> commonly
> stepped on mine in the world (by deminers, that is).
>
> And if you turn out to be within an orbit of the wallpaper, I will be
> very
> pleased indeed.... And I will say this on this forum before asking for
> the
> funds to get some properly controlled tests done through CSIR in RSA.
> CSIR
> have suitably qualified scientists and explosives specialists - and have
> the
> means to conduct genuinely independent and controlled scientific tests.
>
> Sorry, but it really is not possible to take what you say on faith. This
> is
> not personal - I do not know you personally - but simply reflects my
> accumulated cynicism after hearing the ludicrous claims of hungry PPE
> manufacturers over the years (and that includes Aegis - who I seem to
> remember crossing words with once before....)
>
> I am sending you a UK delivery address privately.
>
> As Bob says, REAL protection just might be worth wearing during recce.
>
> Regards
> Andy
>
>

>
>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Charlie on Mine Boots

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 2:05 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Charlie,

I think you are being misleading when you say "as Andy stated and is well documented in his injury study the most common injury to deminers is leg". I have written several studies, so I do not recognise the quote. In any case, the reality is far more complex than you seem to be implying. In this context you seem to be implying that these leg injuries came about by stepping on a mine?

The most common accident in humanitarian demining is an "excavation" accident - which occurs while the deminer is trying to expose a suspect item. Some of these result in light leg injury as well as other more severe problems higher on the body, arms and head. A few have involved severe leg injury, as when a deminer has knelt on a mine or had parts of his handtool penetrate his thigh. No design of boot would have reduced these injuries.

There are almost twice as many "excavation" accidents recorded in the DDAS as there are records of "missed-mine" accidents. A "missed-mine" accident usually involves the victim stepping on a missed pressure device - when a blast-boot could theoretically provide some protection. Exceptions are when the missed-device is a fragmentation mine that is detonated by fuze-impact or tripwire. Some of these missed-mine accidents have occurred during survey, but only around 5%.

Contrary to what Charlie's statement seems to imply, there are MORE severely disabling hand and arm injuries recorded than severely disabling leg injuries. In both instances the expression "severely disabling" involves at least a partial amputation or significant and permanent loss of function.

The majority of the missed devices that have been stepped on by Humanitarian Deminers have contained more than 100g HE. So, as far as I know, no boot available now would have prevented severely disabling injury in the majority of cases. The difficulty of wearing a boot where ankle movement is restricted, foot-flexion is usually impossible and the wearer is raised 10cm or more off the ground, makes the deminer's routine of standing, kneeling and traversing rough ground rather difficult. I am not alone in thinking that lurching clumsily around a mined area is likely to cause an increase in accidents.

The fact that the boots serve little if any purpose in HD means that they are very rarely worn. In the only instance in the DDAS where mine boots were worn and the victim stepped on a very small mine, he lost his foot (as described in my earlier message when the entire boot system was not worn). Soldiers more frequently wear blast boots during rapid clearance that is not thorough, so it is likely that they frequently detonate mines with them. Unfortunately details of the accidents and their outcome are not normally made public so do not feature in the database. I wonder whether Gonz could informally access any relevant information from the Brits in Afghanistan?

As Gonz said "someone must like them" but (as in Sri Lanka) the provision of boots can be the direct result of an awareness that the work is not good enough. Providing boots can "cover" the employers liability angle by making

it seem as if HMG has done all it could to reduce risk - even if the boots were known to be useless.... I am not saying this is so - but the Afghan threat is the PMN at 240g and no boot I know even begins to provide an answer to stepping on that.

Marvarim suggested that the boot could protect the foot but the forces would be transferred higher into the limb. With some designs, he is right. An extreme case involved early designs of the "Singapore" Boot fitted to condemned prisoners who were executed immediately prior to the test. After the detonation the wearer's foot was apparently not badly damaged - apart from being 20m away from the rest of his leg.

Anyone wearing inflatable "boots" needs to walk like a duck over an area without significant undergrowth and is deliberately leaving mines behind - so is definitely not engaged in HD. Even those who have tried them as a medevac asset tend to have abandoned them because they cannot carry the stretcher safely while wearing them. They were designed for rapid minefield breaching in combat, and that is their only real use.

Recent testing has often involved corpses and sometimes just the legs of corpses, but the LEAP study is the only one I know about that was genuinely "independent". For very obvious reasons, it is usually a bad idea to let the commercial manufacturer assess the results of tests on his own equipment. I strongly encourage Charlie and NVESD to have the LEAP results re-assessed with a view to bringing them into line with recorded reality using the DDAS data as a "control". The DDAS is now much bigger than the copy you have Charlie - and the more records it contains the more compelling the conclusions that can be derived from it.

Given the latest Aegis claim - it would be Wonderful if "LEAP 2" could carry out another series of tests on the latest boot designs. That said, unless Aegis have come up with something truly revolutionary in design terms, the laws of Physics will apply to their latest offering as much as they have to all the others.

Like Bob, I would like to hear more about that pressure-release mine.....

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: US University Countermine Research Center

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 1:29 PM

From: Michael DuVernois <duvernoi@physics.umn.edu>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello,

I just came across a DoD call for proposals for what they call the University Countermine Research Center. Seems that they want a single university-based center (funded to the tune of \$6 (or so) million) to host/organize university efforts in the US at demining (humanitarian and otherwise). I was wondering if anyone knew more about this? In particular, if anyone knew who was submitting a proposal?

Thanks much and cheers,
Mike DuVernois
University of Minnesota

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: FW: Mine Boots

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 12:37 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Charlie

You say "The fact that Deminers doing everything right should not need nor do they desire foot protection is a valid point, however, as Andy stated and is well documented in his injury study the most common injury to deminers is leg".

Absolutely true, but then "we are mixing what should be with what is, which..." as machiavelli said (and I am paraphrasing him terribly here) "...is always a recipe for disaster".

Doesn't your point in fact suggest that the most appropriate course of action is to identify and fix the causes (i.e. whatever it is that's stopping the deminers 'doing everything right') rather than patching up a symptom (by provision of boots). This is what civil health and safety processes suggest, not to mention the question of "what is the value of 'cleared' land that is so contaminated that the deminers have to walk over it in mine boots?"

As Andy and I have also said, this isnt to say that there isnt a role for mine boots, perhaps in military recce and in mine rescue teams...just not as a solution to the very valid problem of fixing those deminer accidents

BTW The actual quote from Machievelli is "the gulf between how one should live and how one does live is so wide that that a man who neglects what is actually done for what should be done learns the way to self-destruction rather than self-preservation".

cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC

Sent: 25 September 2003 15:17

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: Mine Boots

On the subject of Mine Boots the US Army Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program conducted a study titled the Lower Extremities Assessment Project (LEAP) in 1999 and 2000. The results of this program are documented on the our web site <http://www.humanitariandemining.org/> <<http://humanitariandemining.org/>> , The intent of the study was to understand the actual injury mechanism and see if there are indeed ways to mitigate injury. The results are subject to some on going debates but the intent was not to pimp one manufacturer or the other but to understand the injury in order to steer research into better foot protection systems. The

tests were performed using actual mines and cadavers.
The fact that Deminers doing everything right should not need nor do they desire foot protection is a valid point, however, as Andy stated and is well documented in his injury study the most common injury to deminers is leg. Please feel free to contact me if further information is required.

Charles (Charlie) W Chichester
Deputy Program Manager
RDECOM, CERDEC, NVESD
Humanitarian Demining Program
10221 Burbeck Rd STE 430
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Phone 703 704 1055
Fax 703 704 3001

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Mine boots

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 12:25 PM

From: EOD UK <webmaster@eoduk.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All,

The British EOD units in Afghanistan and Iraq have been issued with a stock of two types of mine boot

1. The Aigis PPE100 which is designated boot, mine protection
2. The MFC Checkmate Safety Shoe (the inflatable ones) which are designated boot, mine prevention.

I have had no feed back from the field on how the operators employ the PPE during operations, but I understand that the UK MOD have ordered more of the same. So someone must like them, but then military EOD and mine clearance is a different beast than HDM as we all know.

Gonz

www.eoduk.com <<http://www.eoduk.com>>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 12:05 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Land Mines Blow Multi-Billion Park Project

Financial Gazette <http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=Financial%20Gazette&passed_location=Harare> (Harare)

September 25, 2002

Godfrey Maravanyika

Harare

ZIMBABWE'S participation in the tripartite Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, now hangs in the balance as it emerged this week that the cash-strapped southern African country will require an estimated \$10 billion to clear its side of the park of landmines planted in the area during the 1970s war of liberation.

The project - which also involves South Africa and Mozambique and is on the Zimbabwean side - is being hampered by problems of land mines strewn within the Gonarezhou National Park area which borders the Kruger National Park of South Africa, the Financial Gazette established yesterday.

There is no money with which to remove the land mines from the Zimbabwean side of the park.

Although other partners in the project, Mozambique and South Africa, have made significant progress in developing their sides of the park, Zimbabwe which has failed to shed its financial handcuffs against a background of bleak near-term economic outlook, has made very little, if any, progress, amid lingering fears the project implementation clock could grind to a halt.

This has made Zimbabwe the only country among the three failing to implement the project, or at least move at the same speed with its counterparts.

This means Zimbabwe will not immediately benefit from the park, the world's largest wildlife sanctuary straddling the borders of three countries.

The regional wildlife park was set up to promote tourism in the region. In Zimbabwe, tourism was at one time the only bright spot in an otherwise sagging economy but has now lost its glitter as the country suffers dwindling international tourist arrivals in the face of dented international credibility.

Tourism industry sources who cited a string of last-minute complications and financial glitches, as having scuppered developments on the Zimbabwean side of the park, yesterday said Zimbabwe, facing a crippling foreign exchange crunch, needed to raise at least US\$2 million to clear the mines. This is a top line ripple for a crisis-hit economy struggling to break out of the doldrums.

Environment and Tourism Minister Francis Nhema this week confirmed they were facing problems of land mines in the Gonarezhou.

"It is true we are facing some problems of land mines but it is not the whole Gonarezhou that is affected but just a portion of the park," said Nhema who could not indicate the cost of the exercise nor the extent of the minefield.

"Last time we managed to remove some of the mines because of the assistance we received from the Germany embassy who financed the de-mining exercise.

"However, there is still a portion to be cleared," he said.

The government, in the face of an unprecedented economic melt-down that has seen business scale back on expansion and instead mount a wave of cost-cutting measures, does not have the wherewithal to finance the mine clearing exercise, casting a pall over the country's early participation in Africa's biggest transnational park.

The situation is worsened by the fact that international support for Zimbabwe, now increasingly considered a bad debtor and a pariah state, has since evaporated.

"The South Africans have made a lot of progress in developing their side compared to us.

" Even the Mozambican side has so far progressed well," said one official.

"However, our problem so far has to do with the issue of land mines, because there is a portion that has to be cleared and that is hampering everything.

"Besides the land mine problem, infrastructure that was ruined by cyclone El Nino is still to be repaired," he said.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 11:49 AM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Ishay

I put fragment of my transcription with my friend in one of companies, producers of protective equipment.

Have you any statistics or information about properties of your equipment in real mine accidents? - Not officially - there are reports of a Pakistani soldier that trod on an AP mine wearing our boots. He only had minor injuries.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Maavarim" <maavarim@netvision.net.il>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 2:39 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

> Dear Friends,

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> I do not mean to show any disrespect to any body, nor to any product,
> because I know that all the boots, which were mentioned earlier are
> produced by serious people for serious and important causes. I also do
> not know all the test details ("human limbs and cadavers").

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> in lab conditions, using dummy limbs, the scientists sit in the
> air-conditioned room, and in the end we get a report, that shows how the
> foot is well protected.

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> Did anybody really examined the result of a real step over a mine,
> suppose a PMN, with these boots? The foot stays unharmed, but I am not
> sure that it is a part of the body any more! And what about the rest of
> the leg? What about the other lag? What about the groin?

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> WHY DETONATE A MINE IN THE FIRST PLACE? I am against this concept.

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> The only products that proved itself operationally, although serves
> different concept, are the Checkmate shoes or the MiCS (the same
> product, but with an emergency inflation). They are not the ultimate
> products, but enable you to walk REAL SAFELY in a minefield.

>

>

> Ishay

>

> Maavarim

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos

> Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 11:57 PM

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

>

> Tony F wrote:-

>

> > Aigis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has
> been

> tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavers, is
> comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all
> in

> all my choice is the PPE 100 any thoughts ?

>

> "human limbs AND cadavers???!!" You mean someone really wore it with
> 400g

> underneath??

>

> Thought not.

>

> Ok Anthony Falconbridge, here's a challenge.

>

> Get me the Aegis boot you talk about before Sunday and I will test it
> during

> the following week using a 400g TNT charge in Africa. Being reluctant to
> lose a lower limb, I will not be able to load it with a realistic
> mannequin

> for the actual blast - but I will try them on (size 9.5 UK), move around
> a

> bit, then do my best to simulate a realistic loading for the blast. This
> way

> I will be able to get an idea of just how far off the wall you are.

>

> OK, if you insist - I will reduce that to a 240g PMN.... the most
> commonly

> stepped on mine in the world (by deminers, that is).

>

> And if you turn out to be within an orbit of the wallpaper, I will be
> very

> pleased indeed.... And I will say this on this forum before asking for
> the

> funds to get some properly controlled tests done through CSIR in RSA.

> CSIR

> have suitably qualified scientists and explosives specialists - and have
> the

> means to conduct genuinely independent and controlled scientific tests.

>

> Sorry, but it really is not possible to take what you say on faith. This
> is

> not personal - I do not know you personally - but simply reflects my
> accumulated cynicism after hearing the ludicrous claims of hungry PPE
> manufacturers over the years (and that includes Aegis - who I seem to
> remember crossing words with once before....)

>

> I am sending you a UK delivery address privately.

>

> As Bob says, REAL protection just might be worth wearing during recce.

>

> Regards

> Andy

>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: mine boots
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 11:36 AM
From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Jeff

I would be very interested to hear the full story of your friend who was injured on a pressure release mine...

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]**On Behalf Of** jeff capps
Sent: 25 September 2003 13:23
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: mine boots

Where can I get more information about what type of boots are currently in use, I have a colleague who was injured while serving in combat from a pressure release mine and he has developed a device he believes would save lives. Any links or contacts would be greatly appreciated.

>From: "Tony F"
>Reply-To:
>To:
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: mine boots
>Date: Wed, 24 Sep 2003 19:13:07 +0100 (GMT Daylight Time)
>
>
> I have read with interest different views on the pro's and con's of a
>variety of different boots to be worn by deminers
>Medeng: seems to offer some protection against small AP mines but
totally
>impractical to walk in and heavy.
>BFR: should be renamed NFG No F@@ing Good only add to the
fragmentation and
>will cause greater injury

>Welco boot same as BFR complete waste of time and money.
>Aigis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has
been
>tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavars,
is
>comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all in
>all my choice is the PPE 100
>any thoughts ?
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: Mine Boots
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 10:16 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

On the subject of Mine Boots the US Army Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program conducted a study titled the Lower Extremities Assessment Project (LEAP) in 1999 and 2000. The results of this program are documented on the our web site <http://www.humanitariandemining.org/> <<http://humanitariandemining.org/>> , The intent of the study was to understand the actual injury mechanism and see if there are indeed ways to mitigate injury. The results are subject to some on going debates but the intent was not to pimp one manufacturer or the other but to understand the injury in order to steer research into better foot protection systems. The tests were performed using actual mines and cadavers. The fact that Deminers doing everything right should not need nor do they desire foot protection is a valid point, however, as Andy stated and is well documented in his injury study the most common injury to deminers is leg. Please feel free to contact me if further information is required.

Charles (Charlie) W Chichester
Deputy Program Manager
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 10:16 AM

From: Art Krenzel <phoenix98604@earthlink.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Ishay,

What sort of boots are Checkmate shoes or the MiCS and who makes them?

Art Krenzel, P.E.
PHOENIX TECHNOLOGIES
10505 NE 285TH Street
Battle Ground, WA 98604
360-666-1883 voice
phoenix98604@earthlink.net

----- Original Message -----

From: "Maavarim" <maavarim@netvision.net.il>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 3:39 AM

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> not personal - I do not know you personally - but simply reflects my
> accumulated cynicism after hearing the ludicrous claims of hungry PPE
> manufacturers over the years (and that includes Aegis - who I seem to
> remember crossing words with once before....)
>
> I am sending you a UK delivery address privately.
>
> As Bob says, REAL protection just might be worth wearing during recce.
>
> Regards

> Andy

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>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: mine boots
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 8:22 AM
From: jeff capps <jgrahamcapps@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Where can I get more information about what type of boots are currently in use, I have a colleague who was injured while serving in combat from a pressure release mine and he has developed a device he believes would save lives. Any links or contacts would be greatly appreciated.

>From: "Tony F"
>Reply-To:
>To:
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: mine boots
>Date: Wed, 24 Sep 2003 19:13:07 +0100 (GMT Daylight Time)
>
>
> I have read with interest different views on the pro's and con's of a
>variety of different boots to be worn by deminers
>Medeng: seems to offer some protection against small AP mines but totally
>impractical to walk in and heavy.
>BFR: should ge renamed NFG No F@@ing Good only add to the fragmentation and
>will cause greater injury
>Welco boot same as BFR complete waste of time and money.
>Aigis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has been
>tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavars, is
>comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all in
>all my choice is the PPE 100
>any thoughts ?
>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2003 6:39 AM

From: Maavarim <maavarim@netvision.net.il>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Friends,

I do not mean to show any disrespect to any body, nor to any product, because I know that all the boots, which were mentioned earlier are produced by serious people for serious and important causes. I also do not know all the test details ("human limbs and cadavers").

However, I am sure that most types of protective boots are being tested in lab conditions, using dummy limbs, the scientists sit in the air-conditioned room, and in the end we get a report, that shows how the foot is well protected.

Did anybody really examined the result of a real step over a mine, suppose a PMN, with these boots? The foot stays unharmed, but I am not sure that it is a part of the body any more! And what about the rest of the leg? What about the other lag? What about the groin?

WHY DETONATE A MINE IN THE FIRST PLACE? I am against this concept.

The only products that proved itself operationally, although serves different concept, are the Checkmate shoes or the MiCS (the same product, but with an emergency inflation). They are not the ultimate products, but enable you to walk REAL SAFELY in a minefield.

Ishay

Maavarim

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 11:57 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

Tony F wrote:-

> Aigis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has been tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavars, is comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all in all my choice is the PPE 100 any thoughts ?

"human limbs AND cadavers????!!" You mean someone really wore it with 400g underneath??

Thought not.

Ok Anthony Falconbridge, here's a challenge.

Get me the Aegis boot you talk about before Sunday and I will test it during the following week using a 400g TNT charge in Africa. Being reluctant to lose a lower limb, I will not be able to load it with a realistic mannequin for the actual blast - but I will try them on (size 9.5 UK), move around a bit, then do my best to simulate a realistic loading for the blast. This way I will be able to get an idea of just how far off the wall you are.

OK, if you insist - I will reduce that to a 240g PMN.... the most commonly stepped on mine in the world (by deminers, that is).

And if you turn out to be within an orbit of the wallpaper, I will be very pleased indeed.... And I will say this on this forum before asking for the funds to get some properly controlled tests done through CSIR in RSA. CSIR have suitably qualified scientists and explosives specialists - and have the means to conduct genuinely independent and controlled scientific tests.

Sorry, but it really is not possible to take what you say on faith. This is not personal - I do not know you personally - but simply reflects my accumulated cynicism after hearing the ludicrous claims of hungry PPE manufacturers over the years (and that includes Aegis - who I seem to remember crossing words with once before....)

I am sending you a UK delivery address privately.

As Bob says, REAL protection just might be worth wearing during recce.

Regards
Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: The gauntlet goes down.....

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 5:57 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Tony F wrote:-

> Aigis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has been tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavars, is comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all in all my choice is the PPE 100 any thoughts ?

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Regards
Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: pyong in Korea
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 5:32 PM
From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks to Bob, Jonas, Mark and others for information about Korea....

It looks as though the rather cursory summary I posted last time is broadly correct - or at least no one has suggested anything much outside it. Of interest may be the suggestion that the rather inadequate Viper breaching system may have been seriously considered for area clearance.....

Bet you have no idea what a Korean "pyong" is right now? Jonas pointed me to this on the www.landmine.de site... Read on to have "pyong" explained.... Rather worrying that so many suspect areas have not been surveyed. I thought it was just a border belt - which just shows how little I know.

Regards all
Andy

Korea: Minefields 23 Times Size of Yoido

The nation's unidentified mine-infested areas are 23 times as large as Seoul's Yoido area, according to the Ministry of National Defense

The nation's unidentified mine-infested areas are 23 times as large as Seoul's Yoido area, which covers 900,000 pyong (one pyong equals 3.3 square meters), according to the Ministry of National Defense yesterday.

According to a document submitted to Rep. Park Yang-soo, during the National Assembly's National Defense Committee annual audit, some 20 million pyong of area are yet to be searched to find whether they harbor landmines such as anti-personnel ones.

An unknown number of landmines, most of which were buried within a decade of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War, are likely scattered across 27.5 million pyong in areas throughout South Korea, according to the ministry document.

In identified mine areas, which cover 6.6 million pyong, a total of 1,083,000 landmines are buried, posing a threat to military personnel and civilians.

There are 65 unidentified landmine-infested areas near restricted border areas, according to the classified document. It also revealed there are other 29 rear areas with landmines in all the provinces.

With mounting criticism that the victims of landmine accidents are not adequately compensated, the ministry official said the government is proceeding with mine-removal operations projected to be completed by 2006.

A coalition of about 30 civic and environmental groups demanded earlier this year that the U.S. military clear landmines it lay in South Korea' border lands and compensate mine victims. They also called on U.S. Forces Korea to provide the Korean government with information about the landmines as well as the technology and financial support required to clear them.

Back in 1997, then-U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced a \$1 billion project to remove landmines with completion scheduled for 2010.

By Yoo Dong-ho, koreatimes.co.kr, 09-23-2003

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: mine boots

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 2:13 PM

From: Tony F <anthony.falconbridge@ntlworld.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I have read with interest different views on the pro's and con's of a variety of different boots to be worn by deminers

Medeng: seems to offer some protection against small AP mines but totally impractical to walk in and heavy.

BFR: should be renamed NFG No F@@ing Good only add to the fragmentation and will cause greater injury

Welco boot same as BFR complete waste of time and money.

Aigis PPE100: at last a boot that seems to offer good protection (has been tested up to 400g PE4 TNT equivalent) with human limbs and cadavers, is comfortable and practical to wear is lighter than the Medeng boot all in all my choice is the PPE 100 any thoughts ?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony F". The word "Tony" is written in a cursive style, and the letter "F" is a simple, bold capital letter.

 <http://www.incredimail.com/redir.asp?ad_id=309&lang=9> *Incredimail* -
Email has finally evolved - Click Here <http://www.incredimail.com/redir.asp?ad_id=309&lang=9>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: mine producers
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 10:26 AM
From: Sean Moorhouse <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Mark,

The year of production is stamped on both the Type 72 and the P4. All it takes is for someone from one of the organisations working in Sri Lanka to take a look at the mines they are pulling out and let you know.

Is there anyone in Sri Lanka able to help Mark out?

Sean

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: mine producers

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 9:23 AM

From: Mark Hiznay <hiznaym@hrw.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

As a follow-up to this one, for Sri Lanka, does anyone know if they acquired their Chinese and Pakistani low metal content blast APM before or after May 1996? Thanks, Mark

Quoting Sean Moorhouse <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>:

> Sri Lanka is also a producer of landmines. Although the government of
> Sri Lanka imports all of its anti-personnel blast mines, the Sri Lankan
> Air Force and the Sri Lankan Army Engineers make their own claymore
> type mines.

>
> Although not a state actor, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
> have a bulk production facility for their APBM (the Jonny 99), their 2
> types of ATM and their most commonly encountered claymore type. They
> also have some sort of standardised production facility for their APFM
> (based on a 81 or 82mm mortar body on a spike with a plastic tripwire
> operated fuse).

>
> I don't know if production of any of these types of mine is ongoing but
> it certainly was up to the time the ceasefire agreement came into
> effect in February 2002.

>
> Sean

>
>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: mine producers
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 8:41 AM
From: Sean Moorhouse <sean.moorhouse@talk21.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

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Sean

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: FW: MAIC Lessons Learned - New Lesson Posted

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 7:33 AM

From: burritrg@jmu.edu

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

For the sake of progress, could anyone who may reply to this "lesson" please post it as a reply comment on our website. This would make a determined MAIC worker-who spent the entire summer promoting this database-very pleased. Or even just to humer me. <http://maic.jmu.edu/lldb/browse.asp>

Cheers,

----- Original message -----

>Date: Wed, 24 Sep 2003 12:28:38 +0200

>From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: MAIC Lessons Learned - New Lesson Posted

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>

>

>I take the liberty of taking this question of the JMU MAIC Lesson's Learned

>Database to you.

>We discussed this at the US DoD HD Workshop in Washington this year and

>Dr.Patel finished it off because of astronomical costs. Well...

>

>

>Hendrik Ehlers,

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: maic@jmu.edu [mailto:maic@jmu.edu]

>Sent: 24 September 2003 03:13 AM

>To: ehlers@mgm.org

>Subject: MAIC Lessons Learned - New Lesson Posted

>

>

>A new lesson has been posted to the category 'Safety':

>

>Subject:

>demilitarization/cryofracturing mines

>

>Situation:

>i have recently been working on a project in which adam mines are to be

>frozen in liquid nitrogen and then they are beng conveyored to a press (to

>punch out the explosive).i just would like any information in this process

>as i am thinking about working in this field but,i still have safety

>concerns as to the probabilities of mishaps or the process
itself.

>

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De Oppresso Liber

Robert Burritt

MAIC

540-568-2332

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: FW: MAIC Lessons Learned - New Lesson Posted

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 6:28 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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We discussed this at the US DoD HD Workshop in Washington this year and Dr.Patel finished it off because of astronomical costs. Well...

Hendrik Ehlers,

-----Original Message-----

From: maic@jmu.edu [mailto:maic@jmu.edu]

Sent: 24 September 2003 03:13 AM

To: ehlers@mgm.org

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: mine producers

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 10:47 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

from the current Landmine Monitor, just published:

<http://www.icbl.org/lm/2003/intro/banning.html#Heading542>

Unfortunately I couldn't find the ranking by numbers produced.

I am assuming that the US is down as a potential producer even if no production since 1997 because the production lines still exist? If not, the claim is worth challenging.

Robin

Global Production of Antipersonnel Mines

At least 36 nations have ceased production of antipersonnel mines. Thirty are States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. [9] The other six are Finland, Greece, Israel, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey. Taiwan has also stopped production.

Landmine Monitor identifies fifteen countries that continue to produce antipersonnel landmines. This year, Landmine Monitor is adding Nepal to the list, reflecting the open admission by government officials that production has taken place. This marks the first time that the number of antipersonnel mine producers has increased since Landmine Monitor reporting started in 1999.

ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINE PRODUCERS

Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, United States, Vietnam

Nine of the fifteen mine producers are in Asia (Burma, China, India, Nepal, North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, Singapore, and Vietnam), three in the Middle East (Egypt, Iran, and Iraq), two in the Americas (Cuba and United States), and one in Europe (Russia).

India and Pakistan are actively engaged in new production of antipersonnel mines that are compliant with Amended Protocol II of the CCW. But, for most of the rest of these countries, it is not known if production lines were active in 2002 and 2003.

In several cases, there appears to have been no production for a number of years. The US has not produced antipersonnel mines since 1997. South Korea produced only Claymore mines in 1998-2000 and no mines since then. Egypt has unofficially stated that it ceased production in 1988. Russia has stated that it has not produced or supplied to its troops antipersonnel mines of the PFM-1, PMN, PMN-2, and PMN-4 types for the past eight years.

In September 2002, Iran said it has not produced antipersonnel mines since the end of its war with Iraq in 1988. However, last year Landmine Monitor reported that hundreds of Iran-manufactured antipersonnel mines with production stamps of 1999 and 2000 were encountered by demining organizations in Afghanistan.

Since the coalition occupation of Iraq, any industrial production of antipersonnel mines that may have been taking place has, presumably, ceased. Landmine Monitor will keep Iraq on the list of producers until a new government officially renounces antipersonnel mine production.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 10:10 PM
From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@comcast.net>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Andrey, if the question is ongoing production, neither the US nor Italy is currently producing APLs. For Italy, that's national policy; for the US, it's lack of requirement for APL production at this time.

If the question is total mines stockpiled, China is by far the leader.

Bob S.

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of A. Kostioukov
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 3:31 PM
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Hi Alfred.
APLs? Russia of course!
If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers.
But
large number of countries are producing its own mines.
Good luck on minefields!
Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

> Hi all
> Can somebody tells me that countries make the most important
production of
> APLs in the world?
> regards.
> Alfred
>
>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 8:06 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andrey,

I agree, I "heard" of one "big" country producing an A/P mine in another country under a different company name which is registered to that country and not the original one where the money comes from to make the mines in the other country!!:))

Pete

----- Original Message -----

From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 5:01 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

> Hi Alfred.

> APLs? Russia of course!

> If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers. But

> large number of countries are producing its own mines.

> Good luck on minefields!

> Andrey

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM

> Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

>

>

>> Hi all

>> Can somebody tells me that countries make the most important production of

>> APLs in the world?

>> regards.

>> Alfred

>>

>>

>> MSN Search, le moteur de recherche qui pense comme vous !

>> <http://search.msn.fr/worldwide.asp>

>>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 3:31 PM
From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Alfred.
APLs? Russia of course!
If seriously, US, SA, Italy and Russia. It's more powerful producers. But large number of countries are producing its own mines.
Good luck on minefields!
Andrey

----- Original Message -----
From: "Alfred djama" <djamalfred@hotmail.com>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 6:06 PM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

> Hi all
> Can somebody tells me that countries make the most important production of
> APLs in the world?
> regards.
> Alfred
>
>
> _____
> MSN Search, le moteur de recherche qui pense comme vous !
> <http://search.msn.fr/worldwide.asp>
>
>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: HELP, Korea and Boots

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 1:54 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andy,

I will sort out the phone number for HELP later when I call my buddy in Bosnia. Other than that if you need it now just call BH-MAC from the number online and ask for the number for HELP from their accreditation lista. It'll be there.

I will get you a PMA3 that has low ordered (I mean the ring burned plastic half moon shape) and I will get you the remains of a boot (pretty intact) that a guy stepped on one with. The Sole can be put back together. My friend saw the guy step on this mine in the war. Its right in a cleared area of one of my fields in Bihac. The same one from my article. I'll mail it to you or you can have it when you come down this way sometime. We could even get a Trng PMA3/or a FFE one if you like.....

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
011-385-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 10:41 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: HELP, Korea and Boots

> Can anyone provide up to date contact details for the demining
organisation
> "HELP" that used to operate in Kosovo and Bosnia - and probably still does
> in BiH? Thanks.
>
> I have heard very little about the demining of the Korean border since a
> North/South railway and road link was proposed in 2000. At that time, I
got
> contacted by someone asking what machines they should buy to do it. My
> answer probably pleased no one.
>
> In response to my last "Medieval mine-clearance" in Sri Lanka message - I
> received a message telling me the way that the Korean military set about
> their task. Obsessed with the "quick-fix", they started by going shopping
> for all sorts of machines, including Aardvark and various other
> heavyweights. When they eventually found that their HD advisors were right
> and you could not actually remove the men from the process if they wanted
to
> be thorough, they came up with a solution that would probably fit in with
> Sri Lankan SOPs. They proposed to clear a mountainous area by sending
> soldiers in wearing mine-boots and armed with compressors and
high-pressure
> air-hoses. They were then going to blunder about blowing all the topsoil
off

> the mountain to leave all the M14 mines exposed.....
>
> Whether they actually did this on the mountain is unclear - but the word
is
> that they did send their foot-soldiers behind their inadequate machines in
> other places and took a number of casualties.
>
> Can anyone confirm or correct this? Any detail of what has happened -
> details of how clearance was conducted, what was removed, civilian
> contractor problems, whatever, would be appreciated. Does anyone have
access
> to a list of ROK military casualties since 2000?
>
> On blast-boots, I am in general agreement with Pete and Bob. Pete, the
PMA-3
> is only 35g Teteryl while the PMA-2 is 100g TNT. In quite a high proportion
> of the PMA-3 accidents on record, the guy kept his foot. The main reason
for
> this does not seem to be the boots he was wearing. I believe that there
are
> two explanations. The first is that the UPMAH-3 friction fuze can fail to
> initiate the main charge. After some accidents, very large pieces of the
> mine's plastic case have been found - indicating a partial detonation or
> deflagration. The second is simply because the HE charge is in the centre
of
> the mine - so it is possible to tread directly onto the side without
> stepping on top of the HE charge [rather like Bob's suggested
side-scrape].
> See picture showing a section through the PMA-3 - also the picture of a
> Welco blast boot (inner) worn by a deminer who stepped on a PMA-3 in
Bosnia.
> In that case the mine detonated as designed and the deminer lost his foot.
> The Welco boot shown is only the inner of a double-boot system. The outer
> boot was not used because it made the user too clumsy to work. Several
> people in ordinary shoes have got away with bruises after stepping on
one -
> which is why I say that the footwear has not been relevant to the outcome.
>
> Regards all
> Andy
>
>
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: countries that make the most important production of APLs

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 10:06 AM

From: Alfred djama <djamalfred@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi all

Can somebody tells me that countries make the most important production of APLs in the world?

regards.

Alfred

MSN Search, le moteur de recherche qui pense comme vous !

<http://search.msn.fr/worldwide.asp>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: HELP, Korea and Boots

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 9:11 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Whether they actually did this on the mountain is unclear - but the word is that they did send their foot-soldiers behind their inadequate machines in other places and took a number of casualties.

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On blast-boots, I am in general agreement with Pete and Bob. Pete, the PMA-3 is only 35g Teteryl while the PMA-2 is 100g TNT. In quite a high proportion of the PMA-3 accidents on record, the guy kept his foot. The main reason for this does not seem to be the boots he was wearing. I believe that there are two explanations. The first is that the UPMAH-3 friction fuze can fail to initiate the main charge. After some accidents, very large pieces of the mine's plastic case have been found - indicating a partial detonation or deflagration. The second is simply because the HE charge is in the centre of the mine - so it is possible to tread directly onto the side without stepping on top of the HE charge [rather like Bob's suggested side-scrape]. See picture showing a section through the PMA-3 - also the picture of a Welco blast boot (inner) worn by a deminer who stepped on a PMA-3 in Bosnia. In that case the mine detonated as designed and the deminer lost his foot. The Welco boot shown is only the inner of a double-boot system. The outer boot was not used because it made the user too clumsy to work. Several people in ordinary shoes have got away with bruises after stepping on one - which is why I say that the footwear has not been relevant to the outcome.

Regards all
Andy



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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Blast boots

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 9:02 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Greetings!!:)) You're correct I "heard" it,

It was one of those smoking area conversations amongst the troops. I incorrectly wrote the previous It "was" a PMA3 come to think of it, they are only 50 Grams, or ther would have been more damage. When I took apart a PMA3 I was surprised how small the charge is. I found a boot (which I have a pic of somewheres and video of back in Canada) and the rest of the mine (the melted half moon blast heat formed rubber/plasic splinter) that a guy stepped on a PMA3 with and it was remarkably intact. A Pma2 Would give a little more kick you're right since its 125 g? . I would imagine it was either a story the boys changed from swede to Cdn and said it was a 1 CER guy or it was actually a swede (which i agree with your slant more). We trailed those Spider boots way back for the company, but I wasnt involved in the trail.

I do know 2 guys who have been involved with a PMA3 grazing like you say. One guy is now a Sgt at the Cdn Forces School of Military Engineering and is the guy talking about the TMA3 strike in the Cdn Mine trng video. He told me he knelt on a cluster Pma3 that he missed while working on an A/T mine in Croatia 1993-94. The other is from my old demining team leader from 5th Korpusa who saw an officer step directly on ones top but miraculously not tilting it during a Recce of Serb poistions. Thats luck and a horse shoe there. I also saw a PMA2 that had been grazed, we found it with the fuze cracked off inside from a toe sweeping motion over it i guess. That guys probbaly lucky too but doesnt realize it cos he was probably running at the time!!

Ref Boots I'd rather be sure what my team cleared is clear and walk on it to give my stamp of approval then keep depend on specail boots or use a rake. I suppose though, any protective measure is a good thing. Blast boots just used to be a real pain for me as I had one Minefield in a slopey area of 1:2 or more and ours were really uncomfortable.

I just thought I would add what I have "heard" and maybe somebody like you just did will say they heard the same or similiar like you.

Take care!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
011-385-1-38-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com <
mailto:BobKeeley@compuserve.com> >
To: <network@mgm.org <mailto:network@mgm.org> >
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 5:22 PM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

>
> Hi Pete
>
> I note that you say that you "heard" about this guy...i.e. that you didnt
> see it yourself. I know there is a risk of starting off an old chestnut
> again but I suspect this is more likely to have been a PMA3 rather than a
> PMA2, for a number of reasons:
>
> The PMA3 is initiated by pressure at the edge, so it is possible to graze
> the mine and set it off. This means there is much more chance of a 'near
> miss' explosion than the PMA2 mine, with its pressure pad in the centre.
>
> The PMA2, although smaller in size, has a bigger explosive charge than the
> PMA3.
>
> Although this next is merely a counter-rumour (as I didnt see it
personally
> either) I heard a number of stories that sounded the same. In particular
> there was one concerning a Swede (and I was with NORDBAT at the time) who
> only broke an ankle on a PMA3.
>
> I also recall numerous stories about yugo mines low ordering instead of
> detonating...in which case the low injury is a feature of the detonation
> failure rather than the boot per se.
>

> There has been a lot of research done on boots and, whilst there is still
> some disagreement on many of the issues, I think it is pretty
> non-contraversial to say that the standard blast boot (let alone a normal
> combat boot) doesnt do well against charges of 100g upwards. The standoff
> boots (like the sri lankan mine flipflop and the spider boot, for example)
> may provide standoff that reduces injury against larger mines, but there
is
> still the questions of whether they cause a significant restriction in
> mobility and whether they are of any good for deminers engaged in proper
> drills (military recce and rescue duties excepted)...
>
> cheers
>
> Bob K
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network-report@mgm.org <mailto:network-report@mgm.org> [mailto:network-
report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> Pete Hindy
> Sent: 22 September 2003 20:00
> To: network@mgm.org <mailto:network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....
>
>
>
> "For those who have not seen it, I should explain that
> if you "crowd" even a very small HE charge, its power is far greater than
> you would expect."
>
> I agree Andy,
>
> And I've heard of a Cdn guy in 1 Combat Engr Regt in Bosnia (1997? or 93?)
> stepping on a PMA2 with our US desert boot type blast boots and just
> breaking a foot. On our boots there is such a gap as you say, the V is not
> right in contact with the ground. I stopped wearing them though myself as
I
> hated the feel but they are effective against certain size charges like
you
> say.
>
>
> Basically, from a flat surface. Close contact with the target (foot)

> will maximize air gaps and give the charge the best power to do the job.
> Gaps like from the ground to the V or gaps in a charge fixed to a target
> will not give the best punch for the money (explosives). Best way for
> anyone who hasnt seen this before is to imagine a charge against a
concrete
> block, if the charge is right up next to it, taped , wired and under wood
it
> will produce a "shatter effect" on the target. if it is not in close
contact
> it will not do near as much damage. It may even blow off and fly away into
> peices. The same can be seen in amine blast but it is directed upwards and
> the foot and boot is the wood holding it down.
>
> Theres only one way to do stuff, the right way. Anything other than that
as
> Andy says also is simply "medievl"
>
>
> Pete Hindy
> Zagreb
> 011-385-1-388-3071
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk <
mailto:didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk> >
> To: <network@mgm.org <mailto:network@mgm.org> >
> Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 8:17 AM
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....
>
>
>> In my last message I said that you could get five visor faces for one
> cheap
>> pair of balancing-boots.
>>
>> That is right - when the source is in Europe or the Americas.
>>
>> There is a \$10 pair used by the military in Sri Lanka - while they rake
> the
>> ground. Weighing in at 5.5 kg a pair, they have apparently been used
since
>> 1995. Most of their blast mine threats are 50g HE or under - although

> there

>> is a 100g risk. Rumour is that the "boot" works. Of course, being the

>> military they do not make details of their accidents public, so no

> objective

>> assessment of how well they "work" is possible. However, the guys wearing

>> them when initiating a mine are reported to have been "walking wounded",

> or

>> nearly so. There were fractures to the ankle in some cases, but mostly the

>> damage was confined to the foot. In most cases there was no soft tissue

>> damage other than bruising.

>>

>> Any group that uses a garden rake as both detector and probe is applying

>> standards that are medieval..... And it is just possible that their

lousy

>> hand-clearance is in part compensated by deliberate clearance with the

>> soldier's feet!

>>

>> The high open sole appears to put weight fore and aft on "pillars" in a

> way

>> that I tried in 1996 - adapting a WW2 design. Combined with the "sandal"

>> style upper (which may be a novel way of not containing the transmitted

>> forces if no normal boot is worn with it) this should mean that

> detonations

>> only occur just behind the heel and under the tip of the toes on firm

>> ground. On soft ground the "pillars" would sink and the "V" sole rest on

> the

>> ground. From the testing I did on my own design, a 50g detonation under

> the

>> V is not too damaging of the boot - but a 50g detonation right up

AGAINST

>> the V is devastating. For those who have not seen it, I should explain

> that

>> if you "crowd" even a very small HE charge, its power is far greater

than

>> you would expect.

>>

>> I attach a small photo of the boots after an accidental blast. Also one

>> small picture showing a cross section through it. Thanks to Lance for

the

>> pictures.

> >

> > When the welfare of their own soldiers matters so little, one wonders how

> > much respect that government can have for the human rights of civilians?

> >

> > Regards all

> > Andy

> >

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 3:52 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete

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cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Pete Hindy

Sent: 22 September 2003 20:00

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

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Basically a free reflective surface. Close contact with the target (foot) will maximize air gaps and give the charge the best power to do the job. Gaps like from the ground to the V or gaps in a charge fixed to a target will not give the best punch for the money (explosives). Best way for anyone who hasnt seen this before is to imagine a charge against a concrete block, if the charge is right up next to it, taped , wired and under wood it will produce a "shatter effect" on the target. if it is not in close contact it will not do near as much damage. It may even blow off and fly away into peices. The same can be seen in amine blast but it is directed upwards and the foot and boot is the wood holding it down.

Theres only one way to do stuff, the right way. Anything other than that as Andy says also is simply "medieval"

Pete Hindy
Zagreb
011-385-1-388-3071

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To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 8:17 AM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 3:05 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

THIS ONLY A JOKE

All,

I think there might be a problem if these rats come across any Yugoslavian TMA 3 or 4s which look like hunks of cheeze.... it might be too much for them to resist and there could be a riot in the minefield!!:))

On another note I suppose people thought going to the moon might be impossible too and took a long time but it happened.

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

011-385-1-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: Hugh Lawrence <mailto:hlawrence@ind.gov.mz>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 6:53 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

I have a couple of comments on this article that need in my opinion querying.

The claim that *rats are better than dogs*? There are so many variables in terms of the deployment methodologies of both animals that this claim either needs to be substantiated or clarified as to what situations the animal is to be utilized. I can think

of scenarios where the rats could perhaps offer an alternative to dogs and be used effectively. I can also think of scenarios where a dog would be better employed. Using the well worn cliché of 'toolbox' the rats will probably provide a second animal option which we didn't have before.

APOPO in Mozambique when they first conducted a presentation to Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND) were very clear to point out that it was most probable that the rats would augment search capabilities and probably never replace the dog. APOPO are collecting a lot of information in regard the rats performance against various targets. Likewise there is another organization in Mozambique conducting similar trials with dogs both using weather station data and comparing the soil and weather conditions against individual animal performance against known targets. I assume Mozambique is not alone in this ongoing research of animal performance

Whilst it may be true that rats have a better sense of smell than a dog, to my knowledge to date the rats has not been employed into a Suspected Mined Area (SMA). If my information is correct, it is important to point out that APOPO are still in the trial phase and have yet to deploy on a fully operational basis. As many readers know dogs have been deployed in SMA for many years.

My point here is that the true performance of the rat will not be known until they are deployed on a fully operational basis, and that deployment is over considerable time. Only then will a better picture become apparent when the rats undergo external QA Sampling like dogs, machines and deminers undergo. In short it is too early to make the above claim in my opinion.

The second query I have is in regard *although in real conditions it can be very dangerous*. It is assumed that in the trial the procedures have been established to utilize the rat in a manner that is not dangerous. If it was too dangerous then the APOPO would have to undergo a review of SOP by the IND (Mine Action Centre). This is not the case as IND has inspected and accredited APOPO's SOP. The rat handler is no further away than that of a dog handler to a mine threat. The difference being is that there are 2 rat handlers (using the drills APOPO uses) as opposed to 1 dog handler. If ground preparation machinery is used then the trip wire threat is removed, therefore the risk is lower and no greater than that of normal dog operations. If ground preparation is not used then the threat remains the same whatever animal is used. In short the threat remains the similar as when using dogs.

I hope my comments are taken in a positive light as that is my intention. I look forward to the deployment of the rats into SMA in Mozambique. I am sure that over time we will have a better idea on performance in the different seasons, vegetation, and terrain encountered in Mozambique. The initial observations made by IND is that there is potential for deployment of rats and time will tell.

Hugh Lawrence

Technical Advisor - Operations

IND

----- Original Message -----

From: Daniel H. Wolf <mailto:TerraSegura@compuserve.com>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2003 7:16 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Rats Train in Tanzania to Sniff Out Mines

By GEORGE MWANGI

MOROGORO, Tanzania - Far from the outbreak of monkeypox that shed light on a worrisome increase in exotic pets in the United States, Mathias and his African pouched rat pals are hard at work in rural Tanzania learning how to locate land mines.

In their little red, black and blue harnesses,

they look like miniature sniffer dogs. But their trainers at Sokoine University of Agriculture say the giant rats can do a much better job.

"Rats are good, clever to learn, small, like performing repeated tasks and have a better sense of smell than dogs," said Christophe Cox, the Belgian coordinator of the rat training project.

When they succeed, they get bits of ripe bananas.

In April, the rats that had been imported into the United States from Ghana as exotic pets got a dose of bad publicity when it was discovered that the virus that causes monkeypox had likely jumped from them to the prairie dogs with whom they had been sharing cages in pet shops.

Monkeypox was confirmed in 32 people, mainly in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois. The illness in humans is not usually fatal but causes rashes, fevers and chills. Most Americans who caught monkeypox got it from infected pet prairie dogs. The importation of the rats, whose Latin name is *Cricetomys gambianus*, has since been banned.

Cox and his Kenyan wife, Judy, oversee the training of some 300 rats to locate mines by recognizing the smell of dynamite and TNT. The rats are trained in two groups: those in the simulated minefield and the ones trained in the laboratory to smell TNT.

Neighboring Mozambique is the ultimate destination of the rodents trained through the

Belgian-funded project run by Apopo, an Antwerp-based research organization. Twelve of the gray-furred animals with prominent snouts are already there.

Although a civil war in the former Portuguese colony ended more than a decade ago, the Mozambican countryside remains studded with land mines.

Farmers in Tanzania's Morogoro district, a lush agricultural region 100 miles west of Dar es Salaam, look on the rats, whose name refers to the pouches in their cheeks for storing food, as pests.

But Cox says they can save lives.

"We haven't heard about this disease outbreak, and we have had no incident of sickness related to the rats here," he said.

Ron Verhagen, the project's chief scientist, is not worried about monkeypox. He says the virus isn't normally carried by the rodents, which can measure as long as 30 inches and weigh up to three pounds.

Some 30 trainers put the rats through their paces in the simulated minefield where anti-personnel and anti-tank mines have no detonators.

"People are happy when I tell them I am working with the rats because they think I will help to eliminate them," project veterinarian Mwambewe Martin said. "But when I tell them I am training them, they don't understand how rats can be trained."

Harnessed rats are hitched to a sliding rail mounted on a metal grid about 3 feet high and 20 feet wide.

Two human handlers roll the grid over a suspected minefield. When a rat scratches and sniffs at a mine, the handler activates a clicker and pulls the rat over to the side by his lead to reward him with a banana bit.

When fully trained, the rats sniff out a mine, then sit and scratch at the spot until they are rewarded with food. A human de-miner destroys the mine. The rats are not heavy enough to detonate active mines.

The rodents also undergo laboratory training to detect TNT, the explosive compound, by digging for TNT "eggs" buried on soil-covered tables.

Judy Cox, the project supervisor, says it's fun working with the rats, although in real conditions, it can be very dangerous.

"You will be following your rats through a minefield ... you have to be 100 percent sure of your rats," she said.

A total of 131 nations have signed a December 1997 treaty banning the use of land mines. The United States, China and Russia are among those that have not.

The International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in getting the treaty approved, estimates there are at least 100 million land

mines deployed worldwide.

At least 30 million have been destroyed since the global ban on the weapons went into force four years ago, campaigners say.

On the Net:

APOPO: <http://www.apopo.org> <<http://www.apopo.org/>>

Sokoine University of Agriculture: <http://www.suanet.ac.tz/>

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"A mine is a wonderful thing to waste...."

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 3:00 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

"For those who have not seen it, I should explain that if you "crowd" even a very small HE charge, its power is far greater than you would expect."

I agree Andy,

And I've heard of a Cdn guy in 1 Combat Engr Regt in Bosnia (1997? or 93?) stepping on a PMA2 with our US desert boot type blast boots and just breaking a foot. On our boots there is such a gap as you say, the V is not right in contact with the ground. I stopped wearing them though myself as I hated the feel but they are effective against certain size charges like you say.

Basically a free reflective surface. Close contact with the target (foot) will maximize air gaps and give the charge the best power to do the job. Gaps like from the ground to the V or gaps in a charge fixed to a target will not give the best punch for the money (explosives). Best way for anyone who hasnt seen this before is to imagine a charge against a concrete block, if the charge is right up next to it, taped , wired and under wood it will produce a "shatter effect" on the target. if it is not in close contact it will not do near as much damage. It may even blow off and fly away into peices. The same can be seen in amine blast but it is directed upwards and the foot and boot is the wood holding it down.

Theres only one way to do stuff, the right way. Anything other than that as Andy says also is simply "medievl"

Pete Hindy
Zagreb
011-385-1-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 8:17 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

> In my last message I said that you could get five visor faces for one
> cheap
> pair of balancing-boots.
>
> That is right - when the source is in Europe or the Americas.
>
> There is a \$10 pair used by the military in Sri Lanka - while they rake
> the
> ground. Weighing in at 5.5 kg a pair, they have apparently been used since
> 1995. Most of their blast mine threats are 50g HE or under - although
> there
> is a 100g risk. Rumour is that the "boot" works. Of course, being the

> military they do not make details of their accidents public, so no
objective
> assessment of how well they "work" is possible. However, the guys wearing
> them when initiating a mine are reported to have been "walking wounded",
or
> nearly so. There were fractures to the ankle in some cases, but mostly the
> damage was confined to the foot. In most cases there was no soft tissue
> damage other than bruising.
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> Any group that uses a garden rake as both detector and probe is applying
> standards that are medieval..... And it is just possible that their lousy
> hand-clearance is in part compensated by deliberate clearance with the
> soldier's feet!
>
> The high open sole appears to put weight fore and aft on "pillars" in a
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> that I tried in 1996 - adapting a WW2 design. Combined with the "sandal"
> style upper (which may be a novel way of not containing the transmitted
> forces if no normal boot is worn with it) this should mean that
detonations
> only occur just behind the heel and under the tip of the toes on firm
> ground. On soft ground the "pillars" would sink and the "V" sole rest on
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> the V is devastating. For those who have not seen it, I should explain
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> if you "crowd" even a very small HE charge, its power is far greater than
> you would expect.
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> I attach a small photo of the boots after an accidental blast. Also one
> small picture showing a cross section through it. Thanks to Lance for the
> pictures.
>
> When the welfare of their own soldiers matters so little, one wonders how
> much respect that government can have for the human rights of civilians?
>
> Regards all
> Andy
>
>
>
>
>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: "SOLDIERS FEET"

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 2:44 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

THIS IS A DE-MINING FORUM, NOT A POLITICAL DISCUSSION LIST. KNOCK IT OFF.

No Sir - "THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH" shows similar (dis)respect to their soldiers who are fighting in foreign countries to bring the people there "freedom - democracy - human rights - human dignity" and similar phrases, born by governmental slogan promoters.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: "SOLDIERS FEET"

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 1:26 PM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

September 22, 2003

Dear Andy,

ref. to your mail from earlier today you wrote at the end of your report:

>>>>>>>"When the welfare of their own soldiers matters so little, one
>>>>>>>wonders how
>much respect that government can have for the human rights of
>civilians?"<<<<<<<

It's certainly more than interesting to recognize how little the welfare of their own soldiers matters to governments - not only in Sri Lanka or other exotic countries.

No Sir - "THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH" shows similar (dis)respect to their soldiers

who are fighting in foreign countries to bring the people there "freedom - democracy -

human rights - human dignity" and similar phrases, born by governmental slogan promoters.

Just read the following press release "Wounded billed for hospital food" and you'll find out.

Unbelievable though - but true!!!

When it comes to wars and the men and women are needed for all the dubious purposes

then - off course - they are called 'PATRIOTIC HEROES'.

So - there must be some truth in the aphorism I found the other day:

>>"Heroes have an infinite capacity for stupidity. Thus are legends born."<<

I mean:

"A good patriot should always be prepared to fight his own government!"

Stay healthy from 'head to foot'

Willy.

The press report:

>Monday, September 22, 2003 Worldandnation:

>"Wounded billed for hospital food"

>By BILL ADAIR, Times Staff Writer

>© St. Petersburg Times

>WASHINGTON - After a grenade exploded inside his Humvee in Iraq, Marine

>Staff Sgt. Bill Murwin

>wastreated at a military hospital in Germany and spent four weeks at the

>National Naval Medical Center

>in Bethesda, Md. Part of his left foot was amputated.

>His medical care was free, but the government billed him \$243 for the food.

>Then, just three days after he received his first bill for the hospital

>food in Germany, he got a stern letter

>saying the bill was overdue. It warned that his account would be referred

>to a collection agency.

>Murwin, like thousands of other military personnel hospitalized every

>year, is expected to reimburse the

>government \$8.10 per day for food. That's standard procedure because of a
>law Congress passed in 1981.
>But it has angered many military families over the years.
>When Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-Largo, and his wife, Beverly, heard about the
>problem, they personally paid Murwin's tab. Then the congressman
>introduced a bill to change the rules.
>Rep. Young said Wednesday that the soldiers "were sent to war by their
>country. Many of them will be
>handicapped for the rest of their lives - and we're asking them to pay
>\$8.10 a day for their food! There's
>something really wrong with that."
>The practice is especially egregious, Young said, because "the food
>probably isn't that good."
>The rule was established because most military personnel receive \$8.10 a
>day as a "basic allowance for
>subsistence" for food. But when they are hospitalized, the government
>tries to recoup the money on the theory
>that they are eating hospital food and therefore are double-dipping.
>Military officials have long disliked the rule but felt they had to
>enforce it because of the 1981 law.
>"If I could be king for a day, I'd stop it in a minute," said Maj. Gen.
>Kevin C. Kiley, who commands the
>Army hospitals in the eastern United States.
>The government already bends the rules for soldiers in combat. They are
>allowed keep the \$8.10 even though
>they are also getting free food, according to Young's office.
>Murwin, 31, a sheriff's deputy in Nevada with 10 years of active duty in
>the Marines and three years in
>the Reserves, says he was flabbergasted the government would bill him.
>>>End of press release<<<

Andy (didactylos) wrote:

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>pair of balancing-boots.
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 11:35 AM

From: Bart Weetjens <apopo@ruca.ua.ac.be>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear all,

Hugh's queries are legitimate. The article that Mr. George Mwangi in Tanzania wrote and forwarded on the web to major news channels is not fully reflecting the reality. This is sad, because APOPO tries to keep low profile in the vulgarised press, especially in this fragile stage of field testing, in order to acquire sufficient data, to process it scientifically, and to be able to present quality reports to the demining community.

APOPO never claimed that *'rats would be better then dogs'*. That would be absurd, like comparing lemons and melons. There are just too many different parameters in dogs and rats to allow such a comparison. It is obvious though that both animals have their specific advantages and limitations, and may have their specific role in the process. Probably the biggest potential of using rats is in a REST approach, while free running rats may have a rather complementary role to the use of dogs, e.g. In high density minefields, or on difficult terrain (sorry Hendrik, but rats' short legs keep their nose close to the ground, where vapour concentration is highest, and they do manage to climb and descend steeper slopes then dogs can).

However, what is claimed in the article is that rats have a *'better sense of smell'* then dogs have, which relates to a detection treshold test APOPO did in March this year in a REST set-up. 4 trained rats were tested during 6 days, while presenting 100 samples/trial. With a solution of 10 nanograms of purified TNT/Liter of water, and a vapour availability of 1,3E-03 ppt or 1,3 ppq (m/m), the animals performed an average hit rate per rat of 80,0 % and an average 4,1 % false positives per rat. To our knowledge this is a magnitude less in vapour concentration then what an average dog would need to perform consistent detection. That is why Christophe Cox states that rats have a better sense of smell then dogs.

Hugh is also right in saying that at this moment rats have not been employed yet in SMA. We foresee these tests in the coming months with either field partner, but for now we cannot report on tests in SMA since these haven't started yet. This needs time, and probably the real potential of rats can indeed only be assessed once they are fully operationally in use, provisional SOP's have been optimized, and rats are subject to external QA.

The other issue *'although in real situations it can be very dangerous'* is indeed a flagrant error, I admit. It is in big contrast with the scrutiny of Andy Smith's risk

assessment and the consequent provisional APOPO SOP's developed in co-operation with Andy and MgM, and accredited by the IND.

I agree with Hendrik on this quality work, and would like to apologise for the misinformation in the unfortunate article. As a result of this article, we now get the full wave of media attention, which we have been trying to avoid as much as possible. It is very understandable that partners are upset, when complying to a non-disclosure agreement and experiencing the opposite from the requesting partner. This was not our intention. Nevertheless, the article apparently has been disseminated widely, to our regret.

Bart Weetjens
APOPO director

On 22-09-2003 11:23, "Hugh Lawrence" <hlawrence@ind.gov.mz> wrote:

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I hope my comments are taken in a positive light as that is my intention. I look forward to the deployment of the rats into SMA in Mozambique. I am sure that over time we will have a better idea on performance in the different seasons, vegetation, and terrain encountered in Mozambique. The initial observations made by IND is that there is potential for deployment of rats and time will tell.

Hugh Lawrence
Technical Advisor - Operations
IND

----- Original Message -----

From: Daniel H. Wolf <mailto:TerraSegura@compuserve.com>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2003 7:16 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Rats Train in Tanzania to Sniff Out Mines

By GEORGE MWANGI

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Although a civil war in the former Portuguese colony ended more than a decade ago, the Mozambican countryside remains studded with land mines.

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Two human handlers roll the grid over a suspected minefield. When a rat scratches and sniffs at a mine, the handler activates a clicker and pulls the rat over to the side by his lead to reward him with a banana bit.

When fully trained, the rats sniff out a mine, then sit and scratch at the spot until they are rewarded with food. A human de-miner destroys the mine. The rats are not heavy enough to detonate active mines.

The rodents also undergo laboratory training to detect TNT, the explosive compound, by digging for TNT "eggs" buried on soil-covered tables.

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"You will be following your rats through a minefield ... you have to be 100 percent sure of your rats," she said.

A total of 131 nations have signed a December 1997 treaty banning the use of land mines. The United States, China and Russia are among those that have not.

The International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in getting the treaty approved, estimates there are at least 100 million land mines deployed worldwide.

At least 30 million have been destroyed since the global ban on the weapons went into force four years ago, campaigners say.

On the Net:

APOPO: <http://www.apopo.org> <<http://www.apopo.org/>>

Sokoine University of Agriculture: <http://www.suanet.ac.tz/>

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[www.TerraSegura.org](http://www.terrasegura.org/) <<http://www.terrasegura.org/>> website

"A mine is a wonderful thing to waste...."

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 11:01 AM

From: MgM Intl.Desk, Namibia <office.windhoek@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bart,

well said, thx

Hendrik

Subject: MgM Demining Network: joezese
Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 8:23 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Your apologies are accepted and as you see, you are not kicked off the network. Actually that was a joke - as this is practically impossible for me.

cheers

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

#####

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: In spanish

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 8:21 AM

From: BCason5973@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Please send the English translation.

Thanking you in advance,

Billy Cason

CEO/Managing Director

**Guartel USA
2838 Croix Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-1365
757-412-1001/1002 Fax**

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Medieval mine-detection....

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 6:47 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

In my last message I said that you could get five visor faces for one cheap pair of balancing-boots.

That is right - when the source is in Europe or the Americas.

There is a \$10 pair used by the military in Sri Lanka - while they rake the ground. Weighing in at 5.5 kg a pair, they have apparently been used since 1995. Most of their blast mine threats are 50g HE or under - although there is a 100g risk. Rumour is that the "boot" works. Of course, being the military they do not make details of their accidents public, so no objective assessment of how well they "work" is possible. However, the guys wearing them when initiating a mine are reported to have been "walking wounded", or nearly so. There were fractures to the ankle in some cases, but mostly the damage was confined to the foot. In most cases there was no soft tissue damage other than bruising.

Any group that uses a garden rake as both detector and probe is applying standards that are medieval..... And it is just possible that their lousy hand-clearance is in part compensated by deliberate clearance with the soldier's feet!

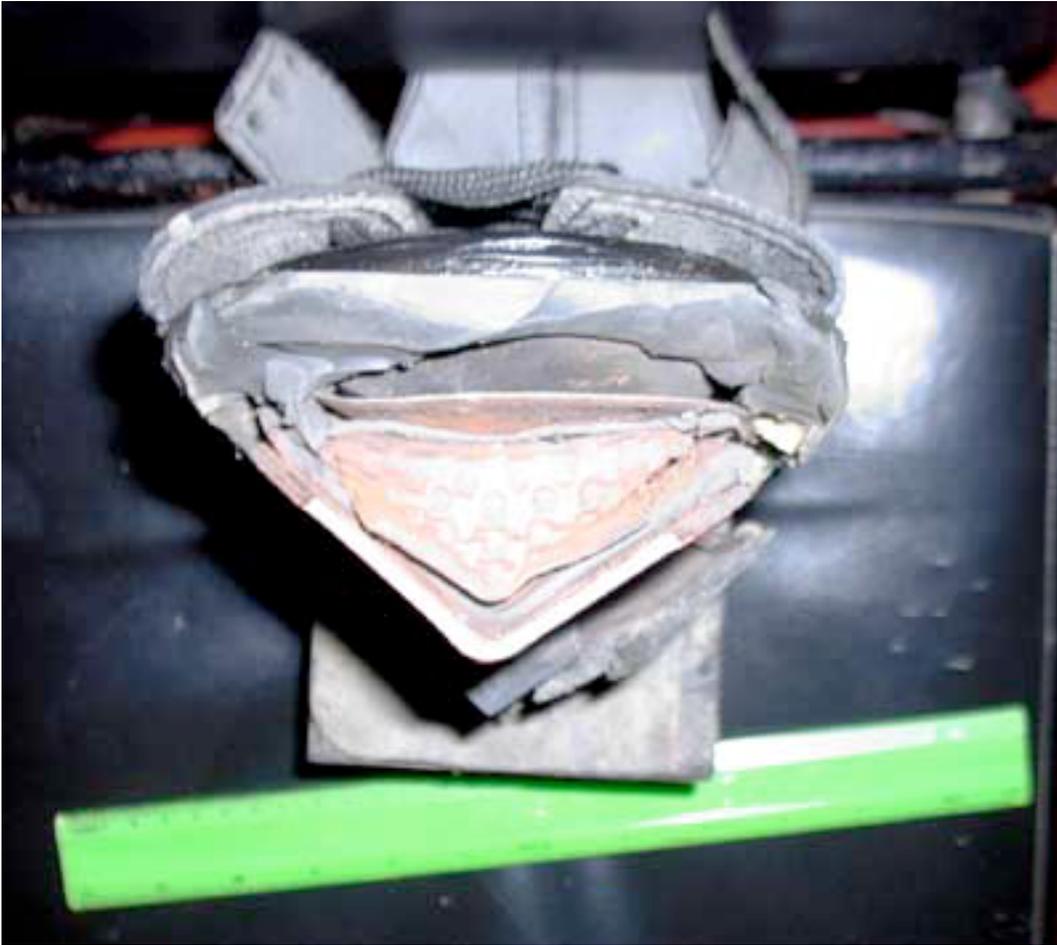
The high open sole appears to put weight fore and aft on "pillars" in a way that I tried in 1996 - adapting a WW2 design. Combined with the "sandal" style upper (which may be a novel way of not containing the transmitted forces if no normal boot is worn with it) this should mean that detonations only occur just behind the heel and under the tip of the toes on firm ground. On soft ground the "pillars" would sink and the "V" sole rest on the ground. From the testing I did on my own design, a 50g detonation under the V is not too damaging of the boot - but a 50g detonation right up AGAINST the V is devastating. For those who have not seen it, I should explain that if you "crowd" even a very small HE charge, its power is far greater than you would expect.

I attach a small photo of the boots after an accidental blast. Also one small picture showing a cross section through it. Thanks to Lance for the pictures.

When the welfare of their own soldiers matters so little, one wonders how much respect that government can have for the human rights of civilians?

Regards all
Andy





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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rats have short legs

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 6:27 AM

From: Office Whk <office.windhoek@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello Hugh

As you know, Apopo and their rats are with MgM operations in Limpopo since December 2002. They have not provided us with any reporting during this period. Therefore we cannot answer right now. As our testing/cooperation ends formally by the end of this month, you may expect a report on the rats with MgM operations written by MgM shortly. Otherwise - just ask HaGe Kruessen around the corner. Apopo had free-runner rats with MgM, the tests on the MEDDS/REST rats are to be executed with NPA in Mozambique.

As a first secret result of the tests, I can tell you that rats have much shorter legs than dogs,,,, yes, indeed, and this detail turns out to be a major drawback to their capacity outside of golf-courses.

Btw, good moment to congratulate IND to have ordered the risk assessment study through Sir Prodder, it can serve as a very valuable example to many other occasions. But as usually, the world has not taken notice.

They might have that in common with the genetically-manipulated weed (PWS-System) that we want to use to detect landmines in Angola. The tests of ARESA with MgM in Ondjiva, Kunene Province, will start middle of October 2003 and the reporting will be honest, public and continuously. Responsible for the rigorous transparency: Sir Prodder again !

Cheers

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM

Director OPS + HEC-R&D

Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia

ehlers@mgm.org

www.mgm.org

cel +264 81 1277020

fax +264 61 243477

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003 5:23 AM

From: Hugh Lawrence <hlawrence@ind.gov.mz>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I have a couple of comments on this article that need in my opinion querying.

The claim that *rats are better than dogs*? There are so many variables in terms of the deployment methodologies of both animals that this claim either needs to be substantiated or clarified as to what situations the animal is to be utilized. I can think of scenarios where the rats could perhaps offer an alternative to dogs and be used effectively. I can also think of scenarios where a dog would be better employed. Using the well worn cliché of 'toolbox' the rats will probably provide a second animal option which we didn't have before.

APOPO in Mozambique when they first conducted a presentation to Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND) were very clear to point out that it was most probable that the rats would augment search capabilities and probably never replace the dog. APOPO are collecting a lot of information in regard the rats performance against various targets. Likewise there is another organization in Mozambique conducting similar trials with dogs both using weather station data and comparing the soil and weather conditions against individual animal performance against known targets. I assume Mozambique is not alone in this ongoing research of animal performance

Whilst it may be true that rats have a better sense of smell than a dog, to my knowledge to date the rats has not been employed into a Suspected Mined Area (SMA). If my information is correct, it is important to point out that APOPO are still in the trial phase and have yet to deploy on a fully operational basis. As many readers know dogs have been deployed in SMA for many years.

My point here is that the true performance of the rat will not be known until they are deployed on a fully operational basis, and that deployment is over considerable time. Only then will a better picture become apparent when the rats undergo external QA Sampling like dogs, machines and deminers undergo. In short it is too early to make the above claim in my opinion.

The second query I have is in regard *although in real conditions it can be very dangerous*. It is assumed that in the trial the procedures have been established to utilize the rat in a manner that is not dangerous. If it was too dangerous then the APOPO would have to undergo a review of SOP by the IND (Mine Action Centre). This is not the case as IND has inspected and accredited APOPO's SOP. The rat handler is no further away than that of a dog handler to a mine threat. The difference being is that there are 2 rat handlers (using the drills APOPO uses) as opposed to 1 dog handler. If ground preparation machinery is used then the trip wire threat is removed, therefore the risk is lower and no greater than that of normal dog operations. If ground preparation is not used then the threat remains the same whatever animal is used. In short the threat remains the similar as when using dogs.

I hope my comments are taken in a positive light as that is my intention. I look forward to the

deployment of the rats into SMA in Mozambique. I am sure that over time we will have a better idea on performance in the different seasons, vegetation, and terrain encountered in Mozambique. The initial observations made by IND is that there is potential for deployment of rats and time will tell.

Hugh Lawrence
Technical Advisor - Operations
IND

----- Original Message -----

From: Daniel H. Wolf <mailto:TerraSegura@compuserve.com>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2003 7:16 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Rats Train in Tanzania to Sniff Out Mines

By GEORGE MWANGI

MOROGORO, Tanzania - Far from the outbreak of monkeypox that shed light on a worrisome increase in exotic pets in the United States, Mathias and his African pouched rat pals are hard at work in rural Tanzania learning how to locate land mines.

In their little red, black and blue harnesses, they look like miniature sniffer dogs. But their trainers at Sokoine University of Agriculture say the giant rats can do a much better job.

"Rats are good, clever to learn, small, like performing repeated tasks and have a better sense of smell than dogs," said Christophe Cox, the Belgian coordinator of the rat training project.

When they succeed, they get bits of rice because

In April, the rats that had been imported into the United States from Ghana as exotic pets got a dose of bad publicity when it was discovered that the virus that causes monkeypox had likely jumped from them to the prairie dogs with whom they had been sharing cages in pet shops.

Monkeypox was confirmed in 32 people, mainly in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois. The illness in humans is not usually fatal but causes rashes, fevers and chills. Most Americans who caught monkeypox got it from infected pet prairie dogs. The importation of the rats, whose Latin name is *Cricetomys gambianus*, has since been banned.

Cox and his Kenyan wife, Judy, oversee the training of some 300 rats to locate mines by recognizing the smell of dynamite and TNT. The rats are trained in two groups: those in the simulated minefield and the ones trained in the laboratory to smell TNT.

Neighboring Mozambique is the ultimate destination of the rodents trained through the Belgian-funded project run by Apopo, an Antwerp-based research organization. Twelve of the gray-furred animals with prominent snouts are already there.

Although a civil war in the former Portuguese colony ended more than a decade ago, the Mozambican countryside remains studded with land mines.

Farmers in Tanzania's Morogoro district, a lush agricultural region 100 miles west of Dar es Salaam, look on the rats, whose name refers to the pouches in their cheeks for storing food, as pests.

But Cox says they can save lives.

"We haven't heard about this disease outbreak, and we have had no incident of sickness related to the rats here," he said.

Ron Verhagen, the project's chief scientist, is not worried about monkeypox. He says the virus isn't normally carried by the rodents, which can measure as long as 30 inches and weigh up to three pounds.

Some 30 trainers put the rats through their paces in the simulated minefield where anti-personnel and anti-tank mines have no detonators.

"People are happy when I tell them I am working with the rats because they think I will help to eliminate them," project veterinarian Mwambewe Martin said. "But when I tell them I am training them, they don't understand how rats can be trained."

Harnessed rats are hitched to a sliding rail mounted on a metal grid about 3 feet high and 20 feet wide.

Two human handlers roll the grid over a suspected minefield. When a rat scratches and sniffs at a mine, the handler activates a clicker and pulls the rat over to the side by his lead to reward him with a banana bit.

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[www.TerraSegura.org](http://www.terrasegura.org/) <<http://www.terrasegura.org/>> website

"A mine is a wonderful thing to waste...."

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Creation of (Another?) Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2003 1:28 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dick (and others)

One of the pages you should all visit is the Humanitarian Infomatin Centre in Iraq's Mine Action page. See:

http://www.hiciraq.org/coordination/sectoral/mine_action/index.asp

You can find UNOPS's Mine Action site info on their home site (www.unops.org under "services") but it's frustratingly garbled with loads of frames and cluttered with flash that really slow and irritate searches.

- joe

--- Richard Walker <reo@eohio.net> wrote:

> Sir,
> I have a modest landmine information page, if you
> have a link on the Re:Ref:
> I would be pleased to post it on
> www.blastersdepot.com. Thanks, Dick Walker
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Friday, September 19, 2003 4:19 PM
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Creation of
> (Another?) Iraqi Humanitarian
> Mine Action Program
>
>

> > >No mention of the huge UNOPS Mine Action Program
> in
> > >Northern Iraq?
> >

> > DEAR READERS,
> > I'M REALLY MOVED TO TEARS ABOUT THE US-AMERICAN
> HUMANITARIANISM !
> > IT'S SOMETIMES UNBELIEVABLE, HOW THE WORLD FAILS
> TO RECOGNIZE ALL
> > THE GOOD DEEDS AND ALTRUISMS.
> > WHAT A PITY!!!
> > GOD BLESS.....
> > Willy
> >

> > >--- "Stevens, John E" <SteveJE@state.gov> wrote:
> > > > Belated network posting of U.S. Department of
> > State
> > > > Media Note that was originally released on

> August 6, 2003.
> > >> Media Note
> > >> Office of the Spokesman
> > >> U.S. Department of State
> > >> Washington, DC
> > >> August 6, 2003
> > >>
> > >> Creation of Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action
> Program
> > >>
> > >> On July 31, 2003, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer,
> the U.S. civil
> administrator of
> > >> the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq
> presided over the
> graduation of
> > >> 45 Iraqi humanitarian deminers in Baghdad
> trained in middle management
> under
> > >> an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's
> Bureau of
> Political-Military
> > >> Affairs' humanitarian mine action program. This
> > >> marks a critical step in helping Iraq to
> develop and manage its own
> > >> indigenous, civilian-run National Mine Action
> Authority and National
> > >> Mine Action
> > >> Center. The U. S. goal is to enable the Iraqi
> program to
> > >> meet international mine action standards,
> operate in a transparent
> fashion,
> > >> and become self-sustaining. Conflicts in Iraq
> dating back to
> > >> World War II left it infested with an estimated
> 10 to 15 million
> > >> persistent landmines and significant amounts of
> unexploded ordnance.
> Iraq's
> > >> population is also threatened by large stocks
> of abandoned ordnance and
> > >> unstable, poorly secured munitions stockpiles.
> > >> Officials from the Bureau of Political-Military
> Affairs' Office of
> > >> Humanitarian Demining Programs have been in
> Iraq since April 2003.
> Their
> > >> mission has been to assess the threat to Iraqis
> from persistent
> landmines
> > >> and other explosive hazards, quickly launch
> landmine survey and
> demining
> > >> operations, and create from scratch a national
> Iraqi humanitarian mine
> > >> action program, in close coordination with the
> > >> Coalition Joint Task Force Commander, U.S.
> Central Command and in
> > >> cooperation
> > >> with the United Nations. The Bureau's Quick

> Reaction Demining Force,
> > >>based in
> > >> Mozambique, has been
> > >> actively demining in the Al Hilla and Baghdad
> regions since May,
> assisted by
> > >> experts from RONCO Consulting Corporation under
> > >> contract to the Bureau. A fact sheet entitled
> "The U.S. Humanitarian
> > >> Demining Program in Iraq," available at
> www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm
> > >> <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm>>,
> > >> provides an overview of Iraq's persistent
> landmine threat and how the
> > >>United States
> > >> is helping to mitigate it and empower Iraqis to
> eventually rid
> themselves
> > >> of their legacy o> landmines and other
> explosive remnants war.
> > >> [End]
> > >> Released on August 6, 2003
> >
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: misunderstanding

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2003 10:50 AM

From: Joezese@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hallo Hendrik and MGM team,

I apologize for my words if these had a blaming or provoking character to you. That was neither my intention nor corresponds to my way of work.

The German saying I used, is applied as a joke only, here in Berlin (Germany), rather than being used for the characterisation of a person.

My intention was to make a comment that your work is speaking for itself, when I said that "the work of MGM is reflecting a contrary reality" to those saying.

Sorry, when I did use the saying in a too free misinterpreting manner.

Of course the normal way of work is to ask others first or to use a search engine for asking first.

Sorry, that remark could be misinterpreted.

It was my mistake to have thought that you still remember me. I gave my self introduction to you already in 1992. These can become updated. Never have met you personally seems to be the main reason for.

I hope this will clear the misunderstanding.

Good luck

JOE

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2003 7:19 AM

From: Office Whk <office.windhoek@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Well said, Joe

first you are blaming other people for whatever as anonymous. This is against the rules of this network.

Who the hell do you think you are that you hide your ID and at the same time have such a big mouth the second time in two weeks?

First time I thought you just were drunk and ignored it, now I had enough:

You have not the faintest idea what you are talking about!

My question to the network got some 200 different answers from all around the planet, which we are pooling right now.

Once this is done we'll come back with a result of the capacity of this network.

We know what was presented and discussed at the EUEM conference regarding this topic and I can assure you, it is all excellent and has no relevance to field realities.

Enjoy the weekend - and, you have been excluded from the MgM network. If you don't like us, just set up your own.

Good luck

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM

Director OPS + HEC-R&D

Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia

ehlers@mgm.org

www.mgm.org

cel +264 81 1277020

fax +264 61 243477

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] **On Behalf Of**
Joezese@aol.com

Sent: 19 September 2003 09:13 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm

Hi Hendrik,

if you (or one of your guys) had joined the great event in Brussels
this week, your questions are not longer crying for an answer!

it is an old game to ask others first, then to go to find an answer by
oneself.

good luck

JOE

Subject: MgM Demining Network: More on Removal of Vukovar Mine signs

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2003 2:44 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

To who was interested in whats happening recently in Vukovar here's a Message from my/our association secretary of www.cfiva.org <<http://www.cfiva.org>> ref what I was speaking about in Vukovar in an earlier post.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
011-385-1-388-3071

Hi pete

Re: Vukovar minefields

You may also wish to mention that mines are also re-appearing in areas previously cleared and in everyday use. In 2001, a family enjoying a picnic at the river Vuka were blown to pieces by a mine mysteriously placed along a regularly used footpath. As I said, the metal signs and plastic tape are usually stolen within days of being placed, sometimes within twenty-four hours. We assume this is being done by local Serbs hoping to kill and maim Croatian "fascists" as they continue to return to their shattered homes and attempt to rebuild their lives.

Unless you place a guard on each sign, there is no way to stop these people removing them. Endemic looting and deforestation are being perpetrated by the Serbs even as we speak; just take a look around Vukovar and wonder why all the tiles at the municipal swimming pool have been removed in an orderly way, or why every single drain cover has been removed from the streets. That isn't war damage and I have photographic evidence of it that predates the return of any Croatian refugees. Whilst the OSCE in Vukovar actively sides with Serbs who are personally responsible for the destruction of that region and will do everything they can to frustrate the process of re-integration, a true peace and return to economic prosperity will never be achieved.

Happy to discuss.

*Danny Kington
Secretary of the Association*

----- Original Message -----

From: Pete Hindy <<mailto:phindy@webhart.net>>

To: secretary@cfiva.org <<mailto:secretary@cfiva.org>>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: UCB nano-sensor - full press release:

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2003 11:10 AM

From: Edward R. Fearon <Ed@C-S-I.Net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

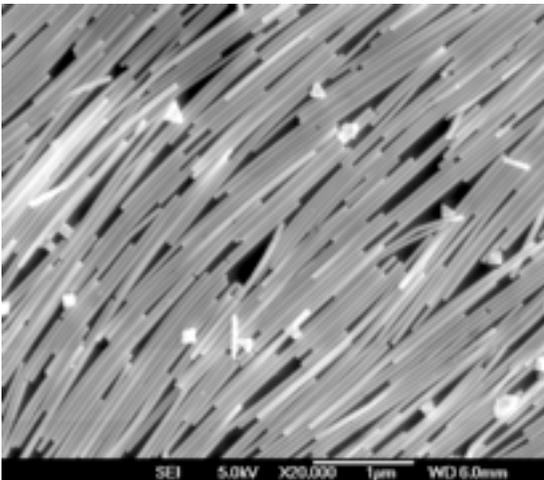
To: <network@mgm.org>

This is the full press release from the University of California, Berkeley as originally posted by Edgardo Maffía and summarized by Dan Wolf.

Using packed silver nanowires as sensitive explosives detector

By Robert Sanders, Media Relations | 11 September 2003

BERKELEY – Minuscule wires a few nanometers across are proving to be versatile electronic components, as demonstrated recently by University of California, Berkeley, chemists who used silver nanowires as key elements of a sensitive explosives detector.



Scanning electron microscope image of silver nanowires aligned like logs on a river and deposited on a silicon wafer. The thin layer of packed nanowires provides a good surface for chemical sensing with Raman spectroscopy. *(Peidong Yang/UC Berkeley)*

The researchers, led by Peidong Yang, ChevronTexaco

assistant professor of chemistry at UC Berkeley and a chemist with the Materials Sciences Division of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, made about a trillion silver nanowires - essentially nanoscopic needles - and packed them tightly together in a thin layer, all needles pointing in the same direction, like rafted logs on a river.

The layer of ordered nanowires made an ideal site for chemicals to bind for detection by a very sensitive technique called surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy.

This nanowire-based sensing scheme could have "significant implications in chemical and biological warfare detection, national and global security, as well as medical detection applications," Yang and UC Berkeley colleagues report in a paper that appears in the Sept. 10 issue of *Nano Letters*, a publication of the American Chemical Society.

"Raman spectroscopy is an extremely sensitive and specific technique that basically gives you a chemical signature, a fingerprint," Yang said. "A monolayer of silver nanowires makes a very sensitive substrate on which to detect molecules like DNT (dinitrotoluene, a cousin to TNT), which is used in making essentially all explosives, including land mines. Those explosives have DNT vapor coming out, allowing us to do airborne detection."

Yang said that the packed silver nanowires are a better surface for enhanced Raman spectroscopy than a thin layer of silver because the nanowire surface is more ordered and gives a more clearly defined signal, making interpretation of the Raman vibrational spectrum easier. The packed silver nanowires are uniform, reproducible and suitable for use in air or in liquid.

He is hoping to miniaturize the laser and other components required by Raman spectroscopy to create a microscopic

explosives.

Yang's co-authors include Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory post-doctoral chemist Christian Hess and UC Berkeley graduate students Andrea Tao and Franklin Kim. Other collaborators are graduate students Joshua Goldberger and Rongrui He of UC Berkeley's Department of Chemistry, and chemists Yugang Sun and Younan Xia of the University of Washington, Seattle.

The nanowire layers have other potential uses, too. Yang said that the monolayers can be transferred to any surface, including silicon, glass or flexible plastic polymers, to provide a large area on which to do chemistry. He and his team were able to make flexible sheets of packed nanowires more than three square inches in area (20 square centimeters).

"You could fabricate these in large areas, providing a flexible monolayer that would be a key component in a number of devices, such as flexible solar cells and light emitting diodes" Yang said.

His lab has created similar flexible layers of packed semiconducting nanowires made of silicon that would also be useful in flexible electronic devices. A group at Harvard University reports a similar development with silicon nanowires in the same issue of *Nano Letters*.

"These are probably the first two examples of techniques that can do large scale assembly of nanostructures, enabling macroscopic manipulation of lots of them simultaneously," said Yang. "You need this ability to manipulate nanowires or nanotubes if they are to become practical electronic components."

Two years ago Yang proved that optical materials like zinc oxide can form nanowires that act as lasers, and he has succeeded in mating nanowires of different materials to create one-dimensional junctions akin to transistor junctions.

This latest triumph employed a technique whereby nanowires are floated on top of a liquid and then compressed to make the nanowires align and clump together tightly. This old technique, called Langmuir-Blodgett assembly, succeeded in creating monolayers measuring 20 square centimeters in area, which Yang could slip onto a flexible surface such as a plastic polymer. Each silver nanowire is about 50 nanometers across - about the diameter of the polio virus - and 2-3 microns long, with a pentagonal cross section and pyramidal tip.

Monolayers can be layered into stacks of alternating semiconductor (silicon) and conductor (silver) to produce other types of devices, he said.

"With monolayers of metal and monolayers of semiconductor, we can do multilayer transfers and stack up these flexible devices to make flexible composites," he said. "The large-scale assembly process we developed to assemble nanowires over a large area will have a significant impact in the nanoscience/technology field."

The work is funded by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, ACS-Petroleum Research Fund, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Beckman Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy, National Science Foundation and Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative of the Air Force Office

of Scientific Research (AFOSR-MURI).

Regards,

Edward R. Fearon

CSI

SAA

Critical Solutions International, Inc. - SAA International, Ltd.

Tel: 972.716.4000 - Fax: 214.722.0165 - 202.318.3200

E-mail: Ed@C-S-I.Net - Ed@SAA-Intl.Com

Web: <http://www.C-S-I.Net> <<http://www.c-s-i.net/>> - <http://www.SAA-Intl.Com> <<http://www.saa-intl.com/>>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Rats training for demining in Tanzania

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2003 1:16 AM

From: Daniel H. Wolf <TerraSegura@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Rats Train in Tanzania to Sniff Out Mines

By GEORGE MWANGI

MOROGORO, Tanzania - Far from the outbreak of monkeypox that shed light on a worrisome increase in exotic pets in the United States, Mathias and his African pouched rat pals are hard at work in rural Tanzania learning how to locate land mines.

In their little red, black and blue harnesses, they look like miniature sniffer dogs. But their trainers at Sokoine University of Agriculture say the giant rats can do a much better job.

"Rats are good, clever to learn, small, like performing repeated tasks and have a better sense of smell than dogs," said Christophe Cox, the Belgian coordinator of the rat training project.

When they succeed, they get bits of ripe bananas.

In April, the rats that had been imported into the United States from Ghana as exotic pets got a dose of bad publicity when it was discovered that the virus that causes monkeypox had likely jumped from them to the prairie dogs with whom they had been sharing cages in pet shops.

Monkeypox was confirmed in 32 people, mainly in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois. The illness in humans is not usually fatal but causes rashes, fevers and chills. Most Americans who caught monkeypox got it from infected pet prairie dogs. The importation of the rats, whose Latin name is *Cricetomys gambianus*, has since been banned.

Cox and his Kenyan wife, Judy, oversee the training of some 300 rats to locate mines by recognizing the smell of dynamite and TNT. The rats are trained in two groups: those in the simulated minefield and the ones trained in the laboratory to smell TNT.

Neighboring Mozambique is the ultimate destination of the rodents trained through the Belgian-funded project run by Apopo, an Antwerp-based research organization. Twelve of the gray-furred animals with prominent snouts are already there.

Although a civil war in the former Portuguese colony ended more than a decade ago, the Mozambican countryside remains studded with land mines.

Farmers in Tanzania's Morogoro district, a lush agricultural region 100 miles west of Dar es Salaam, look on the rats, whose name refers to the pouches in their cheeks for storing food, as pests.

But Cox says they can save lives.

"We haven't heard about this disease outbreak, and we have had no incident of sickness related to the rats here," he said.

Ron Verhagen, the project's chief scientist, is not worried about monkeypox. He says the virus isn't normally carried by the rodents, which can measure as long as 30 inches and weigh up to three pounds.

Some 30 trainers put the rats through their paces in the simulated minefield where anti-personnel and anti-tank mines have no detonators.

"People are happy when I tell them I am working with the rats because they think I will help to eliminate them," project veterinarian Mwambewe Martin said. "But when I tell them I am training them, they don't understand how rats can be trained."

Harnessed rats are hitched to a sliding rail mounted on a metal grid about 3 feet high and 20 feet wide.

Two human handlers roll the grid over a suspected minefield. When a rat scratches and sniffs at a mine, the handler activates a clicker and pulls the rat over to the side by his lead to reward him with a banana bit.

When fully trained, the rats sniff out a mine, then sit and scratch at the spot until they are rewarded with food. A human de-miner destroys the mine. The rats are not heavy enough to detonate active mines.

The rodents also undergo laboratory training to detect TNT, the explosive compound, by digging for TNT "eggs" buried on soil-covered tables.

Judy Cox, the project supervisor, says it's fun working with the rats, although in real conditions, it can be very dangerous.

"You will be following your rats through a minefield ... you have to be 100 percent sure of your rats," she said.

A total of 131 nations have signed a December 1997 treaty banning the use of land mines. The United States, China and Russia are among those that have not.

The International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in getting the treaty approved, estimates there are at least 100 million land mines deployed worldwide.

At least 30 million have been destroyed since the global ban on the weapons went into force four years ago, campaigners say.

On the Net:

APOPO: <http://www.apopo.org> <<http://www.apopo.org/>>

Sokoine University of Agriculture: <http://www.suanet.ac.tz/>

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Daniel H. Wolf

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TerraSegura@compuserve.com email

www.TerraSegura.org <<http://www.terrasegura.org/>> website

"A mine is a wonderful thing to waste...."

Subject: MgM Demining Network: UCB nano-sensor (Eng. summary)

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2003 12:26 AM

From: Daniel H. Wolf <TerraSegura@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Edgardo,

I think you should translate it - it's very interesting.

For the non-Spanish readers, it says basically that chemists at UC Berkeley have developed silver nano-fibers that they aligned uniformly, packed a billion of them together in a teensy space, and discovered that the ordered nano-size pattern allowed extremely sensitive and accurate measurement of the vibratory spectrum of TNT and other chemical off-gassing, in liquid and air. They call it Raman electroscopy. Dr. Peidong Yang says they hope to miniaturize the laser used to fit it and the array into a microscopic sensor and stick it on a chip, to enable its practical use.

Dan Wolf

At 03:04 PM 9/19/2003 -0300, you wrote:

If you need english traslation, let me know.

Regards

Edgardo Maffía - Buenos Aires - Argentina

-NANOHILOS DE PLATA COMO DETECTOR DE EXPLOSIVOS:
Químicos de la University of California en Berkeley han demostrado que una serie de minúsculos hilos de apenas unos nanómetros de diámetro pueden servir como componentes electrónicos muy versátiles. En concreto, utilizaron nanohilos de plata como elementos esenciales de un detector de explosivos muy sensible.

Los investigadores fabricaron 1 billón de nanohilos de plata, con el aspecto de agujas nanoscópicas, y los reunieron para formar con ellos una fina capa en la cual todas las agujas apuntaban en la misma dirección. La capa ordenada de nanohilos resulta un lugar

ideal para que diversas sustancias se unan a ella y así puedan ser detectadas mediante una técnica muy sensible llamada espectroscopia de Raman.

Esta técnica nos proporciona básicamente una firma química, una huella, explican Peidong Yang y sus colegas de la UC Berkeley. La monocapa de nanohilos de plata actúa como un sustrato muy sensible en el que detectar moléculas como el DNT (dinitrotolueno, un pariente cercano del TNT), utilizado para fabricar prácticamente todos los explosivos, incluyendo las minas. Estos explosivos liberan vapor de DNT, el cual nos permite detectarlos desde el aire.

Los nanohilos de plata "empaquetados" son una mejor superficie para la espectroscopia de Raman mejorada que una simple delgada capa de plata porque la superficie de nanohilos está más ordenada y proporciona una señal más claramente definida, facilitando la interpretación del espectro vibratorio de Raman que se obtenga. Los nanohilos de plata son uniformes y son aptos para su uso en el aire o en un líquido.

Yang espera poder miniaturizar el láser y los otros componentes necesarios para la espectroscopia Raman, de manera que sea posible crear un sensor microscópico en un chip.

Las capas de nanohilos tienen otros usos potenciales. Las monocapas pueden ser transferidas a cualquier superficie, incluido el silicio, el cristal o los polímeros plásticos flexibles, proporcionando una mayor área en la que realizar procesos químicos. Podrían utilizarse en varios dispositivos, como las células solares flexibles o los diodos emisores de luz.

El laboratorio de Yang ha creado capas de nanohilos semiconductores, hechos de silicio, que podrían ser muy útiles en la construcción de dispositivos electrónicos flexibles.

Información adicional en:

<http://www.amazings.com/ciencia/noticias/170903b.html>

Daniel H. Wolf

President

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530-660-8054 fax

TerraSegura@compuserve.com email

www.TerraSegura.org <<http://www.terrasegura.org/>> website

"A mine is a wonderful thing to waste...."

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Creation of (Another?) Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 4:19 PM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

>No mention of the huge UNOPS Mine Action Program in
>Northern Iraq?

DEAR READERS,

I'M REALLY MOVED TO TEARS ABOUT THE US-AMERICAN HUMANITARIANISM !
IT'S SOMETIMES UNBELIEVABLE, HOW THE WORLD FAILS TO RECOGNIZE ALL
THE GOOD DEEDS AND ALTRUISMS.

WHAT A PITY!!!

GOD BLESS.....

Willy

>>--- "Stevens, John E" <SteveJE@state.gov> wrote:

>> Belated network posting of U.S. Department of State

>> Media Note that was originally released on August 6, 2003.

>> Media Note

>> Office of the Spokesman

>> U.S. Department of State

>> Washington, DC

>> August 6, 2003

>>

>> Creation of Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

>>

>> On July 31, 2003, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator of

>> the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq presided over the graduation of

>> 45 Iraqi humanitarian deminers in Baghdad trained in middle management under

>> an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military

>> Affairs' humanitarian mine action program. This

>> marks a critical step in helping Iraq to develop and manage its own

>> indigenous, civilian-run National Mine Action Authority and National

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>> Center. The U. S. goal is to enable the Iraqi program to

>> meet international mine action standards, operate in a transparent fashion,

>> and become self-sustaining. Conflicts in Iraq dating back to

>> World War II left it infested with an estimated 10 to 15 million

>> persistent landmines and significant amounts of unexploded ordnance. Iraq's

>> population is also threatened by large stocks of abandoned ordnance and

>> unstable, poorly secured munitions stockpiles.

>> Officials from the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Office of

>> Humanitarian Demining Programs have been in Iraq since April 2003. Their

>> mission has been to assess the threat to Iraqis from persistent landmines

>> and other explosive hazards, quickly launch landmine survey and demining

>> operations, and create from scratch a national Iraqi humanitarian mine

>> action program, in close coordination with the

>> Coalition Joint Task Force Commander, U.S. Central Command and in

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>> based in

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>> actively demining in the Al Hilla and Baghdad regions since May, assisted by

>> experts from RONCO Consulting Corporation under

>> contract to the Bureau. A fact sheet entitled "The U.S. Humanitarian
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>> <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm>>,
>> provides an overview of Iraq's persistent landmine threat and how the
>>United States
>> is helping to mitigate it and empower Iraqis to eventually rid themselves
>> of their legacy o> landmines and other explosive remnants war.
>> [End]
>> Released on August 6, 2003

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Creation of (Another?) Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 3:17 PM

From: Richard Walker <reo@eohio.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sir,

I have a modest landmine information page, if you have a link on the Re:Ref: I would be pleased to post it on www.blastersdepot.com. Thanks, Dick Walker

----- Original Message -----

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, September 19, 2003 4:19 PM

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 3:12 PM

From: Joesesee@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Hendrik,

if you (or one of your guys) had joined the great event in Brussels this week, your questions are not longer crying for an answer!

it is an old game to ask others first, then to go to find an answer by oneself.

good luck

JOE

Subject: MgM Demining Network: In spanish

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 2:04 PM

From: Electronica Aplicada <detectores@velocom.com.ar>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Regards

Edgardo Maffia - Buenos Aires - Argentina

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Información adicional en:

<http://www.amazings.com/ciencia/noticias/170903b.html> <<http://www.amazings.com/ciencia/noticias/170903b.html>>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Creation of (Another?) Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 1:09 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

No mention of the huge UNOPS Mine Action Program in Northern Iraq?

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> self-sustaining. Conflicts in Iraq dating back to
> World War II left it
> infested with an estimated 10 to 15 million
> persistent landmines and
> significant amounts of unexploded ordnance. Iraq's
> population is also
> threatened by large stocks of abandoned ordnance and
> unstable, poorly
> secured munitions stockpiles.
> Officials from the Bureau of Political-Military
> Affairs' Office of
> Humanitarian Demining Programs have been in Iraq
> since April 2003. Their
> mission has been to assess the threat to Iraqis from
> persistent landmines
> and other explosive hazards, quickly launch landmine
> survey and demining

> operations, and create from scratch a national Iraqi
> humanitarian mine
> action program, in close coordination with the
> Coalition Joint Task Force
> Commander, U.S. Central Command and in cooperation
> with the United Nations.
> The Bureau's Quick Reaction Demining Force, based in
> Mozambique, has been
> actively demining in the Al Hilla and Baghdad
> regions since May, assisted by
> experts from RONCO Consulting Corporation under
> contract to the Bureau.
> A fact sheet entitled "The U.S. Humanitarian
> Demining Program in Iraq,"
> available at www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm
> <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm>>,
> provides an overview of Iraq's
> persistent landmine threat and how the United States
> is helping to mitigate
> it and empower Iraqis to eventually rid themselves
> of their legacy of
> landmines and other explosive remnants war.
> [End]
> Released on August 6, 2003

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Recon

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 8:55 AM

From: Reto Haeni <haeni@sipo.gess.ethz.ch>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear John, Hendrick and all

John writes that ArcPad should interface fine with IMSMA GIS. This is indeed the case for certain operations and I am taking the liberty to make a few brief comments on this.

ArcPad has limited functionality as it is based upon a much less powerful hardware (obviously) as ArcView does. In that respect the IMSMA functionality itself is not available on ArcPad (at least at the moment - we are thinking about and working in cooperation with others on bringing handheld tools to the field).

However, getting back to where we are today, IMSMA GIS has already in it's current (and previous) version the built-in functionality (select in the IMSMA GIS "Tools" and then "Export View") to export information to ArcPad (see attached screenshot). The idea is that ArcPad running on handheld computers can be used in the field to access information on known hazardous areas that has been compiled before at the MAP (or another organization using IMSMA). With this people with a handheld running ArcPad can easily import hazard and other information (e.g. roads, rivers, maps etc) onto their handhelds and if this handheld has a built-in GPS (or is connected to a GPS) have a "moving map" that will show them what known hazardous areas are located around them. More information on these areas can then be accessed by using the "identify" tool of ArcPad.

I don't want to raise now a big discussion if one should trust the hazard information that you will see around you on your handheld device if you use this tool. Maps can be (probably are) inaccurate or are not correctly projected or... and the hazard information received from the IMSMA export can be inaccurate or incomplete. You will see exactly what has been entered into the IMSMA system at exactly the location where it has been entered. All of you know better than I what errors can occur until information is entered into a computer. All in all such a tool can only be what it is - a tool that gives you the best available information in an easy to use way. It will not replace common sense and has to be used in an informed manner to avoid a false security. Common sense is still needed as much as before and just because my handheld doesn't show me a threat where I am or where I go does not mean that there is none.

Cheers

Reto

Reto Haeni
Program Manager IMSMA Development
Center for Security Studies
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

-----Original Message-----

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC [mailto:ehlers@mgm.org]
Sent: Thursday, 18 September, 2003 15:51
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Recon

Hi Hendrik, I could not post this to the list but feel free to repost for me if you want! Just be sure to include that disclaimer note.

Cheers, John

-----Original Message-----

From: Walker, John MR
Sent: Thursday, 18 September, 2003 08:15
To: 'network@mgm.org'
Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm

Hi Hendrik, good topic!
Hi Hendrik, good topic!

I assume you are talking about the Trimble Recon running PocketPC operating system with ESRI ArcPad? I have not used ArcPad but I understand that US Army combat engineers are evaluating it for UXO mapping. Anyone else with experience?

ArcPad works with ArcView 3.x so it should interface fine with IMSMA GIS. The ESRI website has info on a package deal; <http://www.esri.com/software/arcpad/> or "ArcPad with Trimble's Recon http://www.esri.com/partners/hardware/trimble-recon_arcpad.pdf" (506 KB file). You can get the ArcPad documentation at <http://gis.esri.com/download/index.cfm?downloadid=324> (careful -- 10.5 MB exe!).

Not an endorsement or recommendation_ just some links!!!!

My 2-year old 1st generation PocketPC died recently, but I liked it; as you say it was a 'handheld PC' more than a PDA (which the Palm is arguably better for). I would enjoy hearing of your experience w/ the Trimble if you buy some!

My understanding is that ArcPad will run on any of the newer PocketPCs (check 1st with ESRI!) but not Palm OS -- which would rule out Garmin's new Palm with integrated GPS.

Cheers, John

John Walker, Training Specialist
<http://www.wood.army.mil/hdtdc/>

Disclaimer note: This is a technical issue email only, politely sent in response to a professional question by a mine action colleague!!! Nothing in this email represents anything more than the personal thoughts of the originator. Nothing in this email represents any official positions or policies of, or implies any endorsements by, HDTC or the US government!!!

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: I'm out of forum!

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 6:25 AM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi all

My Internet provider has some technical problems, that's why I'm out of forum from 11 of September. My reserved mailbox is fortenterprise@umail.ru <mailto:fortenterprise@umail.ru> .

Phone/fax +7 095 3330443, mobile +7 916 3814952.

Best regards

Andrey

Subject: MgM Demining Network: LEAP back into the dark

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 5:57 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Ashley,

Lots of work has been done on the forces a soldier might expect when inside a vehicle - much of it classified - but I wonder why you are interested? The person is a lot further away than they would be if they stepped on an AP blast mine.

Looking at your email address I see that Aegis is still going?..... [Others should know that Aegis is a manufacturer of blast-resistant boots.]

I understand that you have trawled past MgM messages and so know the general forum opinion about blast-boots that offer limited protection even when the threat is below 50g HE. You will also be familiar with the argument that a deminer should not need to wear blast resistant boots even if they were effective - because he is clearing land before he steps on it. If he is not - he is not engaged in Humanitarian Demining.

You will also know about the US Department of Defence LEAP study in which a range of supposedly blast-resistant boots were tested using cadavers. In the past, I have applauded that study publicly - so I should also say something publicly when I have found out something that conflicts with its findings.... Even when it is a little embarrassing personally.

I was told that a research group had been contracted to compare the LEAP results against the outcome of real events recorded in the Database of Demining Accidents that I put together. As far as I know, this comparative report has not been made public - and in any case I have not seen it. But I was told that the results were at variance - so I took a quick look at the LEAP results compared to the outcome of real accidents myself.

There is no doubt that the severity of injuries recorded in LEAP (and the predictions of subsequent surgical intervention that would be required) is far worse than what really happens. (The results are almost as exaggerated as those recorded by Med-Eng when trying to predict the effect of AP blast mines on kneeling deminers!) This implies that something was wrong with the way that the LEAP group drew conclusions, if not the testing methods. The cadavers were very old and the frozen/thawed corpses had been cut about to fit pressure transducers internally. Maybe that is why the results were at odds with reality? Perhaps the medical specialists were too strict about cutting high to avoid infection? Maybe the explosive charges did not accurately simulate mines? Or maybe there was just something awry with the methods of data assessment employed?

Whatever the reason, it seems that it would be worth looking again at the LEAP data to see whether the error could be compensated for by making changes in the method of evaluation (rather than conducting the entire tests again). Using data from real accidents as a control, it may be able to adjust predicted severity fairly easily. If not, I would like someone to consider funding a second LEAP study - one which drew relevant lessons from the first.

Currently, the "proof" that the study gives over the pointlessness of wearing blast-boots is brought into question. Those who know me will know

that I dislike the whole idea of wearing footwear that MIGHT protect against some mines while offering no real protection against most. I believe it gives false confidence, encourages sloppy work, makes the wear too clumsy to work, and that the disrupted boot can actually increase injury to the opposing leg or as high as the pelvis in the same limb. But because LEAP confirmed many of my opinions, I did not seek to verify its conclusions against reality - which was sloppy of me given that I have all the accident data to hand.

The upshot is - while I believe that the data gathered in LEAP may still yield valuable conclusions - I can no longer refer to the current publication as the "definitive" and objective "scientific" proof that current blast-boot concepts provide such poor protection against injury that there is no point in ever wearing them.... It did not actually say this, of course, but the results drew the informed reader direct to that conclusion.

On the other hand Ashley, please understand that I will still argue as hotly as ever against any hyped-up manufacturer's claims that encourage limited PPE funds to be wasted on so called "blast-boots". If people would only wear 5mm polycarbonate visors and replace them every 250 days of wear (or sooner), many eyes would be saved - and you could get five visor faces for one cheap pair of balancing-boots.

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Cracken' DGPS

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003 5:51 AM

From: Office Whk <office.windhoek@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

The use of DGPS in HD has a very peculiar side aspect: It rules itself out.

Okay, we can buy or lease the kit and take exact measurements. We then draw maps containing exact information on cleared and uncleared areas and proudly hand them in to the national database.

Five years later a farmer wants to know where he can build his new house or extend the pasting area. He is a clever farmer and walks to the national database. They give him a piece of paper with some strange figures. All he has to do is hack these numbers into a PC, connect it to a DGPS and he will find our original data meticulously accurate.

The alternative to this, as formulated by one of the real survey gurus of humanitarian demining on the first real HD conf in Geneva in 1995 is to walk around in an area and take a series of single GPS with 25 meter accuracy of visual waypoints like the big tree, the crossing or 2.5 km on the left behind the bridge. Then you take either one of the waypoints or a point defined by crossing lines and from there you go with a meter and a compass.

You have done three things now:
You have defined your area exactly,
you have saved a lot of money and
you have created something which is reproducible on local level even if the end-users don't have a GPS.

But the GPS data, as inaccurate it may be (well, at least the datum should be correct), have a very important role to play here: The waypoints are no more and no less than the MAC database ID to that specific location.

We have used/trialled a number of agricultural-type DGPS and found it not worth in "normal" HD Ops, but the moment we talk about robots moving in hazardous areas out of sight, this is what you really need.

The alternative to DGPS is a system like Omnistar. You have only one GPS which is linked by Satellite to a fixed base station. As the position of the base station is known, the differentiation of errors leading to accuracy depending on calculation/correction time takes only a few minutes. The base station for Southern Africa is in Luanda, Angola, and hardly anybody knows it. Just imagine if the National Database would link up and keep records of e.g. their impact survey people connecting... May be just too practical?

In Northern Namibia the GiS experts of LuxDevelopment NGO georeferenced aerial photography and cross-referenced it with census etc data. If somebody wants to know the boundaries of a property, he or she just walks to a little office in town, pays US\$ 3 and receives an A2 sized print out with an overview for orientation and zoom down to the corner stones. May be just too practical, too ?

Oh, and the survey guru didn't really formulate it. He mumbled it in

some strange kind of canadian/auzi/kiwi UN-gibberish and nobody could understand him. This is why it is still differently done in many places.
Hi Dave !

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Recon

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 5:35 PM

From: Dave & Jayne Humphreys <dcjlh@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I have used a ruggedised Recon handheld recently with Imap as the mapping software. The other PDF functions were only used for note taking etc. The unit is great and easy to use. I used it in association with a DGPS unit and used it to conform survey pegs and to set out search grids for UXO remediation as opposed to demining. What is the general feeling for using DGPS.. Is there any laid down minimum accuracy requirements ie DHOP Dilution of horizontal position etc. On a good day we were within 0.25 of a metre with a DHOP of 2. The maps produced looked good on reports and you could adjust these on a lap top when you downloaded from the field i.e to tidy up put on layers with photos etc.

Is DGPS a tool that is widely used? Does anyone rely on just GPS. What do you back it all up with if you use it?

Thanks Dave.

>From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Recon

>Date: Thu, 18 Sep 2003 15:50:33 +0200

>

>Hi Hendrik, I could not post this to the list but feel free to repost
>for me

>if you want! Just be sure to include that disclaimer note.

>

>Cheers, John

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Walker, John MR

>Sent: Thursday, 18 September, 2003 08:15

>To: 'network@mgm.org'

>Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm

>

>

>Hi Hendrik, good topic!

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>

>I assume you are talking about the Trimble Recon running PocketPC

>operating system with ESRI ArcPad? I have not used ArcPad but I

>understand that US Army combat engineers are evaluating it for UXO

>mapping. Anyone else with experience?

>

>ArcPad works with ArcView 3.x so it should interface fine with IMSMA

>GIS. The ESRI website has info on a package deal;

><http://www.esri.com/software/arcpad/> or

>"ArcPad with Trimble's Recon

>http://www.esri.com/partners/hardware/trimble-recon_arcpad.pdf" (506 KB

>file). You can get the ArcPad documentation at

><http://gis.esri.com/download/index.cfm?downloadid=324> (careful -- 10.5

>MB exe!).

>

>_Not an endorsement or recommendation_ just some links!!!!

>

>My 2-year old 1st generation PocketPC died recently, but I liked it; as
>you say it was a 'handheld PC' more than a PDA (which the Palm is
>arguably better for). I would enjoy hearing of your experience w/ the
>Trimble if you buy some!
>
>My understanding is that ArcPad will run on any of the newer PocketPCs
>(check 1st with ESRI!) but not Palm OS -- which would rule out Garmin's
>new
>Palm with integrated GPS.
>
>Cheers, John

>
>_____
>John Walker, Training Specialist
><http://www.wood.army.mil/hdtd/>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: G force from land mine explosions

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 12:07 PM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Pete,

I would be interested in seeing some of the information you have - could you please contact me directly on ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk

Thanks

Ashley

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Pete Hindy

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 3:40 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: G force from land mine explosions

I have a complete study for personel but not for vehicles.

Pete

Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 7:18 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: G force from land mine explosions

> Dear All,

>

> Has anyone carried out any research into the g force that a vehicle's

> occupants would encounter if their vehicle detonated a land mine?

>

> My understanding is that whilst a pilot can tolerate 8 -12g over a sustained

> period (seconds) the human body can withstand far higher g forces if the

> exposure is in milliseconds. I have been able to discover that the g

> force

> from a explosion shock wave will last a matter of c 12 milliseconds but I

> can find no studies on the g forces that a human can withstand for a few

> milliseconds.

>

> Can anyone shed any light on this issue?

>

> Regards

> Ashley

>

>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: G force from land mine explosions
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 10:40 AM
From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

I have a complete study for personel but not for vehicles.

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----
From: "Ashley Dean" <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 7:18 AM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: G force from land mine explosions

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> Ashley
>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 10:00 AM

From: fastrydom@worldonline.co.za

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Also get in touch with Alvis OMC in South Africa - Mr Hennie Smit -
Tel. +27 11 747 3384 - Fax. +27 11 845 1379 - E-mail : Hennies@alvisomc.co.za. A sister
company (situated in Norway) of Alvis OMC might also be able to assist.

Regards,

Andre strydom

> You could also try Luigi Quaroni of DEMCO (Demining Equipment
> Manufacturing Co) in South Africa. They fit flails and rollers to
> caterpillars and others. Unfortunately I only have a tel and fax number:

>

> Tel: +27 - 11 - 393 2092/3705

> Fax: +27 - 11 - 976 4508

>

> Best Neuma

>

> Neuma Grobbelaar

> Deputy Director of Studies

> South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

> PO Box 31596

> Braamfontein

> 2017

> South Africa

>

> Tel: +27 - 11 - 339 2021

> Fax: +27 - 11 - 339 2154

> e-mail: grobbelaarn@saiia.wits.ac.za

>

>

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> immediately.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Pete Hindy" <phindy@webhart.net>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 5:57 PM

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

>

>

> > I think maybe IMI in Isreal since they truly understand the "scope and
> > tasks" a dozer can be used for. Also maybe DRES in Canada (DND).

> >

> > Hope it helps...

> >

> > UBIQUE!!

> >

> > Pete

> > ZG

> > ----- Original Message -----

> > From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

> > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 7:53 AM
> > Subject: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???
> >
> >
> > > There is a demining company asking our neighbor WMF - Windhoek
> > > Maschinenfabriek (the builder of Wolf and WerWolf) to fit a flail to
> > > a
> > > Cat D6.
> > >
> > > Anybody knows a website or similar with some info on this? As we in
> > > MgM
> > > and HEC do never use flails, we cannot help.
> > >
> > > Thx
> > >
> > > Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
> > > Director OPS + HEC-R&D
> > > Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
> > > ehlers@mgm.org
> > > www.mgm.org
> > > cel +264 81 1277020
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Recon
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 9:50 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Hendrik, I could not post this to the list but feel free to repost for me if you want! Just be sure to include that disclaimer note.

Cheers, John

-----Original Message-----

From: Walker, John MR
Sent: Thursday, 18 September, 2003 08:15
To: 'network@mgm.org'
Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm

Hi Hendrik, good topic!
Hi Hendrik, good topic!

I assume you are talking about the Trimble Recon running PocketPC operating system with ESRI ArcPad? I have not used ArcPad but I understand that US Army combat engineers are evaluating it for UXO mapping. Anyone else with experience?

ArcPad works with ArcView 3.x so it should interface fine with IMSMA GIS. The ESRI website has info on a package deal;
<http://www.esri.com/software/arcpad/> or
"ArcPad with Trimble's Recon
http://www.esri.com/partners/hardware/trimble-recon_arcpad.pdf" (506 KB file). You can get the ArcPad documentation at
<http://gis.esri.com/download/index.cfm?downloadid=324> (careful -- 10.5 MB exe!).

Not an endorsement or recommendation_ just some links!!!!

My 2-year old 1st generation PocketPC died recently, but I liked it; as you say it was a 'handheld PC' more than a PDA (which the Palm is arguably better for). I would enjoy hearing of your experience w/ the Trimble if you buy some!

My understanding is that ArcPad will run on any of the newer PocketPCs (check 1st with ESRI!) but not Palm OS -- which would rule out Garmin's new Palm with integrated GPS.

Cheers, John

John Walker, Training Specialist
<http://www.wood.army.mil/hdtdc/>

Disclaimer note: This is a technical issue email only, politely sent in response to a professional question by a mine action colleague!!! Nothing in this email represents anything more than the personal thoughts of the originator. Nothing in this email represents any official positions or policies of, or implies any endorsements by, HDTC or the US government!!!

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: G force from land mine explosions

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 5:48 AM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear All,

Has anyone carried out any research into the g force that a vehicle's occupants would encounter if their vehicle detonated a land mine?

My understanding is that whilst a pilot can tolerate 8 -12g over a sustained period (seconds) the human body can withstand far higher g forces if the exposure is in milliseconds. I have been able to discover that the g force from a explosion shock wave will last a matter of c 12 milliseconds but I can find no studies on the g forces that a human can withstand for a few milliseconds.

Can anyone shed any light on this issue?

Regards
Ashley

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2003 5:28 AM

From: Mike Blackbrough <service@bomford-turner.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrick

Good morning.

In response I would ask that you would pass on our details.

We are Bomford Turner Ltd with a website www.bomford-turner.com We manufacture flail vegetation control equipment generally for the agricultural tractor. We have limited experience with our flails in minefield. Contact can be made via our website details.

Best regards

Mike Blackbrough

-----Original Message-----

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

To: network@mgm.org <network@mgm.org>

Date: 17 September 2003 11:23

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

>There is a demining company asking our neighbor WMF - Windhoeker
>Maschinenfabriek (the builder of Wolf and WerWolf) to fit a flail to a
>Cat D6.

>

>Anybody knows a website or similar with some info on this? As we in MgM
>and HEC do never use flails, we cannot help.

>

>Thx

>

>Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM

>Director OPS + HEC-R&D

>Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia

>ehlers@mgm.org

>www.mgm.org

>cel +264 81 1277020

>fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 11:57 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I think maybe IMI in Isreal since they truly understand the "scope and tasks" a dozer can be used for. Also maybe DRES in Canada (DND).

Hope it helps...

UBIQUE!!

Pete

ZG

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 7:53 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

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> Maschinenfabriek (the builder of Wolf and WerWolf) to fit a flail to a
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> Anybody knows a website or similar with some info on this? As we in MgM
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>
> Thx

>
> Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
> Director OPS + HEC-R&D
> Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
> ehlers@mgm.org
> www.mgm.org
> cel +264 81 1277020
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Creation of Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 10:32 AM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Belated network posting of U.S. Department of State Media Note that was originally released on August 6, 2003.

Media Note

Office of the Spokesman

U.S. Department of State

Washington, DC

August 6, 2003

Creation of Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Program

On July 31, 2003, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, presided over the graduation of 45 Iraqi humanitarian deminers in Baghdad trained in middle management under an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' humanitarian mine action program. This marks a critical step in helping Iraq to develop and manage its own indigenous, civilian-run National Mine Action Authority and National Mine Action Center.

The U. S. goal is to enable the Iraqi program to meet international mine action standards, operate in a transparent fashion, and become self-sustaining. Conflicts in Iraq dating back to World War II left it infested with an estimated 10 to 15 million persistent landmines and significant amounts of unexploded ordnance. Iraq's population is also threatened by large stocks of abandoned ordnance and unstable, poorly secured munitions stockpiles.

Officials from the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs have been in Iraq since April 2003. Their mission has been to assess the threat to Iraqis from persistent landmines and other explosive hazards, quickly launch landmine survey and demining operations, and create from scratch a national Iraqi humanitarian mine action program, in close coordination with the Coalition Joint Task Force Commander, U.S. Central Command and in cooperation with the United Nations. The Bureau's Quick Reaction Demining Force, based in Mozambique, has been actively demining in the Al Hilla and Baghdad regions since May, assisted by experts from RONCO Consulting Corporation under contract to the Bureau. A fact sheet entitled "The U.S. Humanitarian Demining Program in Iraq," available at www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22184.htm>>, provides an overview of Iraq's persistent landmine threat and how the United States is helping to mitigate it and empower Iraqis to eventually rid themselves of their legacy of landmines and other explosive remnants war.

[End]

Released on August 6, 2003

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 8:03 AM

From: Neuma Grobbelaar <GrobbelaarN@SAIIA.wits.ac.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

You could also try Luigi Quaroni of DEMCO (Demining Equipment Manufacturing Co) in South Africa. They fit flails and rollers to caterpillars and others. Unfortunately I only have a tel and fax number:

Tel: +27 - 11 - 393 2092/3705

Fax: +27 - 11 - 976 4508

Best Neuma

Neuma Grobbelaar
Deputy Director of Studies
South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
PO Box 31596
Braamfontein
2017
South Africa

Tel: +27 - 11 - 339 2021

Fax: +27 - 11 - 339 2154

e-mail: grobbelaarn@saiia.wits.ac.za <mailto:grobbelaarn@saiia.wits.ac.za>

This e-mail may contain information which is confidential and protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise immediately.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Pete Hindy" <phindy@webhart.net <mailto:phindy@webhart.net> >

To: <network@mgm.org <mailto:network@mgm.org> >

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 5:57 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

> I think maybe IMI in Isreal since they truly understand the "scope and
> tasks" a dozer can be used for. Also maybe DRES in Canada (DND).

>

> Hope it helps...

>

> UBIQUE!!

>

> Pete

> ZG

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org <mailto:ehlers@mgm.org> >

> To: <network@mgm.org <mailto:network@mgm.org> >

> Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 7:53 AM
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???

>
>
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>> Maschinenfabrik (the builder of Wolf and WerWolf) to fit a flail to a
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>> Anybody knows a website or similar with some info on this? As we in MgM
>> and HEC do never use flails, we cannot help.

>>
>> Thx
>>
>> Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
>> Director OPS + HEC-R&D
>> Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
>> ehlers@mgm.org <mailto:ehlers@mgm.org>
>> www.mgm.org <http://www.mgm.org>
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digest@mgm.org> >
> Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org <mailto:network-
request@mgm.org> >

>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Trimble Palm
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 6:47 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks

We are planning to kit our Angolan teams with Trimble Palms (handheld PC with built-in GPS), but want to run an IMSMA like and compatible user-interface. Anybody done that already?

Thx

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
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cel +264 81 1277020
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Flails on D6 ???
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 6:23 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

There is a demining company asking our neighbor WMF - Windhoeker Maschinenfabriek (the builder of Wolf and WerWolf) to fit a flail to a Cat D6.

Anybody knows a website or similar with some info on this? As we in MgM and HEC do never use flails, we cannot help.

Thx

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Croatia International Deminer Visa changes

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2003 12:09 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All,

Just heard this straight from the Visa Ministry here in Zagreb. To whom it may concern or is interested after January 1st 2004 one will Not be required to have a Croatian Deminers licence to work for any company in Croatia and hence through the company get a work visa for that. That means 100% Croatian companys can employ Internationals if they wish to work for Croat Firms. On another note I would imagine the pay salary reflects the state of economy as well.

For more information contact Lidija Korabek-Visa Ministry @ 011-385-1-6169-111/6126-000

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

Subject: MgM Demining Network: BBC: Hopes rise in war on landmines

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2003 3:57 AM

From: Daniel H. Wolf <TerraSegura@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Last Updated: Sunday, 14 September, 2003, 23:15 GMT 00:15 UK

BBC News World Edition

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/3108530.stm>

Hopes rise in war on landmines

Stuart Hughes

BBC News

Afghan mine victim Mohammad

Wali Gul tries on new artificial legs

Around 600 delegates are gathering in Bangkok on Monday for the fifth annual meeting of signatories to the Ottawa mine ban treaty and there is genuine cause for optimism.

Over the past year, another nine countries have joined the treaty, which prohibits the production, stockpiling and use of landmines.

They include Afghanistan and Cyprus, which are both affected by mines.

A number of other governments have taken big steps toward joining the 136 countries that have already ratified the treaty.

In the 12 months to May, four million stockpiled landmines were destroyed.

Each landmine that is safely detonated lessens the threat from these indiscriminate weapons of death and mutilation.

It was in April when I was covering the conflict in Iraq for the BBC that I stepped on a landmine and lost my right foot and lower leg.

Soon after I became a patron of the Manchester-based mine clearance charity, the Mines Advisory Group.

Long-lasting scourge

Funding for mine clearance programmes has risen and, most importantly, the number of people killed and injured is down in the majority of mine-affected countries.

Every day, courage is needed to rid the world of mines

Dozens of countries have stopped producing landmines and the global trade in the weapons has dwindled to mainly low-level black market sales.

But despite these positive developments, landmines continue to represent a

major problem in some of the poorest countries in the world.

It is estimated that almost 80 countries - including China, Russia, the USA, Pakistan and India - have stockpiled around 200 million landmines.

Thousands of people in 65 countries were killed or injured by mines last year.

Two-thirds of these countries were not at war - but the brutal reality of these horrific weapons is that they continue to claim casualties for decades after the guns have fallen silent.

I know all too well that rehabilitation after a landmine accident is a long and intensive process.

Yet in dozens of countries the care available to treat mine victims is inadequate.

This can have a devastating effect on survivors, meaning farmers are unable to tend their crops and feed their families, women struggle to reach wells to collect safe drinking water and children cannot walk to school in remote villages.

Daily dangers

The United States is at the centre of the debate over landmines.

The US remains the largest donor to mine clearance projects, giving more than \$70 million last year.

Even so, the US has slashed its mine action funding in recent years and has yet to conclude a review of landmine policy begun more than two years ago.

Washington urgently needs to show leadership by signing up to the mine ban treaty.

In recent weeks, the dangers faced daily by those who risk their lives in order to free communities from the scourge of landmines have been tragically highlighted.

On 4 September, Ian Rimell, a mine clearance expert from Kidderminster, western England, was ambushed and murdered near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Earlier in the day, he had cleared a scrapheap filled with ammunition and hidden explosives.

This week, as delegates in Thailand discuss plans for the universal implementation of the treaty, courageous individuals will be following Ian Rimell's example in Iraq, Cambodia, Angola, Kosovo and many other mine-scarred countries, ridding the world of these appalling weapons - one mine at a time.

Daniel H. Wolf
Terra Segura International
1846 Granada Avenue
San Diego, California 92102 USA
619-231-1320 tel
530-660-8054 fax

TerraSegura@compuserve.com email
www.TerraSegura.org website

"A mine is a wonderful thing to waste...."

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: can somebody talk about airborne-based ground-penetrating radar?

Date: Monday, September 15, 2003 9:14 AM

From: R Armstrong <lacie@volfirst.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

STOP SENDING EMAILS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Kong Lingjiang

Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2003 10:00 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: can somebody talk about airborne-based ground-penetrating radar?

Hi all,

i hope somebody can talk about airborne-based ground-penetrating radar for tunnel sounding.

1. is this technology mature at present?
2. does it need other sensors to help enhance image?
3. is this the promising technology for airborne-based tunnel sounding ?
4. can somebody tell me where i can download this kind of data?

thanks a lot.

Best Regards

Kong Lingjiang

在 2003-09-14 20:42:00 您写道:

>I am soon to be honorably discharged from the military and am interested in the starting a career in clearance of UXO. I am seeking an organization that conducts surveys and clearance operations of minefields, and other explosive hazards, around the world.

>

>I have a variety of experience with explosives and landmines to include surveying and marking minefields, as well as responding to calls of suspected UXO, while conducting operations in Croatia.

>

>If anyone has, or knows of any positions available please respond to this

email. I will gladly send a copy of my CV upon request.

>

>Thank you in advance.

>

>Marcus Hilger

>

>PO Box 12662

>

>Jacksonville, NC 28546

>

>hilgermd@yahoo.com

>

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>

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>Do you Yahoo!?

>Yahoo! SiteBuilder - Free, easy-to-use web site design software

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Clearance of UXO

Date: Monday, September 15, 2003 9:13 AM

From: R Armstrong <lace@volfirst.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

STOP SENDING EMAILS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org]**On Behalf Of** Marc Hilger

Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2003 9:43 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Clearance of UXO

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I have a variety of experience with explosives and landmines to include surveying and marking minefields, as well as responding to calls of suspected UXO, while conducting operations in Croatia.

If anyone has, or knows of any positions available please respond to this email. I will gladly send a copy of my CV upon request.

Thank you in advance.

Marcus Hilger

PO Box 12662

Jacksonville, NC 28546

hilgermd@yahoo.com

Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! SiteBuilder <http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=10469/*http://sitebuilder.yahoo.com> - Free, easy-to-use web site design software

Subject: MgM Demining Network: September 2003 UXO E-Newsletter From UXOInfo.com

Date: Monday, September 15, 2003 3:59 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: UXOInfo.com [mailto:newsletter@uxoinfo.com]

Gesendet: Montag, 15. September 2003 04:48

An: brocks@mgm.org

Betreff: September 2003 UXO E-Newsletter From UXOInfo.com

<<http://www.uxoinfo.com>>

<<http://207.5.17.69/uxoinfo/images/webdesign/zzenewsletter.gif>>

<<http://207.5.17.69/uxoinfo/images/ads/nmdlogosmall.gif>>

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) E-Newsletter For September 2003

Welcome to UXOInfo.com's free monthly e-newsletter on Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). UXOInfo.com is the largest site on the Internet for UXO related news and information. If you have not checked out the site, we encourage you to do so at www.uxoinfo.com. In addition to bringing you the latest UXO news and information, the site also provides the following:

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2. Ordnance / UXO Photo Gallery
3. Documentation Sharing
1. UXO Regulations, Policy and Laws
2. UXO Site Inventory
3. Questions and Answers

We issue an e-newsletter every month on or around the first that provides you with important news, information, report releases, and user statistics of the site from the previous month. For information on how to advertise with UXOInfo.com email us at advertising@uxoinfo.com <<mailto:advertising@uxoinfo.com>> .

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30 August 2003

U.S. Provides Demining Training to Sri Lankan Army

Last month UXOInfo.com reported that the State Department plans to sponsor the training of Iraqi deminers under the humanitarian demining program. A similar agreement was recently signed with the Sri Lankan Army. The U.S. and Sri Lankan Governments signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that provides demining training to the Sri Lankan Army. Austin Fernando, Secretary, Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence and James F. Entwistle, U.S. Embassy signed the MOU.

Under the MOU, six demining experts (including four Americans) will train Sri Lankan military personnel in demining techniques. The training will cost approximately 2.2 million dollars and is scheduled to continue through the beginning of 2004. The training provided under this program is a continuation of U.S. assistance in demining in Sri Lanka. In 2002, an American-funded effort removed nearly 1,000 mines and 150 UXO from the Jaffna Peninsula. In 2003, a second U.S. sponsored effort cleared additional acreage.

The Following is a paid advertisement From:

<<http://207.5.17.69/uxoinfo/images/ads/vallon.gif>>

Attention UXO Professionals - 30th September to 1st October, 2003

Vallon GmbH, Germany, is one of the leading manufacturers of Mine Detectors, Bomb Locators and Evaluation Software. Because of the completion of a new generation of Mine Detectors, Vallon is offering an International Workshop for users from 30 September to 01 October, 2003 in Eningen/Germany.

In addition to the presentation of Vallon's systems and tools for UXO and Mine Detection, corresponding lectures will be offered by international specialists followed by live demonstrations on their test field.

Charges for this conference will be born by Vallon GmbH. Participants are responsible for hotel accommodations and travel expenses.

For more information and registration please contact
<<mailto:vallon@vallon.de>> vallon@vallon.de or check out
<http://www.vallon.de>.

where is the image <<http://207.5.17.69/uxoinfo/images/ads/vallon1.jpg>>

13 August 2003

World War II Bombs Found in German Lake

Berlin Germany - Europe has been experiencing an unusually hot and dry season. As a result, water levels in lakes across the area have fallen dramatically. When the water level fell at Lake Constance in southern Germany, eight World War II (WW II) bombs were exposed. Four of the unexploded bombs were British phosphorous bombs, three were 200-lbs American bombs and at least one was a 500-lbs American bomb. It is believed that Allied pilots dropped many of their bombs into the lake because they had to jettison their loads before flying into neutral Switzerland's airspace. Over

the years, numerous hand grenades dating back to both WWI and WWII have washed ashore at the same lake.

22 August 2003

Military Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol Published For Comment

The Department of Defense (DoD) published an updated Military Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol in the Federal Register for public comment. The protocol will be used by DoD to prioritize sites that contain or are suspected to contain UXO, discarded military munitions (DMM), or munitions constituents (MC). The protocol contains three modules: an explosives hazards module; a chemical warfare materiel (CWM) hazards module; and a module on the environmental hazards posed by MC. The three modules are individually scored then combined to arrive at one of eight prioritization categories (prioritization 1-8, with priority 1 being the highest). The protocol will also be used for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). It is unclear how the Risk Assessment Code (RAC) currently calculated for FUDS factors into or compares with the prioritization score.

Comments on the protocol will be accepted through 20 November 2003. Written comments can be sent to P.O. Box 4231, McLean, VA 22103-4231. UXOInfo.com users may also email their comments to information@uxoinfo.com for forwarding to the DoD.

To view the latest protocol Click

<<http://207.5.17.69/uxoinfo/downloads/03-21013.pdf%20>> Here

05 September 2003

GAO Releases Report On Chemical Weapons Destruction Program - Recent Reorganization Efforts Are Not Helping

Source GAO Website <http://www.gao.gov/atext/d031031.txt>

<<http://www.gao.gov/atext/d031031.txt>>

Over the years, Congress has expressed concerns about the Chemical Demilitarization (Chem Demil) Program cost and schedule, as well as its management structure. In response, the program underwent a major reorganization in 2001. In 2003, Congress asked the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to examine the effectiveness of the reorganization effort and to assess the progress DOD and the Army have made in meeting the revised 2001 cost and schedule deadlines.

The GAO concluded in their report *Chemical Weapons: Sustained Leadership, Along With Key Strategic Management Tools, Is Needed to Guide DOD's Destruction Program* that the Chem Demil Program remains in turmoil because a number of long-standing leadership, organizational, and strategic planning issues remain unresolved. More specifically the GAO concluded that the program lacks stable leadership at the upper management levels. Further, recent reorganizations have done little to reduce the complex and fragmented organization of the program. As a result, roles and responsibilities are often unclear and program actions are not always coordinated. Finally, the absence of a comprehensive strategy leaves the program without a clear road map and methods to monitor program performance. Without these key elements, DOD and the Army have no assurance of meeting their goal to destroy the chemical stockpile in a safe and timely manner, and within cost estimates.

DOD and the Army have already missed several 2001 milestones and exceeded

cost estimates; the Army has raised the program cost estimates by \$1.2 billion, with other factors still to be considered. Almost all of the incineration sites will miss the 2001 milestones because of schedule delays due to environmental, safety, community relations, and funding issues. Although neutralization sites have not missed milestones, they have had delays. DOD and the Army have not developed an approach to anticipate and influence issues that could adversely impact program schedules, cost, and safety.

GAO recommends that DOD develop an overall strategy for the Chemical Demilitarization Program that would articulate the program's mission, identify the long-term goals and objectives, delineate the roles and responsibilities of all DOD and Army offices, and establish near-term performance measures. Also, DOD should implement a risk management approach that anticipates and influences internal and external factors that could adversely impact program performance.

This month's UXO story from the Front Lines in Iraq:
August 2003
U.S. Lead Coalition Forces Offer to Buy Ordnance in Iraq

In an effort to increase the number of weapons and ordnance removed from the streets of Iraq, the U.S. lead coalition forces are offering rewards for heavy weapons and information about hidden ordnance caches. Rocket projected grenades and surface to air missiles are important weapons to the coalition due to the high threat levels associated with these weapons. Surface to air missiles bring up to \$500 each. However, the military is more interested in catching individuals using the weapons than buying them. Iraqis are also encouraged to report UXO sightings to forces for disposal by military EOD forces.

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UXO Documents and Images Wanted

As always, UXOInfo.com is looking for UXO documents and images to increase the library of materials on the site. Documents and images can be emailed to information@uxoinfo.com <mailto:information@uxoinfo.com> or uploaded directly through the document sharing section of the site. We are also accept news stories from our users for posting.

UXOInfo.com would like to thank Wayne Schoer (Australian Army EOD Tech) and Chris (UN Peace Keeper) for their donations of UXO images.

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Mulvaney's On-Line Ordnance Technical Information System

Technical data on ordnance including filler information, explosive weights, photos and schematics. The developers of UXOInfo.com have completed the design of the technical ordnance information database. Data from ordnance technical manuals and publications (unclassified - publically available) will be uploaded into the database for easy access. For now check out the Grenade category for a good sample. Look for more ordnance to be added in the future. Also, UXOInfo.com is looking for more photos and images to populate the database, so please consider donating images and pictures to UXOInfo.com.

<http://uxoinfo.com/uxoinfo/mulaney_categories.cfm>
http://uxoinfo.com/uxoinfo/mulaney_categories.cfm

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<<http://www.uxoinfo.com>>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: can somebody talk about airborne-based ground-penetrating radar?

Date: Monday, September 15, 2003 12:00 AM

From: Kong Lingjiang <ljkong@uestc.edu.cn>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi all,

i hope somebody can talk about airborne-based ground-penetrating radar for tunnel sounding.

1. is this technology mature at present?
2. does it need other sensors to help enhance image?
3. is this the promising technology for airborne-based tunnel sounding ?
4. can somebody tell me where i can download this kind of data?

thanks a lot.

Best Regards

Kong Lingjiang

在 2003-09-14 20:42:00 您写道:

>I am soon to be honorably discharged from the military and am interested in the starting a career in clearance of UXO. I am seeking an organization that conducts surveys and clearance operations of minefields, and other explosive hazards, around the world.

>

>I have a variety of experience with explosives and landmines to include surveying and marking minefields, as well as responding to calls of suspected UXO, while conducting operations in Croatia.

>

>If anyone has, or knows of any positions available please respond to this email. I will gladly send a copy of my CV upon request.

>

>Thank you in advance.

>

>Marcus Hilger

>

>PO Box 12662

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>Jacksonville, NC 28546

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>hilgermd@yahoo.com

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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Clearance of UXO

Date: Sunday, September 14, 2003 11:42 PM

From: Marc Hilger <hilgermd@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I am soon to be honorably discharged from the military and am interested in the starting a career in clearance of UXO. I am seeking an organization that conducts surveys and clearance operations of minefields, and other explosive hazards, around the world.

I have a variety of experience with explosives and landmines to include surveying and marking minefields, as well as responding to calls of suspected UXO, while conducting operations in Croatia.

If anyone has, or knows of any positions available please respond to this email. I will gladly send a copy of my CV upon request.

Thank you in advance.

Marcus Hilger

PO Box 12662

Jacksonville, NC 28546

hilgermd@yahoo.com

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Iraq Eod pics

Date: Sunday, September 14, 2003 6:57 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Link with Pictures of USMC EOD in Iraq.

http://media.militaryphotos.net/photos/view_photo.php?set_albumName=USMC_EOD_in_Iraq&id=aag <http://media.militaryphotos.net/photos/view_photo.php?set_albumName=USMC_EOD_in_Iraq&id=aag>

Scroll through the slides to view the rest.

Regards,

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Revised U.S. State Dept. Fact Sheet: historic Milestones in human itarian mine action

Date: Friday, September 12, 2003 10:25 AM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Greetings. The Milestones that follow are a revision of an older document that has been improved and expanded, thanks in part to some helpful readers of the MgM network. An INCOMPLETE version of them was posted on the U.S. Department of State website back in July. When I discovered the error, I had the incomplete version removed and this new, complete version posted. I apologize to any readers who may have visited the U.S. Department of State website on their own in the interim and encountered the flawed version.

Here is the link to the complete, revised version:
<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/22948.htm>. To my chagrin, it contains a few line spacing problems in some of the entries but is otherwise OK. There will surely be an occasion in the future to revise this fact sheet further, perhaps adding additional factoids that YOU may suggest. When that time comes, I'll get even the tiniest flaws fixed.

For the convenient reference of some MgM readers, I am including the contents of the revised Milestones in simple text in the body of this message, following my AutoSignature. Many thanks to those readers who have sent notes confirming that they found the Milestones a useful reference tool. Special thanks to the folks at the U.S. Department of Defense, the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University, and those MgM subscribers who have contributed to the Milestones and provided me with helpful corrections and suggestions. Finally, thanks to Menschen gegen Minen for hosting this forum and providing such a valuable medium for sharing critical information, learning, and serving as a sounding board for us all.

Sincerely,

JOHN

Action Officer
Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships (PM/MAIP)
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
Suite 1826
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20547

Tel: (202) 647-0676
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PM/MAIP website: www.state.gov/t/pm/maip

FACT SHEET
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC
July 29, 2003
Milestones in Humanitarian Mine Action: Development of the Landmine Threat and the Discipline of Humanitarian Mine Action

These milestones were compiled with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Defense and the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University. The United States views the following as the "pillars" of humanitarian mine action: 1) mine detection and clearance; 2) mine risk education to populations threatened by landmines and unexploded ordnance; 3) survivors assistance to those maimed by landmines or other explosive remnants of war; and 4) research and development to improve the effectiveness of all aspects of the first three pillars.

1862 - One of the earliest known casualties of a landmine as defined today--a victim-activated device filled with explosive--is a Union soldier killed by a Confederate landmine during the U.S. Civil War. Five lethal Confederate landmines were discovered near Mobile, Alabama in the 1960s still lying in wait.

1914 - 1918 - Landmines are employed on a relatively small scale in some 19th century colonial campaigns and during the Russo-Japanese War (1902-1906) but do not become a major weapon of war until about 1918, late in the First World War. Anti-vehicle (anti-tank) mines are deployed to protect against tanks, a new invention at the time, and anti-personnel landmines are used to protect the anti-vehicle mines from destruction by opposing infantry units.

1939 - 1945 - During the Second World War, anti-personnel and anti-tank mines are employed in large quantities in all of that war's theaters. Significant quantities that were laid in some former war zones remain a menace to this day.

1945 - France, employing 49,000 German POWs as well as French civilians and military personnel, begins one of the earliest post-war efforts to methodically and comprehensively clear landmines and unexploded ordnance.

1970s - The U.S. Department of Defense begins replacing persistent ("dumb") anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines in its stockpiles with self-destructing and self-deactivating ("smart") landmines to prevent enemy use of U.S. landmines against U.S. forces and to minimize the threat to non-combatants.

October 1980 - The "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects," commonly known as the Convention on Conventional Weapons or "CCW," is created to regulate the use of all manner of non-detectable fragments, incendiaries, blinding laser weapons, and anti-personnel landmines (also see May 1996, December 1998, May 1999, June 2001, and December 2001 entries). This marks the first time there has been an effort to regulate the use of landmines. The United States takes the lead in drafting Protocol II, known as the Amended Mines Protocol, specifically to address landmines, booby traps, and other delayed-action devices.

June 1986 - U.S. Army Special Forces, deployed from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to south-central Honduras during the "Operation Lempira" foreign internal defense exercise, train Honduran Army engineers to clear landmines in civilian agricultural areas affected by conflict in Nicaragua that spilled over onto Honduran soil. The Special Forces' focus is training in humanitarian, rather than military, mine clearance. This marks the first recorded effort by the United States to engage in what is now commonly known as humanitarian mine action. An image of the operation can be viewed at <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/events/b/22970.htm>>.

October 1988 - Following careful analysis of the immense landmine threat in

Afghanistan stemming from the Soviet occupation, the United States helps establish a comprehensive program to clear landmines there. Today, this program, the UNMAS Mine Action Program for Afghanistan (MAPA), is the world's largest and most productive demining effort, staffed almost entirely by Afghans themselves. MAPA's use of local managers and employees, transparency, and diversified funding sources has served as a model for many other humanitarian mine action programs elsewhere. The term "humanitarian demining" is coined (now increasingly superseded by the term "humanitarian mine action") to differentiate the activities in Afghanistan from traditional military mine clearance and to reflect the degree of the landmine threat to civilians, their land and infrastructure.

October 1989 - The U.S. Agency for International Development establishes the War Victims Fund to respond to the needs of victims of conflict, to include survivors of accidents with landmines, unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war. Since 1989, the Fund, now called the Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund in honor of Senator Leahy of Vermont who espoused its establishment, has striven to expand access to affordable and appropriate prosthetic and orthotic services, providing more than \$92 million of such aid to 26 countries. To learn more, visit www.leahywarvictimsfund.org <<http://www.leahywarvictimsfund.org>>.

October 1992 - The United States unilaterally bans the export of its anti-personnel landmines. The U.S. Congress later formalizes this ban, per Public Law 102-484, Section 1365; 22 United States Code, 2778 note. In 2001, Congress amends the law, which was to expire in 2003, to expire on October 23, 2008. To examine this law on-line, go to <<http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>>, enter the word "landmines" in the search engine, click on "22 USC Sec. 2778" and scroll to Landmine Export Moratorium.

October 1992 - The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) is formed by a steering committee of non-governmental organizations consisting of Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, Medico International, Mines Advisory Group, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Eventually, the ICBL brings together over 1400 human rights and humanitarian mine action organizations in one of the most thorough information-gathering networks for mine action. To learn more, visit www.icbl.org <<http://www.icbl.org>>.

October 1993 - The United States formally establishes the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Program, an inter-agency (Department of State, Agency for International Development, Department of Defense) effort to provide a full range of assistance to mine affected countries that request U.S. help. Previously established U.S. humanitarian demining programs (Afghanistan 1988, Cambodia 1991, Kuwait 1991, northern Iraq 1992, Somalia 1991, El Salvador 1993, Mozambique 1993) are brought into the Program. It is difficult to quantify U.S. humanitarian demining funding outlays prior to October 1993, but since then the U.S. has spent over \$700 million. In December 2002, the program is formally renamed the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program to more accurately reflect the scope of its activities.

September 1994 - In an address to the UN General Assembly, President Bill Clinton becomes the first world leader to call for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines.

December 1994 - The U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs releases HIDDEN KILLERS: The Global Landmine Crisis, the first report to estimate the magnitude of the landmine threat in terms of numbers of mines laid and numbers of mine-related deaths and injuries. The fourth and final edition of HIDDEN KILLERS, released fall 2001, with

statistics on the generally reduced numbers of extant landmines and landmine casualties is still available at
<<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/hk/2001/6961.htm>>.

1995 - U.S. Special Operations Forces, who are adept at teaching various skills to foreign troops, begin training foreign deminers around the world in the techniques of humanitarian demining as a part of the U.S. "Train-the-Trainer" program."

1995 - The U.S. Army's Night Vision and Sensors Directorate (NVESD) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is tasked with performing research on promising new technologies to detect and clear landmines for humanitarian demining programs using everything from cutting edge science to off-the-shelf equipment that can be adapted for robust clearance operations. Prototypes are made available for rigorous field tests, funded by the NVESD, in mine affected countries. Plans for locally producing equipment that has passed these field tests are freely given to interested countries. To learn more, visit www.nvl.army.mil/text/technology.html
<<http://www.nvl.army.mil/text/technology.html>>.

March 1995 - Belgium becomes the first country to pass domestic laws banning the use or production of landmines as well as their export.

1996 - DC Comics mine awareness comic books, commissioned by the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency, are distributed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is the first attempt to disseminate mine awareness information (now called mine risk education) on a large scale using the easily accessible and attractive device of comic book heroes depicted in former war zone settings to help inculcate in children greater respect for the dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Subsequent customized editions are distributed in Central America in 1998 and in Kosovo in 1999-2000.

1996 - The first edition of Jane's Mines and Mine Clearance, edited by Colin King, is published by the Janes Information Group. This annually updated encyclopedia contains illustrations and technical detail on nearly all landmines and booby traps in existence along with the means to detect and clear them.

1996 - Sweden establishes the Swedish EOD and Demining Center (SWEDEC) in Eksjö with responsibility for training Swedish and foreign personnel in all aspects of military explosive ordnance disposal and in conducting research and development. SWEDEC staff have deployed to support humanitarian mine action programs in Afghanistan, the Balkans, Eritrea and Sri Lanka. SWEDEC helped establish Cambodia's mine detection dog program. To learn more, visit www.swedec.mil.se <<http://www.swedec.mil.se/>>.

January 1996 - Menschen gegen Minen (MgM), a German non-governmental organization engaged in humanitarian demining in Angola, Mozambique and Namibia, sets up the MgM Network, a free, real-time Internet forum in which demining practitioners, international relief workers, researchers, and others from around the world with an interest in human mine action, may exchange vital information, post inquiries or simply monitor Network traffic in order to gain additional knowledge about this field. To subscribe to the forum, visit www.mgm.org <<http://www.mgm.org>>, click on "Network," agree to abide by the rules, and follow the prompts.

May 1996 - The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Review Conference adopts the Amended Mines Protocol (AMP), which significantly improves the original 1980 Protocol. The AMP is made applicable to internal armed conflicts as well as international armed conflicts. To examine the AMP in detail, visit www.ccw-treaty.com/amendedmineprotocol.htm

<<http://www.ccwttreaty.com/amendedmineprotocol.htm>>.

June 1996 - The U.S. Secretary of Defense directs implementation of the President's new policy on anti-personnel landmines (APL). Key elements of the policy include: research and procurement of alternatives to APLs, exploration of operational doctrine, tactics and plans to reduce or eliminate the reliance on APLs, removal of non self-destructing anti-personnel landmines from basic ammunition loads (South Korea excepted), and expansion of humanitarian demining research and development and humanitarian demining training efforts.

September 1996 - The United States unilaterally begins removing its anti-personnel and anti-tank mines from the perimeter of the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo, Cuba. Clearance of the United States' last permanent minefield is completed in 1999. Quality assurance/verification is completed in May 2000.

September 1996 - The Mine Action Information Center (MAIC), funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (and also now the U.S. Department of State), is established at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to collect, process, analyze and disseminate information on all aspects of humanitarian mine action. An information clearinghouse with a comprehensive website (<http://maic.jmu.edu/about_us.htm>) useful to laymen and specialists alike, the MAIC also hosts conferences and symposia on landmine-related topics, develops mine awareness materials, produces Geographic Information Services (GIS) products and conducts surveys to improve mine action. The MAIC's Journal of Mine Action, published three times a year, is available online at <<http://maic.jmu.edu/journals/htm>>.

January 1997 - Princess Diana (1961-1997) visits Angola, a seriously mine-affected country, and helps to draw international attention to the global landmine problem.

February 1997 - The U.S. Department of Defense establishes the Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTTC) at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. The HDTTC serves as the U.S. Government's training and information center for humanitarian mine action, researches techniques on landmine use and demining, and incorporates current data into training programs to meet U.S. Department of Defense requirements. All programs of instruction are taught in accordance with internationally recognized standards. U.S. military graduates of the HDTTC have trained foreign deminers in all aspects of humanitarian mine action in over 32 countries. HDTTC trains deploying personnel of other U.S. Government agencies prior to their posting to areas of risk. HDTTC also manages a public outreach program (for example Landmine Studies students at Southwest Missouri State University have participated in hands-on familiarization events at the HDTTC). To learn more visit www.wood.army.mil/hdtc/ <<http://www.wood.army.mil/hdtc/>>.

October 1997 - The United States designates a Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Global Humanitarian Demining and establishes a supporting office, now called the Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, at the U.S. Department of State. The mission is to increase international cooperation and coordination for humanitarian mine action, raise U.S. public awareness of and support for humanitarian mine action via public-private partnerships, and coordinate research and development in humanitarian mine action. Visit www.state.gov/t/pm/maip/ <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/maip/>>. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, currently also serves as the Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Mine Action. Access his biography at www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/4303.htm

<<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/4303.htm>>.

October 1997 - The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is formed to serve as the UN focal point for humanitarian mine action. At the global level, it is responsible for coordinating all aspects of mine action within the UN system to ensure an effective and proactive response to landmine contamination. At the field level, UNMAS is responsible for providing mine action assistance during humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations. To learn more, visit www.mineaction.org
<<http://www.mineaction.org/>>.

November 1997 - The United Kingdom Mine Information and Training Center (MITC) is a British military initiative established at the Combat Engineer School in Surrey, England, to facilitate the flow of information about landmines between military and civilian organizations, and to train military, government and non-government organizations, civilians and students both at the MITC and overseas. Courses are given in Basic Humanitarian Demining and the delivery and receipt of Mine Risk Education. To learn more, visit www.mitc.royalengineers.com
<<http://www.mitc.royalengineers.com/>>.

December 1997 - The 1997 "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction," commonly referred to as the Ottawa Convention, is opened for signature in Ottawa, Canada. The United States participates in the Convention but ultimately declines to sign it due to unmet concerns relating to the protection of its forces and allies and the lack of exemptions for mixed munitions. To learn more about this Convention, visit <http://www.mineaction.org>, click on "Advocacy and Conventions," then click on "AP Mine Ban Convention."

December 1997 - The first edition of ORDATA, "The International Deminers Guide to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Identification, Recovery and Disposal" is released to the public in CD-ROM format by the U.S. Department of Defense. It achieves immediate success in providing the international demining community with a free, first-of-its-kind unclassified reference tool for identifying, recovering and disposing of UXO and landmines. Over 18,000 copies of the ORDATA series database have been distributed free of charge to the international demining community, as well as U.S. and foreign military and civilian bomb disposal technicians. ORDATA has since been followed by ORDATA II and KORDATA, and went on-line in May 2002 at <http://maic.jmu.edu/ordata/mission.asp>.

1998 - The Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), is established to support the mine action efforts of the international community and United Nations via mine action research, operational support for demining in the field and advocacy of the Ottawa Convention. The GICHD is an independent organization supported by Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Republic and Canton of Geneva. To examine the results of the GICHD's research on mine detecting dogs, socio-economic approaches to mine action, mechanical mine action systems, etc., visit www.gichd.ch <<http://www.gichd.ch/>>.

May 1998 - The U.S. Congress appropriates \$28 million for the International Trust Fund (ITF) for Demining and Victims Assistance, based in Ig, Slovenia, to assist mine affected countries in the Balkan region. The U.S. has since deposited a total of \$52 million as a match to contributions from other donor nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporations and individuals, enabling contributors to double the impact of their funding. In

2001, the ITF broadened its mandate to also support humanitarian mine action in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Contributions to the ITF, which have been matched by the United States, have come from a number of companies and NGOs, community-based organizations, schools, civic associations, faith-based groups and individuals, as well as the European Union, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Qatar, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. To learn more about the ITF, visit www.itf-fund.si <<http://www.itf-fund.si/>>.

June 1998 - The United States completes destruction of over 3.3 million of its non-self-destructing anti-personnel landmines, retaining only those necessary for training, research, and the defense of South Korea.

June 1998 - The United States establishes the Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. This Office is the lead U.S. Government entity that, as of July 2003, now manages humanitarian mine action assistance in 37 countries. This Office also publishes *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, an annual overview of the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action program that includes a synopsis of U.S. humanitarian mine action assistance to each country in the program, the nature of each country's landmine and unexploded ordnance problem, and progress being made in solving those problems. The publication is available online at www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/ <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/>>. For additional details about the Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/ <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/hdp/>>.

June 1998 - The first annual edition of *Landmine Monitor Report*, compiled under the auspices of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (see 1992 entry for ICBL), a comprehensive reference guide to landmine facts and statistics around the world including landmine casualties, is released. It is a valuable reference tool for all interested in humanitarian mine action. On-line issues may be downloaded from www.icbl.org/lm <<http://www.icbl.org/lm>>.

August 1998 - The Canadian Center for Mine Action Technologies (CCMAT) is established at the Canadian Forces Base Suffield in Southern Alberta to develop low cost, sustainable technology for humanitarian mine action as well as to support the development of the Canadian demining industry. CCMAT also now contributes its expertise and facilities to the International Test and Evaluation Program (see July 2000 entry for ITEP). To learn more, visit www.ccmata.gc.ca <<http://www.ccmata.gc.ca/>>.

September 1998 - Drawing on public data collected while under contract to the U.S. Department of Defense, AVS Consultants UK devises and disseminates the first database of demining accident victims. It includes details of the injuries sustained and how the accidents occurred. After its utility as a reference and training tool is established, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHHD) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) support the release of an approved version in May 2002. Further updates are planned. The latest release is called the *Database on Demining Accidents* and is available from Mr. Paul Ellis at the GICHHD. Email requests to p.ellis@gichd.ch <<mailto:p.ellis@gichd.ch>>.

December 1998 - The U.S.-drafted Amended Mines Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (AMP/CCW) enters into force.

1999 - The University of Denver's Center for Teaching International Relations (CTIR) develops a curricula about the global landmine problem

commissioned by the U.S. Department of State for use by educators to help students advance their knowledge of geography, history and other social sciences in general while becoming aware of the landmine problem in particular. The curriculum is available in modules for upper elementary, middle and high school students and is now online. To download the modules, go to www.du.edu/ctir/pubs_freeForm.html <http://www.du.edu/ctir/pubs_freeForm.html> and follow the instructions.

January 1999 - The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) to improve humanitarian deminers' capabilities for decision-making, coordination and information policy becomes the UN-approved standard for information systems that support humanitarian demining. Data is collected and evaluated in mine-affected countries' Mine Action Centers and entered into the IMSMA Field Module. Countries can then better coordinate, prioritize and execute demining activities. Information can also be transferred to the IMSMA Web Services where consolidation and analysis is performed. IMSMA was developed by the Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich on behalf of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (see 1998 entry for GICHD). To learn more about IMSMA or to examine IMSMA Webreports for Chad and Yemen, visit www.imsma.ethz.ch <<http://www.imsma.ethz.ch/>>.

March 1999 - The Royal Military College of Sciences at Cranfield University in Shrivenham, England, part of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, forms the Cranfield Mine Action unit (CMA) to support mine action work of the British government and of the UN. CMA's mine action professionals, academicians, and management experts also train mid-level and senior program managers of foreign national mine action centers. The U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs has underwritten some of this training (see www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/10989.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/10989.htm>> for an example.) To learn more, visit www.rcms.cranfield.ac.uk/cma <<http://www.rcms.cranfield.ac.uk/cma>>.

April 1999 - Flail machines, originally not thought by many practitioners to be of use in humanitarian demining, prove their efficacy in vegetation clearance in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in order to prepare the ground for manual and mine detecting dog team operations, significantly reducing the cost of clearance.

May 1999 - The United States ratifies the Amended Mines Protocol of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (AMP/CCW).

May 1999 - The First Meeting of States Parties to the 1997 Ottawa Convention takes place in Maputo, Mozambique. A key outcome is the creation of "intersessional meetings" throughout the year to address thematic and technical issues. Meetings of nations that are signatories to this Convention continue to be held annually in mine-affected nations.

February 2000 - A Study on Deminer Injuries, conceived, initiated and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, is released to the international demining community. Initially intended to help the U.S. Government design personal protective equipment, it breaks new ground in the medical analysis of deminer injury data. To examine the study, visit www.humanitariandemining.org <<http://www.humanitariandemining.org>>, click on "Personal Protection and Tools," then on "Personal Protection and Tools Publications," then on "Landmine Casualty Data Report: February 2000."

July 2000 - The United States, European Commission, Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Sweden sign a Memorandum of

Understanding establishing the International Test and Evaluation Program (ITEP) for Humanitarian Demining Equipment, Processes and Methods. ITEP provides the framework for a global network to develop universally accepted standards for test methodology, collecting, generating and disseminating objective data on humanitarian demining technology, and testing and evaluating demining equipment and systems in a cost-effective program. Germany became an ITEP participant in June 2002. To learn more, visit www.itep.ws/ <<http://www.itep.ws/>>.

August 2000 - The U.S. Department of Defense releases the final report of its Lower Extremity Assessment program which utilized full-body human cadavers to fully evaluate the mechanism of injury and determine current levels of protection provided by commercially produced landmine protective footwear. The research breaks new ground in the use of test instrumentation, in particular high-speed radiographic imaging (cineradiography). To examine this study, visit www.humanitariandemining.org <<http://www.humanitariandemining.org>>, click on "Landmine Injuries," then click on "Publications," then scroll to "Volume II - Final Report of the Lower Extremity Assessment Program (LEAP 99-2)."

October 2000 - The first-ever national landmine survey in a mine-affected country is completed in Yemen. This landmark event, funded by the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan and the private United Nations Foundation, is carried out by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, the Survey Action Center, and the Mine Clearance Planning Agency, an Afghan non-governmental organization. To learn more, see <<http://secretary.state.gov/www/briefings/statements/2000/ps001004a.html>>.

November 2000 - During the first visit to Vietnam by a U.S. President since the end of the conflict there, President Clinton pledges U.S. Government support to help eliminate landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Vietnam. Subsequently, the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of State provide three demining computer/software suites and related training in the first U.S. military training deployment to Vietnam since 1975. The U.S. continues to assist Vietnam in conducting decontamination of mine and UXO-affected areas and to begin a series of socio-economic impact surveys of affected priority areas.

2001 - The French Army Engineer School creates the National Center of Humanitarian Demining Training, an outgrowth of its "Centre MINEX" first established in Angers, France in 1992 for post-war mine clearance. The Center's expertise is available to mine affected countries and mine action organizations. To learn more, visit www.genie-militaire.com <<http://www.genie-militaire.com>>, click on "L'Ecole Supérieure et d'Application du Génie," click "Expertise," then click on "National Center for Humanitarian Demining Training" (toggle the appropriate flags for English, French or Spanish text).

March 2001 - Dr. Ken Rutherford, a landmine survivor and co-founder of the Landmine Survivors Network, establishes Landmine Studies in the Department of Political Science at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield. Each semester, his students receive a hands-on orientation at the U.S. Department of Defense's Humanitarian Demining Training Center (see February 1997) in order to briefly experience the meticulous, thorough and safety-conscious operating procedures that characterize properly managed humanitarian demining operations. HDTC experts regularly lecture the Landmine Studies students as well. To learn more, visit www.smsu.edu/polsci/landmines <<http://www.smsu.edu/polsci/landmines>>.

April 2001 - In cooperation with the Republic of Mozambique, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs establishes a

"Quick Reaction Demining Force" (QRDF). The QRDF is a permanent, professional humanitarian demining cadre composed primarily of 40 Mozambican mine clearance specialists who can deploy worldwide within 14 days of activation to provide immediate demining assistance in emergency humanitarian situations. In between deployments beyond Mozambique, the QRDF engages in humanitarian demining in support of Mozambique's National Demining Office, performing valuable service in that mine-affected nation while keeping its professional skills finely honed. To learn more about the QRDF, visit www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/14876.htm <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2002/14876.htm>>. Also see April 2002 entry.

June 2001 - The United States proposes a Protocol to the Convention on Conventional Weapons to deal with mines other than anti-personnel landmines (MOTAPM), in particular anti-vehicle mines.

June 2001 - "Broken Earth," a documentary produced by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs on the global landmine problem, which includes vignettes on three mine-affected countries, is released. "Broken Earth" is broadcast by the PBS television network in approximately 70 U.S. markets and overseas in 26 countries.

July 2001 - The results of the International Pilot Project for Technology Cooperation are published. The U.S. Department of Defense conceived this milestone report, also known as the metal detector "consumer report," the first-ever attempt to conduct a multinational test and evaluation venture. Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the European Commission's Joint Research Center eventually joined the U.S. in evaluating 25 different detector models from 13 manufacturers. The project determined the best detector(s) for a given set of operational parameters and served as a pilot project for the International Test and Evaluation Program. To examine the ultimate findings, visit www.humanitariandemining.org <<http://www.humanitariandemining.org>>, click on "Publications," then click on "International Pilot Project for Technology Cooperation Final Report."

September 2001 - The European Commission's Directorate-General Joint Research Center establishes the Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC) in Ispra, Italy, one of whose Humanitarian Security Unit functions is to develop and apply appropriate technologies for minefield survey, and improved mine detection and clearance/destruction. The Secretariat of the International Test and Evaluation Program (see July 2001 entry for ITEP) is also hosted by the Unit. To learn more, visit <<http://humanitarian-security.jrc.it>>.

November 2001 - "Landmines: Clearing the Way," a comprehensive resource of information and field experience on the global landmine issue in CD-ROM-format, is released by Huntington Associates. The CD-ROM is a cooperative effort by the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and the Rockefeller Foundation, produced by Huntington Associates.

December 2001 - At the Second Review Conference pertaining to the Convention on Conventional Weapons, 11 countries co-sponsor the U.S.-proposed protocol on anti-vehicle mines. In the most recent subsequent meeting in June 2003, the co-sponsoring countries, now numbering 14, agree to continue work on the proposed protocol. To learn more, visit www.ccw-treaty.com <<http://www.ccw-treaty.com>>.

April 2002 - The Quick Reaction Demining Force (see April 2001 reference) makes its first deployment outside of Mozambique to Sri Lanka in order to assess the landmine threat there and perform short-term clearance to protect

some 200,000 internally displaced persons being resettled pending the start of UN relief operations. See www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/14849.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/14849.htm>>. Later, the QRDF makes subsequent emergency deployments to Sudan and Iraq.

June 2002 - Large format "Mined-area indicator" photographic portfolios, commissioned by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, are released by the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation. The portfolios, depicting typical indicators for Angola and Mozambique, provide detailed color photos of a variety of clues -- such as valuable window and door frames left in abandoned structures; the presence of discarded arming pins or landmine detonator containers; improvised warning signs, etc. -- which indicate that land or infrastructure have been mined. The portfolios, designed to complement existing mine risk education programs in Angola and Mozambique, are to be used by people attending mine risk education courses and by those training deminers and mined-area surveyors. Programa Acelerado de Desminagem, Menschen gegen Minen, Mines Advisory Group, The HALO Trust, and Norwegian Peoples Aid contributed their expertise to this project.

September 2002 - The U.S. Department of State's Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships commissions the Mine Action Information Center to establish a Global Mine Action Directory (www.maic.jmu.edu/gmar <<http://www.maic.jmu.edu/gmar>>) listing non-governmental organizations that are engaged in one or more forms of support for or direct involvement in humanitarian mine action and to compile The Landmine Action Smart Book (<<http://maic.jmu.edu/Products/items/Smartbook/1Introduction.pdf>>), a primer to provide the general public with an overview of humanitarian mine action.

May 2003 - Two Warner Bros. public service messages in the Khmer language commissioned by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund, starring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and a Cambodian mine survivor specially created by Warner Bros. animators, are televised nationally in Cambodia and distributed in rural areas via videotape and other means. One has a mine risk education message; the other deals with mine survivors social reintegration. These innovative messages that blend animation and real film footage of Cambodia are designed to reinforce existing mine risk education and war victims rehabilitation programs already in place in Cambodia. See the press release at www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/20554.htm <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/20554.htm>>. To view the messages, visit <<http://maic.jmu.edu>>, click on "U.S. Government," click on "U.S. Department of State," then click on "Bugs and Daffy Mine Awareness Film" under the Articles, Publications and Reports heading.

[End]

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Correction FSD
Date: Friday, September 12, 2003 10:05 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Folks,

After a brief conversation with the Director General of FSD I'd like to apologize for having created the impression that FSD is collaborating with Mr Lauber, ECM, or any of his other scams. FSD from the very beginning was against Lauber's fund raising model and practice - they actually were more clever than us.

I also would like to correct my statement about the origin of the photographs on the ECM and GgL website, I received wrong information and I am sorry to have this passed on unchecked.

Regards

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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To switch to the Digest mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>
Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Anybody know the email for halo trust?

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 5:55 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks:))

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
011-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Stevens, John E" <SteveJE@state.gov>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2003 1:59 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Anybody know the email for halo trust?

> Pete,

>

> Greetings. Try <mailto:mail@halotrust.org> mail@halotrust.org. As
> insurance, you may also want to cc your message to halo.usa@verizon.net
> <mailto:halo.usa@verizon.net> which is monitored by Mr. Nigel Robinson,
> HALO's Vice President for their U.S. branch.

>

> Regards,

>

> JOHN

>

> John E. Stevens

> Action Officer

> Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships (PM/MAIP)

> Bureau of Political-Military Affairs

> Suite 1826

> U.S. Department of State

> Washington, D.C. 20547

>

> Tel: (202) 647-0676

> Fax: (202) 647-2465

> Email: SteveJE@state.gov <mailto:SteveJE@state.gov>

> PM/MAIP website: <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/maip> www.state.gov/t/pm/maip

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Pete Hindy [mailto:phindy@webhart.net]

> Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2003 12:26 PM

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Anybody know the email for halo trust?

>

>

>

> Hello All,

>

> Does anyone know the proper email address for Halo Trust?

>

> I have tried:

>
> info@halotrust.org <mailto:info@halotrust.org>
> management@halotrust.org <mailto:management@halotrust.org>
> guy.willowbe@halotrust.org <mailto:guy.willowbe@halotrust.org>
>
> All are returned by the postmaster. Can anyone help?
>
> UBIQUE!!
>
> Pete Hindy
> Zagreb
> 011-385-1-388-3071
>
>
>
>

> #####
> This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
> the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
> To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>
> To switch to the Digest mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>
> Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>
>

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To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>
To switch to the Digest mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>
Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Anybody know the email for halo trust?

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 4:55 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello All,

Does anyone know the proper email address for Halo Trust?

I have tried:

info@halotrust.org

management@halotrust.org

guy.willowbe@halotrust.org

All are returned by the postmaster. Can anyone help?

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

011-385-1-388-3071

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: pyramids in Namibia

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 3:59 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dr H,

I have also encountered very crumbly bakelite - in both Afghanistan and Mozambique - which just proves Colin's main point about expecting the unexpected.... 55lb tuna on the underground or whatever. No one knows whether production runs used materials of the same quality - and no one knows just what the mine has been subjected to between manufacture and clearance. Dr Sod rulez.

Andrey,

Michael posted a picture of the Namibian minesign and you responded:

> Perhaps it's not the worse idea.....

You are right.

That 40cm high concrete pyramid minesign is a very good idea for Namibia - where undergrowth is usually so sparse that it does not get readily overgrown - and where sub-surface rock makes it hard to plant posts. It takes at least two men to carry it easily, so it is unlikely to be stolen on a whim. Also, that pyramid must have been in place 10-15 years in some of the fiercest sun on the planet. Ordinary paint pigments do not survive this - but the deeply embossed symbol of the skull and crossbones does. If permanence is the aim - this is the advantage of embossing the message in concrete rather than just printing or painting it onto a flat surface.

In other countries - Thailand and Cambodia - undergrowth is a major problem so they have cast the sign as if it were on a post in order to raise it up high. The embossed symbol on it survives fires and UV exposure that paint does not. They still paint them before they are placed - and the symbol remains even when the paint does not.

The attached picture is another of Sakkie's from Thailand - showing how the common printed signs can be bleached by the sun. This sort of sign is the most common in the world - and burns with enthusiasm when given the chance.

Regards

Andy



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Three Brothers

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 1:17 PM

From: Joezese@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello to the
MGM team and particularly to HE,

Your self portrait is more then "thick painted" and/but totally away from being helpful!

There is a German saying " Bescheidenheit ist eine Zier, doch weiter komm ich ohne Ihr" !!

I don't translate it, because the work of MGM is reflecting a contrary reality.

Good luck!

JOE

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 12:51 PM

From: David McDonnell <mcdonnell_d@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Gents,

The organisation that our friend PJI is referring to is "Spirit of Soccer" and is an NGO that we in ArmorGroup have worked with in the past and would do again. It is run by Scotty Lee and he is currently running a programme in Bosnia. If i have my facts correct, he can be contacted at spiritofsoccer@hotmail.com

Regards

Dave

>From: "M.F.P.MP" <mfpmp@sltnet.lk>

>Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

>Date: Sun, 7 Sep 2003 03:36:56 +0600

>

>Hi Pete,

>

>I would be interested in having a look at your MRE lecture. We are a local

>Mine Action NGO in Sri Lanka. People of all ages and ethnic backgrounds

>here

>are crazy about cricket. I wonder if your lecture could be adapted to

>utilise the local passion while getting the message across. You can e-mail

>me at: mfpmp@sltnet.lk

>

>Thanks.

>

>Mike Pickering

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "Pete Hindy" <phindy@webhart.net>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2003 9:42 PM

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

>

>

> > I have an MRE lecture that i made after consulting a child pyhcaiatrist

>and

> > educator to see how children actually learn. Its made up based on sports

>as

> > the medium. This is what children idetify most easily with in the

>Balkans.

> > Its not copy righted and if anyone wants to use it feel free. After all

> > getting the word out is the main thing!!

>

> > Pete

> > Zagreb

> > 01138513883071

> > ----- Original Message -----

> > From: "Peter Isaacs" <peter.isaacs@undp.org>
> > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2003 8:28 AM
> > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE
> >
> > > A story from Sarajevo - Before Roger Hess and his UXB teams cleared
>the
> > Stup
> > suburb, I was wandering around with FedMAC colleagues trying to
>delineate
> > the
> > > area to be specified in the contract for clearance. (there were tarmac
> > roads
> > > throughout the area in case anyone is wondering). It was obvious where
>the
> > > danger areas were - demolished or damaged houses with heavily
>overgrown
> > > gardens. Others were inhabited and gardens cultivated. We came
>across
>a
> > boy
> > > aged about 10 on a bike. I asked him if he knew where the dangerous
>areas
> > were.
> > > He said that he did and pointed out some overgrown areas. I asked him
>if
> > he
> > > ever played in those areas. He said no, because he might lose his
>legs
>if
> > he
> > > did. I asked him who had told him this - at school? No he replied, at
> > football
> > > training.
> > >
> > > Whilst I can't remember his name or the organisation he set up, there
>was
> > a
> > > former professional football player coaching local kids. He always
>ended
> > his
> > > football coaching sessions with a further session on mine awareness.
>It
> > was both
> > > popular - the desire to participate in football coaching - and
>effective
> > if
> > > this tale is anything to go by.
> > >
> > > PJI
> > >
> > > Didactylos wrote:
> > >
> > > > Monitoring Mine Risk Education (MRE) effectiveness solely by
>reference
> > to a
> > > > reduction in reported civilian accidents is unlikely to be accurate
>-
> > > > although most efforts will prove "successful" that way. MRE is not
>that

> > > simple - and people learn from events more readily than from
>"experts".
> > For
> > > example, there are two incidents around a particular town in one
>month.
> > An
> > > emergency MRE response team goes in. There are no more incidents
>over
> > the
> > > following six months. Why? Perhaps because the two incidents
>themselves
> > > taught a powerful lesson? Perhaps because the two incidents involved
>the
> > > only two operational devices in that vicinity? Perhaps because the
>MRE
> > was
> > > effective. Perhaps because
> > > >
> > > > Monitoring of this kind of educational effort should be by assessing
>how
> > the
> > > sharing of "appropriate" knowledge has changed behaviour (among both
> > kids
> > > and adults). This is complicated by the word "appropriate" - which
> > should
> > > take account of the "students' " current knowledge and behaviour. In
> > some
> > > areas, people need to know what mines and UXO actually look like:
>and
> > they
> > > are unlikely to learn that from a crude sketch or touchy-feely
> > screen-print
> > > made by a local artists who has not seen one either. In Kosovo, many
> > kids
> > > were taught how common AP mines worked in school - and the kids
> > themselves
> > > are far more experienced at recognising and even disarming them than
>the
> > MRE
> > > specialist (who often has not really seen one). The content of the
> > > instruction MUST be varied appropriately for the audience, but in my
> > > experience, it rarely is. One reason for this is that many MRE
>people
>do
> > not
> > > know much about the mines and devices they are teaching about. I
>believe
> > > that they should - and so it is not necessarily inappropriate to use
> > > ex-soldiers as MRE people. But all MRE instructors need to be taught
> > > something about how to communicate and train.... Sadly, this is
>often
> > not
> > > the case whether the trainers are ex-soldiers or civilians.
> > > >
> > > > CIET Canada carried out a structured study of MRE effectiveness in
> > > > Afghanistan and Angola. It was supposed to be published to 2001, but
>I
> > do
> > > not know whether it was - Robin, can you help? I saw parts of it
>during
> > > > preparation because I wanted to ensure that the Mine Action training

> > > > materials I was producing took note of any appropriate lessons. I
>was
> > > > surprised how honest and "direct" some of the CIET conclusions were
>(and
> > if
> > > > it has not been published, that honesty may explain why it was not
> > widely
> > > > publicised).
> > > >
> > > > For example, the Afghanistan study report found that several mine
> > awareness
> > > > agencies were teaching technical details of devices - where fuses
>and
> > pins
> > > > are, the kind of explosion mines/UXO create, etc. In their
>operational
> > > > areas, there was an increase in the number of mine injuries among
>their
> > > > target audiences. It was almost certainly inappropriate to show
>young
> > men
> > > > how the devices worked but, as always, the report begs other
>questions.
> > If
> > > > they had also shown the results of human-interaction with the device
> > > > (shock-horror photographs of carnage) perhaps the effect would have
>been
> > > > different? Giving people half the story can be worse than leaving
>them
> > in
> > > > ignorance.
> > > >
> > > > Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of MRE is as difficult
>as
> > > > monitoring any other training in a field environment. A mere
> > accumulation of
> > > > knowledge is not the main aim. Changing behaviour in real situations
> > is....
> > > > This can be achieved when IDPs are pouring into an area simply by
> > telling
> > > > them the places to avoid (after a protracted conflict they are
>unlikely
> > to
> > > > need to be told that mines and UXO are nasty). When IDP movement is
> > over,
> > > > changing behaviour is a greater challenge. How do you stop a child
>being
> > > > naturally curious - in a way that is selective enough not to inhibit
>the
> > > > learning that they need to do? Maybe by shock/horror images of the
> > > > consequences? Maybe not in areas where the kids have seen plenty of
>that
> > for
> > > > real?
> > > >
> > > > UNICEF put very few restrictions on the content of MRE (and should
>put
> > none
> > > > at all). This is probably because they recognise that the training
>must
> > be

> > > > tailored to achieve the effect with the audience - and there are as
>many
> > > > ways of doing that as there are audiences. Genuinely effective
> > monitoring
> > > > may have to be just as varied - but will always be assessing
>behavioural
> > > > change.
> > > >
> > > > Regards all
> > > > Andy
> > > >
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Anybody know the email for halo trust?

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 12:29 PM

From: Stevens, John E <SteveJE@state.gov>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Pete,

Greetings. Try <mailto:mail@halotrust.org> mail@halotrust.org. As insurance, you may also want to cc your message to halo.usa@verizon.net <mailto:halo.usa@verizon.net> which is monitored by Mr. Nigel Robinson, HALO's Vice President for their U.S. branch.

Regards,

JOHN

John E. Stevens
Action Officer
Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships (PM/MAIP)
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
Suite 1826
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20547

Tel: (202) 647-0676

Fax: (202) 647-2465

Email: SteveJE@state.gov <mailto:SteveJE@state.gov>

PM/MAIP website: <<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/maip>> www.state.gov/t/pm/maip

-----Original Message-----

From: Pete Hindy [mailto:phindy@webhart.net]

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2003 12:26 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Anybody know the email for halo trust?

Hello All,

Does anyone know the proper email address for Halo Trust?

I have tried:

info@halotrust.org <mailto:info@halotrust.org>

management@halotrust.org <mailto:management@halotrust.org>

guy.willowbe@halotrust.org <mailto:guy.willowbe@halotrust.org>

All are returned by the postmaster. Can anyone help?

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

011-385-1-388-3071

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: inadequate warning signs

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 12:09 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Michael

Perhaps it's not the worse idea, but it must be red color.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Michael Ehlers" <me@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2003 7:04 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: inadequate warning signs

Dear all

FYI: attached pic shows one of the pyramids (height ca. 40 cm) Andy mentioned. Their main advantage: kids canOt build boats of it.

Andy wrote: "... The last concrete examples I saw were small pyramids (Namibia)

> that can easily be overgrown...."

me/

> #####
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Three Brothers
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 11:34 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Before I forget:

The resignation of our former board member Dipl.oec. Christoph Brocks did not really leave a vacancy. Actually it is quite the opposite and we became remarkably stronger.

Whereas the old board had only two brothers, which are Hans Georg Kruessen and me as "brothers-against-arms" since the age of four, the third man now is my physically elder (but younger looking) brother Michael Ehlers.

He did not slip in to do family business mafia-style, he has been the front-row media man of MgM since 1996 and has been / is responsible for our Logo, website, pamphlets, reports, project proposals, videos, CDs, DVDs, media support and mainly for uncomfortable questions to the management. Taking his back-ground and motivation, there is no better man for the position of representing MgM Management - especially in Europe saving Hans Georg and me from wasting our time in lousy airplanes.

Well, welcome on board. Michael can be reached via me@mgm.org

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 11:30 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Exactly Bob!! I never could figure out how routes were "clear" or even "proven" and "re-proven" by 4 tires??? I can even remember once the Mamba just drove once around a playground before we built a park, and thats "clear?" or "proved" or whatever? I just "sat back and watched"... I was only a Cpl with a Mine detector ready at the time, but I still didn't like it!! I ran into the same problem once when I spoiled another Troop Comd's coffee by telling him that the pearson plow is not for clearing Mines but for surface clearance of hard routes and runways. On the other hand when I worked on the LAV Engr version project Pearson Plow attachment for the Prime Minister of Canadas office I went down to Milford Michigan and experimental proving grounds (and even had a coffee with Arnold Swarzeneger in the Coffee Room--as he bought two Hummers and was promoting them!!!:)) the Project managers were very intrested in real life technical knowledge of what the plow had done before on Op's and what it was designed for and not designed for. So... in comparasin to the Mamba on op's...I guess you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink!!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2003 3:39 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

> Hi Pete

>

> Route 'proving' wasn't one of the approved roles, though UNPROFOR's
> operational control of the tactics/techniques of the battalions was very
> limited: all we could do was issue guidance.

>

> I did suggest that an MPV fitted with something like the Pearson
> mini-rollers could be used to prove hard routes for convoys (much like
Andy
> suggested in his earlier email about the Chubby) and also that MPVs should
> operate in pairs when used on recce so that it is possible to extract the
> crew of the one in front should it become damaged; but no, a single MPV
> trundling down a route hardly constitutes 'proof'.

>

> Sorry to hear about your friend's back injury. It probably would have been
a
> WOLF as there were a couple of these in the mission in 94, whereas the 40
> NYALA didnt arrive until 95. I wouldnt want to second guess anything about
> that incident but as far as I know most MPV are fitted with seats and
> restraint harnesses to minimise this risk - I know the Southern Africans
did

> a lot of research on this...perhaps the WOLF was too early a vehicle,
> perhaps over the years this particular one spent in several UN missions it
> lost its harnesses, there could be several reasons why your friend was so
> injured. I still remember the sales video of a CASSPIR driving over a

> double-stacked AT mine and the managing director of the company getting
> out
> of the back in shirt and tie...now there's product confidence for you!
> (all
> equipment manufacturers take note!)
>
> Your point about the TMRP6 was very valid. The fear of these was enough
> for
> the makers of the NYALA to fly me down to South Africa in order to
> brainstorm some suggestions. I had earlier used a videotape of SLOVENG
> (the UNPROFOR Slovak Engineer Battalion) testing their KMT6 roller/plough
> combinations against the TMRP6. Slowing the video down in a professional
> studio (aka UNTV in Zagreb - thanks to Darko) we were able to see that
> there
> was a 0.24 second time delay between the first low-order charge that
> clears
> all the junk off the top of the mine and the detonation of the main
> charge.
> This enabled us to see that there was a connection between the speed of
> the
> vehicle and the point at which the mine would strike before/under the
> vehicle. When I was in South Africa I used this to suggest them suspending
> a
> simple horizontal bar in front of the vehicle that could be deployed when
> the vehicle was used in an area where there was a TMRP6 threat. With this
> attachment, and a low enough speed, the TMRP6 would detonate in front of
> the
> vehicle and not under it. I later saw photos of the attachment being shown
> at a sales display and I was gratified to learn recently that the Croatian
> MV4 machine uses the same concept.
>
> Your point about the lack of Canadian mine strikes since UNPROFOR was very
> telling. The mission of IFOR was much more 'assertive' than that of
> UNPROFOR, but there were much fewer mine casualties, amongst the
> experienced
> battalions and the newcomers. If nothing had changed in terms of behaviour
> there should have been more rather than less casualties. I would like to
> believe that this is largely because IFOR adopted the systematic mine
> awareness training that we had developed and started to use in UNPROFOR -
> as
> referred to in previous emails. There seems to be a clear 'before and
> after'
> effect...
>
>
> cheers
>
> Bob K
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of
> Pete Hindy
> Sent: 11 September 2003 03:21
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?
>
>
>
> Bob, Good point!!! Agree 100%!!
>
> We used to use the likes of the Mamba/Nyala (maybe one of your 40?) for

> Recce and Route proving (I never did agree but by the contact of the 4
> tires the route was supposedly proved and,or cleared...???!!!Maybe it was
> just that there hadn't been a Cdn minestrike since UNPROFOR to wake them
> up). I dont even wanna get into how much I agree with you on what
Protected
> means, I think some people think its open for interpretation!!!???
.....And
> "there we were" driving up these 3.5m wide dirt tracks in the hills of
> Bosnia all overgrown and grassy by order in our Mineproof/resistant Mamba
> with an Engr Section and Amb in Tow following us. It wasn't a good time
had
> by all.... Also Two freinds of mine drove over a TMA 3 or 4 in the Wolf(I
> believe that was the Veh) in Zadar-Benkovac area in 94. It just lifted the
> Veh up and down 10 ft or so and blew some parts off breaking everyones ear
> drums and messing up a freinds back permanently.. I wonder how these vehs
> (MPV's) hold up to Killer mines, shaped charge side attack laid mines like
a
> TMRP6 or stacked Mines? Thats what I was more afriad of...
>
> UBIQUE!!
>
> Pete
> Zagreb
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 6:02 PM
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?
>
>
> > Hi Willy and Andy
> >
> > When I was first in Croatia I was given the task of deciding what to do
> > with
> > a donation of 40 MPV to UNPROFOR. The first thing that I had to do - as
a
> > Brit - to find out what these things were for. Andy has recently
> > highlighted
> > a whole corner of mine action history that took place down in Southern
> > Africa; this was all largely unknown to the rest of us back then (1994).
> > Not
> > long afterwards we were bombarded with all sorts of offers of 'mine
proof'
> > vehicles, including some that seemed really quite dodgy.
> >
> > "Mine Proof" - sometimes claimed but rarely (if ever) achieved...but to
be
> > honest 'mine proof' seemed as much a piece of sloppy drafting by third
> > parties as anything else, because as far as I know the Africans have
only
> > ever used the 'phrase mine protected', whereas 'proof' does seem to
> > suggest
> > total invulnerability
> >
> > So I came up with three definitions of how these things could be
> > classified,
> > based on the implications of the words used:
> >
> > A "Mine Proof" vehicle would be one that could detonate an AT mine and
> > suffer no operational consequences as a result
> >

> > A "Mine Protected" vehicle would be one that could detonate an AT mine
> and
> > suffer damage that was field repairable in short order though the
> > replacement of sacrificial (and off-the-shelf) parts (i.e. the likes of
> > CASSPIR, NYALA etc)
> >
> > A "Mine Resistant" vehicle would be one that could detonate an AT mine
> and
> > protect the occupants, whilst receiving damage to itself that might be
> > irreparable...this would include vehicles such as the 'Scout' that had
> been
> > shown to withstand blast testing in the central crew compartment even
> though
> > the vehicle hadnt been intended to be fully 'mine protected'.
> >
> > This was a few years ago but they still seem to work...I suppose it
> would
> be
> > reasonable to include a similar graduation for AP mines as Andy
> suggested,
> > in order to capture small remote machines etc
> >
> > Havent seen you for a few years Willy hope you're doing well
> >
> > Bob K
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> > W E Lawrence
> > Sent: 08 September 2003 12:56
> > To: network@mgm.org
> > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?
> >
> >
> >
> > Dear Andy and all,
> >
> > Didactylos wrote: >Did anyone come up with a definition of what "Mine
> > Protected" actually means?
> >
> > I have found the following 'definitions' on my computer. I think they
> came
> > from some manufacturers' glossy pamphlet for an armoured vehicle of some
> > description or another. They are not very good descriptions, and I do
> not
> > claim them as my own, but it might be a start for someone to try to
> define
> > what is what in the MPV/MHV world.
> >
> > Mine Hardened Vehicle. A vehicle designed and manufactured in such a
> > manner
> > that it is capable of withstanding a significant explosive detonation
> > beneath its hull.
> >
> >
> > Mine Protected Vehicle. Vehicle specially designed or with additional
> > protection against land mines in order to deflect the explosive shock
> > waves
> > past the vehicle. A vehicle designed and manufactured in such a manner
> > that
> > it is capable of withstanding an explosive detonation from an anti-tank
> > mine
> > beneath its hull or wheels, potentially without death or serious injury

to
> > the occupants.
> >
> > Didactylos wrote: > here's a question. How many out there believe that
all
> > AT pressure initiated mines need 100+kg pressure to initiate them?
> >
> > On the subject of AT mines that can be detonated by less than 100Kg
> > pressure, attached is a picture of an Argentine FMK-1 and FMK-3 to show
> the
> > existence of ATs that can be detonated by the use of an AP as an
intiator.

> >
> > Best regards to all
> >
> > Willie Lawrence
> >
> > 22 Worpleston Way
> > Glen Lorne
> > Harare
> > Zimbabwe
> >
> > ++263 4 499 743
> > ++263 91 908 524 (Mobile)

> >
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: inadequate warning signs

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 11:04 AM

From: Michael Ehlers <me@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear all

FYI: attached pic shows one of the pyramids (height ca. 40 cm) Andy mentioned. Their main advantage: kids can't build boats of it.

Andy wrote: ".... The last concrete examples I saw were small pyramids (Namibia)

> that can easily be overgrown...."

me/



#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Ageing mines
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 9:58 AM
From: Office Whk <office.windhoek@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Colin wrote

....In summary, it's a complex subject with lots of factors and permutations; as usual, my worry is that people will oversimplify and draw the wrong conclusions. The final word goes to Dr Sod, who might have pointed out (...had he not been fatally wounded by a 55 lb tuna on the London underground...) that mines rarely have the grace to do what is expected of them.

Colin.

Well said, but/and:

Bakelite dets of TM-62b gets very well brittle in excessive sun like in southern Angola..

Rubber seals of clock-dets of TM57 tend to cause underpressure based on temperature changes and pre-tension the pressure plate. If laid in flooding plains this situation is conserved for many years - like in southern Angola.

Road mines in Angola and Mozambique often were laid in potholes. Is the road closed for years, the potholes fill up by erosion and . Once the road is re-opened, potholes occur at the same former location. They get deeper and deeper until one day the cover above the waiting mine is thin enough to go bang.

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2003 2:09 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete

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cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Pete Hindy
Sent: 11 September 2003 03:21
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Bob, Good point!!! Agree 100%!!

We used to use the likes of the Mamba/Nyala (maybe one of your 40?) for Recce and Route proving (I never did agree but by the contact of the 4 tires the route was supposedly proved and, or cleared...????!! Maybe it was just that there hadn't been a Cdn minestrike since UNPROFOR to wake them up). I dont even wanna get into how much I agree with you on what Protected means, I think some people think its open for interpretation!!!!???.And "there we were" driving up these 3.5m wide dirt tracks in the hills of Bosnia all overgrown and grassy by order in our Mineproof/resistant Mamba with an Engr Section and Amb in Tow following us. It wasn't a good time had by all.... Also Two freinds of mine drove over a TMA 3 or 4 in the Wolf(I believe that was the Veh) in Zadar-Benkovac area in 94. It just lifted the Veh up and down 10 ft or so and blew some parts off breaking everyones ear drums and messing up a freinds back permanently.. I wonder how these vehs (MPV's) hold up to Killer mines, shaped charge side attack laid mines like a TMRP6 or stacked Mines? Thats what I was more afriad of...

UBIQU!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 6:02 PM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

> Hi Willy and Andy
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> a donation of 40 MPV to UNPROFOR. The first thing that I had to do - as a
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> Africa; this was all largely unknown to the rest of us back then (1994).
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> vehicles, including some that seemed really quite dodgy.
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> A "Mine Proof" vehicle would be one that could detonate an AT mine and

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> replacement of sacrificial (and off-the-shelf) parts (i.e. the likes of

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> protect the occupants, whilst receiving damage to itself that might be

> irreparable...this would include vehicles such as the 'Scout' that had

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> reasonable to include a similar graduation for AP mines as Andy suggested,

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> Havent seen you for a few years Willy hope you're doing well

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> Bob K

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of

> W E Lawrence

> Sent: 08 September 2003 12:56

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

>

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> Dear Andy and all,

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> Willie Lawrence
>
> 22 Worpleston Way
> Glen Lorne
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 10:21 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob, Good point!!! Agree 100%!!

We used to use the likes of the Mamba/Nyala (maybe one of your 40?) for Recce and Route proving (I never did agree but by the contact of the 4 tires the route was supposedly proved and,or cleared...???!!!Maybe it was just that there hadn't been a Cdn minestrike since UNPROFOR to wake them up). I dont even wanna get into how much I agree with you on what Protected means, I think some people think its open for interpretation!!!!???.And "there we were" driving up these 3.5m wide dirt tracks in the hills of Bosnia all overgrown and grassy by order in our Mineproof/resistant Mamba with an Engr Section and Amb in Tow following us. It wasn't a good time had by all.... Also Two freinds of mine drove over a TMA 3 or 4 in the Wolf(I believe that was the Veh) in Zadar-Benkovac area in 94. It just lifted the Veh up and down 10 ft or so and blew some parts off breaking everyones ear drums and messing up a freinds back permanently.. I wonder how these vehs (MPV's) hold up to Killer mines, shaped charge side attack laid mines like a TMRP6 or stacked Mines? Thats what I was more afriad of...

UBIQUUE!!

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Zagreb

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To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 6:02 PM

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> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> W E Lawrence
> Sent: 08 September 2003 12:56
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 4:32 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Willy and Andy

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From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of W E Lawrence

Sent: 08 September 2003 12:56

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Ageing Mines

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 2:58 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Heres a TMA2 that everybody drove over on a "well used" patrol route for at least 6 months once in 2001 Drvar, Bosnia and god knows how long before that. The Infantry were very "delightfully pleased" to see the pic of the mine they had passed over after some heavy rain. I heard the same story about Box mines (TMD's) and the Cdn Airborne Regiment in Somalia with Wheeled vehicles wearing down the sides of the hole and functioning the Mine and the same happened in Eritrea in 2001 on a road that had been resurfaced and unfound mines Deeper buried now as a result.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

011-385-1-388-3071



Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reply to Andys point: Less than 100KG actuation

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 11:43 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Ref: Mines actuating under 100Kg.

To those who might be interested in this lesson learned I've seen a TMA 5 with a PMA 2 inside it after removing the Booster, the Normal fuze and the plastic fuze cover(laid in the ground or under a board as a BT). Also a TMM1 with the pressure plate removed which lets the Fuze function at 70 KG or less. For those who are new at this or learning about Mines Andy is 100% right and things are not always as they seem. Its up to what is available and the ingenious of the Soldier laying the Mine that creates many new lessons learned. On a different note I also know a Cdn Soldier who was working on a TMA3 and knelt on a PMA3 (right on its centre) that he missed and it didnt actuate (because it needs to tilt) which is backed up by the same story from a Bosnian Friend of Mine that saw the same happen in the war. There were also PMA3's that didnt actuate with the standard weight and needed more KG to actuate as some Soldiers were afraid to screw the fuze cap on tight as it sometimes brought up solid on the Fuze which sits in the little recess and brings up to the indent bevel in the plastic fuze cover. This tightness sometimes actuated the mine if the fuze wasnt settled in the recess while screwing the fuze cap on it Bottom facing up in the layers hand. This was prior to removing the string and safety ring. That made some people a little nervous and the mine ended up with a fuze cover not sealing the chemical action fuze from the weather and enhancing its delicaticty years later. It also forced the mine to need more KG to actuate sometimes as there wa smore of a space between the fuuze and the bevel recess where the tip rested. Also stay away from any TMRP6's with the fuze lot 90-02 as its a lot made which is always in the armed state being put together backwards....

Pete
Zagreb
011-385-1-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "W E Lawrence" <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 9:26 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: IRAQ: Soldier killed detonating bomb

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 9:41 AM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Soldier killed detonating bomb

From correspondents in Baghdad

September 10, 2003

http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,7228614%255E1702,00.html

A US soldier from the 1st Armored Division was killed in west Baghdad Wednesday trying to detonate a roadside bomb, the military said.

The victim was part of an explosive ordnance detonating team that had tried to blow up the bomb by shooting it with a .50-caliber machine gun on a Bradley fighting vehicle. The bomb did not explode when fired at, but subsequently blew up as the soldier went to inspect it. The soldier's death was the second in as many days after an eight-day stretch when no American soldier was reported to have died. At about 5 p.m. Tuesday a soldier was killed and one was wounded when a homemade bomb exploded near a military vehicle on a supply route northeast of the capital, the U.S. Central Command said Wednesday. Those soldiers were from the U.S. Army's 3rd Corp Support Command, it said. The wounded soldier was evacuated to a field hospital.

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 9:34 AM

From: Manuel GONZAL <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

dear Peter,

Your advice is the best way to finish your life in prison. My point of view is that the best way to fight this sort of "human being" could be to forward this "parasites story" in the right place to the right person. The effect would be more benefic to Hendrik and all of us. Don't you think?

Regards

Manuel GONZAL

I do what I say and I say only what I do!

-----Message d'origine-----

De : Peter Isaacs [mailto:peter.isaacs@undp.org]

Envoyé : mercredi 10 septembre 2003 13:29

À : network@mgm.org

Objet : Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Hendrik,

Put aside your humanitarian scruples and send someone in to break his legs!

PJI

Paul Murray wrote:

> Hendrik,

>

> The only positive out of this is for you to be flattered. When you have
> developed something that is so successful that someone else is trying to
> steal it from you, your program must be successful. On a smaller scale
> BOMBS AWAY went through a similar scenario as far as someone trying to make
> a profit off our good name.

>

> Keep your chin up!

>

> Cheers,

>

> Paul Murray

> BOMBS AWAY

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 2:09 AM

> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

>

> Dear Friends worldwide,

>

> Let me tell you a story that might help your organisation avoid one of the
> more unexpected potholes in modern demining. It is a true story and no one
> knows for sure whether it has a happy ending but at least it is over.

>

> Because the management of MgM works in the field in Africa, we do not have

> the time and connections to build up a group of private donors in order to
> fill the funding gaps between governmental or agency funding. We are
> professionals in mine clearance operations, but not in raising funds from
> private donors.
>
> In 1998 we were contacted by a Swiss fundraising professional by the name of
> Josef Lauber of the FRB - Fund Raising Bureau in Basel - who wanted to help
> raise funds for our work. We were told that building up a group of private
> donors costs money - and those costs would have to be recouped from the
> funds raised. But that the money raised would be available for MgM's
> demining work after approximately two years. FRB then found some nice Swiss
> and later Austrian citizens who subsequently formed the boards of MgM
> Switzerland and MgM Austria in order to raise funds for the operations of
> MgM Germany's international demining efforts. The statutes of the MgM
> branches contained one paragraph stating that all funds raised were to go to
> MgM operations and another stating that one member of the board had to be a
> member of the board of MgM Germany.
>
> It all started well enough. FRB subcontracted mail- telephone- and street-
> marketing and managed to attract 100,000 committed private Swiss donors.
> They used MgM's Name, Logo, Project reports, Interviews with Hans Georg
> Krussen and me, etc. Their success made it the fourth largest Swiss
> charitable organization in terms of the number of private donors they
> attracted. The donors were mainly elderly people who were sent mailings up
> to eight times a year - telling them what MgM's demining groups were doing,
> and how their regular donations of money were being spent.
>
> The contract that FRB signed with MgM Switzerland gave FRB the right to take
> a management profit calculated as 17.3% of the incurred COSTS. The more
> costs, the more profit for FRB. So the mailings got loaded with Christmas
> tokens, silly Easter greeting cards etc. All mailings had to be approved by
> MgM - BUT we had not fully realised the advantage to FRB of incurring high
> costs. You would not believe the volume of convoluted technical arguments
> and other false statements that we received. At first we gave in because we
> thought it was all for the benefit of MgM's field operations, but in the end
> we became suspicious and me personally rather angry.
>
> Last year was four years after their first approach. MgM Germany had only
> received a total of 80,000 SF from MgM Switzerland - but we knew that they
> had raised more than 60 times as much as that. We decided to stop MgM
> Switzerland making misleading or false statements in their mailings. They
> were stating things like, "As a result of your donations, MgM in Angola
> successfully opened [x] kilometres of road" etc. And we also demanded a fair
> share of the money that had been raised for our work.
>
> Well, we bit on concrete. We got nowhere over months and months of many
> sleepless nights until, some months ago, I cancelled the right of MgM
> Switzerland and Austria to use our name and logo etc. It was only then that
> we learned that Mr Lauber had already copyrighted OUR logo, name etc.,
> including the printed phrase www.mgm.org - despite the domain being ours
> since 1996. It was then that we realised that the statutes had changed and
> we were not the beneficiaries anymore. On top one of their streetmarketing
> subcontractors asked to remove the MgM Germany member from the board, which
> the board of MgM Switzerland did subsequently.
>
> That caused a moment of panic, but, with the support of some good lawyers
> and auditors, we have managed to retain our legal standing.....
> The first thing we did, was to inform our donors, the Swiss Government and
> the management of GICHD. A good moment to thank all of them for the
> unconditional immediate support.
>

> Mr.Lauber then made new mailings in which he continued to use our logo and
> added the MgM picture folder. He also gave an interview to a newspaper in
> which he stated that some 50% of MgM's operational budget of 10 million SF
> originated from MgM Switzerland. In truth, less than 1/62 of that money had
> come to MgM for use in the way the donors intended.
>
> Well.... what would we do to stop him?
>
> Since 1996 we have used the name MgM with a lower-case "g" in order not to
> upset the lion of MGM, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. We were often asked how it was
> that Metro Goldwyn Mayer left us alone? Well, we answered, we don't know -
> but most probably they like our work.
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> When we could find no way to stop Mr Lauber and FRB, we sent an emergency
> SoS to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and our silent friends reacted immediately.
> Since 19th June 2003 it is only Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer who can use the name MgM
> in Switzerland and Austria otherwise the lion will bite. Thank you so much
> guys!! That saved us a lot of stress and lawyer money which we do not have
> anyhow. Really well done, and many thanks.
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> Switzerland and Austria using a similar image to MgM's - which clearly
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> les Mines, TaL - Together against Landmines, ICM - Insieme contra le mine
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> same nonorable people on the board as the old MgM Switzerland. He opened his
> website under www.nomines.org and presents ECM etc as a functional mine
> clearance support operation. Just go and check. Even if you don't speak
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> Christen, undertook together with our Country Director Ken O'Connell to
> Mavinga in Angola. It is HALO and NPA who work there. We (the real MgM)
> wrote a project in order to support MSF-CH and the WFP in this area. So Dr
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> that pulling the plug on him might damage us, but trusted that our good work
> and reputation would defend us. We told the Swiss media the whole story.
> They ran articles on radio, TV and in the press - and the public got
> justifiably angry. But they were not angry with MgM - because the press and
> the authorities recognised our innocence and referred to it as the ECM and
> Lauber scandal. The General Attorney of Basel confiscated files, the
> Austrian Government is investigating - But Lauber and company continue to
> say that they did nothing wrong at all. When questioned in a TV interview,
> Lauber admitted that his personal income from money intended for demining
> was 500,000 SFR a year, but he saw nothing wrong in using the donations of
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> I admit that MgM Germany was naïve over all this. We (and this actually
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> funds intended to relieve the suffering of landmine affected populations.
> Lauber and ECM are discrediting all Humanitarian Demining efforts and are
> probably making it even harder to raise money for the cause. That is why I
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> Unfortunately the most likely to fall into this pit not-knowingly is our
> friend Roger Ray Hess - as a good number of pictures on the ECM website are
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> is offering money to Adopt-a-Minefield.

>
> Folks, beware to sell your and our good work to these sickening parasites.

>
> Sincerely,

>
> Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
> Director OPS + HEC-R&D
> Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
> ehlers@mgm.org
> www.mgm.org
> cel +264 81 1277020
> fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Ageing mines

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 9:20 AM

From: Colin King <ck@ckingassociates.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

> ...many have observed that overlooked mines will sometimes detonate under
> small vehicles
> on well-used roads. The bent pressure plates are a far more likely
> explanation than a pointlessly complicated fuze that "waits" and which no
> one has ever found intact. Colin, can you give your opinion on this?
>

To answer your question, Andy; yes, distortion of the pressure plate clearly will reduce the operating pressure in mines where the fuze requires very little pressure and relies on the body of the mine to increase the threshold (TM-46, 57 etc). Having said that, on well-used roads this probably has as much to do with soil mechanics as the characteristics of the mine. As in marriage, road surfaces settle and become depressed, so mines that were originally laid too deep gradually come into play.

As far as other ageing phenomena go, it gets very complicated and unpredictable. Even in a simple fuze like the MUV, corrosion can erode the retaining pin (making it more dangerous) or seize the mechanism, making it safer. In many cases, the mine or fuze is likely to fail safe. A bounding mine like the US M16 has a cocked striker that could perhaps let go under some bizarre circumstances, but two pyrotechnic delays and a black powder propellant charge that will fail if they become damp. Balance of probability; old corroded M16s probably won't work, but you shouldn't bet your life on it.

Most plastics do deteriorate in hot dry conditions, so you are right about the PT Mi-Ba III, but in that case, it's the fuze, not the body. In my experience, Bakelite holds up well, and so does fibreglass and Kevlar. For example, despite 35 years of intense temperatures in the Jordan river valley, M14s, M19s and SACIs showed no major signs of deterioration.

A quick bit of analysis on the badly deteriorated VS and TS 50s I saw in Iraq where, in both types, the bladders had fallen apart. In the VS-50 the mine will still function as intended; it simply won't be blast-resistant. However, in the TS-50, the fuze can no longer operate, because the mechanism relies on the inflation of the bladder to rotate the release lever. By the way, George Zahaczewsky and I established (from the samples he collected in Afghanistan) that the Iranian YM-1 has the same mechanism as the TS-50, while the YM-1B is a slight modification of the VS-50, so the same applies to them.

In summary, it's a complex subject with lots of factors and permutations; as usual, my worry is that people will oversimplify and draw the wrong conclusions. The final word goes to Dr Sod, who might have pointed out (...had he not been fatally wounded by a 55 lb tuna on the London underground...) that mines rarely have the grace to do what is expected of them.

Colin.

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Less weight and inadequate warning signs

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 8:18 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks to Willie for posting the sample FMK picture. I have only actually seen the Pakistan P2 Mk 2 with a P1 or P2 AP inside. In that example, the plastic AT mine casing must be crushed before initiating the AP - so the force required is still high (until the case deteriorates). There are also lots of examples in Angola of AP mines being deliberately placed on top of fuzed AT mines so that the AP blast provides the pressure to initiate the AT mine.

I was really talking about decay and poor quality control meaning that pressures cannot be relied on even when the intended activation pressure is high. Pete brings in a very relevant human-factor by observing that the way in which all mines are fuzed can also lead to unpredictable operation.

I attended a CSIR User Focus Group Workshop on mined-area signs in South Africa a few months ago. That was where Sakkie (a South African working in Thailand) gave me the picture I posted in my last. Concrete has been used elsewhere - and I believe similar signs are being used by HALO in Cambodia right now. The last concrete examples I saw were small pyramids (Namibia) that can easily be overgrown, and concrete cubes (Cambodia) where they were taken for building materials in areas where there are no stones. The casting of a post and sign together make them an unattractive shape for building blocks - and the reinforcement without metal makes them unattractive for their material content.

What is happening in Croatia is probably macho vandalism - I don't know. But Lawrence should know that in many countries a length of reinforcing-bar can be used to make a range of tools or sold for a few cents. This is very attractive in areas with ruined economies and where many people live on the very margins of a consumer world. Plastic mine signs are taken to patch roofs. Mine tape is taken to use as "string". Wooden stakes are firewood and even toys. When on the margins, everyone thinks about meeting today's needs rather than leaving warnings for a vague future. The attached picture shows a plastic minesign being used as a sail on a boat made from discarded polystyrene packaging in Cambodia. How do you stop a child who has nothing from doing this?

Croatia is unusual because much of its Mine Action activity is covered by National legislation rather than the IMAS and a group's preferred SOPs. They led the way on making many HD controls a matter of law - including the requirement for flails to have a full follow-up. There is also a legal requirement for mined areas to be marked. Most of the people reading this will not realise that marking is rarely put in place during Level 1 and Impact surveys. Suspect areas remain unmarked until a Technical Survey - which frequently immediately precedes clearance. As a result - permanent signs are not common. When permanent signs are placed they tend to use the same systems as are used for perimeter marking at the start of a clearance job. These systems rarely last more than a season or two unless maintained. Croatia is again an exception because maintenance of signs and adequate fencing IS a legal requirement. Who does the maintenance in other countries? Usually no-one - unless the local population are encouraged to do so by making them feel "ownership" and understand the responsibility they have

towards people passing through. By that time, they KNOW where to avoid so the signs are not necessarily valued by them. Paying them to make the signs out of local materials is one way to increase their involvement and ownership. Getting the children to paint them during an MRE class can also be a good idea. This is done as part of MRE in some places, but it is not at all "normal".

Together with Dieter Guelle I made a PP presentation at the Mined Area Marking Signs workshop (all pictures) showing the various signs used during survey and clearance from Cambodia to Croatia, Afghanistan to Angola. If anyone wants it - just ask. The workshop also led to a report that I think is pretty informative - but that belongs to either Belvoir or CSIR so it is not up to me to offer it. Sean or Theo... Can people ask you for a copy?

Regards all
Andy



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 7:29 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik,

Put aside your humanitarian scruples and send someone in to break his legs!

PJI

Paul Murray wrote:

> Hendrik,

>

> The only positive out of this is for you to be flattered. When you have
> developed something that is so successful that someone else is trying to
> steal it from you, your program must be successful. On a smaller scale
> BOMBS AWAY went through a similar scenario as far as someone trying to make
> a profit off our good name.

>

> Keep your chin up!

>

> Cheers,

>

> Paul Murray

> BOMBS AWAY

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 2:09 AM

> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

>

> Dear Friends worldwide,

>

> Let me tell you a story that might help your organisation avoid one of the
> more unexpected potholes in modern demining. It is a true story and no one
> knows for sure whether it has a happy ending but at least it is over.

>

> Because the management of MgM works in the field in Africa, we do not have
> the time and connections to build up a group of private donors in order to
> fill the funding gaps between governmental or agency funding. We are
> professionals in mine clearance operations, but not in raising funds from
> private donors.

>

> In 1998 we were contacted by a Swiss fundraising professional by the name of
> Josef Lauber of the FRB - Fund Raising Bureau in Basel - who wanted to help
> raise funds for our work. We were told that building up a group of private
> donors costs money - and those costs would have to be recouped from the
> funds raised. But that the money raised would be available for MgM's
> demining work after approximately two years. FRB then found some nice Swiss
> and later Austrian citizens who subsequently formed the boards of MgM
> Switzerland and MgM Austria in order to raise funds for the operations of
> MgM Germany's international demining efforts. The statutes of the MgM
> branches contained one paragraph stating that all funds raised were to go to
> MgM operations and another stating that one member of the board had to be a
> member of the board of MgM Germany.

>

> It all started well enough. FRB subcontracted mail- telephone- and street-
> marketing and managed to attract 100,000 committed private Swiss donors.
> They used MgM's Name, Logo, Project reports, Interviews with Hans Georg
> Kruessen and me, etc. Their success made it the fourth largest Swiss
> charitable organization in terms of the number of private donors they
> attracted. The donors were mainly elderly people who were sent mailings up
> to eight times a year - telling them what MgM's demining groups were doing,
> and how their regular donations of money were being spent.
>
> The contract that FRB signed with MgM Switzerland gave FRB the right to take
> a management profit calculated as 17.3% of the incurred COSTS. The more
> costs, the more profit for FRB. So the mailings got loaded with Christmas
> tokens, silly Easter greeting cards etc. All mailings had to be approved by
> MgM - BUT we had not fully realised the advantage to FRB of incurring high
> costs. You would not believe the volume of convoluted technical arguments
> and other false statements that we received. At first we gave in because we
> thought it was all for the benefit of MgM's field operations, but in the end
> we became suspicious and me personally rather angry.
>
> Last year was four years after their first approach. MgM Germany had only
> received a total of 80,000 SF from MgM Switzerland - but we knew that they
> had raised more than 60 times as much as that. We decided to stop MgM
> Switzerland making misleading or false statements in their mailings. They
> were stating things like, "As a result of your donations, MgM in Angola
> successfully opened [x] kilometres of road" etc. And we also demanded a fair
> share of the money that had been raised for our work.
>
> Well, we bit on concrete. We got nowhere over months and months of many
> sleepless nights until, some months ago, I cancelled the right of MgM
> Switzerland and Austria to use our name and logo etc. It was only then that
> we learned that Mr Lauber had already copyrighted OUR logo, name etc.,
> including the printed phrase www.mgm.org - despite the domain being ours
> since 1996. It was then that we realised that the statutes had changed and
> we were not the beneficiaries anymore. On top one of their streetmarketing
> subcontractors asked to remove the MgM Germany member from the board, which
> the board of MgM Switzerland did subsequently.
>
> That caused a moment of panic, but, with the support of some good lawyers
> and auditors, we have managed to retain our legal standing.....
> The first thing we did, was to inform our donors, the Swiss Government and
> the management of GICHD. A good moment to thank all of them for the
> unconditional immediate support.
>
> Mr.Lauber then made new mailings in which he continued to use our logo and
> added the MgM picture folder. He also gave an interview to a newspaper in
> which he stated that some 50% of MgM's operational budget of 10 million SF
> originated from MgM Switzerland. In truth, less than 1/62 of that money had
> come to MgM for use in the way the donors intended.
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> Well.... what would we do to stop him?
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> Folks, beware to sell your and our good work to these sickening parasites.

> Sincerely,

>
> Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
> Director OPS + HEC-R&D
> Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
> ehlers@mgm.org
> www.mgm.org
> cel +264 81 1277020
> fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 2:26 AM

From: alfieri <alfierifontana@libero.it>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

dear adrey,

not only at mines could decrease their operating load during the time they are laid.

ap mines like Valsella vs50 and vs mk2 whose load is determined both by an air cushion and by a spring can decrease dramatically their load, from 12-15 kg to 3-4 kg, once some air leak occurs in the air cushion and corrosion hits the striker's spring.

alfieri

----- Original Message -----

From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2003 4:56 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

> Andy, Willy and all

> Operation pressure of all kind of AT mines may be decreased not only by AP mine, but also by time. Few years ago we took off old Germany AT minefield,

> deployed in Tver region in WW2 and consisting of TMI-35 mines. Bodies and shear pins of these mines was very corrosive. We didn't measure its activating forces, but I think, it was more less then in wartime. Bodies of

> plastic mines may change its structure by time too.

> Best regards

> Andrey

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "W E Lawrence" <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 3:56 PM

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

>

>

> > Dear Andy and all,

> >

> > Didactylos wrote: >Did anyone come up with a definition of what "Mine

> > Protected" actually means?

> >

> > I have found the following 'definitions' on my computer. I think they came

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> >
> > Willie Lawrence
> >
> > 22 Worpleston Way
> > Glen Lorne
> > Harare
> > Zimbabwe
> >
> > ++263 4 499 743
> > ++263 91 908 524 (Mobile)
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: British Anti-Mine Expert Slain In Iraq

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 12:42 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Los Angeles Times

September 6, 2003

British Anti-Mine Expert Slain In Iraq

By Times Wire Services

LONDON — A British bomb disposal expert was killed and his Iraqi bodyguard was seriously wounded when gunmen attacked their vehicle in northern Iraq, officials said Friday.

The roadside ambush occurred Thursday as Ian Rimell, who worked for the British-based charity Mines Advisory Group, and his bodyguard, Salem Ahmed Mohammed, were driving on a main road near Mosul.

Britain's Foreign Office said Rimell, 53, was the second British civilian to die in Iraq since the end of the war. The other was freelance TV journalist Richard Wild, 24, who was shot by an unidentified gunman in July.

Earlier Thursday, Rimell had cleared a scrap heap filled with ammunition and hidden explosives, then delivered the scrap metal for the rebuilding of a local school.

Lou McGrath, executive director of the charity, said the group was "devastated by the loss of their good friend and colleague. He was a dedicated humanitarian who worked so well with the local people."

Mines Advisory Group staff members have been in Iraq for more than a decade, with 700 mostly local personnel in northern Iraq. It was one of the few international aid agencies that stayed during the war, providing humanitarian mine clearance and mine risk education.

The Defense Ministry said Friday that Britain will send 120 more soldiers to Iraq to bolster security. The troops, from the 2nd Light Infantry, will fly this weekend from Cyprus and join Britain's 11,000-strong force.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2003 3:39 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andrey,

This is off key but I was told the similiar but about production (not weather+time) varying the standard actuation weights. I heard this from Former Serb,Croat and Bosnian Soldiers as Mines were still being made under the table (Front line Stalingrad T34 factory style) in towns and villages. You could find an AT fuze that looked the same but didnt have the same specs for weight to function. They always went with the lowest weight possiable to plan for that variable. As well the standard cracking off of the shear pins and then laying the mine to decrease weights....example TMA 1,2.

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "A. Kostioukov" <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2003 12:26 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

> Andy, Willy and all
> Operation pressure of all kind of AT mines may be decreased not only by AP
> mine, but also by time. Few years ago we took off old Germany AT
minefield,
> deployed in Tver region in WW2 and consisting of Tmi-35 mines. Bodies and
> shear pins of these mines was very corrosive. We didn't measure its
> activating forces, but I think, it was more less then in wartime. Bodies
of
> plastic mines may change its structure by time too.
> Best regards
> Andrey
>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "W E Lawrence" <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

> To: <network@mgm.org>

> Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 3:56 PM

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

>

>

> > Dear Andy and all,

> >

> > Didactylos wrote: >Did anyone come up with a definition of what "Mine

> > Protected" actually means?

> >

> > I have found the following 'definitions' on my computer. I think they
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2003 10:56 AM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Concrete signs

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2003 10:20 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hey Lawrence,

The Local Rural Serbs are stealing the signs just to be a pain in the butt in life getting back to normal. I saw it with my own eyes. A few have been caught which is good. They've also taken on a campaign of hate graffiti and destroying other things as well to rub it into the faces of the 10,000 people who returned to Vukovar after 1991s Battle. I would invite you to go to www.hrt.hr and view the history of Vukovar in 1991-2001 Vukovar remembered. Vukovar is the Stalingrad of Croatia.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
011 385 1 388 3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Lawrence Carter" <lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 10:35 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Concrete signs

> Why do people steal the signs? When in Croatia I heard that signs are removed
> so as not to frighten the tourists (!), but are there other reasons? Your
> earlier posting suggested that some residents might actually prefer an active,
> unmarked minefield... Maybe the mine awareness programmes need to be extended to
> cover this activity?
>
> Regards
>
> Lawrence
>
> --
>
> Pete Hindy wrote:
>
> > Andy,
> >
> > These would be very useful right now in Vukovar....It would be alot of
> > trouble for a sign uprooter to uproot concrete, also in the process I think
> > even more attention would be drawn to catch these guys while they are
> > pounding on it with a 10lb Sledge.
> >
> > Pete
> > Zagreb
> > 011-385-1-388-3071
>

>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites - Swiss Media

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2003 5:45 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

It is been run by all major Swiss media.

That does not stop them to contact Handicap International in France and offer them funds.

What HI does not know is if they accept any kind of donation from them, ECM will use HI's ID and projects and pictures and fully legally claim in 100000 letters per month that the money of donors to ECM goes into HI operations support. They will not tell anybody where the other 99% go.... They will also not tell that their real money comes from the mailing as such plus related kick-backs.

It makes me sick

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

-----Original Message-----

From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Robert Sherman

Sent: 08 September 2003 11:25 PM

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Why not publish this story in a major German and a major Swiss periodical? Wouldn't that discredit Lauber and his operation for life?

Bob S.

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Concrete signs

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 9:05 PM

From: Lawrence Carter <lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Why do people steal the signs? When in Croatia I heard that signs are removed so as not to frighten the tourists (!), but are there other reasons? Your earlier posting suggested that some residents might actually prefer an active, unmarked minefield... Maybe the mine awareness programmes need to be extended to cover this activity?

Regards

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> Pete

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: BURUNDI: Landmines Continue to Kill, Maim Every Year

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 8:13 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Landmines Continue to Kill, Maim Every Year

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks <http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=

UN%20Integrated%20Regional%20Information%20Networks&passed_location=Nairobi>

August 29, 2003

Richard Manirakiza, 10, was playing near an electric pole in Kabezi, Bujumbura Rural Province, when he stepped on a hard object. Then, it exploded flinging him violently to the ground.

"I did not know, then, what happened," he said.

From their mountain home overlooking the city about 20 km away, it took Manirakiza's parents and neighbours four hours to get him to Prince Regent Charles Hospital in Bujumbura, the nation's capital. The lengthy travel time cost both his legs; doctors amputated them just below the knees. If Richard seems resigned to his fate, and only misses playing with his friends, his eyes express an unusual depth of sadness for a child his age.

Emmanueline Ndayishimiye, 23, was going to fetch water in her village of Gihanga, Bubanza Province, when she set off a landmine. Her left leg is now amputated above the knee. With a one-year-old child, now under her mother's care, Ndayishimiye sees little hope in the future.

"I was running the whole day to feed my family, what will I do now with one leg?" she said.

Richard and Emmanueline are among scores of landmine victims in Burundi. A UNICEF report titled "Mine Victims in Burundi" says that 230 people suffered from landmine blasts in 2001 and 2002. It said 44 of the victims died; others were crippled for life. Anti-personnel mines accounted for the greatest number of victims, 116 in 2001 and 87 the following year. Children, most of them under 10 years old, accounted for 36 victims. Anti-tank mines accounted for eight victims in 2002 while other unexploded objects such as grenades and rockets crippled 19 the same year.

Of the provinces named in the report as the worst affected by mines - Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Makamba, Ruyigi and Rutana - Bujumbura Rural heads the list of victims with 71 for 2001 and 2003.

"One of three victims comes from Bujumbura Rural," Andre Mbayabaya, the director of civilian protection in the Ministry of Interior and Public Security, said.

The ministry, with UNICEF support, is still collecting data for 2003. Bujumbura Rural Governor Ignace Ntawembarira said that the worst-affected communes in the province were Isale, Mutimbuzi, and to a lesser extent Kabezi and Kanyosha.

"With sixteen victims, Isale is the most dangerous zone," Ntawembarira said.

Isale and Mutimbuzi residents have been warned to be very careful and, if possible, to avoid the localities of Mbale and Gasarara in Isale, and Tenga in Mutimbuzi. Ntawembarira places full responsibility for the presence of mines on the belligerents in the country's 10-year civil war.

"Government forces may plant them to protect their positions and sometimes may forget them, rebels also use them to sabotage the infrastructures," he said.

This is why the public has been forbidden to go close to some facilities such as power stations, electric poles and bridges.

However, army spokesman Col Augustin Nzabampema has denied that the army has been using mines. He also said the rebels' use of these devices was limited. "Our forces are regularly injured by grenades left behind by the enemy but landmines are very rare, and when we see one we detonate it," he told IRIN.

Whatever the scope of the problem, systematic destruction of unexploded ordnance is impossible without a ceasefire agreement. While waiting for that to happen the Ministry of Interior and Public Security, with UNICEF support, is informing the public on the risk of mines. Components of the public information strategy include aid to mine victims.

UNICEF says public information on the mine problem should be coupled with advocacy to bring the belligerents to ratify or respect the Ottawa Convention. Burundi signed the convention in 1997 but has still not ratified the document.

Mbayabaya told IRIN the ministry was still identifying victims to assess their needs before they submit these to UNICEF for funding. Meanwhile, NGOs such as Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services are still active in Makamba, southern Burundi. This NGO provides counselling to mine victims and other persons traumatised by the war. Handicap International also provides some artificial limbs to victims.

For victims like Emmanueline and Richard, aid is a key component of any mine clearance strategy: they say they need help to overcome their psychological trauma and start new productive lives.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 6:24 PM

From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@comcast.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Why not publish this story in a major German and a major Swiss periodical?
Wouldn't that discredit Lauber and his operation for life?

Bob S.

At 10:09 08-09-2003 +0100, you wrote:

>Dear Friends worldwide,

>

>Let me tell you a story that might help your organisation avoid one of the
>more unexpected potholes in modern demining. It is a true story and no one
>knows for sure whether it has a happy ending but at least it is over.

>

>Because the management of MgM works in the field in Africa, we do not have
>the time and connections to build up a group of private donors in order to
>fill the funding gaps between governmental or agency funding. We are
>professionals in mine clearance operations, but not in raising funds from
>private donors.

>

>In 1998 we were contacted by a Swiss fundraising professional by the name
of

>Josef Lauber of the FRB - Fund Raising Bureau in Basel - who wanted to help
>raise funds for our work. We were told that building up a group of private
>donors costs money - and those costs would have to be recouped from the
>funds raised. But that the money raised would be available for MgM's
>demining work after approximately two years. FRB then found some nice Swiss
>and later Austrian citizens who subsequently formed the boards of MgM
>Switzerland and MgM Austria in order to raise funds for the operations of
>MgM Germany's international demining efforts. The statutes of the MgM
>branches contained one paragraph stating that all funds raised were to go
to

>MgM operations and another stating that one member of the board had to be a
>member of the board of MgM Germany.

>

>It all started well enough. FRB subcontracted mail- telephone- and street-
>marketing and managed to attract 100,000 committed private Swiss donors.
>They used MgM's Name, Logo, Project reports, Interviews with Hans Georg
>Kruessen and me, etc. Their success made it the fourth largest Swiss
>charitable organization in terms of the number of private donors they
>attracted. The donors were mainly elderly people who were sent mailings up
>to eight times a year - telling them what MgM's demining groups were doing,
>and how their regular donations of money were being spent.

>

>The contract that FRB signed with MgM Switzerland gave FRB the right to
take

>a management profit calculated as 17.3% of the incurred COSTS. The more
>costs, the more profit for FRB. So the mailings got loaded with Christmas
>tokens, silly Easter greeting cards etc. All mailings had to be approved by
>MgM - BUT we had not fully realised the advantage to FRB of incurring high
>costs. You would not believe the volume of convoluted technical arguments
>and other false statements that we received. At first we gave in because we
>thought it was all for the benefit of MgM's field operations, but in the
end

>we became suspicious and me personally rather angry.

>
>Last year was four years after their first approach. MgM Germany had only
>received a total of 80,000 SF from MgM Switzerland - but we knew that they
>had raised more than 60 times as much as that. We decided to stop MgM
>Switzerland making misleading or false statements in their mailings. They
>were stating things like, "As a result of your donations, MgM in Angola
>successfully opened [x] kilometres of road" etc. And we also demanded a fair
>share of the money that had been raised for our work.
>
>Well, we bit on concrete. We got nowhere over months and months of many
>sleepless nights until, some months ago, I cancelled the right of MgM
>Switzerland and Austria to use our name and logo etc. It was only then that
>we learned that Mr Lauber had already copyrighted OUR logo, name etc.,
>including the printed phrase www.mgm.org - despite the domain being ours
>since 1996. It was then that we realised that the statutes had changed and
>we were not the beneficiaries anymore. On top one of their streetmarketing
>subcontractors asked to remove the MgM Germany member from the board, which
>the board of MgM Switzerland did subsequently.
>
>That caused a moment of panic, but, with the support of some good lawyers
>and auditors, we have managed to retain our legal standing.....
>The first thing we did, was to inform our donors, the Swiss Government and
>the management of GICHD. A good moment to thank all of them for the
>unconditional immediate support.
>
>Mr.Lauber then made new mailings in which he continued to use our logo and
>added the MgM picture folder. He also gave an interview to a newspaper in
>which he stated that some 50% of MgM's operational budget of 10 million SF
>originated from MgM Switzerland. In truth, less than 1/62 of that money had
>come to MgM for use in the way the donors intended.
>
>Well.... what would we do to stop him?
>
>Since 1996 we have used the name MgM with a lower-case "g" in order not to
>upset the lion of MGM, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. We were often asked how it was
>that Metro Goldwyn Mayer left us alone? Well, we answered, we don't know -
>but most probably they like our work.
>
>When we could find no way to stop Mr Lauber and FRB, we sent an emergency
>SoS to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and our silent friends reacted immediately.
>Since 19th June 2003 it is only Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer who can use the name
>MgM
>in Switzerland and Austria otherwise the lion will bite. Thank you so much
>guys!! That saved us a lot of stress and lawyer money which we do not have
>anyhow. Really well done, and many thanks.
>
>But Mr Lauber secretly had already founded several other organizations in
>Switzerland and Austria using a similar image to MgM's - which clearly
>indivates that he prepared the clash with MgM Germany on purpose to get rid
>of any control over his dubious activities. They are ECM - Ensemble contre
>les Mines, TaL - Together against Landmines, ICM - Insieme contra le mine
>and GgL - Gemeinsam gegen Minen (for Austria). By "coincidence", ECM has
>the
>same nonorable people on the board as the old MgM Switzerland. He opened
>his
>website under www.nomines.org and presents ECM etc as a functional mine
>clearance support operation. Just go and check. Even if you don't speak
>German or French (and even if you speak German but have no specific
>knowledge of the demining scene) you will be under the impression that the
>organization is well established and presents itself professionally.

>
>I have not found any clearly to identify MgM pictures from our operations
on
>the site, but I do not think that HALO, NPA, MAG, DRC, the UB, ICRC and
>others will like to see photographs of their work presented without
>acknowledging the source. The name "GICHD" is presented as if they were
good
>friends with ECM - which I also very much doubt. If you find this not in
>your interest, the address to complain to is: lauber@bluewin.ch The Swiss
>ICBL, ICRC and the Government have already complained and it resulted in
>apologies and removal.
>
>And now we get to the really sick part: On the www.nomines.org website you
>will even find a real mine clearance project advertised. The pictures
result
>from a field visit that another now-ex board member of ECM, Dr Daniel
>Christen, undertook together with our Country Director Ken O'Connell to
>Mavinga in Angola. It is HALO and NPA who work there. We (the real MgM)
>wrote a project in order to support MSF-CH and the WFP in this area. So Dr
>Christen turned a photo trip on MgM expenses into a "wannabe" ECM
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>under different labels all over the Alp republic.
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>Satphone. The other was LOVEBRIDGE from Lichtenstein which financed a
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>We should have reacted to the abuse of our good name much earlier. We did
>not because the MgM Board Member who monitored the activity of MgM foreign
>national branches was consistently tricked by Mr Lauber's lies. As a
>consequence, that person - though a founding member - has felt obliged to
>resign from the Board of MgM. The remaining MgM Board members took the
>rather radical decision to expose Lauber's operations in public. We knew
>that pulling the plug on him might damage us, but trusted that our good
work
>and reputation would defend us. We told the Swiss media the whole story.
>They ran articles on radio, TV and in the press - and the public got
>justifiably angry. But they were not angry with MgM - because the press and
>the authorities recognised our innocence and referred to it as the ECM and
>Lauber scandal. The General Attorney of Basel confiscated files, the
>Austrian Government is investigating - But Lauber and company continue to
>say that they did nothing wrong at all. When questioned in a TV interview,

>Lauber admitted that his personal income from money intended for demining
>was 500,000 SFR a year, but he saw nothing wrong in using the donations of
>private citizens to finance the lifestyle of himself and his friends. The
>total of funds raised by FRB into their own pockets through the MgM Germany
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>I admit that MgM Germany was naïve over all this. We (and this actually
>means I myself) made a bad call and trusted the wrong guy. But for the
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>reasons. If we make a bad call that does not begin to excuse the abuse of
>funds intended to relieve the suffering of landmine affected populations.
>Lauber and ECM are discrediting all Humanitarian Demining efforts and are
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>Unfortunately the most likely to fall into this pit not-knowingly is our
>friend Roger Ray Hess - as a good number of pictures on the ECM website are
>from FSD and Lauber always wanted to go to bed with them. This morning we
>received a copy of an email where Lauber's Secretary Ursula Zanetti-Borner
>is offering money to Adopt-a-Minefield.

>
>Folks, beware to sell your and our good work to these sickening parasites.

>
>Sincerely,
>
>Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
>Director OPS + HEC-R&D
>Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
>ehlers@mgm.org
>www.mgm.org
>cel +264 81 1277020
>fax +264 61 243477

>
>
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 4:43 PM

From: Earl Elster <earl.elster@cartographic.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

East View Cartographic is proud to announce the publication of the first in a series of books called Terrain Analysis of Afghanistan, which will eventually be followed by similar geographic analysis books for additional countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, China, and others. The contents of this 390 page volume are derived from detailed ground level survey work of Afghanistan performed during the 1980's by the Soviet military mapping agency VTU (Military-Topographic Directorate).

Published in English for the first time, this book provides sub-province local terrain analysis with detailed reports for 128 local regions, each of which corresponds to a specific region of Afghanistan defined by Soviet/Russian topographic maps at 1:200,000 scale. An individual map quadrangle covers an area measuring approximately 74 by 92 kilometers (40 minutes lat. by 60 minutes long.), with the name of each area based on the English translation of the largest population center appearing on the map. The narrative information contained in this volume overwhelmingly comes from terrain analysis studies appearing on the verso side of the above-mentioned maps.

For each of the 128 map sheets there exist six categories of information. They are:

1. Populated Places describes populated centers ranging from small towns and villages to major cities and includes local road and street conditions, building characteristic, water resources, housing density, sanitary conditions, telecommunications infrastructure and population levels.
2. Roads describes road and bridge conditions throughout the country and includes load capacities, surface materials (e.g. dirt, gravel, asphalt), width of the roads and beds in meters, elevation ranges, and passage conditions as impacted by change of seasons, snow, and flooding etc.
3. Topography and Soils contains localized analysis of soil and terrain conditions including altitude and slope characteristics for mountainous areas, types of soils (e.g. sandy, clay), water table levels, river bottom conditions, and seismic activity.
4. Hydrology describes major rivers in each area including widths, depths, and flow rates, along with banks/islands, silting, freezing, pollution, and other conditions which can affect their passage or usage.
5. Vegetation is described as to whether it is grassy, forested, shrubs, and other. Tree heights and types are identified, as are the predominant types of grasses and the crops that are raised in each area by local farmers.
6. Climate ranges in Afghanistan range from subtropical and continental to wintery and mountain arid. Temperature ranges are chronicled by season along with snow, rainfall, and wind conditions.

As it is anticipated that many users of these volumes will have more intensive geospatial requirements, the appendix contains Russian and American topographic map indices at various scales, all of which are available in paper or digital formats. The overview copy of the Russian 200k topographic map sheet shows the location by page number of the chapter coverage for the individual map sheets. Additionally, the individual 200k map sheets contain thousands of geographic place names translated into English in accordance with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) standards. Multi-color soil maps are also provided for each region indicating by color if the local soil condition is clay, sand, loam, stone, boulder or other.

Given the total lack of this type of information from other sources, this book represents an invaluable reference source for the many companies, governmental agencies, NGO's, individuals and others who will be involved in helping the government of Hamid Karzai in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

We are offering this book at the special sale price of US \$295 per copy plus shipping, additional discounts are available for quantity purchases, please inquire as indicated below regarding this option.

To obtain more details regarding this publication, please go to the following locations on our website.

http://www.cartographic.com/whats_new.asp

<http://www.cartographic.com/documents/Afghan%20Terrain.pdf>

http://www.cartographic.com/xq/ASP/RegionID.18/AreaID.6/ClassID.1100/TypeID.1113/ProductID.18890/qx/other_maps.asp#view

To purchase or obtain additional information about this or any other East View Cartographic product, please contact us by telephone at tel. 1-763-550-0965 or 1-800-477-1005. You may contact Ana Niedermaier, ext. 262 or Geoff Forbes, ext. 261. You may also contact us by Fax 1-763-559-2931 or E-mail maps@cartographic.com. In order to facilitate the processing of your order we require your name, organization name, contact telephone number, fax, and/or e-mail address, and the complete ship-to address. If you plan to use a credit card to purchase we need the following credit card information: name on the card, type of card, card number, and expiration date.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Earl Elster
Director of Sales and Marketing
East View Cartographic
3020 Harbor Lane North
Minneapolis, MN 55447-5137
Tel. 1 (763) 550-0965 Ext. 270
Fax. 1 (763) 559-2931
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Tried to post.

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 4:09 PM

From: Earl Elster <earl.elster@cartographic.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Sir:

I tried to post an item to your list but am not sure if I did it correctly. I sent it to the email address network-feed@mgm.org, is that the correct way to do it or not? I am not quite sure about the meaning of your different email addresses. Please advise.

Thank you,
Earl Elster
Director of Sales and Marketing
East View Cartographic
3020 Harbor Lane North
Minneapolis, MN 55447-5137
Tel. 1 (763) 550-0961 Ext. 270
Fax. 1 (763) 559-2931
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Issue 7.2 of the Journal of Mine Action now online

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 3:43 PM

From: busems@jmu.edu

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Mine Action Colleagues,

The Journal of Mine Action issue 7.2, Landmines in the Balkans and Caucasus with a special feature on Iraq, is now online at <http://maic.jmu.edu/journal/7.2> Hard copies will be in the mail by the end of September. I would like to express my appreciation to all who contributed to this issue.

Articles are now being accepted for issue 7.3- Research, Development and Technology in mine action, as well as our feature section on Area Reduction, Area Reduction Techniques and Lessons Learned. Deadline for this issue is October 20, 2003. Articles that meet the submission guidelines will receive first consideration.

Anyone interested in contributing an article on these or other mine action topics can contact me directly at busems@jmu.edu or 540-568-2503.

Margaret Buse`
Editor, Journal of Mine Action

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 3:32 PM

From: Lars C. PL Brake <lc@plbrake.dk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Hendrik and All

We has in the last five years had similar experience about fundraiser and moneymen as you here describe. It is a unpleasant behaviour pattern that we all have to face and fight against.

I do believe that it is a very good idea to uncover such experience as written below, even if it look like we are naive.

With kind regards

Lars C

www.plbrake.dk

At 10:09 08-09-2003 +0100, you wrote:

>Dear Friends worldwide,

>

>Let me tell you a story that might help your organisation avoid one of the
>more unexpected potholes in modern demining. It is a true story and no one
>knows for sure whether it has a happy ending but at least it is over.

>

>Because the management of MgM works in the field in Africa, we do not have
>the time and connections to build up a group of private donors in order to
>fill the funding gaps between governmental or agency funding. We are
>professionals in mine clearance operations, but not in raising funds from
>private donors.

>

>In 1998 we were contacted by a Swiss fundraising professional by the name of
>Josef Lauber of the FRB - Fund Raising Bureau in Basel - who wanted to help
>raise funds for our work. We were told that building up a group of private
>donors costs money - and those costs would have to be recouped from the
>funds raised. But that the money raised would be available for MgM's
>demining work after approximately two years. FRB then found some nice Swiss
>and later Austrian citizens who subsequently formed the boards of MgM
>Switzerland and MgM Austria in order to raise funds for the operations of
>MgM Germany's international demining efforts. The statutes of the MgM
>branches contained one paragraph stating that all funds raised were to go to
>MgM operations and another stating that one member of the board had to be a
>member of the board of MgM Germany.

>

>It all started well enough. FRB subcontracted mail- telephone- and street-
>marketing and managed to attract 100,000 committed private Swiss donors.
>They used MgM's Name, Logo, Project reports, Interviews with Hans Georg
>Kruessen and me, etc. Their success made it the fourth largest Swiss
>charitable organization in terms of the number of private donors they
>attracted. The donors were mainly elderly people who were sent mailings up
>to eight times a year - telling them what MgM's demining groups were doing,
>and how their regular donations of money were being spent.

>

>The contract that FRB signed with MgM Switzerland gave FRB the right to take

>a management profit calculated as 17.3% of the incurred COSTS. The more
>costs, the more profit for FRB. So the mailings got loaded with Christmas
>tokens, silly Easter greeting cards etc. All mailings had to be approved by
>MgM - BUT we had not fully realised the advantage to FRB of incurring high
>costs. You would not believe the volume of convoluted technical arguments
>and other false statements that we received. At first we gave in because we
>thought it was all for the benefit of MgM's field operations, but in the end
>we became suspicious and me personally rather angry.

>

>Last year was four years after their first approach. MgM Germany had only
>received a total of 80,000 SF from MgM Switzerland - but we knew that they
>had raised more than 60 times as much as that. We decided to stop MgM
>Switzerland making misleading or false statements in their mailings. They
>were stating things like, "As a result of your donations, MgM in Angola
>successfully opened [x] kilometres of road" etc. And we also demanded a fair
>share of the money that had been raised for our work.

>

>Well, we bit on concrete. We got nowhere over months and months of many
>sleepless nights until, some months ago, I cancelled the right of MgM
>Switzerland and Austria to use our name and logo etc. It was only then that
>we learned that Mr Lauber had already copyrighted OUR logo, name etc.,
>including the printed phrase www.mgm.org - despite the domain being ours
>since 1996. It was then that we realised that the statutes had changed and
>we were not the beneficiaries anymore. On top one of their streetmarketing
>subcontractors asked to remove the MgM Germany member from the board, which
>the board of MgM Switzerland did subsequently.

>

>That caused a moment of panic, but, with the support of some good lawyers
>and auditors, we have managed to retain our legal standing.....
>The first thing we did, was to inform our donors, the Swiss Government and
>the management of GICHD. A good moment to thank all of them for the
>unconditional immediate support.

>

>Mr.Lauber then made new mailings in which he continued to use our logo and
>added the MgM picture folder. He also gave an interview to a newspaper in
>which he stated that some 50% of MgM's operational budget of 10 million SF
>originated from MgM Switzerland. In truth, less than 1/62 of that money had
>come to MgM for use in the way the donors intended.

>

>Well.... what would we do to stop him?

>

>Since 1996 we have used the name MgM with a lower-case "g" in order not to
>upset the lion of MGM, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. We were often asked how it was
>that Metro Goldwyn Mayer left us alone? Well, we answered, we don't know -
>but most probably they like our work.

>

>When we could find no way to stop Mr Lauber and FRB, we sent an emergency
>SoS to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and our silent friends reacted immediately.
>Since 19th June 2003 it is only Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer who can use the name MgM
>in Switzerland and Austria otherwise the lion will bite. Thank you so much
>guys!! That saved us a lot of stress and lawyer money which we do not have
>anyhow. Really well done, and many thanks.

>

>But Mr Lauber secretly had already founded several other organizations in
>Switzerland and Austria using a similar image to MgM's - which clearly
>indivates that he prepared the clash with MgM Germany on purpose to get rid
>of any control over his dubious activities. They are ECM - Ensemble contre
>les Mines, TaL - Together against Landmines, ICM - Insieme contra le mine
>and GgL - Gemeinsam gegen Minen (for Austria). By "coincidence", ECM has the
>same nonorable people on the board as the old MgM Switzerland. He opened his
>website under www.nomines.org and presents ECM etc as a functional mine

>clearance support operation. Just go and check. Even if you don't speak
>German or French (and even if you speak German but have no specific
>knowledge of the demining scene) you will be under the impression that the
>organization is well established and presents itself professionally.

>
>I have not found any clearly to identify MgM pictures from our operations on
>the site, but I do not think that HALO, NPA, MAG, DRC, the UB, ICRC and
>others will like to see photographs of their work presented without
>acknowledging the source. The name "GICHD" is presented as if they were good
>friends with ECM - which I also very much doubt. If you find this not in
>your interest, the address to complain to is: lauber@bluewin.ch The Swiss
>ICBL, ICRC and the Government have already complained and it resulted in
>apologies and removal.

>
>And now we get to the really sick part: On the www.nomines.org website you
>will even find a real mine clearance project advertised. The pictures result
>from a field visit that another now-ex board member of ECM, Dr Daniel
>Christen, undertook together with our Country Director Ken O'Connell to
>Mavinga in Angola. It is HALO and NPA who work there. We (the real MgM)
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>Folks, beware to sell your and our good work to these sickening parasites.

>
>Sincerely,

>
>Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
>Director OPS + HEC-R&D
>Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
>ehlers@mgm.org
>www.mgm.org
>cel +264 81 1277020
>fax +264 61 243477

>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 1:08 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I agree,

And what goes around surley comes around in some form.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robin Collins" <robinco@sympatico.ca>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 9:50 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

> Hendrik,

>

> if anything I think your and your organization's credibility have
> been enhanced by your posting the story. Certainly this clarification
> is a useful lesson for all. Thanks for letting us in on it.

>

> Robin

>

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>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Concrete signs

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 1:07 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andy,

These would be very useful right now in Vukovar....It would be alot of trouble for a sign uprooter to uproot concrete, also in the process I think even more attention would be drawn to catch these guys while they are pounding on it with a 10lb Sledge.

Pete
Zagreb
011-385-1-388-3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 9:51 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Chubbed out

> Sorry for the barrage of vehicle mounted detector stuff - which I know is
> only of marginal interest in the humanitarian demining community. However,
> one last chunk of info (lifted directly from those informing me) and I can
> let the Chubby subject rest with the feeling of having fairly represented
> all views.... What follows could be seen as sales blurb - but actually it
> reads as refreshingly honest and forthright.
>
> Southern Africa is the source of lots of other equipment - from vehicles
to
> handtools, visors, armour and even robust and re-usable marking tape.....
> How come no one else is joining the "Praise Southern Africa" campaign to
> talk about that stuff? [Note that I use the term "Southern Africa" in the
> hope of avoiding old squabbles between Zim, RSA, Namibia, etc.]
>
> Also - and I apologise if this is misconstrued given the losses in Iraq
and
> the subsequent withdrawing of many aid agencies including demining groups
> who were not perceived as "neutral" enough - I have been talking-up
Southern
> Africa because I want to remind the forum that Iraq is only one theatre.
> Afghanistan has seen some innovative vehicle use.... The Balkans likewise.
> Cambodia, well Cambodia..... Thailand, Laos, Sudan Eritrea, Lebanon,
> etc..... Lots of places each with lots of lessons I want to hear about.
>
> The picture attached is one of Sakkie's taken in Thailand - showing a cast
> concrete warning sign. The low-quality concrete is reinforced with
bamboo -
> so being unattractive to scrap-gatherers - and the post with its embossed
> sign survives bush fires, etc. It is a damn good idea when marking signs
are
> stolen as souvenirs or broken up by people scavenging the materials used -
> or simply burned off in bush fires. I cannot think of a better permanent
> marking sign - and if local people are employed to make them, they will
know
> that they have no resale value and probably leave them alone, even if they

> do not actually maintain them.
>
> Regards
> Andy
>
>
>
> IVMMD
>
> A complete IVMMD consists of one Mine Detection Vehicle (MDV), commonly
> referred to as a "Meerkat", one Towing/Mine Detection Vehicle (T/MDV),
> commonly referred to as a "Husky", and three Mine Detonation Trailers,
> commonly referred to as the "Duisendpoot". The system also comes with
> repair packs, referred to as "Red Packs", which contain spare detection
> arrays, front and rear assemblies. Once assembled, organic engineer
vehicles
> can easily tow them to the repair site. Each complete IVMMD comes
packaged
> in eight specialized containers and must be assembled on site. Each unit
> receiving two or more IVMMDs will also receive a third repair pack, called
a
> "Blue Pack". It contains all the major repair parts such as axles,
engines,
> and batteries. The Blue Pack is self-contained and must be mounted on a
> trailer for movement to the repair site.
>
> The Meerkat's primary mission is detection. It employs a 4-cylinder
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> and a manual transmission to propel the 4.8-ton vehicle along the route.
> The Meerkat is equipped with a 3-meter wide detection array. The
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> array is suspended between the two axles of the vehicle and although the
> vehicle is designed to produce very little ground pressure, it could
> detonate pressure-fused mines depending on the sensitivity of the fuse
used.
>
> Although the Husky has the same detection and marking system as the
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> its primary mission is proofing. The Husky also has a larger 6-cylinder
> engine. The Husky weighs approximately 9 tons and tows the three mine
> detonation trailers, collectively referred to as the Duisendpoot. The
> Duisendpoot weighs approximately 25 tons. Recommended operating speed of
> the Husky and Duisendpoot is no more than 15 km/hr.
>
> The Duisendpoot is specifically designed to apply large ground pressures
to
> initiate pressure-activated mines. Each trailer has two axles of
different
> lengths, so that the three trailers provide a full 3-meter-wide proofing
> capability behind the Husky. If a mine does detonate underneath the
> Duisendpoot, the wheel bolts are designed to shear, and repair is limited
to
> replacing a single wheel.
>
> When completely assembled the Meerkat weighs 4,400 kg (9,680 lbs), and its
> Red Pack weighs 2,950 kg (6,490 lbs). The Husky weighs 8,200 kg (18,040
> lbs), and its Red Pack weighs 4,854 kg (10,679 lbs). The first and second
> detonation trailers weigh 8,000 kg (17,600 lbs) each. The third
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> trailer weighs 6,200 kg (13,640 lbs). The combined weight of the Husky
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> the Duisenpoot exceed 30 tons, therefore cannot cross bridges limited to
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>
>
>
> GSTAMIDS
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> the need for a vehicle-mounted mine detection system for use in all levels
> of conflict and for Stability and Support Operations (SASO). The purpose
> of
> the GSTAMIDS is to detect both buried and surface-laid, metallic and low
> metallic antitank (AT) mines from a teleoperated, blast and fragmentation
> survivable vehicle detection system. When the mine detection system
> identifies the mine, the GSTAMIDS will alert the operator audibly and/or
> visually, and mark the mine's location (within a 1/4 meter radius) for
> subsequent confirmation and neutralization from a Mine Protected
> Clearance/Control Vehicle (MPCV). Antipersonnel (AP) mines will normally
> be
> detonated by the Mine Detection Vehicle (MEERKAT - MDV), MPCV, or a
> towing
> vehicle (Husky) with proofing trailers that are protected from extensive
> damage from AP mines. The primary mission of the GSTAMIDS is to detect AT
> mines during route clearance operations.
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> The Mine Detection Vehicle's only mission is to detect and mark mines. It
> employs a 4-cylinder engine and an automatic transmission to propel the
> 4.8-ton vehicle with a 3-meter wide detection array. The MEERKAT - MDV
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> be teleoperated (optional), from the MPCV to achieve standoff capability
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> the soldiers. The vehicle is blast protected to provide operator
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> "frangible" nature of the front and rear wheel assemblies prevents the
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> force of a blast from being translated into the system's sub-components.
> When the tire pressure is reduced in the operational mode, the vehicle can
> overpass most AT mines. The detection array includes both metal detection
> and ground penetrating radar (GPR) sensors. The detection array is
> suspended between the two axles of the vehicle. A downward looking
> Infra-red (IR) Ultra Violet (UV) detection subsystem (optional) may be
> included also. When the detector encounters a mine like object, the
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> marks the suspected area by spraying a marking fluid on top of the target.
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> The Towing Vehicle (TV) follows the MPCV and, has a 6-cylinder engine.
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> TV weighs approximately 9 tons and tows three detonation trailers. The
> recommended operating speed of the TV with all three Mine Detonation
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> and are specifically designed to apply large ground pressures to initiate
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: re Hying the name again -- no defense

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 10:13 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob,

I am entirely sympathetic with your argument. When I was co-chair I asked my own organization's Board to cease referring to the treaty as the MBT and there was agreement to use the proper term AP mine ban treaty or Ottawa convention (etc.) In other words there is recognition that you are right.

Nonetheless, the term continues to appear frequently here and there, including in MAC as short-hand for the proper term. I note that the Canadian government always uses the proper term. The attitude among NGOs appears to be that the (wrong) term is so widely used, it is hopeless to change it. Maybe so, but you are entirely correct that precision is important. Using the wrong term adds to the confusion.

One difficulty is that the term MBT appears throughout Landmine Monitor, and so is etched in history.

If you write a letter, I will forward it through the CC of the ICBL once again.

Robin

> From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
> Date: 2003/09/08 Mon AM 09:26:08 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Hying the name again -- no defense
>
> I note that neither the ICBL nor the USCBL has responded to my request to
> explain why it uses the dishonest name "Mine Ban Treaty."
>
> It is, of course, impossible to defend the indefensible. At this point the
> honorable thing would be to apologize and promise never to do it again. But
> in this context, I suppose that and four quarters will get you change for a
> dollar.
>
> Bob S.
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Robert Sherman [mailto:shermaro@cs.com]
> Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2003 4:48 PM
> To: 'network@mgm.org'
> Subject: Hying the name again
>
> I have received an e-mail, reproduced below, urging me to write to
> Presidential candidates to ask for their support of the "Mine Ban Treaty."
>
> Can whomever is responsible for this tell us why you persist in using such a
> spectacularly dishonest name for the Ottawa Convention?
>
> Bob S.
>
> *****
>
> Urge the 2004 Presidential Candidates to Support the Mine Ban Treaty
>

> The 2004 Presidential election campaign is already gaining momentum. This
> offers us a fantastic opportunity to raise the issue of landmines and the
> Mine Ban Treaty to the candidates, in the media, and among the general
> public.
>
> Please help us! Let us know if you can do any of the following:
>
> Monitor the 2004 presidential candidates' event schedules in your state and
> tell us about any upcoming scheduled events.
> Go to large campaign events or major appearances by a candidate or
> candidates with "Ban Landmines" signs.
> Go to smaller campaign events such as house parties and town meetings and
> tell the candidates themselves that you care about the landmines issue, and
> ask them if they support the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.
> If you are getting involved with any of the campaigns, ask the candidates or
> their staff to come out in favor of the Mine Ban Treaty. Let us know who
> the right contact people are within the campaign on this issue in your
> state. Also, urge friends and donors of the candidates to raise this issue
> with them.
> Email us at banmines@phrusa.org or call 617-695-0041. Let us know your
> address, email, and phone number, particularly if you are from the following
> "swing" states or those with early primaries, so we can contact you
> periodically about upcoming campaign event opportunities. Ask for campaign
> coordinator Gina Coplon-Newfield.
> In particular, let us know if you are from any of the following target
> states:
>
>
> Arizona California Connecticut
> Iowa Georgia Maine
> Maryland Massachusetts Michigan
> Missouri New Hampshire New York
> South Carolina Vermont Virginia
>
>
> Health Professional Sign-On Letter
>
> If you are a prominent health professional (dean of medical school, head of
> hospital, head of department, head of health association, director of
> health-related organization, etc), please sign our letter to the 2004
> Presidential Candidates urging them to support the Mine Ban Treaty.
>
> [Click here to sign letter on line](#)
> [Click here for PDF version of letter](#)
>
>
> Or contact the candidates directly
>
> [Click here for a sample letter and the candidates' contact information.](#)
>
> Note that the US Campaign to Ban Landmines will not be endorsing any of the
> candidates, but we will be urging all of them -democrats and republican- to
> come out in favor of the Mine Ban Treaty.
>
> Please pass this action alert along to organizations and individuals who may
> be interested in peace, health, human rights, and international relations.
> Thank you!
>
>
> #####
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> the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
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>
>

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the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Hying the name again -- no defense
Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 9:26 AM
From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@cs.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

I note that neither the ICBL nor the USCBL has responded to my request to explain why it uses the dishonest name "Mine Ban Treaty."

It is, of course, impossible to defend the indefensible. At this point the honorable thing would be to apologize and promise never to do it again. But in this context, I suppose that and four quarters will get you change for a dollar.

Bob S.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Sherman [mailto:shermaro@cs.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2003 4:48 PM
To: 'network@mgm.org'
Subject: Hying the name again

I have received an e-mail, reproduced below, urging me to write to Presidential candidates to ask for their support of the "Mine Ban Treaty."

Can whomever is responsible for this tell us why you persist in using such a spectacularly dishonest name for the Ottawa Convention?

Bob S.

Urge the 2004 Presidential Candidates to Support the Mine Ban Treaty

The 2004 Presidential election campaign is already gaining momentum. This offers us a fantastic opportunity to raise the issue of landmines and the Mine Ban Treaty to the candidates, in the media, and among the general public.

Please help us! Let us know if you can do any of the following:

Monitor the 2004 presidential candidates' event schedules in your state and tell us about any upcoming scheduled events.

Go to large campaign events or major appearances by a candidate or candidates with "Ban Landmines" signs.

Go to smaller campaign events such as house parties and town meetings and tell the candidates themselves that you care about the landmines issue, and ask them if they support the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

If you are getting involved with any of the campaigns, ask the candidates or their staff to come out in favor of the Mine Ban Treaty. Let us know who the right contact people are within the campaign on this issue in your state. Also, urge friends and donors of the candidates to raise this issue with them.

Email us at banmines@phrusa.org or call 617-695-0041. Let us know your address, email, and phone number, particularly if you are from the following "swing" states or those with early primaries, so we can contact you periodically about upcoming campaign event opportunities. Ask for campaign

coordinator Gina Coplon-Newfield.
In particular, let us know if you are from any of the following target states:

Arizona California Connecticut
Iowa Georgia Maine
Maryland Massachusetts Michigan
Missouri New Hampshire New York
South Carolina Vermont Virginia

Health Professional Sign-On Letter

If you are a prominent health professional (dean of medical school, head of hospital, head of department, head of health association, director of health-related organization, etc), please sign our letter to the 2004 Presidential Candidates urging them to support the Mine Ban Treaty.

[Click here to sign letter on line](#)
[Click here for PDF version of letter](#)

Or contact the candidates directly

[Click here for a sample letter and the candidates' contact information.](#)

Note that the US Campaign to Ban Landmines will not be endorsing any of the candidates, but we will be urging all of them -democrats and republican- to come out in favor of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Please pass this action alert along to organizations and individuals who may be interested in peace, health, human rights, and international relations.
Thank you!

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the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Land Mine Explosion Kills 12 in Eastern India

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 8:34 AM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Land Mine Explosion Kills 12 in Eastern India

The Associated Press

Published: **Sep 8, 2003**

PATNA, India (AP) - Suspected communist rebels detonated a land mine under a passing police vehicle in eastern India on Monday, killing 10 officers and two civilians, police said. The attack took place in hilly terrain in Rohtas district, 125 miles west of Patna, the capital of the eastern Indian state of Bihar, said Ritu Raj, the deputy inspector-general of police. The civilians killed were the driver of the vehicle and a village guard, Raj said. Raj said militants of the outlawed Maoist Communist Center were suspected in the attack since the area is their stronghold. Other details were not immediately available. The rebels work closely with the People's War Group, another guerrilla group, and are active in five southern and eastern states. They are also suspected of having close links with Nepal's communist rebels. More than 6,000 people have been killed since the rebels, inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, began fighting in 1981. The insurgents mostly target rich landowners and police. AP-ES-09-08-03 0546EDT

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Chubbed out

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 8:21 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sorry for the barrage of vehicle mounted detector stuff - which I know is only of marginal interest in the humanitarian demining community. However, one last chunk of info (lifted directly from those informing me) and I can let the Chubby subject rest with the feeling of having fairly represented all views.... What follows could be seen as sales blurb - but actually it reads as refreshingly honest and forthright.

Southern Africa is the source of lots of other equipment - from vehicles to handtools, visors, armour and even robust and re-usable marking tape..... How come no one else is joining the "Praise Southern Africa" campaign to talk about that stuff? [Note that I use the term "Southern Africa" in the hope of avoiding old squabbles between Zim, RSA, Namibia, etc.]

Also - and I apologise if this is misconstrued given the losses in Iraq and the subsequent withdrawing of many aid agencies including demining groups who were not perceived as "neutral" enough - I have been talking-up Southern Africa because I want to remind the forum that Iraq is only one theatre. Afghanistan has seen some innovative vehicle use.... The Balkans likewise. Cambodia, well Cambodia..... Thailand, Laos, Sudan Eritrea, Lebanon, etc..... Lots of places each with lots of lessons I want to hear about.

The picture attached is one of Sakkie's taken in Thailand - showing a cast concrete warning sign. The low-quality concrete is reinforced with bamboo - so being unattractive to scrap-gatherers - and the post with its embossed sign survives bush fires, etc. It is a damn good idea when marking signs are stolen as souvenirs or broken up by people scavenging the materials used - or simply burned off in bush fires. I cannot think of a better permanent marking sign - and if local people are employed to make them, they will know that they have no resale value and probably leave them alone, even if they do not actually maintain them.

Regards
Andy

IVMMD

A complete IVMMD consists of one Mine Detection Vehicle (MDV), commonly referred to as a "Meerkat", one Towing/Mine Detection Vehicle (T/MDV), commonly referred to as a "Husky", and three Mine Detonation Trailers, commonly referred to as the "Duisendpoot". The system also comes with repair packs, referred to as "Red Packs", which contain spare detection arrays, front and rear assemblies. Once assembled, organic engineer vehicles can easily tow them to the repair site. Each complete IVMMD comes packaged in eight specialized containers and must be assembled on site. Each unit receiving two or more IVMMDs will also receive a third repair pack, called a "Blue Pack". It contains all the major repair parts such as axles, engines, and batteries. The Blue Pack is self-contained and must be mounted on a trailer for movement to the repair site.

The Meerkat's primary mission is detection. It employs a 4-cylinder engine and a manual transmission to propel the 4.8-ton vehicle along the route.

The Meerkat is equipped with a 3-meter wide detection array. The detection array is suspended between the two axles of the vehicle and although the vehicle is designed to produce very little ground pressure, it could detonate pressure-fused mines depending on the sensitivity of the fuse used.

Although the Husky has the same detection and marking system as the Meerkat, its primary mission is proofing. The Husky also has a larger 6-cylinder engine. The Husky weighs approximately 9 tons and tows the three mine detonation trailers, collectively referred to as the Duisendpoot. The Duisendpoot weighs approximately 25 tons. Recommended operating speed of the Husky and Duisendpoot is no more than 15 km/hr.

The Duisendpoot is specifically designed to apply large ground pressures to initiate pressure-activated mines. Each trailer has two axles of different lengths, so that the three trailers provide a full 3-meter-wide proofing capability behind the Husky. If a mine does detonate underneath the Duisendpoot, the wheel bolts are designed to shear, and repair is limited to replacing a single wheel.

When completely assembled the Meerkat weighs 4,400 kg (9,680 lbs), and its Red Pack weighs 2,950 kg (6,490 lbs). The Husky weighs 8,200 kg (18,040 lbs), and its Red Pack weighs 4,854 kg (10,679 lbs). The first and second detonation trailers weigh 8,000 kg (17,600 lbs) each. The third detonation trailer weighs 6,200 kg (13,640 lbs). The combined weight of the Husky and the Duisendpoot exceed 30 tons, therefore cannot cross bridges limited to wheeled traffic (MLC<30).

GSTAMIDS

The GSTAMIDS Block 0 is the first step in an incremental solution to meet the need for a vehicle-mounted mine detection system for use in all levels of conflict and for Stability and Support Operations (SASO). The purpose of the GSTAMIDS is to detect both buried and surface-laid, metallic and low metallic antitank (AT) mines from a teleoperated, blast and fragmentation survivable vehicle detection system. When the mine detection system identifies the mine, the GSTAMIDS will alert the operator audibly and/or visually, and mark the mine's location (within a 1/4 meter radius) for subsequent confirmation and neutralization from a Mine Protected Clearance/Control Vehicle (MPCV). Antipersonnel (AP) mines will normally be detonated by the Mine Detection Vehicle (MEERKAT - MDV), MPCV, or a towing vehicle (Husky) with proofing trailers that are protected from extensive damage from AP mines. The primary mission of the GSTAMIDS is to detect AT mines during route clearance operations.

The Mine Detection Vehicle's only mission is to detect and mark mines. It employs a 4-cylinder engine and an automatic transmission to propel the 4.8-ton vehicle with a 3-meter wide detection array. The MEERKAT - MDV can be teleoperated (optional), from the MPCV to achieve standoff capability for the soldiers. The vehicle is blast protected to provide operator protection and subsystem component survivability in the event of a mine blast. The "frangible" nature of the front and rear wheel assemblies prevents the full force of a blast from being translated into the system's sub-components. When the tire pressure is reduced in the operational mode, the vehicle can overpass most AT mines. The detection array includes both metal detection and ground penetrating radar (GPR) sensors. The detection array is suspended between the two axles of the vehicle. A downward looking Infra-red (IR) Ultra Violet (UV) detection subsystem (optional) may be included also. When the detector encounters a mine like object, the vehicle marks the suspected area by spraying a marking fluid on top of the target.

The Towing Vehicle (TV) follows the MPCV and, has a 6-cylinder engine. The TV weighs approximately 9 tons and tows three detonation trailers. The recommended operating speed of the TV with all three Mine Detonation Trailers is no more 20 km/hr. The Mine Detonation Trailers are very heavy and are specifically designed to apply large ground pressures to initiate pressure-activated mines. Each trailer has two axles of different lengths, so that the three trailers provide a full 3-meter-wide proofing capability behind the TV. The three detonation trailers weigh 18,040 lbs, 18,040 lbs and 13,530 lbs in order. The Mine Detonation Trailers produce 59.47 PSI of ground pressure when in the operating mode. If a mine does detonate underneath the detonation trailers, the wheel bolts are designed to shear, and repair is limited to replacing a single wheel. The detonation trailers are hard to turn in tight spaces and cannot be backed up.



Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 8:20 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik,

if anything I think your and your organization's credibility have been enhanced by your posting the story. Certainly this clarification is a useful lesson for all. Thanks for letting us in on it.

Robin

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 7:56 AM

From: W E Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Dear Andy and all,

Didactylos wrote: >Did anyone come up with a definition of what "Mine Protected" actually means?

I have found the following 'definitions' on my computer. I think they came from some manufacturers' glossy pamphlet for an armoured vehicle of some description or another. They are not very good descriptions, and I do not claim them as my own, but it might be a start for someone to try to define what is what in the MPV/MHV world.

Mine Hardened Vehicle. A vehicle designed and manufactured in such a manner that it is capable of withstanding a significant explosive detonation beneath its hull.

Mine Protected Vehicle. Vehicle specially designed or with additional protection against land mines in order to deflect the explosive shock waves past the vehicle. A vehicle designed and manufactured in such a manner that it is capable of withstanding an explosive detonation from an anti-tank mine beneath its hull or wheels, potentially without death or serious injury to the occupants.

Didactylos wrote: > here's a question. How many out there believe that all AT pressure initiated mines need 100+kg pressure to initiate them?

On the subject of AT mines that can be detonated by less than 100Kg pressure, attached is a picture of an Argentine FMK-1 and FMK-3 to show the existence of ATs that can be detonated by the use of an AP as an initiator.

Best regards to all

Willie Lawrence

22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne
Harare
Zimbabwe

++263 4 499 743

++263 91 908 524 (Mobile)



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To switch to the Digest mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>
Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 7:54 AM

From: Paul Murray <bomgon@acctechmail.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hendrik,

The only positive out of this is for you to be flattered. When you have developed something that is so successful that someone else is trying to steal it from you, your program must be successful. On a smaller scale BOMBS AWAY went through a similar scenario as far as someone trying to make a profit off our good name.

Keep your chin up!

Cheers,

Paul Murray

BOMBS AWAY

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC" <ehlers@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 2:09 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Dear Friends worldwide,

Let me tell you a story that might help your organisation avoid one of the more unexpected potholes in modern demining. It is a true story and no one knows for sure whether it has a happy ending but at least it is over.

Because the management of MgM works in the field in Africa, we do not have the time and connections to build up a group of private donors in order to fill the funding gaps between governmental or agency funding. We are professionals in mine clearance operations, but not in raising funds from private donors.

In 1998 we were contacted by a Swiss fundraising professional by the name of Josef Lauber of the FRB - Fund Raising Bureau in Basel - who wanted to help raise funds for our work. We were told that building up a group of private donors costs money - and those costs would have to be recouped from the funds raised. But that the money raised would be available for MgM's demining work after approximately two years. FRB then found some nice Swiss and later Austrian citizens who subsequently formed the boards of MgM Switzerland and MgM Austria in order to raise funds for the operations of MgM Germany's international demining efforts. The statutes of the MgM branches contained one paragraph stating that all funds raised were to go to MgM operations and another stating that one member of the board had to be a member of the board of MgM Germany.

It all started well enough. FRB subcontracted mail- telephone- and street-marketing and managed to attract 100,000 committed private Swiss donors. They used MgM's Name, Logo, Project reports, Interviews with Hans Georg Kruessen and me, etc. Their success made it the fourth largest Swiss charitable organization in terms of the number of private donors they attracted. The donors were mainly elderly people who were sent mailings up to eight times a year - telling them what MgM's demining groups were doing,

and how their regular donations of money were being spent.

The contract that FRB signed with MgM Switzerland gave FRB the right to take a management profit calculated as 17.3% of the incurred COSTS. The more costs, the more profit for FRB. So the mailings got loaded with Christmas tokens, silly Easter greeting cards etc. All mailings had to be approved by MgM - BUT we had not fully realised the advantage to FRB of incurring high costs. You would not believe the volume of convoluted technical arguments and other false statements that we received. At first we gave in because we thought it was all for the benefit of MgM's field operations, but in the end we became suspicious and me personally rather angry.

Last year was four years after their first approach. MgM Germany had only received a total of 80,000 SF from MgM Switzerland - but we knew that they had raised more than 60 times as much as that. We decided to stop MgM Switzerland making misleading or false statements in their mailings. They were stating things like, "As a result of your donations, MgM in Angola successfully opened [x] kilometres of road" etc. And we also demanded a fair share of the money that had been raised for our work.

Well, we bit on concrete. We got nowhere over months and months of many sleepless nights until, some months ago, I cancelled the right of MgM Switzerland and Austria to use our name and logo etc. It was only then that we learned that Mr Lauber had already copyrighted OUR logo, name etc., including the printed phrase www.mgm.org - despite the domain being ours since 1996. It was then that we realised that the statutes had changed and we were not the beneficiaries anymore. On top one of their streetmarketing subcontractors asked to remove the MgM Germany member from the board, which the board of MgM Switzerland did subsequently.

That caused a moment of panic, but, with the support of some good lawyers and auditors, we have managed to retain our legal standing..... The first thing we did, was to inform our donors, the Swiss Government and the management of GICHD. A good moment to thank all of them for the unconditional immediate support.

Mr.Lauber then made new mailings in which he continued to use our logo and added the MgM picture folder. He also gave an interview to a newspaper in which he stated that some 50% of MgM's operational budget of 10 million SF originated from MgM Switzerland. In truth, less than 1/62 of that money had come to MgM for use in the way the donors intended.

Well.... what would we do to stop him?

Since 1996 we have used the name MgM with a lower-case "g" in order not to upset the lion of MGM, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. We were often asked how it was that Metro Goldwyn Mayer left us alone? Well, we answered, we don't know - but most probably they like our work.

When we could find no way to stop Mr Lauber and FRB, we sent an emergency SoS to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and our silent friends reacted immediately. Since 19th June 2003 it is only Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer who can use the name MgM in Switzerland and Austria otherwise the lion will bite. Thank you so much guys!! That saved us a lot of stress and lawyer money which we do not have anyhow. Really well done, and many thanks.

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Sincerely,

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
ehlers@mgm.org
www.mgm.org
cel +264 81 1277020
fax +264 61 243477

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Parasites 2

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 7:40 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Btw

Before I forget, the ECM message to Adopt-a-Minefield offering funds dating this morning showed ch@mgm.org as sender. These guys have guts....

Hendrik Ehlers

This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Blaster's Depot
Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 7:34 AM
From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Richard

Checked your site and found it interesting. No problems with the link to MgM at all.+-

Hendrik Ehlers, Chairman MgM
Director OPS + HEC-R&D
Intl. Desk Windhoek, Namibia
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 6:13 AM

From: Richard Walker <reo@eohio.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Mr.Ehlers,

Thank you for this warning on Parasites, I know the feeling,In this regard I would appreciate your review of the modest web site www.blastersdepot.com I am trying to connect to solid supporters of true demining efforts. I have had MgM

on this page for a few years now.

For the most part Research Energy of Ohio markets Blasting Machines to U.S. Military and Commerical interests.

If you see any links that you may feel that would offend Mgm please red flag these references of if you choose we can remove the Mgm link from the blasters depot page.

I strongly prefer keeping the MgM reference in place.

Your comments is welcome.

Thank you.

Richard E.Walker, President
www.researchenergy.com
e mail reo@eohio.net

----- Original Message -----

From: Hendrik Ehlers - MD of MgM & HEC <ehlers@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 5:09 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Parasites feeding on mine victims

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The contract that FRB signed with MgM Switzerland gave FRB the right to take a management profit calculated as 17.3% of the incurred COSTS. The more costs, the more profit for FRB. So the mailings got loaded with Christmas tokens, silly Easter greeting cards etc. All mailings had to be approved by MgM - BUT we had not fully realised the advantage to FRB of incurring high costs. You would not believe the volume of convoluted technical arguments and other false statements that we received. At first we gave in because we thought it was all for the benefit of MgM's field operations, but in the end we became suspicious and me personally rather angry.

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Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 5:09 AM

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Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: MgM Demining Network: More Chubby tales

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 2:38 AM
From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dave O'Connor" <regis@pixie.co.za>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2003 8:35 AM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: More Chubby tales

> Andy
>
> Herewith details on exactly what the Chubby System was meant to do.
>
> This system consists of 2 vehicles:
> 1. Mine Detection Vehicle (MDV) called the Meerkat
> 2. Towing Mine Detection Vehicle (T/MDV) called the Husky.
>
> The Meerkat is an overpass capable route clearance system, designed to
> detect and mark LARGE METALLIC ANTI-TANK MINES.
> Makes one wonder what happens when you have minimum metal mines?
> Can be operated in the manned or un-manned mode.
>
> The detonation trailers are pulled by the Husky, which follow in the
tracks
> of the Meerkat, supposedly providing mine clearing
> confirmation. The total width of clearance is reported to be 3m.
>
> Regards
> Dave
>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2003 12:51 PM
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: More Chubby tales
>
>

> > Off-line posts are pouring in - correcting and adding detail - making me
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> > with US money - but maybe the cash comes more directly from a military
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> > be a vehicle mounted variant of HSTAMIDS (GPR and metal detection) but
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> > vehicle has IR and UV "ground surveillance" so it sounds as if it
span-off

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Wonders of Languages

Date: Monday, September 8, 2003 1:36 AM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Skilpad actually means tortoise!

Cheers

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hendrik Ehlers" <ehlers@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2003 2:23 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Wonders of Languages

> Skillpad is a no word. Skilpad stands for Turtle. Pada stands fro Frog.
> So either there are some typos somewhere or we look at the artistic
> vesion of a Skilled Frog. Turtle is already taken by the smallest MPV on
> planet, MgM/HEC's John Deere 6x4 GATOR based command& control vehicle to
> the MAXX system, currently swimming on the ocean to get to ist first
> field deployment in Kigali, Rwanda. Btw all mentioned efforts funded by
> Belvoir and US DoS HD.

>

> Cheers

>

> Hendrik Ehlers

> Director of MgM

> Menschen gegen Minen

> MineClearance NGO

> ehlers@mgm.org

>

>

>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: removal from network
Date: Sunday, September 7, 2003 11:58 PM
From: Stephanie Smithers <stephaniesmithers@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

hi. could someone please please remove me from this network. i've tried to do it four times and each time it says that i'm successful and five minutes later my inbox is again full of network emails.

thankyou

stephanie smithers

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#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2003 5:59 PM

From: A. Kostioukov <fortenterprise@mtu-net.ru>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sorry, guys

I'm technical and very far from politics and politicians and, for my opinion, it was not sufficiently correct to ban landmines. This is a needed ammunition for armies for all countries. Another side of its using is civilian victims. What shall do soldiers and junior officers without mines in war condition? They will use improvise ones. In WW2 in SU it was mass production of surrogates in guerrilla bands. As I know, it was produced some millions improvise mines with improvise fuses. What do you think about such kind of demining? It is easier to ban M16 or Khalashnikov: it can't be produced "on knee". What about high technologies for PMD-6? For this mine was developed "special" fuse "UVG", made from cartridge. What is the mine generally? This is piece of explosive with simplest fuse. But this simplest fuse can be not sufficiently simple in demining, because it is unknown for deminer. For my opinion, firstly it's needed to ban mines without self-destructors. In that case militarists will have his ordnances and after them we shall have clean territory. I think, to ban landmines is unreal task for today. But it is only my opinion.

Best regards

Andrey

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joe Lokey" <parallax53@yahoo.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2003 8:51 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

> Robin,
> As George and I have repeatedly said, from the
> highest policy levels where he worked to the field
> implementation and program development where I worked,
> Ottawa had NO (as in zero, nada, zip, zilch, squat)
> influence on US funding decisions. Not a single
> policy document or presentation before either
> Congressional Appropriations or Authorization
> Committess in my memory referenced Ottawa as in any
> way connected with these expenditures. Continuing to
> think Ottawa had anything to do with increased US
> expenditures is self-deluding and just plain silly.
> To reiterate your most important point, however,
> the US was glad to see that Ottawa finally got other
> countries to follow the US lead as they recognized the
> size and scope of the US contributions that had been
> going on for years and realized it was they who were
> the "slackers" when it came to putting their money
> where their mouth is. At the same time they were
> condemning the US, they were stiffing the deminers and
> doing precious little about getting mines out of the
> ground. Pull out the Demining 2010 Conference
> materials and you'll see that the intent of Amb
> Inderfurth at the time was generate increased funds
> from other nations as he understood the US was
> carrying a disproportionate share of the burden and

> challenged the global community to increase their
> combined commitments by a factor of five to a Billion
> USD a year.

> The US contributions relative to GDP for just
> demining is a red herring and not worth discussing. I
> would, however, love to discuss ALL US aid relative to
> its GDP which is the proper context...but off-line
> only.

> - joe

> --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

>> >[George]: Again - to reemphasize Joe's point - the
>> US was actively
>> and significantly (financially) engaged in demining
>> prior to the
>> drive to Ottawa.

>>
>> No debate there. I was commenting on the pace of the
>> rise in funding
>> in recent years. One would probably have to graph it
>> to determine if
>> the rate of increase in different countries shows
>> evidence of an
>> "Ottawa" or campaign effect -- my view is that it is
>> obvious that
>> this was taking place, self-evident in fact. There
>> is a jump in the
>> increase in many cases in the 1996-1997 timeframe.
>> It is difficult to
>> say whether the US model is or isn't in line with
>> the same rate of
>> increase. There was a 50 percent increase in funding
>> between 1997 and
>> 1998, but a 100% increase between 1994 and 1995.
>> Were no politics
>> involved in these increases? That would be
>> unbelievable. I assume
>> people like Senator Leahy had a great deal of
>> effect.

>>
>> If the USA is responding to perceived needs and
>> public awareness of
>> the problem (thus political pressure), and some of
>> that awareness had
>> its origins in the ICBL -- well, it's what states
>> are supposed to do.
>> By size of economy, I'd say the USA was a little
>> behind others in
>> terms of response at the beginning, but "kicked in"
>> harder than
>> others after 1997. My assumption has always been
>> that the US
>> administration didn't want to be perceived as
>> slackers on the
>> humanitarian front, even if opposed to the Ottawa
>> approach. That
>> obligated funders in government to show the flag.

> > But as I've said,
> > and as others have been quick to repeat, I've no
> > firm evidence of
> > that happening.
> >
> > Robin
> >
> >
> > note: "figures do not include funds for mine action
> > research and development "
> >
> > UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- \$375.5 million
> > 2001 \$69.2 million
> > 2000 \$82.4 million
> > 1999 \$63.1 million
> > 1998 \$44.9 million
> > 1997 \$30.8 million
> > 1996 \$29.8 million
> > 1995 \$29.2 million
> > 1994 \$15.9 million
> > 1993 \$10.2 million
> >
> > EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - \$203.3 million
> > 2001 \$25.3 million (€28.1 million)
> > 2000 \$14.3 million (€15.9 million)
> > 1999 \$15.5 million (€17.3 million)
> > 1998 \$21.4 million (€23.8 million)
> > 1992-1997 \$126.8 million (€141.2 million)
> >
> > UNITED KINGDOM -- \$94.1 million
> > 2001-2002 \$15.4 million (£10.7 million)
> > 2000-2001 \$21.5 million (£15 million)
> > 1999-2000 \$19.5 million (£13.6 million)
> > 1998-1999 \$6.5 million (£4.57 million)
> > 1997-1998 \$6.6 million (£4.6 million)
> > 1996 \$6.3 million
> > 1995 \$6.9 million
> > 1994 \$6.3 million
> > 1993 \$5.1 million
> >
> > NORWAY -- \$127.2 million
> > 2001 \$19.7 million (NOK 176.9 million)
> > 2000 \$19.2 million (NOK 178.6 million)
> > 1999 \$21.7 million (NOK 185 million)
> > 1998 \$20.8 million
> > 1997 \$16.7 million (NOK 125 million)
> > 1996 \$13.5 million (NOK 101 million)
> > 1995 \$11.6 million (NOK 87 million)
> > 1994 \$4.0 million (NOK 30 million)
> >
> > SWEDEN -- \$80 million
> > 2001 \$8.5 million (SEK 91.6 million)
> > 2000 \$7.9 million (SEK 76.7 million)
> > 1999 \$11.5 million (SEK 94.5 million)
> > 1998 \$16.6 million (SEK 129.5 million)
> > 1997 \$11.9 million
> > 1996 \$10.4 million
> > 1995 \$5.1 million
> > 1994 \$2.6 million
> > 1990-93 \$5.5 million
> >

> > GERMANY -- \$62.7 million
> > 2001 \$12.3 million (DM 26.8 million, €13.7 million)
> > 2000 \$14.5 million (DM 27.5 million)
> > 1999 \$11.4 million (DM 21.7 million)
> > 1998 \$10.1 million
> > 1997 \$4.9 million
> > 1996 \$7.9 million
> > 1995 \$0.8 million
> > 1994 \$0.5 million
> > 1993 \$0.3 million

> > CANADA -- \$67.4 million
> > 2001 \$15.5 million (C\$24 million)
> > 2000 \$11.9 million (C\$17.7 million)
> > 1999 \$15.2 million (C\$23.5 million)
> > 1998 \$9.5 million
> > 1997 \$3.0 million (C\$4.6 million)
> > 1996 \$4.0 million (C\$6 million)
> > 1995 \$1.5 million (C\$2.2 million)
> > 1994 \$2.9 million (C\$4.4 million)
> > 1993 \$2.2 million (C\$3.4 million)
> > 1989 \$1.7 million (C\$2.5 million)

> _____
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: How protected is "Protected"?

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2003 3:51 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

> Skillpad is a no word. Skilpad stands for Turtle.

Yes, there was a typo. The CSI machine pictured in my last is named the "Skilpad" - punning on the mouse driven skill on the pad and a "turtle" I guess.

The MgM "Turtle" may be the smallest Manned "MPV". There are a few small unmanned armoured "Vehicles" out there - but very small tends to mean "not very protected". They could have the armour to fully protect against a bounding AP mine at a metre - which would make them small and very heavy. But however they are armoured, they will still have that painful splintering experience when they land after any large blast. And the occupant will still have the instant acceleration, deceleration and rattling inside a metal-box to contend with. These are the problems with the relatively large Pookie, Chubby and all variants - which is why they have gone for a remotely controlled option.

Did anyone come up with a definition of what "Mine Protected" actually means? My car is Mine Protected if the mine is an M14. And I could probably have it rolling again in five minutes.... Mmm, I wonder if those clever bods doing the mechanical standards for the IMAS have come up with a rolling definition of MPV that we could all live with?

When the vehicle is occupied by a person/people and is going to be taken into unknown areas - I believe that the MPV title should mean that the occupants can survive an AT blast mine even if the vehicle is meant to be light enough not to set them off.

Why? Well here's a question. How many out there believe that all AT pressure initiated mines need 100+kg pressure to initiate them?

I believe that AT mines with a mild-steel pressure plate that can be compressed/bent in "stages" (such as the TM-57 with standard MVZ-57 pressure fuze) cannot be relied on to need as much as 100kg pressure. The pressure plate can be bent by loads that do not collapse it to the point where the shear-pin breaks. Bent and misshapen examples are sometimes recovered during demining operations. While I have not conducted tests on how this affects the subsequent loading that is needed to initiate the mine, many have observed that overlooked mines will sometimes detonate under small vehicles on well-used roads. The bent pressure plates are a far more likely explanation than a pointlessly complicated fuze that "waits" and which no one has ever found intact. Colin, can you give your opinion on this?

The condition of all old mines also makes a difference. For example, with the TMD series of wooden boxed AT mines, the wood can deteriorate and reduce the loading for initiation to between 10 and 30kg. Metal rusts, Bakelite crumbles, and once-pliable plastics become brittle. Whatever a fuze system is made from, it can deteriorate - occasionally to the point of spontaneous initiation. Pt Mi Baa llls did this rather rapidly after Gulf War 1, for example, and deminers died.

It is worth adding that there are also several AT mines that use AP mines as their fuze and booster - and so have a very low initiation pressure by

design.

As backup, I seem to remember a study carried out on AT mine detonating pressures (McGrath I believe, I have it somewhere) found that some need less than 10kg - possible due to age, poor design or the use of low-quality materials in manufacture.

So I think that an MPV should mean "AT blast proof" (probably with 8kg TNT content but that may be a tad high). An APMPV would be something else - and would need heavy armour to withstand any bounding mine detonating against the shell. Perhaps an APBMPV (AP blast MPV) would be another classification to cover the thin-skinned wannabes - but the test mine should be a PMN at least (240g) and a GYATA for preference (300g).

So H, is the Turtle an APBMPV or an APMPV?

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: More Chubby tales

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2003 11:35 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hey Andy,

I agree and use the only future reading skill I have that we'll continue to make and design, test what we want, but the final say will often be a prodder for a good while yet. On the other hand technological development and testing in all areas can't stop and must go on.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

ZG

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2003 8:21 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: More Chubby tales

> Off-line posts are pouring in - correcting and adding detail - making me
> wonder why Belvoir has not engaged with corrections themselves? While the
> vehicle development is being done in South Africa, the work is being done
> with US money - but maybe the cash comes more directly from a military
> research budget so it is not up to Belvoir to comment?
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> "Skillpad" and a GSTAMIDS multi-sensor detection array. I thought this
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> be a vehicle mounted variant of HSTAMIDS (GPR and metal detection) but the
> vehicle has IR and UV "ground surveillance" so it sounds as if it span-off
> from HSTAMIDS before the latter was refined....
>
> The fully-developed unmanned version (see picture) is controlled using a
> mouse (hence the name - Skillpad) and could have the pans out front for
use
> in HD.... But if it were to be used for AP mine search with manual
> excavation of all signals - I cannot help wondering what advantage it has
> over a man with a good hand-detector?
>
> While that brings the Chubby and its derivatives more up to date - I have
> also received corrections about the history.
>
> Major Patrick Gericke was involved with Ernest Konshel (not Ernie
Konshaw -
> my memory failed me) on developing the Pookie and a next generation "Super
> Pookie" that is about available now. He tells me that what I have been
> calling the "Chubby" is actually a "Meercat" and is only part of the
Chubby
> system.... This all gets rather complicated.
>
> Regards all
> Andy
>
>

>
>
>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Wonders of Languages

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2003 8:23 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Cheers

Hendrik Ehlers
Director of MgM
Menschen gegen Minen
MineClearance NGO
ehlers@mgm.org

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: More Chubby tales

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2003 6:51 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Regards all
Andy



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2003 5:36 PM

From: M.F.P.MP <mfpmp@sltnet.lk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete,

I would be interested in having a look at your MRE lecture. We are a local Mine Action NGO in Sri Lanka. People of all ages and ethnic backgrounds here are crazy about cricket. I wonder if your lecture could be adapted to utilise the local passion while getting the message across. You can e-mail me at: mfpmp@sltnet.lk

Thanks.

Mike Pickering

----- Original Message -----

From: "Pete Hindy" <phindy@webhart.net>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2003 9:42 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

> I have an MRE lecture that i made after consulting a child pyhcaiatrist
> and
> educator to see how children actually learn. Its made up based on sports
> as
> the medium. This is what children idetify most easily with in the Balkans.
> Its not copy righted and if anyone wants to use it feel free. After all
> getting the word out is the main thing!!
>
> Pete
> Zagreb
> 01138513883071
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Peter Isaacs" <peter.isaacs@undp.org>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2003 8:28 AM
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE
>
>
> > A story from Sarajevo - Before Roger Hess and his UXB teams cleared the
> Stup
> > suburb, I was wandering around with FedMAC colleagues trying to
> delineate
> the
> > area to be specified in the contract for clearance. (there were tarmac
> roads
> > throughout the area in case anyone is wondering). It was obvious where
> the
> > danger areas were - demolished or damaged houses with heavily overgrown
> > gardens. Others were inhabited and gardens cultivated. We came across
> a
> boy
> > aged about 10 on a bike. I asked him if he knew where the dangerous
> areas
> were.
> > He said that he did and pointed out some overgrown areas. I asked him

if
> he
> > ever played in those areas. He said no, because he might lose his legs
if
> he
> > did. I asked him who had told him this - at school? No he replied, at
> football
> > training.
> >
> > Whilst I can't remember his name or the organisation he set up, there
was
> a
> > former professional football player coaching local kids. He always ended
> his
> > football coaching sessions with a further session on mine awareness. It
> was both
> > popular - the desire to participate in football coaching - and
effective
> if
> > this tale is anything to go by.
> >
> > PJI
> >
> > Didactylos wrote:
> >
> > > Monitoring Mine Risk Education (MRE) effectiveness solely by reference
> to a
> > > reduction in reported civilian accidents is unlikely to be accurate -
> > > although most efforts will prove "successful" that way. MRE is not
that
> > > simple - and people learn from events more readily than from
"experts".
> For
> > > example, there are two incidents around a particular town in one
month.
> An
> > > emergency MRE response team goes in. There are no more incidents over
> the
> > > following six months. Why? Perhaps because the two incidents
themselves
> > > taught a powerful lesson? Perhaps because the two incidents involved
the
> > > only two operational devices in that vicinity? Perhaps because the MRE
> was
> > > effective. Perhaps because
> > >
> > > Monitoring of this kind of educational effort should be by assessing
how
> the
> > > sharing of "appropriate" knowledge has changed behaviour (among both
> kids
> > > and adults). This is complicated by the word "appropriate" - which
> should
> > > take account of the "students' " current knowledge and behaviour. In
> some
> > > areas, people need to know what mines and UXO actually look like: and
> they
> > > are unlikely to learn that from a crude sketch or touchy-feely
> screen-print
> > > made by a local artists who has not seen one either. In Kosovo, many
> kids

> > > were taught how common AP mines worked in school - and the kids
> themselves
> > > are far more experienced at recognising and even disarming them than
the
> MRE
> > > specialist (who often has not really seen one). The content of the
> > > instruction MUST be varied appropriately for the audience, but in my
> > > experience, it rarely is. One reason for this is that many MRE people
do
> not
> > > know much about the mines and devices they are teaching about. I
believe
> > > that they should - and so it is not necessarily inappropriate to use
> > > ex-soldiers as MRE people. But all MRE instructors need to be taught
> > > something about how to communicate and train.... Sadly, this is often
> not
> > > the case whether the trainers are ex-soldiers or civilians.
> > >
> > > CIET Canada carried out a structured study of MRE effectiveness in
> > > Afghanistan and Angola. It was supposed to be published to 2001, but I
> do
> > > not know whether it was - Robin, can you help? I saw parts of it
during
> > > preparation because I wanted to ensure that the Mine Action training
> > > materials I was producing took note of any appropriate lessons. I was
> > > surprised how honest and "direct" some of the CIET conclusions were
(and
> if
> > > it has not been published, that honesty may explain why it was not
> widely
> > > publicised).
> > >
> > > For example, the Afghanistan study report found that several mine
> awareness
> > > agencies were teaching technical details of devices - where fuses and
> pins
> > > are, the kind of explosion mines/UXO create, etc. In their operational
> > > areas, there was an increase in the number of mine injuries among
their
> > > target audiences. It was almost certainly inappropriate to show young
> men
> > > how the devices worked but, as always, the report begs other
questions.
> If
> > > they had also shown the results of human-interaction with the device
> > > (shock-horror photographs of carnage) perhaps the effect would have
been
> > > different? Giving people half the story can be worse than leaving them
> in
> > > ignorance.
> > >
> > > Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of MRE is as difficult as
> > > monitoring any other training in a field environment. A mere
> accumulation of
> > > knowledge is not the main aim. Changing behaviour in real situations
> is....
> > > This can be achieved when IDPs are pouring into an area simply by
> telling
> > > them the places to avoid (after a protracted conflict they are
unlikely
> to

> > > need to be told that mines and UXO are nasty). When IDP movement is
> over,
> > > changing behaviour is a greater challenge. How do you stop a child
being
> > > naturally curious - in a way that is selective enough not to inhibit
the
> > > learning that they need to do? Maybe by shock/horror images of the
> > > consequences? Maybe not in areas where the kids have seen plenty of
that
> for
> > > real?
> > >
> > > UNICEF put very few restrictions on the content of MRE (and should put
> none
> > > at all). This is probably because they recognise that the training
must
> be
> > > tailored to achieve the effect with the audience - and there are as
many
> > > ways of doing that as there are audiences. Genuinely effective
> monitoring
> > > may have to be just as varied - but will always be assessing
behavioural
> > > change.
> > >
> > > Regards all
> > > Andy
> > >
> > > #####
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Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2003 11:42 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I have an MRE lecture that i made after consulting a child pyhcaiatrist and educator to see how children actually learn. Its made up based on sports as the medium. This is what children idetify most easily with in the Balkans. Its not copy righted and if anyone wants to use it feel free. After all getting the word out is the main thing!!

Pete

Zagreb

01138513883071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Peter Isaacs" <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, September 06, 2003 8:28 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

> A story from Sarajevo - Before Roger Hess and his UXB teams cleared the
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> suburb, I was wandering around with FedMAC colleagues trying to delineate
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> PJI
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2003 6:58 AM

From: Peter Isaacs <peter.isaacs@undp.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Chubby update
Date: Saturday, September 6, 2003 4:27 AM
From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

I was sent a link where there are pictures of a revised Chubby and a blast test on it (I could not view the blast test video for some reason and the "download" options don't seem to work). Go to <http://www.c-s-i.net/bh3productsbh3/> and click the link to IVMMD & Blast Video.

The site (and a private exchange) confirms that while the "Pookie" concept may have been used when developing the Chubbie, it was only as a starting point. The Chubby does not use VW donor parts. It is bigger and the wheel stanchions are much meatier, along with the wheels themselves. This makes it unlikely that an AP mine would actually break wheel stanchions (the old Pookie VW wheel stanchions, bearing and tie-rods were weak enough to break in normal use at times - probably because VW had not designed its parts to be way out to the sides with a lot of central weight).

The picture shows what is now called the "Interim Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector" (IVMMD). Like the Pookie, the detector arrays are out on foldable "pans" on each side of the vehicle - so the front wheels have traversed a suspect area before the arrays search it. I know nothing about the arrays in use, but their positioning alone made me puzzled. Why have tyres and wheels out in front of the detector pans? Even if the tyres are as solid as I suspect, there would be rubber flying when trying to traverse an area where there were AP blast mines.... The answer must lie in the IVMMD having the same intended use as the Pookie - which is not the area-clearance of places where AP mines are suspected.

The Pookie was intended to lead convoys - and could drive at up to 30 mph while searching. Its very light ground pressure meant that it could (usually) drive over and beyond an AT mine before the driver could react to a detector-signal and stop. When he stopped, the convoy - which was following a way behind and keeping its wheels in the area over which the detector-pans had hung - also stopped. I understand that the IVMMD is intended for similar (relatively) high-speed road-search use and so the usual "combat" compromise is made between speed and quality of clearance. This makes it a fine example of the essential difference between military and Humanitarian Demining..... The road is NOT clear, but the convoy is through, more-or-less. If speed were not the issue, the detector pans could be out front and the vehicle could creep along, stopping to allow manual investigation whenever it got a signal BEFORE it drove over it.

Incidentally, Pookie drivers have told me that they visually spotted road disturbance (and sometimes the broken branch or other indicator that was placed to warn those in the know) more often than they relied on the pans. They quickly learned what to look out for. The eyes, brain and survival instinct of a deminer will probably always be the most reliable detector. That is an argument for having an operator inside the machine - but only if he is safe when the predictable blasts occur. Blast testing by the developers indicates that the driver would probably survive - but with injuries. For this reason, the latest version of the Chubby is remotely controlled. In any area where tilt-rod activation of AT mines is known, the risk to the driver goes right up so this makes a lot of sense - even in a combat context.

Of course, I cannot comment on the effectiveness of the revised detector pans - and no one can even give me a detailed spec because the information is classified.

Regards all
Andy



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Mosul ambush

Date: Friday, September 5, 2003 4:26 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Terrible news. I am sure all of our thoughts go out to both the families

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Robin Collins

Sent: 05 September 2003 19:10

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Mosul ambush

PRESS STATEMENT

Date: Friday 5 September 2003

AT approximately 12:00 GMT yesterday (16:00 local time) two employees from the UK-based charity Mines Advisory Group (MAG) were ambushed and shot at as they drove their vehicle along a main road towards Mosul, northern Iraq.

MAG,s bomb disposal expert, Ian Rimell, 53, from Kidderminster, UK, was shot dead and his colleague, Salem Ahmed Mohammed, a local employee from the MAG demining team, is currently in a critical condition in northern Iraq.

Mr Rimell and Mr Ahmed Mohammed were on their way home from work, in a vehicle with the distinctive MAG emblem, when they were attacked. MAG does not know who was responsible for the attack.

MAG,s Executive Director, Lou McGrath said: „MAG,s staff are devastated by the loss of their good friend and colleague. He was a dedicated humanitarian who worked so well with the local people. Our thoughts are with the families and our prayers are with Salem as he remains in a serious condition. We are further reviewing our areas of operation in Iraq following this attack.,, MAG has been in Iraq without interruption for more than a decade with 700 mainly local staff in northern Iraq. It is one of the few international aid agencies that has stayed in Iraq providing humanitarian mine clearance and mine risk education throughout the recent war.

Mr Rimell, who was awarded a British Empire Medal, was married with three grown up children. He joined MAG in January this year after an already long career in mine and bomb disposal. His family have asked that we express how much Mr Rimell valued his humanitarian work with MAG. He was particularly dedicated to passing on his vast experience to the local staff. Earlier in the day Mr Rimell had cleared a scrap heap filled with ammunition and hidden explosives. He later delivered the valuable scrap metal for the rebuilding of a local school.

Further information and comments cannot be made as more details are gathered.

MAG is a non-political, humanitarian charity with headquarters in the UK and has been clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from Iraq since 1992. MAG provides mine and UXO clearance in many conflict zones. Currently MAG runs mine action programmes in eight countries and has worked in more than 20 countries worldwide.

-END-

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Mosul ambush

Date: Friday, September 5, 2003 2:09 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

PRESS STATEMENT

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Mosul ambush, deminer killed

Date: Friday, September 5, 2003 10:24 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, September 05, 2003 9:23 AM

Subject: MAG Incident

We have received a report of an ambush on a MAG vehicle near Mosul that took place yesterday afternoon. One international MAG employee (Ian Rinnell) was killed and one national critically wounded. Both were shot in the head.

We will provide more information as we get it.

CPT Tony Kirtley

MEOICC LNO to NMAA/IMAC

+1 (914) 360-3571 MCI Cell

Tony.Kirtley@us.army.mil

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: strictly neutral...

Date: Friday, September 5, 2003 9:29 AM

From: Manuel GONZAL <mgonzal@handicap-international.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

militaires et humanitaires est-ce qu'Allah s'y retrouve lui, quand les corps sont dechiquetes par la mine????

Manuel GONZAL
CT deminage
poste 7961

-----Message d'origine-----

De : Didactylos [mailto:didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk]

Envoye : vendredi 1 aout 2003 16:04

A : Multiple recipients of list network

Objet : MgM Demining Network: Re: strictly neutral...

There is no need for this forum to discuss combat issues directly - although much of what does get said may be of peripheral interest to those engaged in both sides of any fighting. There are plenty of other ways to "covertly" share your secrets - but nothing I have heard so far is not already in the public domain. Frankly, I think that the idea that we might accidentally discuss "secret" black-art stuff about the field location or operation of IEDs is a paranoid delusion and runs contrary to the purpose of an open forum. Know your threat is the first answer - and learn from each other is the second.

Part of the definition of Humanitarian Demining has always been that areas are not cleared if any combatants object, and the deminers are not themselves armed. This is because it is important that the combatants do not see the deminers as being on one side, or as adversely affecting their interests. In many parts of the world, deminer uniforms are bright colours so that no accidental confusion with combatants occurs.

Demining has been carried out during active conflict - long-term in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola but for lesser lengths of time in many countries. When an area is no longer disputed or of strategic value, it is important that the people can use it safely. But it is a strict rule that Humanitarian Demining does not take place in disputed areas. What would be the point? If the area is still disputed, it will only need to be cleared again later.

So why do these "obvious" statements need to be made?

Confusion arises because Afghanistan and Iraq are now countries with foreign soldiers present and those soldiers are apparently perceived not as "liberators" but as oppressive "invaders". In both cases, a kind of civil war/freedom fight is occurring and there are some "no-go" areas for deminers. In both cases, roads are threatened and all vehicles may be targeted by people fighting for their view of national integrity. In both cases, many people see all foreigners as representatives of the invader, so including them in their list of legitimate targets.

This is not so different to Angola a few years ago, when all road travel was fraught with danger and most foreign nationals were pawns in the

exploitation of resources (diamonds/oil) or wider political/mercenary game. Some were killed and many were held to ransom. Flying was often considered the only "safe" way for those with the money/influence to get around. IEDs (often boosted mines but sometimes more sophisticated) on roads were common - and strategies for avoiding danger and for clearing the IEDs were developed in the Humanitarian Demining community.

The HD industry is obliged NOT to be involved in politics and NOT to favour a side in any conflict. This can be hard to achieve when many demining professionals are ex-soldiers of the armies involved - as is the case in Iraq and Afghanistan today. The combat involvement of Western armies seems to have caused confusion - of loyalties and of aims. But neutrality is the only way to stay separate from the combat and most unarmed deminers in the field try to achieve it (with self preservation in mind). The use of both British and US demining groups as sources of "combat" sensitive information should be entirely unacceptable - and would be to most Humanitarian donors if they knew what was going on. Sadly, government donors are not always so concerned about the moral issues. As long as the industry allows this to happen there is a real potential for public misunderstanding about the role of Humanitarian Demining groups - and they risk being deliberately targeted. The old strictly apolitical approach must be stressed and, where necessary, "enforced" by honestly exposing the groups that are in bed with the intelligence agencies. Some of you know that I have already tried to do that in the past.....

So, how do you "prove" a suspect road and open it again?
How do you "know" when driving on this road would be terminally silly today?
You ask those who have done it.
The answers do not always work - but they very often do. And the summarised key is to be seen as "NO threat" by local people.

There are lessons to be shared - and they should be shared OPENLY.

When Bush said, "You are either with us or against us" he put a lot of the world in an impossible position because life just ain't that simple. He put the HD industry in the same bind. We have to be neutral - it is part of the point. We have to be open and share experience - that is also part of the point, and incidentally promotes our own survival.

Those who want to go into a paranoid and elitist off-line huddle should do so - and send me their conclusions to post.

Regards all,
Andy

"network@mgm.org - MgM's Demining Network" is a free discussion list for experts in humanitarian demining run by "MgM The Humanitarian Foundation of People Against Landmines". To leave anytime please click to

<mailto:ls@mgm.org?body=unsubscribe%20network>

and send the generated email as it is. For questions please contact listmaster@mgm.org

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Martin Donoghue/United Nations is out of the office.

Date: Friday, September 5, 2003 1:01 AM

From: Martin Donoghue <donoghue@un.org>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I will be out of the office starting 04/09/2003 and will not return until 09/09/2003.

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Status of ERW Instrument Remains Uncertain

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2003 6:26 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

in arms control today:

http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2003_09/newsbriefs.asp#ERW

Status of ERW Instrument Remains Uncertain

Diplomats negotiating a new agreement on cleaning up abandoned and unexploded munitions will not likely decide on whether it should be legally binding until the last days of the talks.

The negotiations are taking place within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which regulates or bans the use of weapons judged to be indiscriminate or "excessively injurious." Comprising 90 states-parties, the CCW has four legally binding protocols addressing incendiary weapons; blinding lasers; nondetectable-fragment weapons; and mines, booby traps, and other devices.

In the current negotiations, the United States stands virtually alone in urging for a political outcome that is not legally binding. Although some countries have suggested they do not have a strong preference, they are seen as simply not wanting to disagree with Washington publicly at this time, according to Western diplomats.

Speaking at the latest round of talks June 16-27 in Geneva, Edward Cummings, head of the U.S. negotiating team, repeated a March statement that Washington has a "comprehensive objection to all language that implies a legal character to the instrument." Cummings was commenting on a Dutch draft of the instrument with terms, such as "high contracting parties" and the verb "shall," that the United States had previously singled out as unacceptable. (See ACT, April 2003.)

Other outstanding issues pertain to who should be responsible for cleaning up explosive remnants of war (ERW)-the term used to describe munitions on the ground that remain potentially lethal after the fighting stops-and what should be done about existing ERW that has been dormant for years and possibly decades, such as unexploded World War II bombs in the Egyptian desert.

The Netherlands plans to circulate a revised ERW draft in September or October for review by other governments before negotiators meet November 17-24. The understanding, according to one diplomat, is that the text of the instrument will be largely completed and then a decision will be made on whether it should be legally binding.

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Hying the name again

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2003 4:47 PM

From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@cs.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I have received an e-mail, reproduced below, urging me to write to Presidential candidates to ask for their support of the "Mine Ban Treaty."

Can whomever is responsible for this tell us why you persist in using such a spectacularly dishonest name for the Ottawa Convention?

Bob S.

Urge the 2004 Presidential Candidates to Support the Mine Ban Treaty

The 2004 Presidential election campaign is already gaining momentum. This offers us a fantastic opportunity to raise the issue of landmines and the Mine Ban Treaty to the candidates, in the media, and among the general public.

Please help us! Let us know if you can do any of the following:

Monitor the 2004 presidential candidates' event schedules in your state and tell us about any upcoming scheduled events.

Go to large campaign events or major appearances by a candidate or candidates with "Ban Landmines" signs.

Go to smaller campaign events such as house parties and town meetings and tell the candidates themselves that you care about the landmines issue, and ask them if they support the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

If you are getting involved with any of the campaigns, ask the candidates or their staff to come out in favor of the Mine Ban Treaty. Let us know who the right contact people are within the campaign on this issue in your state. Also, urge friends and donors of the candidates to raise this issue with them.

Email us at banmines@phrusa.org or call 617-695-0041. Let us know your address, email, and phone number, particularly if you are from the following "swing" states or those with early primaries, so we can contact you periodically about upcoming campaign event opportunities. Ask for campaign coordinator Gina Coplon-Newfield.

In particular, let us know if you are from any of the following target states:

Arizona California Connecticut
Iowa Georgia Maine
Maryland Massachusetts Michigan
Missouri New Hampshire New York
South Carolina Vermont Virginia

Health Professional Sign-On Letter

If you are a prominent health professional (dean of medical school, head of hospital, head of department, head of health association, director of health-related organization, etc), please sign our letter to the 2004 Presidential Candidates urging them to support the Mine Ban Treaty.

Click here to sign letter on line
Click here for PDF version of letter

Or contact the candidates directly

Click here for a sample letter and the candidates' contact information.

Note that the US Campaign to Ban Landmines will not be endorsing any of the candidates, but we will be urging all of them -democrats and republican- to come out in favor of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Please pass this action alert along to organizations and individuals who may be interested in peace, health, human rights, and international relations.
Thank you!

#####

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Pics

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 8:26 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sorry for filling your mailboxes up all, I have fallen into the rely all trap once again!!! I owe you all a Beer!!!.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Pictures and removal of Signs

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 7:11 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

All,

Any Persons who are on here who are intrested, I just got back from a wreath laying ceremony for the International Volunteer defenders (www.cfiva.org) and defenders of Vukovar Nov 18 1991 and I got some good pictures of FIBUA positions which were prepared, mouseholing as well as other good Mine presentation slides that could be used for MRE....Like I say: if anybody requires them for Military lectures or MRE slides I can email them. I also got a good look at how the rural and Vojvodina serbs have been going out of the way and systematically removing Minefield warning signs and Mine tape in the Vukovar area.... that was "intresting".....A few have been caught in the act... I don't know what theyre trying to prove....I also got the lowdown on how things are going with the demining dogs in AKD Mungos in the area. They found 40 A/T Mines the other day....

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
011 385 1 388 3071

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robin Collins" <robinco@sympatico.ca>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2003 3:44 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban campaign?

> Joe,

>

> So, your view is that other countries were certainly affected by the campaign and the US is happy about that... and US policy was affected by other political influences, but not the campaign to ban landmines?

>

> <http://www.fas.org/news/usa/1997/01/msg00028c.htm>

>

> "President Clinton today announced that when the Conference on Disarmament opens its 1997 session in Geneva on Monday, the United States will seek to initiate negotiations on a worldwide treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. As the President said before the U.N. General Assembly in September, 'Our children deserve to walk the earth in safety.' The United States hopes that the nations of the world will work with us to create that safety and ban the scourge of landmines, which every year kill or wound more than 25,000 civilians.

>

> To give further impetus to this effort, the President has decided that the United States will observe a permanent ban on the export and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. This action builds on the Landmine Export Moratorium Act sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy, which has temporarily prohibited the export and transfer of these weapons since 1992. We urge all

other nations to join us in stopping the export and transfer of these mines, which will both hasten the completion of a comprehensive ban and save many innocent lives. As another step toward a ban, the President has decided to cap our anti-personnel landmine stockpile at the current level of inventory.

>
> President Clinton last May announced the United States's intention to achieve as soon as possible a worldwide ban on landmines. In December in the U.N. General Assembly, nations voted 155-0 in favor of the U.S.-initiated resolution urging states to pursue such an agreement..."

>
> Robin

>
>
> > From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

> ...Continuing to

> > think Ottawa had anything to do with increased US
> > expenditures is self-deluding and just plain silly.

>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban campaign?

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 7:04 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: "international demining network" <network@mgm.org>

To: international demining network <network@mgm.org>

Joe,

I have no interest in, nor is there any advantage in proving something that isn't true. My assumption remains that if policies are affected by events such as Ottawa (and you agree), then funding decisions are similarly affected (however the spin be placed). I assume also that your Mr. Clinton had some impact on how money was spent, when increases were made, when funds were shifted from one program to another, how the matrix of spending unravelled... but perhaps other divisions of government, and not the President, run the show, and he has absolutely no influence. Possible, but I doubt it.

Incidentally the country funding totals that I posted earlier did not include R&D programs (at least for the USA), so the alternatives research you mentioned would not fall into that pot.

Robin

>Robin,

> Bob is right in that the statement you posted can be
>read either way and that "palpable ring" you're
>hearing is one that you want to hear, not one that
>actually exists.

> Looking carefully at what you posted, it's clear
>there's nothing inconsistent with what I wrote and the
>statement you posted. Your point seems to be that
>Ottawa had an influence on US policy. I never said
>that it didn't. What I clearly wrote was that any
>changes in US policy (as described by the President in
>this statement) never manifested themselves in the
>form of higher expenditures. Budgeted levels were
>already programmed to grow from about \$60M a year to
>around \$80M a year before this press release came out.

> I'll concede to one program mentioned by Bob that
>began post-Ottawa that you may hang your hat on as a
>compromise. The U.S. did begin a research effort into
>Landmine Alternatives after Ottawa which obviously
>required funding that was part of that small increase
>I mentioned. If you want an "Ah-Ha!" you now have it.
>

> I don't speak, and never have spoken, on behalf of
>the US administration and only know that what we were
>doing was consistent with what we had been doing for
>nearly a decade prior to Ottawa. If anything, the US
>used Ottawa to pressure other States into making
>financial commitments, not the other way around. If
>the logic of all the foregoing comments hasn't
>convinced you otherwise, there's nothing anyone can
>really do or say. You're wrong on this one but it

>seems even facts, logic, and first-hand accounts
>aren't enough to sway you from your beliefs. So be
>it.

> All the best,

> - joe

>
>
>
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>

>--- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

>> Joe,

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>> So, your view is that other countries were certainly
>> affected by the campaign and the US is happy about
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>> Robin

>>

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>>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban campaign?

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 4:48 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: "international demining network" <network@mgm.org>

To: international demining network <network@mgm.org>

Robin,

Bob is right in that the statement you posted can be read either way and that "palpable ring" you're hearing is one that you want to hear, not one that actually exists.

Looking carefully at what you posted, it's clear there's nothing inconsistent with what I wrote and the statement you posted. Your point seems to be that Ottawa had an influence on US policy. I never said that it didn't. What I clearly wrote was that any changes in US policy (as described by the President in this statement) never manifested themselves in the form of higher expenditures. Budgeted levels were already programmed to grow from about \$60M a year to around \$80M a year before this press release came out.

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I don't speak, and never have spoken, on behalf of the US administration and only know that what we were doing was consistent with what we had been doing for nearly a decade prior to Ottawa. If anything, the US used Ottawa to pressure other States into making financial commitments, not the other way around. If the logic of all the foregoing comments hasn't convinced you otherwise, there's nothing anyone can really do or say. You're wrong on this one but it seems even facts, logic, and first-hand accounts aren't enough to sway you from your beliefs. So be it.

All the best,

- joe

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected?

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 4:00 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob,

the quote indicates only that the US administration (as was the Pentagon) was as caught up with the landmine issue, its banning, and the public concern over victims as was everyone else. On face value alone, it is highly improbable that the US government was unaffected by the campaign. We know there was a debate in the US about which route to take. When leaving office, Clinton made it quite clear that he deeply regretted that the US had not signed the Ottawa treaty (a statement that is consistent with the quote I posted).

No, that does not prove rates of funding in the US were driven by American eschewal of the Ottawa treaty, although the correlation is palpable, and has a certain ring to it.

Robin

> From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>
> Date: 2003/09/03 Wed PM 02:49:34 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban
> campaign?
>
> Hi Robin and Joe
>
> Robin: doesnt the logic of this quote work both ways? It could either mean
> that there IS a connection between Ottawa and policy or perhaps it means
> that there is no connection between rhetoric and policy, i.e. that just
> because Clinton said something it didnt mean that it would happen...or, just
> because countries said they supported Ottawa it didnt mean that this was the
> CAUSE of funding... I thought that we had reached a reasonable consensus
> (again) when we agreed that whilst there might be correlation between Ottawa
> and funding there was no proof of causation between Ottawa and funding...
> perhaps Joe would also accept a compromise permission that there is no proof
> of there not being causation, both in terms of the scientific difficulty of
> proving a negative and that we have no way of guaranteeing we remove all the
> possible causal links.... and given that this entire thread (mea culpa) was
> only about demonstrating that there was no proof of a definite cause and
> effect relationship it seems that we have successfully done so all round.
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> R+D on mine replacement ("man in the loop") systems removed from any
> reckoning of HD budget allocations. Its not that the R+D shouldnt be done (I
> agree that it should) but it is probably more accurate (in terms of
> comparing like with like budget allocations) to exclude it from any HD
> budget total... and of course this is accepting the rather heroic assumption
> that cash is the only valid measure of merit!
>
> cheers
>
> Bob K
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of

> Robin Collins
> Sent: 03 September 2003 19:15
> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban
> campaign?

> Joe,

> So, your view is that other countries were certainly affected by the
> campaign and the US is happy about that... and US policy was affected by
> other political influences, but not the campaign to ban landmines?

> <http://www.fas.org/news/usa/1997/01/msg00028c.htm>

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> Robin

> > From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> > ...Continuing to
> > think Ottawa had anything to do with increased US
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban campaign?

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 2:49 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Robin and Joe

Robin: doesnt the logic of this quote work both ways? It could either mean that there IS a connection between Ottawa and policy or perhaps it means that there is no connection between rhetoric and policy, i.e. that just because Clinton said something it didnt mean that it would happen...or, just because countries said they supported Ottawa it didnt mean that this was the CAUSE of funding... I thought that we had reached a reasonable consensus (again) when we agreed that whilst there might be correlation between Ottawa and funding there was no proof of causation between Ottawa and funding... perhaps Joe would also accept a compromise permission that there is no proof of there not being causation, both in terms of the scientific difficulty of proving a negative and that we have no way of guaranteeing we remove all the possible causal links.... and given that this entire thread (mea culpa) was only about demonstrating that there was no proof of a definite cause and effect relationship it seems that we have successfully done so all round.

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cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Robin Collins

Sent: 03 September 2003 19:15

To: network@mgm.org

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Robin

> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> ...Continuing to
> think Ottawa had anything to do with increased US
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: US administration unaffected by ban campaign?

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 2:14 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Joe,

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MONUC Destroys 45 World War II Era Bombs in Kindu

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 1:06 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

MONUC Destroys 45 World War II Era Bombs in Kindu

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks <http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=

[UN%20Integrated%20Regional%20Information%20Networks&passed_location=Nairobi](http://allafrica.com/publishers.html?passed_name=UN%20Integrated%20Regional%20Information%20Networks&passed_location=Nairobi)>

August 20, 2003

Nairobi

UN bomb disposal experts in the eastern town of Kindu destroyed on Sunday 45 bombs, each with 35 kg of explosives, the UN Mission Democratic Republic of the Congo reported on Tuesday.

The mission, known as MONUC, said the bombs, made between 1943 and 1945, were recently found in the open at the national police training camp in Kindu, in an inhabited neighbourhood two kilometres from MONUC's offices. The bomb disposal experts said despite exposure for so long the bombs had not caused casualties.

MONUC said its team dug eight craters, each four metres deep, about one kilometre from Kindu airport, especially for the operation. A three-kilometre radius around the site was cordoned off to keep local residents at a safe distance.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003 12:51 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Robin,

As George and I have repeatedly said, from the highest policy levels where he worked to the field implementation and program development where I worked, Ottawa had NO (as in zero, nada, zip, zilch, squat) influence on US funding decisions. Not a single policy document or presentation before either Congressional Appropriations or Authorization Committess in my memory referenced Ottawa as in any way connected with these expenditures. Continuing to think Ottawa had anything to do with increased US expenditures is self-deluding and just plain silly.

To reiterate your most important point, however, the US was glad to see that Ottawa finally got other countries to follow the US lead as they recognized the size and scope of the US contributions that had been going on for years and realized it was they who were the "slackers" when it came to putting their money where their mouth is. At the same time they were condemning the US, they were stiffing the deminers and doing precious little about getting mines out of the ground. Pull out the Demining 2010 Conference materials and you'll see that the intent of Amb Inderfurth at the time was generate increased funds from other nations as he understood the US was carrying a disproportionate share of the burden and challenged the global community to increase their combined commitments by a factor of five to a Billion USD a year.

The US contributions relative to GDP for just demining is a red herring and not worth discussing. I would, however, love to discuss ALL US aid relative to its GDP which is the proper context...but off-line only.

- joe

--- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

>

> >[George]: Again - to reemphasize Joe's point - the

> US was actively

> >and significantly (financially) engaged in demining

> prior to the

> >drive to Ottawa.

>

>

> No debate there. I was commenting on the pace of the

> rise in funding

> in recent years. One would probably have to graph it

> to determine if

> the rate of increase in different countries shows

> evidence of an

> "Ottawa" or campaign effect -- my view is that it is
> obvious that
> this was taking place, self-evident in fact. There
> is a jump in the
> increase in many cases in the 1996-1997 timeframe.
> It is difficult to
> say whether the US model is or isn't in line with
> the same rate of
> increase. There was a 50 percent increase in funding
> between 1997 and
> 1998, but a 100% increase between 1994 and 1995.
> Were no politics
> involved in these increases? That would be
> unbelievable. I assume
> people like Senator Leahy had a great deal of
> effect.
>
> If the USA is responding to perceived needs and
> public awareness of
> the problem (thus political pressure), and some of
> that awareness had
> its origins in the ICBL -- well, it's what states
> are supposed to do.
> By size of economy, I'd say the USA was a little
> behind others in
> terms of response at the beginning, but "kicked in"
> harder than
> others after 1997. My assumption has always been
> that the US
> administration didn't want to be perceived as
> slackers on the
> humanitarian front, even if opposed to the Ottawa
> approach. That
> obligated funders in government to show the flag.
> But as I've said,
> and as others have been quick to repeat, I've no
> firm evidence of
> that happening.
>
> Robin
>
>
> note: "figures do not include funds for mine action
> research and development "
>
> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- \$375.5 million
> 2001 \$69.2 million
> 2000 \$82.4 million
> 1999 \$63.1 million
> 1998 \$44.9 million
> 1997 \$30.8 million
> 1996 \$29.8 million
> 1995 \$29.2 million
> 1994 \$15.9 million
> 1993 \$10.2 million
>
> EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - \$203.3 million
> 2001 \$25.3 million (€28.1 million)
> 2000 \$14.3 million (€15.9 million)
> 1999 \$15.5 million (€17.3 million)
> 1998 \$21.4 million (€23.8 million)

> 1992-1997 \$126.8 million (€141.2 million)
>
> UNITED KINGDOM -- \$94.1 million
> 2001-2002 \$15.4 million (£10.7 million)
> 2000-2001 \$21.5 million (£15 million)
> 1999-2000 \$19.5 million (£13.6 million)
> 1998-1999 \$6.5 million (£4.57 million)
> 1997-1998 \$6.6 million (£4.6 million)
> 1996 \$6.3 million
> 1995 \$6.9 million
> 1994 \$6.3 million
> 1993 \$5.1 million
>
> NORWAY -- \$127.2 million
> 2001 \$19.7 million (NOK 176.9 million)
> 2000 \$19.2 million (NOK 178.6 million)
> 1999 \$21.7 million (NOK 185 million)
> 1998 \$20.8 million
> 1997 \$16.7 million (NOK 125 million)
> 1996 \$13.5 million (NOK 101 million)
> 1995 \$11.6 million (NOK 87 million)
> 1994 \$4.0 million (NOK 30 million)
>
> SWEDEN -- \$80 million
> 2001 \$8.5 million (SEK 91.6 million)
> 2000 \$7.9 million (SEK 76.7 million)
> 1999 \$11.5 million (SEK 94.5 million)
> 1998 \$16.6 million (SEK 129.5 million)
> 1997 \$11.9 million
> 1996 \$10.4 million
> 1995 \$5.1 million
> 1994 \$2.6 million
> 1990-93 \$5.5 million
>
> GERMANY -- \$62.7 million
> 2001 \$12.3 million (DM 26.8 million, €13.7 million)
> 2000 \$14.5 million (DM 27.5 million)
> 1999 \$11.4 million (DM 21.7 million)
> 1998 \$10.1 million
> 1997 \$4.9 million
> 1996 \$7.9 million
> 1995 \$0.8 million
> 1994 \$0.5 million
> 1993 \$0.3 million
>
> CANADA -- \$67.4 million
> 2001 \$15.5 million (C\$24 million)
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> 1999 \$15.2 million (C\$23.5 million)
> 1998 \$9.5 million
> 1997 \$3.0 million (C\$4.6 million)
> 1996 \$4.0 million (C\$6 million)
> 1995 \$1.5 million (C\$2.2 million)
> 1994 \$2.9 million (C\$4.4 million)
> 1993 \$2.2 million (C\$3.4 million)
> 1989 \$1.7 million (C\$2.5 million)

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#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 11:51 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

[George]: Again - to reemphasize Joe's point - the US was actively and significantly (financially) engaged in demining prior to the drive to Ottawa.

No debate there. I was commenting on the pace of the rise in funding in recent years. One would probably have to graph it to determine if the rate of increase in different countries shows evidence of an "Ottawa" or campaign effect -- my view is that it is obvious that this was taking place, self-evident in fact. There is a jump in the increase in many cases in the 1996-1997 timeframe. It is difficult to say whether the US model is or isn't in line with the same rate of increase. There was a 50 percent increase in funding between 1997 and 1998, but a 100% increase between 1994 and 1995. Were no politics involved in these increases? That would be unbelievable. I assume people like Senator Leahy had a great deal of effect.

If the USA is responding to perceived needs and public awareness of the problem (thus political pressure), and some of that awareness had its origins in the ICBL -- well, it's what states are supposed to do. By size of economy, I'd say the USA was a little behind others in terms of response at the beginning, but "kicked in" harder than others after 1997. My assumption has always been that the US administration didn't want to be perceived as slackers on the humanitarian front, even if opposed to the Ottawa approach. That obligated funders in government to show the flag. But as I've said, and as others have been quick to repeat, I've no firm evidence of that happening.

Robin

note: "figures do *not* include funds for mine action research and development "

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 8:59 PM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Robin:

While the efforts of all the departments of the US Government support the administration's overall objectives, each entity has its own specific goals. In the case of the Defense Department, the HD goals were to establish indigenous demining capabilities through "train-the-trainer" programs (which originated in Afghanistan in the late 80's and early 90's), as well as enhancing deminers' capabilities to detect and neutralize landmines - the driving force behind the R&D program that I oversaw for six years.

Again - to reemphasize Joe's point - the US was actively and significantly (financially) engaged in demining prior to the drive to Ottawa.

George

Subject: MgM Demining Network: letter re: "Reds refuse to sign anti-landmine pact"

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 6:37 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Geneva Call submitted this letter in response to an article published to the Daily Inquirer. (The article was recently posted on the mgm listserv.)

Letter-to-the-editor, submitted to the Philippine Daily Inquirer 28 August 2003, not published.

(Letter to the Editor)

Re "NPAs refuse to sign anti-landmine pact"

This refers to your story "NPAs refuse to sign anti-landmine pact" (PDI, 8/27/03, p. 14). The "anti-landmine pact" referred to in the story is the "Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines." At the outset, it is clear that this covers only anti-personnel landmines, not all landmines. The said "Deed of Commitment" has not yet been formally presented to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) for adherence. So, it may be misleading to say "NPAs refuse to sign anti-landmine pact."

This "pact" is a new international instrument and mechanism being developed for rebel groups to adhere to and become accountable for humanitarian norms, starting or being piloted with the norm of a total ban on anti-personnel landmines. This norm is embodied in the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, popularly known as the Ottawa Treaty, of which there are 134 States-Parties as of May 13, 2003.

But rebel groups cannot sign such international treaties. Thus, the emergence of the "Deed of Commitment" instrument and mechanism under Geneva Call, a young international humanitarian organization devoted to the specialist work of engaging rebel groups on humanitarian norms. So far, about 20 rebel groups in Asia and Africa have signed the "Deed of Commitment" since October 2001, including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas /Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPM-P/RPA-ABB).

The INQUIRER story makes reference to "a statement sent to Geneva Call" by the CPP-NPA. The statement being referred to was actually the answers of a certain "Ka Julian", a member of the Central Committee of the CPP, to a questionnaire prepared by Fred Lubang of the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL) for the annual report Landmine Monitor in 2001. Geneva Call merely obtained from PCBL a copy of Ka Julian's answers.

From this and other sources, Geneva Call is well aware of CPP-NPA positions on the landmine question, including those quoted in the

INQUIRER story. For example, this quote from Ka Julian: "Depriving us of the use of these command-detonated mines will further favor the reactionary armed forces who already enjoy overwhelming advantage over the NPA in terms of number, arms and logistics, and which the US government trains and supplies."

First of all, the total ban, whether under the Ottawa Treaty or the "Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call," refers to anti-personnel mines which are understood to be those which are victim-activated such as by tripwire or by pressure. In other words, they can be triggered by anybody or by anything moving through the tripwire or the landmine itself, without distinction whether he, she or it is a proper military target or not.

It is this inherently indiscriminate nature of the weapon which is sought to be addressed by the total ban. This ban does not cover command-detonated munitions which can be triggered manually by a combatant using an electric or electronic remote firing mechanism which allows total control over the munition's effect, presumably against proper military targets.

So, there is no deprivation of the use of command-detonated landmines. It is not for Geneva Call as an international humanitarian organization to deprive any armed force of certain weapons. It is up to that armed force to voluntarily cease and desist from using certain weapons when convinced that these are not in accordance with international humanitarian norms. It is not a question of depriving the NPA in order to favor the AFP but a question of favoring and protecting innocent civilians from certain weapons which kill indiscriminately.

The same goes for weapons of mass destruction like nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. These means do not justify any ends, including the end of reducing whatever advantage of the enemy or even "the defensive needs of threatened peasant communities." It is interesting to note that, in some publications of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), landmines, especially anti-personnel mines, have been described as "the greatest violators of international humanitarian law," as "the most ruthless of terrorists," and as "weapons of mass destruction in slow motion."

The INQUIRER story cites me as saying that the NPA has not yet signed any agreement about the non-use of landmines. Again, this is not quite accurate. In the past, I have noted at least two previous occasions where the NPA (through the National Democratic Front) signed agreements with the Philippine government on non-use of landmines in certain contexts. These are the ceasefire agreement of 1986, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAHRHRIHL) of 1998. But the first one has long lapsed, while the second one is of currently doubtful status.

There is basis, therefore, to be hopeful that the CPP-NPA may yet favorably consider entering into the "Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-personnel Mines."

Finally, the same INQUIRER story also quotes Davao Oriental police director Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy as saying, "The Philippine government, being a signatory to the Geneva Convention, is no longer using landmines." Such non-use of landmines by the Philippine government appears to be true to its credit. But the relevant

international treaty is not the Geneva Convention, where there is no specific provisions on landmines, but the Ottawa Treaty which the Philippines has not only signed but ratified. Geneva Call the organization is also not to be confused with Geneva Convention the treaty.

ATTY. SOLIMAN M. SANTOS, JR. Regional Director Asia, Geneva Call 18 Mariposa St., Cubao, Quezon City Tel. 7252153, Fax 4138821 (0920) 2903602, gavroche@info.com.ph

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 6:25 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

George,

that is convincing confirmation from the defence department side. I don't know how your system works down there but up here there is quite a range of players involved in decision making on policy issues -- including defence, foreign affairs and cabinet (ie politics). I assume the US defence department has to make its case in a broader context, and final decisions show the effect of your state department's influence (and congress) as well?

Robin

Robin:

Having worked in the Pentagon office responsible for Defense Department funding of demining programs for six years, I guess I qualify as an "insider." As such, I fully support Joe's description of events.

George

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 6:04 PM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Robin:

Having worked in the Pentagon office responsible for Defense Department funding of demining programs for six years, I guess I qualify as an "insider." As such, I fully support Joe's description of events.

George

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 10:18 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Joe,

hmm, I thought I went to great lengths to indicate that the evidence does NOT prove causation, only a convincing correlation... However, considering the known work between US and Canadian governments to accomodate Pentagon concerns to the extent possible (and it was not completely possible obviously) we know the historical record supports the fact that the ICBL campaign did have an impact on US policy (it would be bizarre if not). The flow of money is not inconsistent with that reality -- that's all I'm saying. Surely there are enough insiders on this listserv to confirm or deny that...?

Robin

>
> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> Date: 2003/09/02 Tue AM 09:56:23 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

>
> Robin,
> You're "spinning" the facts to support a conclusion
> that has no support in reality or, as Bob pointed out,
> in math either.

> I know you'd really like to believe the Treaty had
> the effect of "causing" the U.S. government to spend
> more money. To the extent that the increased
> awareness that the treaty created "caused" other
> governments to begin the national process of budgeting
> for these funds, that may, or may not, be true.

> From the U.S. perspective, however, that was
> certainly never the case since the funding levels were
> all quite high well before Ottawa and were increased
> as newer programs were brought on line through MOUs
> and Congressional approval. This all happened
> independent of Ottawa. I wrote a ton of justification
> papers for these budgets and did much of the planning
> for increases in Southeast Asia. Ottawa was never a
> factor.

> Not to be too persnickety but I could probably also
> find a statistical correlation between fruit prices
> and Ottawa if I looked hard enough. In the US,
> nothing other than a recognition of the problem and a
> Presidential Decision to do something about it (issued
> well before Ottawa) "drove" the US to make these
> commitments. Small increases after Ottawa were all
> programmatic and either continuations of, or
> expansions of, existing programs. If you're arguing
> that those increases would not have occurred without
> Ottawa, I suppose you have that right. Having zero
> evidence to support that view, it seems a rather weak
> and tenuous position to take, at best since those
> programs were also increasing before Ottawa and their
> increases were part of a statistically observable
> trend.

> The political realities of Ottawa in the US seem to
> also discount any correlation between its existence
> and budgeting increases. The handful of supporters in
> Congress (Leahy et al) were never convincing enough or
> could gather enough support from the American people
> (through their elected Representatives). They did,
> however, support requests by the DOD and the State
> Department for increases in the initiatives already
> planned and budgeted and underway. Had their been
> enough support in Congress for this, it seems
> realistic to presume that much greater increases in
> funding would have occurred. That not being the case,
> Ottawa was obviously a non-player in decisions to
> allocate federal resources at a level higher than that
> already budgeted.

> I will, however, agree that Ottawa did, indeed,
> become the primary reason for many other countries to
> begin funding, or significantly increase funding, into
> mine action. I was at the First Meeting of States
> Parties in Maputo and heard a chorus of those
> acknowledgments myself. The dots are not as easily
> connected to the US and doing so may be good for the
> fancy of the Ottawa ego but falls short on fact and
> evidence.

> Rather than try to rewrite history, shouldn't we
> just be glad it all occurred anyway?

>
> - joe

>
>
>
>
> --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
> > It certainly indicates at least a correlation;
> > causation however
> > would need to be proved... and which one caused the
> > other? Did the
> > ICBL "cause" non-signatory government(s) to increase
> > funding or was
> > the ICBL inspired by the same awareness as were
> > governments, as you
> > suggest?

> >
> > I think the two elements are entwined. What drove
> > the US to increase
> > funding was the same thing that drove the ICBL's
> > successful campaign:
> > Public exposure, and a sufficient number of driven
> > campaigners with
> > good knowledge of the media. Once the ball started
> > rolling, some
> > governments got onside even if they opposed Ottawa.

> >
> > Robin

> >
> >
> > >Hello Robin
> > >

> > >From a statistical point of view, does not a rise
> > in cash allocation by
> > >governments IN PARALLEL with the ICBLs own rise in
> > public recognition

> > > suggest that there is not a causal link between
> > them? It rather seems to
> > > suggest that they are both dependent on a prior
> > event (especially given
> > > Joe's explanation of lead-lag relationships in
> > government funding, which is
> > > certainly true in my own experiences with UK
> > government programs). One can
> > > only assume that this is an increasing general
> > knowledge of the mine
> > > issue...
> > >
> > > ...This would also seem to be supported by the
> > increase before and during
> > > this period in HALO trust activities, an NGO which,
> > at the time at least
> > > (I'm not sure of their current policy) didn't want
> > anything to do with the
> > > ban - and was indeed regarded as 'anti-ban' by some
> > corners of the ICBL.
> > > This suggests funding was increasing independently
> > of ban activities and
> > > certainly before Ottawa. Furthermore, the early to
> > mid 90's (a long way
> > > pre-Ottawa) period also saw considerable
> > international investment in major
> > > programs such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique
> > and Bosnia...all set up
> > > long before the campaign was getting any
> > significant airtime, even if later
> > > some of them, to one extent or another, increased
> > advocacy to their mission
> > > statements.
> > >
> > > ...if this is so, it would suggest that an
> > increasing knowledge of the mine
> > > problem - in donor circles at least - provided
> > fertile ground for the ICBL
> > > to develop, given that it was portrayed as a way of
> > solving the problem. One
> > > can imagine a feedback loop spurred on by the
> > various Diana events - and
> > > Axworthy's 'mainstreaming' adoption of the core
> > elements of the campaign
> > > cause, but I don't see an initial cause and effect
> > between campaign and
> > > donor funding of demining here.
> > >
> > > I still regard myself as being moderately
> > pro-Ottawa but I think the case
> > > for it is weakened when we try to attribute more to
> > it than perhaps we
> > > should...
> > >
> > > cheers
> > >
> > > Bob
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >

> > >-----Original Message-----
> > >From: network-report@mgm.org
> > >[mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> > >Robin Collins
> > >Sent: 02 September 2003 00:03
> > >To: network@mgm.org
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes
> > >the most?
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >Joe,
> > >
> > >I recognize what you say about the dates is true.
> > >However I think it
> > >is also true that the volume of cash really started
> > >to rise
> > >exponentially in a time period that parallels the
> > >ICBL campaign's own
> > >rise in public recognition (a timing that is not a
> > >bad thing, but
> > >possibly tactical too).
> > >
> > >Robin
> > >
> > >
> > >>Robin,
> > >> The "kick in" started way before 1997 if you
> > >know
> > >>anything at all about the Congressional funding
> > >cycle.
> > >> For the funds to have been spent in 1997, they
> > >were
> > >>programmed and justified to Congress in 1996 and
> > >>budgeted for and costed in 1995. That's when the
> > >US
> > >>began making committments to Cambodia, Laos,
> > >>Mozambique, the Middle East and other large
> > >programs.
> > >>Bosnia kicks in shortly thereafter. The level
> > >stays
> > >>steady (These numbers don't reflect the mix of
> > >>demining, R&D, Leahy War Victim, USAID dollars in
> > >>aggregate or the value of much of the
> > >contributions in
> > >>kind in the early programs) as the US identifies
> > >and
> > >>targets the countries with the worst problems that
> > >are
> > >>then approved by Congress. All of this, by the
> > >way,
> > >>begun long before 1997. As part of the internal
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- joe

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 9:56 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Robin,

You're "spinning" the facts to support a conclusion that has no support in reality or, as Bob pointed out, in math either.

I know you'd really like to believe the Treaty had the effect of "causing" the U.S. government to spend more money. To the extent that the increased awareness that the treaty created "caused" other governments to begin the national process of budgeting for these funds, that may, or may not, be true.

From the U.S. perspective, however, that was certainly never the case since the funding levels were all quite high well before Ottawa and were increased as newer programs were brought on line through MOUs and Congressional approval. This all happened independent of Ottawa. I wrote a ton of justification papers for these budgets and did much of the planning for increases in Southeast Asia. Ottawa was never a factor.

Not to be too persnickety but I could probably also find a statistical correlation between fruit prices and Ottawa if I looked hard enough. In the US, nothing other than a recognition of the problem and a Presidential Decision to do something about it (issued well before Ottawa) "drove" the US to make these commitments. Small increases after Ottawa were all programmatic and either continuations of, or expansions of, existing programs. If you're arguing that those increases would not have occurred without Ottawa, I suppose you have that right. Having zero evidence to support that view, it seems a rather weak and tenuous position to take, at best since those programs were also increasing before Ottawa and their increases were part of a statistically observable trend.

The political realities of Ottawa in the US seem to also discount any correlation between its existence and budgeting increases. The handful of supporters in Congress (Leahy et al) were never convincing enough or could gather enough support from the American people (through their elected Representatives). They did, however, support requests by the DOD and the State Department for increases in the initiatives already planned and budgeted and underway. Had their been enough support in Congress for this, it seems realistic to presume that much greater increases in funding would have occurred. That not being the case, Ottawa was obviously a non-player in decisions to allocate federal resources at a level higher than that already budgeted.

I will, however, agree that Ottawa did, indeed, become the primary reason for many other countries to begin funding, or significantly increase funding, into

mine action. I was at the First Meeting of States Parties in Maputo and heard a chorus of those acknowledgments myself. The dots are not as easily connected to the US and doing so may be good for the fancy of the Ottawa ego but falls short on fact and evidence.

Rather than try to rewrite history, shouldn't we just be glad it all occurred anyway?

- joe

--- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
> It certainly indicates at least a correlation;
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> >Bob
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> >
> >-----Original Message-----
> >From: network-report@mgm.org
> >[mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> >Robin Collins
> >Sent: 02 September 2003 00:03
> >To: network@mgm.org
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 8:26 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

It certainly indicates at least a correlation; causation however would need to be proved... and which one caused the other? Did the ICBL "cause" non-signatory government(s) to increase funding or was the ICBL inspired by the same awareness as were governments, as you suggest?

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>From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
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>To: network@mgm.org
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Chubby/Pookie eh?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 8:10 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

John,

The attached is a picture of the Chubby operated by HALO (one of Roger's). I could see a little of the Pookie in there - but did not remember the name "Dik Dik". Thanks. Its ground weight is, of course, more than enough to detonate an AP mine and so potentially disable the vehicle. The distance from wheels to armoured cockpit is part of the defence against an unintended AT detonation. I blew up a Pookie with a TM-57 (in Zimbabwe as part of my research, of course). It jumped sideways and the armoured side was "dished" - but the rattled occupant MIGHT have survived if they had been strapped in well. The Pookie was developed as a road-detector - driving in advance of convoys on regularly used roads that were subject to frequent mine-attack. Its first array was an ancient metal-detector (WRS) and the bakelite Pt Mi Ba 111 was introduced to counter those metal-detector pans - which were then revised to seek ground disturbance rather than mines with a novel VHF (also WRS) technique that worked on freshly laid devices. Sadly the VHF is no use at all if the mine has been in place a while. MineTech are using a Pookie as a carrier for a detector array in some research they are collaborating on. Seems a strange choice to me - since an AP blast mine the size of a PMN or a PMD-6 will very likely take a wheel off a Pookie. When used in mined-area detection work, the carrier should really be AP proof as well as AT proof - especially when manned so there is always a driver who needs to get out (or be medevaced) after a blow. Also, some common AT mines can need very little pressure to set them off - especially when the design involves bending down a plate and this can be done "progressively". If paid enough, I would sit in a Wolf or CASSPIR for an AT blast (well strapped in and wearing ear-plugs) - but there is not enough money to get me to sit in a Pookie for that. It is a combat vehicle, developed during combat to reduce risk - not to eliminate it. These days, good radio control systems mean that you do not need to put the operator at risk so, in my opinion and regardless of the detection system, this small manned vehicle is not safe enough for exploitation in HD.

Somewhere I have a copy of another vehicle book written in Rhodesia prior to Peter Stiff's "Taming the Landmine" effort. It has a lot more technical stuff in it - but the prose is about as racist as you can get so it is "out of print". If I find it, I will post the reference.

Certainly sanctions did drive innovation in Rhodesia - but it was the South Africans who supported the original work, then picked it up and refined it out of all recognition. The Namibians also ran in a slightly different direction - and some think did better. Some people in Zim are still angry that South Africa gets the credit - but any lead that could have been built-on in modern Zimbabwe has been Mugabeed so I am grateful that South Africa took up the torch.

Regards all
Andy



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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2003 2:08 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hello Robin

From a statistical point of view, does not a rise in cash allocation by governments IN PARALLEL with the ICBLs own rise in public recognition suggest that there is not a causal link between them? It rather seems to suggest that they are both dependent on a prior event (especially given Joe's explanation of lead-lag relationships in government funding, which is certainly true in my own experiences with UK government programs). One can only assume that this is an increasing general knowledge of the mine issue...

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I still regard myself as being moderately pro-Ottawa but I think the case for it is weakened when we try to attribute more to it than perhaps we should...

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Robin Collins

Sent: 02 September 2003 00:03

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Joe,

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Monday, September 1, 2003 7:03 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Joe,

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Unclassified: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle explanations two

Date: Monday, September 1, 2003 6:47 PM

From: Roberts, John MAJ 1 <John.Roberts1@defence.gov.au>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Andy,

The concept for the Chubby, came from some Rhodesian Sappers, the original was called the Dik Dik, and was based around a VW that they lifted to provide a remote drivers cabin and sat it upon F1 racing tyres to give it next to no ground-pressure.

The concept and development of the genre of mine-protected vehicles is covered in some detail in a book called 'Taming the Landmine' by Peter Stiff. It takes you from the early Rhodesian attempts on mine-proofing Land Rovers through to the development of the fleet of vehicles such as the Buffels, Wolves, Casspirs etc.

Great advertisement for RUEMECH and demonstrates how sanctions can drive innovation.

John R.

-----Original Message-----

From: Didactylos [mailto:didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2003 4:53

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle explanations two

KBiritan,

Whoops, that message slipped by - sorry for the delay. I did think someone at Belvoir might answer... but in the absence of their showing interest, I will try.

You asked whether the Chubby had started out in the 70s in Rhodesia. I have to say that I do not really know. It could have been based on a carrier designed then - even the CASSPIR owes design concepts to that period and Ernie Konshaw - but I do not think that the carrier is available as a stand-alone MPV, so I doubt this.

Then you asked "whatever happened to the US Army (Belvoir) vehicle mounted detector project...?"

I think you mean their VMDS (Vehicle Mounted Detector System) which was considered completed by 1998. The system combined three detection technologies, metal-detection, thermal neutron analysis (TNA) and an infrared (IR) sensor. In their "guide" for that year, Belvoir stated that "the two meter [metal] detection array performed extremely well"... Unfortunately the other detection systems did not. The TNA could not reliably locate AP mines and was complicated to operate. I understand that the IR was the predicted flop and was subsequently dropped.

You might mean Belvoir's VMMD (Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector) - a multi-sensor system seeking to combine GPR, IR and a UV camera. This system

also failed to reliably detect AP mines and "proved very complicated to operate". I imagine that their HSTAMIDS work drew on the failings of those systems to inform appropriate program revisions for HSTAMIDS. HSTAMIDS is the GPR/MineLab hand-held combination used in Afghanistan by US forces and discussed on this forum earlier this year.

Belvoir did draw a line under that Vehicle Mounted Detector research - finally accepting its limitations even if not publicising them much. The main limitations were both predictable and predicted. Lots of the dollars that Joe Lokey is proud of the US spending went down that R&D drain as a kind of "boomerang-aid" (HD money spent at home). No special criticism of Belvoir is intended. The EU (and its separate member states) probably has a worse record for "seeing a programme through" even when the concept was patently daft from the start. Daft? Yes. No allowance made for real minefield topography or vegetation and no real reason to believe that TNA, UV or IR would yield results in the right hemisphere for use in Humanitarian Demining even if the machines could get to the right places. But the scientists and engineers had fun - and the bureaucrats had programmes that it was easy to oversee....

In fact, R&D into the various potential detection technologies was justified - and the results may have been useful for Belvoir's further research (it would help if all the failings were publicised, but no one seems terribly keen to do that). The daft thing was to mount them on hugely expensive toy vehicles before proving that they would be of any use - and without bothering to go check whether the machines could traverse typical mined areas, never mind be operated and maintained in post-conflict countries - or survive AP blast and fragmentation damage.

Funny old world.

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Vehicle explanations two

Date: Monday, September 1, 2003 2:53 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

KBiritan,

Whoops, that message slipped by - sorry for the delay. I did think someone at Belvoir might answer... but in the absence of their showing interest, I will try.

You asked whether the Chubby had started out in the 70s in Rhodesia. I have to say that I do not really know. It could have been based on a carrier designed then - even the CASSPIR owes design concepts to that period and Ernie Konshaw - but I do not think that the carrier is available as a stand-alone MPV, so I doubt this.

Then you asked "whatever happened to the US Army (Belvoir) vehicle mounted detector project...?"

I think you mean their VMDS (Vehicle Mounted Detector System) which was considered completed by 1998. The system combined three detection technologies, metal-detection, thermal neutron analysis (TNA) and an infrared (IR) sensor. In their "guide" for that year, Belvoir stated that "the two meter [metal] detection array performed extremely well"... Unfortunately the other detection systems did not. The TNA could not reliably locate AP mines and was complicated to operate. I understand that the IR was the predicted flop and was subsequently dropped.

You might mean Belvoir's VMMD (Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector) - a multi-sensor system seeking to combine GPR, IR and a UV camera. This system also failed to reliably detect AP mines and "proved very complicated to operate". I imagine that their HSTAMIDS work drew on the failings of those systems to inform appropriate program revisions for HSTAMIDS. HSTAMIDS is the GPR/MineLab hand-held combination used in Afghanistan by US forces and discussed on this forum earlier this year.

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In fact, R&D into the various potential detection technologies was justified - and the results may have been useful for Belvoir's further research (it would help if all the failings were publicised, but no one seems terribly keen to do that). The daft thing was to mount them on hugely expensive toy vehicles before proving that they would be of any use - and without bothering to go check whether the machines could traverse typical mined areas, never mind be operated and maintained in post-conflict

countries - or survive AP blast and fragmentation damage.

Funny old world.

Regards all
Andy

#####

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 11:23 PM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Robin,

The "kick in" started way before 1997 if you know anything at all about the Congressional funding cycle.

For the funds to have been spent in 1997, they were programmed and justified to Congress in 1996 and budgeted for and costed in 1995. That's when the US began making commitments to Cambodia, Laos, Mozambique, the Middle East and other large programs. Bosnia kicks in shortly thereafter. The level stays steady (These numbers don't reflect the mix of demining, R&D, Leahy War Victim, USAID dollars in aggregate or the value of much of the contributions in kind in the early programs) as the US identifies and targets the countries with the worst problems that are then approved by Congress. All of this, by the way, begun long before 1997. As part of the internal planing, programming and budgeting staff at the time, I can tell with some certainty that every demining budget we submitted was a continuation and expansion of exisiting programs and the word "Ottawa" never crossed anyone's mind because it was wholly irrelevant to what we were doing.

I believe most people, however, were delighted that Ottawa finally got most of the other countries to finally open their checkbooks to follow the US lead and quit just talking about it. That's primarily what the Demining 2010 Conference was designed to do and, to some extent, has been successful in achieving.

- joe

--- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

> >Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance
> cash is the
> >measure, does anybody know whether CCW members or
> Ottawa members
> >have contributed more?
> >
> >Bob S.
>
>
> <http://www.icbl.org/lm/2002/funding.html>
> The newest Landmine Monitor is coming out in a week
> or so, but here
> are the data from LM 2002 (current to 2001). Note
> that this is for
> mine action broadly speaking, not just clearance.
> The USA leads the
> pack by a long shot. I was wrong about 1996, it
> appears to be more
> incremental, but a kick-in after 1997 in particular.
> Someone else

> might want to do the CCW versus Ottawa comparison,
> but I don't think
> it is relevant as all Ottawa signatories are CCW
> signatories (I
> think), but not vice versa.
>
> Robin
>
>
> Mine Action Funding in 2001: \$237 million
>
> USA
> \$69.2 million
>
> EC
> \$25.3 million
>
> Norway
> \$19.7 million
>
> Canada
> \$15.5 million
>
> Mine Action Funding Reported To Date: \$1.419
> billion
>
> USA
> \$375.5 million
>
> EC
> \$203.3 million
>
> Norway
> \$127.2 million
>
> UK
> \$94.1 million
>
> Sweden
> \$80 million
>
> Japan
> \$70.8 million
>
> Canada
> \$67.4 million
>
> Netherlands
> \$67.2 million
>
> Germany
> \$62.7 million
>
> Denmark
> \$62.3 million
>
> Australia
> \$43 million
>
> Switzerland
> \$39.6 million

>
> Italy
> \$36 million
>
> Finland
> \$27.9 million
>
> France
> \$16.8 million
>
> Belgium
> \$11.8 million
>
> Austria
> \$7.9 million
>
> Ireland
> \$7.8 million
>
> New Zealand
> \$6.6 million
>
> Spain
> \$4.2 million
>
> Others
> \$7.2 million
>
>
> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- \$375.5 million
>
> 2001
> \$69.2 million
>
> 2000
> \$82.4 million
>
> 1999
> \$63.1 million
>
> 1998
> \$44.9 million
>
> 1997
> \$30.8 million
>
> 1996
> \$29.8 million
>
> 1995
> \$29.2 million
>
> 1994
> \$15.9 million
>
> 1993
> \$10.2 million

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Pentagon Rethinks Use of Cluster Bombs
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 1:10 PM
From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

Yup,

The US Forces Higher ups are now realizing the side effects of the use of these weapons with a whole bundle of clearance hazards that must be dealt with as the commanders have now got as you say these no-go areas to deal with. They don't understand fully until they see it for themselves. Reminds me of being the Engr INT guy trying to tell in as plain language as I could to a 22 year old officer who was attached to the Bde Comd that a 22 bay Double storey MGB bridge isnt built in exactly what time the book says in austere conditions (-30) and with a restricted site nor is a Tactical Minefield laid in the time the book says either... they have to get out there and see what their men are telling them...then adjust tactics....I imagine there will be some Cluster bomb tactic changes now.....maybe they'll just stop using them... no thats too wishfull!(!:):).....On another note I bet the enemy is expediting these "no go" areas to their advantage too.....

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robin Collins" <robinco@sympatico.ca>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2003 9:55 AM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Pentagon Rethinks Use of Cluster Bombs

> Lundi 25 Aout 2003 -
> Wall Street Journal -
> par PHILIPPS,
> Michael M.
>
> -----
>
> Armes / USA / Irak. Pentagon Rethinks Use of Cluster Bombs
>
> Unexploded Bomblets in Iraq Create 'No Go' Areas That Impede Maneuvers
>
> By Michael M. Phillips in Karbala, Iraq, and Greg Jaffe in Washington
>
> Pentagon planners are rethinking how the military uses cluster bombs,
> because unexploded bomblets littering Iraq significantly impeded
> American troops' battlefield maneuverability.
>
> Indeed, Marines trying to clean up unexploded ordnance in the Karbala
> region south of Baghdad say they are finding more deadly cluster
> bomblets than they expected, which are killing and maiming civilians
> and complicating U.S. reconstruction efforts.
>
>

> "It's a big problem, and the military has come to recognize that it's
> not just a humanitarian problem, it's a military problem," says a
> senior Pentagon official recently back from Iraq. "You're creating
> 'no-go' areas on the battlefield. I don't think we appreciated that
> until this conflict."
>
> At a time of increasingly precise weaponry, cluster bombs are among
> the most indiscriminate -- and thus controversial -- conventional
> munitions. Bomblets left over from the first Persian Gulf War killed
> 1,600 civilians and injured 2,500, according to a Human Rights Watch
> study. During and after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, they killed
> or injured at least 129 civilians, the group says.
>
> Though long criticized for civilian cluster-bomb casualties, the
> Pentagon's current re-evaluation is being driven primarily by a
> tactical military consideration: Unexploded bomblets render
> significant swaths of battlefield off limits to advancing U.S. troops.
>
> These bombs also pose a bigger headache for the Pentagon in Iraq
> because as an occupying power, U.S. troops not only must live amid
> the danger, but are responsible for the health and well-being of
> Iraqi citizens -- which involves clearing the ordnance, a United
> Nations spokesman says.
>
> Cluster bombs are designed to destroy armor and kill troops over wide
> areas. The bombs scatter as many as 900 individually armed bomblets
> in midair, across a wide area. The U.S. showered between 1 million
> and 1.5 million bomblets on Iraq during the three-week invasion
> earlier this year.
>
> The military considers this weapon unsurpassed for attacking massed
> enemy troops. The trouble comes when the bomblets don't explode,
> which can happen when they land in soft marshes, sandy deserts or
> thick foliage.
>
>
> This bomblet fell through the roof of an animal-feed factory in Imam Awn.
>
>
> Other countries that use cluster bombs have developed technology that
> limits the number of unexploded munitions, but Pentagon attempts to
> do so have encountered technical difficulties.
>
> "The military should definitely have been more proactive,
> particularly when you see what other countries ... have been able to
> do," says Bonnie Docherty, a Human Rights Watch researcher just back
> from Iraq.
>
> The Defense Department hopes to start producing bomblets with dud
> rates of 1% or lower by early 2005, an Army official working on the
> program says. The Army also plans to equip some cluster bombs with
> precision-guidance kits to give commanders more control over where
> the bomblets land. And the Pentagon is taking a look at whether to
> use them as extensively as it has up to now.
>
> The Pentagon said its tests show that between 2% and 6% of its
> bomblets don't explode on impact, which it considers acceptable at
> present. The General Accounting Office has found so-called dud rates
> as high as 16%, but Army officials call such estimates far too high.
> Precise rates in Iraq aren't available, but U.S. Marine experts in
> Karbala say they believe dud rates in some places were as much as 40%.

>
> "It's absolutely overwhelming," says Staff Sgt. Steven Mannon, head
> of a two-man ordnance-disposal team there.
>
> Moreover, they are in places they generally aren't supposed to be.
> The Pentagon had urged commanders to avoid using them in urban areas
> to minimize civilian casualties, but some populated areas are
> littered with unexploded munitions.
>
> Marine explosives specialists in the hard-hit Karbala-Hillah area
> have destroyed more than 31,000 unexploded bomblets -- some Iraqi,
> most American -- that landed on fields, homes, factories and roads.
> Two were on the roof of a downtown hotel, one stuck in its soft tar.
> Many were in populated areas on Karbala's outskirts.
>
> As the Marines prepare to turn over control of the region and the
> cleanup to multinational peacekeepers Tuesday, commanders say the job
> is nowhere near done. "There could be 100,000 of the things out
> there, for all we know," says Capt. George Schreffler, operations
> officer for the Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment.
>
> It is impossible to say how many people have been killed or injured
> by leftover bomblets in Iraq. Unicef officials estimate more than
> 1,000 children have been wounded since the end of heavy combat by
> unexploded American and Iraqi munitions of all types.
>
> In the two weeks following Saddam Hussein's fall on April 9,
> unexploded ordnance killed 23 and wounded 29 in Karbala, according to
> the city's General Hospital. The hospital hasn't kept track of
> civilian casualties since then, but bomb-disposal Marines say
> bomblets killed at least two Iraqis in the past two weeks alone. On
> July 2, a bomblet exploded during disposal, killing one Marine and
> seriously wounding another.
>
> Many postwar casualties might have been avoided had the Army equipped
> the bomblets with self-destruct mechanisms like those used by
> Britain, Israel, France and Germany, say defense-industry officials
> and human-rights advocates. Developed by Israel in the late 1980s,
> such devices detonate bomblets that survive impact and reduce failure
> rates to less than 1%. They cost about \$12 to \$15 each.
>
> The Army began developing what it considered even better
> self-destruct devices in the late 1990s, but officials say problems
> making batteries small enough to power them slowed their efforts. The
> Army plans to test four different self-destruct devices -- made by
> both foreign and domestic suppliers -- at White Sands Missile Range
> in New Mexico this week.
>
> Given cluster bombs' inherent danger, the Army official says, "there
> was a conscious effort by commanders not to use these weapons unless
> necessary because of the hazard to advancing troops and civilians."
> During an April attack on Salman Pak, near Baghdad, Marine ground
> commanders requested air support and were told they could only get a
> cluster-bomb-armed B-52. The Marines declined because they didn't
> want U.S. troops moving into a maze of unexploded bomblets.
>
> The Army's Third Infantry Division dropped hundreds of thousands of
> bomblets on Iraqi troops threatening routes to Baghdad. Later,
> cluster bomblets forced Iraqi soldiers armed with rocket-propelled
> grenades and shoulder-fired anti-aircraft guns to take cover inside
> buildings and tanks, allowing helicopters to swoop in and fire

> precision weapons.
>
> While reluctant to second-guess Army battlefield decisions, many
> Marines in the Karbala region privately wonder why so many bomblets
> were dropped near civilians. The Marine ordnance-disposal team has
> found bomblets in date trees, vegetable gardens and inside homes,
> including closets. "It's a little horrifying to walk into a house and
> see a family with children living with all these cluster bombs," Sgt.
> Mannon says.
>
> Marines searching for bomblets just outside Karbala found indications
> that two U.S. cluster-packed rockets hit the village of Imam Awn,
> where Iraqi troops were stationed near civilians. Called to the
> neighborhood repeatedly by panicked locals, the bomb-disposal team
> has destroyed about 100 bomblets there.
>
> Despite eliminating a number of threats, the Marines encountered a
> mixed reception. Mohammed Habib, a 42-year-old farmer, stuffed
> pomegranates and pears into their fatigue pockets after they blew up
> 10 bomblets in his orchards. But Fahad Toma Abd, 40, fumed at the
> U.S. military for wounding four of his five children during the
> invasion. He found 169 bomblets on his farm and had most of them
> destroyed by an Iraqi free-lancer, who since has lost too many
> fingers to continue such work. Mr. Abd told the Marines he doesn't
> dare work his land, and his savings are running out. "The Army should
> clean up my farm for me, so I can go back to working as a farmer," he
> said.

>
>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 12:44 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Standby. I also have the sexed up MRE presentation here but its 30 Megs.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2003 9:38 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

> Hi Pete

>

> Sounds like the powerpoint presentations had been 'sexed up' in the time
> between them originally being written (the original IFOR ones had none of
> that technical detail) and you quite rightly taking it all out again

>

> I would certainly be interested in seeing the stuff from the child
> psychologist you mention

>

> Yes, I heard that the leatherman incident was in Tuzla and it was in about
> Jan-Feb 96

>

> cheers

>

> Bob

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
> Pete Hindy

> Sent: 30 August 2003 17:08

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

>

>

>

> I am a firm believer in fluidness and encouragement with very few (if none)
> restrictions on the trng to get the point main needed to be conveyed
> across... just like you mentioned...Good UNICEF thinks that
way...tailoring
> is paramount...

>

> When I was in the Cdn Army in 2001 in Bosnia we took a big look at the
very

> thing you mention in our own MRE for all the troops when we discovered the
> existing MRE powerpoints were lacking in the media and what points needed
> most to be driven home to make it more effective.Behavior change name of
the

> game, no trainspotting, bells or whistles leading the lecture, just the
> required behavior adaptation... Example: We Changed the existing
powerpoints

> to suit exactly what training value and skill the student is really supposed

> to get out of the instruction and really requires for what theyre doing.

> This was "preventitive medicine" as you describe.... Some MRE remained the same like those meant for an Engineer audience with all the detailed pics, > how the mines work , etc., the rest was tailored to what a Cdn Non Soldier

> Civilian worker or Non Engineer Soldier "really needs" to know at their own

> level of responsibility. Truck driver, clerk et. And thus to appropriately > change eachs behavior. We always had all the training mines and UXO on hand

> and described them basically (thats all etc. "This is a PMA1, its A/P, > works on 3 Kg pressure, uses blast to do its damage, then show the pic of > the magled foot and state, follow your avoidance drills, be mine aware and > this won't happen to you, its not your job to take these apart, just to > avoid them, if you see the signs you don't have to see the mines..Most > importantly Yes it can happen to you:"etc " and not a big spiel on, this > mine is this and this and this and this, blah bla. It worked really well as > for instance some of the Cdn civilian workers people listened a bit more > intently than before as a scatter guy here or there was not really interested

> at being at MRE after supper for an hour and would rather be having a smoke

> or watch t.v- Which I could always pick out and jack up. After we updated > some current MRE presentations with before and after foot pics etc... to > enforce the point this changed that. I agree when Non Engineer people are > taught too much about the mines than they need to know they start to feel > like they can take care of these situations themselves. In 1996 on IFOR I > remember one Particular CO, actually our Camp CO who came up asking my Engr

> Sqn OC in the Smoking area if his troops could have a prodding competition

> with the Sappers in the Emergency Response sections to see who could prodd > better fastest... ???!! The OC swiftly informed him, that "No" he would not

> be having in Prodding competitions "ever" and it was "solely" the job of the

> Sappers to do the prodding and you to do the "being stuck" in the minefield

> for some "silly reason!"....I believe that is an example when somebody > trained for only avoidance and self extraction feels they are confident to > take it on their own... which is 100% the wrong slant on the purpose of the

> MRE....The programme was changed and had awesome results... Now we couldn't

> use the stats of strikes to prove its effectiveness but people were a lot more

> serious when they asked us questions from that point on....And during the > practical Prodding drills and vehicle self extraction drills they were way

> more intent on details they had not been on before--after they saw before > and after pictures....I believe also that the comic strip like Handicap > International made is an effective tool in training 3rd world audiences in > whats most important, avoidance.....to avoid them getting brave enough to > get into trouble....Just like you say about the children knowing about > taking the Mines apart.....

>

>

> For example in the powerpoint Some useful media we changed (as with the > practical too) to what you described:

>
>
> 1) Avoid this
> 2) Pic of mangled hand
> YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
> 3) Follow the drills and come home
> 4) Pic of mangled foot
> YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
> 5) Descriptions of the mines with Mangled pics following
> 6) All the recent stats and numbers of pers who had been killed wounded etc
> etc since 1992..
> YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
> 7) How the odds were better for stepping on a mine than the lottery, luck
not
> in your favor etc...
> YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
>
> I believe the most important thing was to put it into the language and
> understanding of the student and exactly tailor make it, what they really
> need to get out of the training:
>
> Ref:
>
> How do you stop a child being
> naturally curious - in a way that is selective enough not to inhibit the
> learning that they need to do? Maybe by shock/horror images of the
> consequences? Maybe not in areas where the kids have seen plenty of that
for
> real?
>
> Once again my take is tailoring is paramount and Behavior change, name of
> the game....but it needs to be achieved willingly by the student. You can't
> stop a kid from being naturally curious but you can get their attention
> through certain means....shock and horror images are not what a child
thinks
> like. A child identifies more with loss of what they think is most
important
> so...You gotta get inside their train of thought...Not get "inside the
> animals" like Tom Green:)). "actually how they learn".....Just as an
> example If you say Who's the best soccer player in the country, now here,
and
> lead it into the mines/UXO, and you can play soccer, but don't avoid
touch
> and play with the mines/UXO etc and you might become hurt and not be able
to
> play soccer ever again as you might lose your leg or die..Can anyone
> imagine if (the best) player in Bosnia couldn't play soccer anymore
because
> he was hurt? Would you all be sad? Also kids love maps and stuff which can
be
> greatly expedited on instead of slides and slides of pictures of what you
> could normally just show to an adult...or the fact that they have to be
able
> to identify an object that's common with one that's common but is unsafe...and
> they need to be able to spot this and keep away...not play with it....I
> wondered how to do this myself the best way and I went to see a Child Psych
> as well as a friend who's Children's teacher (under 12) to ask exactly how
> children learn and had her look at the current MRE that was being taught
to
> children and how it was organized. It was set up for older children and
very

> much contained a command element realing the point. This is the very wrong
> thing for getting younger kids who have been traumatized or not, to learn
> and understand what youre trying to tell them and whats most important to
> listen to and why. She told me several tools that would really be good to
> teach children and get the medium of this information effecivly across to
> them. I Typed out a possiabile lesson and practical (for under 12's) which
> i
> think would be really effective from what She conveyed and how it could
work
> in getting into their minds, if anyone wants it I can email it. That is
how
> I think some problems with the instruction of children can addressed.
>
> P.S I remember the US Soldier with the PMA2 and the pliers and dead. Is
that
> the same guy?Tuzla Jan-Feb 96?
>
> UBIQUE!!
>
> Pete Hindy
> Zagreb
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2003 7:02 AM
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE
>
>
> > Monitoring Mine Risk Education (MRE) effectiveness solely by reference
to
> a
> > reduction in reported civilian accidents is unlikely to be accurate -
> > although most efforts will prove "successful" that way. MRE is not that
> > simple - and people learn from events more readily than from "experts".
> For
> > example, there are two incidents around a particular town in one month.
An
> > emergency MRE response team goes in. There are no more incidents over
the
> > following six months. Why? Perhaps because the two incidents themselves
> > taught a powerful lesson? Perhaps because the two incidents involved the
> > only two operational devices in that vicinity? Perhaps because the MRE
was
> > effective. Perhaps because
> >
> > Monitoring of this kind of educational effort should be by assessing how
> the
> > sharing of "appropriate" knowledge has changed behaviour (among both
kids
> > and adults). This is complicated by the word "appropriate" - which
should
> > take account of the "students' " current knowledge and behaviour. In
some
> > areas, people need to know what mines and UXO actually look like: and
they
> > are unlikely to learn that from a crude sketch or touchy-feely
> screen-print
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> > Regards all
> > Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 12:07 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I am a firm believer in fluidness and encouragement with very few (if none) restrictions on the trng to get the point main needed to be conveyed across... just like you mentioned...Good UNICEF thinks that way...tailoring is paramount...

When I was in the Cdn Army in 2001 in Bosnia we took a big look at the very thing you mention in our own MRE for all the troops when we discovered the existing MRE powerpoints were lacking in the media and what points needed most to be driven home to make it more effective.Behavior change name of the game, no trainspotting, bells or whistles leading the lecture, just the required behavior adaptation... Example: We Changed the existing powerpoints to suit exactly what training value and skill the student is really supposed to get out of the instruction and really requires for what theyre doing. This was "preventitive medicine" as you describe.... Some MRE remained the same like those meant for an Engineer audience with all the detailed pics, how the mines work , etc., the rest was tailored to what a Cdn Non Soldier Civilian worker or Non Engineer Soldier "really needs" to know at their own level of responsibility. Truck driver, clerk et.And thus to appropriately change eachs behavior. We always had all the training mines and UXO on hand and described them basically (thats all etc. "This is a PMA1, its A/P, works on 3 Kg pressure, uses blast to do its damage, then show the pic of the magled foot and state, follow your avoidance drills, be mine awareand this won't happen to you, its not your job to take these apart, just to avoid them, if you see the signs you don't have to see the mines..Most importantly Yes it cannn happen to you:"etc " and not a big speil on, this mine is this and this and this and this, blah bla.It worked really well as for instance some of the Cdn civilian workers people listened a bit more intently than before as a scatter guy here or there was not really intrested at being at MRE after supper for an hour and would rather be having asmoke or watch t.v- Which I could always pick out and jack up. After we updated some current MRE presentations with before and after foot pics etc... to enforce the point this changed that. I agree when Non Engineer people are taught too much about the mines than they need to know they start to feel like they can take care of these situations themselves.In 1996 on IFOR I remember one Particulair CO, actually our Camp CO who came up asking my Engr Sqn OC in the Smoking area if his troops could have a prodding coimpetition with the Sappers in the Emergency Response sections to see who could prodd better fastest... ???!! The OC swiftly informed him, that "No" he would not be having in Prodding competetions "ever" and it was "soley" the job of the Sappers to do the prodding and you to do the "being stuck" in the minefield for some "silly reason!"....I belive that is an example when somebody trained for only avoidance and self extraction feels they are confident to take it on their own... which is 100% the wrong slant on the purpose of the MRE....The programme was changed and had awesome results... Now we couldn't use the stats of strikes to prove its effectivness but people were alot more serious when they asked us questions from that point on....And during the practical Prodding drills and vehcile self extraction drills they were wayy more intent on details they had not been on before--after they saw before and after pictures....I belive also that the comic strip like Handicap International made is an effective tool in training 3rd world audiences in whats most important, an avoidance....to avoid them getting brave enough to get into trouble....Just like you say about the children knowing about taking the Mines apart.....

For example in the powerpoint Some usefull media we changed (as with the practical too) to what you described:

- 1) Avoid this
- 2) Pic of mangled hand
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
- 3)Follow the drills and come home
- 4)Pic of mangled foot
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
- 5)Descriptions of the mines with Mangled pics following
- 6)All the recent stats and numbers of pers who had been killed wounded etc etc since 1992..
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
- 7)How the odds were better for stepping on a mine than the lottery, luck not in your favor etc...
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...

I belive the most important thing was to put it into the language and understanding of the student and exctly taiolor make it, what they really need to get out of the training:

Ref:

How do you stop a child being naturally curious - in a way that is selective enough not to inhibit the learning that they need to do? Maybe by shock/horror images of the consequences? Maybe not in areas where the kids have seen plenty of that for real?

Once again my take is tailoring is paramount and Behavior change, name of the game....but it needs to be achieved willingly by the student. You can't stop a kid from being naturally curious but you can get their attention through certain means....shock and horror images are not what a child thinks like. A child identifes more with loss of what they think is most important so...You gotta get inside their train of thought...Not get "inside the animals" like tom green:)).."actually how they learn".....Just as an example If you say Whos the best soccer player in the country, now here, and lead it into the mines/uxo , and you can play soccer, but dont avoid touch and play with the mines/uxo etc and you might become hurt and not be able to play soccer ever again as you might loose your leg or die..Can anyone imagine if (the best) player in Bosnia couldnt play soccer anymore because he was hurt? Would you all be sad?Also kids love maps and stuff which can be greatly expedited on instead of slides and slides of pictures of what you coud normally just show to an adult...or the fact that they have to be able to ident an object thats common with one thats common but is unsafe...and they need to be able to spot this and kep away...not play with it.....I wondered how to do this myself the best way and I went to see a Child Pych as well as a freind who's Childrens teacher (under 12) to ask exactly how children learn and had her look at the current MRE that was being taught to children and how it was organized. It was set up for older children and very much contained a command element realing the point. This is the very wrong thing for getting younger kids who have been traumatized or not, to learn and understand what youre trying to tell them and whats most important to listen to and why. She told me several tools that would really be good to teach children and get the medium of this information effecivly across to them. I Typed out a possiabile lesson and practical (for under 12's) which i think would be really effective from what She conveyed and how it could work in getting into their minds, if anyone wants it I can email it. That is how

I think some problems with the instruction of children can be addressed.

P.S I remember the US Soldier with the PMA2 and the pliers and dead. Is that the same guy? Tuzla Jan-Feb 96?

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2003 7:02 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

> Monitoring Mine Risk Education (MRE) effectiveness solely by reference to
> a
> reduction in reported civilian accidents is unlikely to be accurate -
> although most efforts will prove "successful" that way. MRE is not that
> simple - and people learn from events more readily than from "experts".
For
> example, there are two incidents around a particular town in one month. An
> emergency MRE response team goes in. There are no more incidents over the
> following six months. Why? Perhaps because the two incidents themselves
> taught a powerful lesson? Perhaps because the two incidents involved the
> only two operational devices in that vicinity? Perhaps because the MRE was
> effective. Perhaps because
>
> Monitoring of this kind of educational effort should be by assessing how
the
> sharing of "appropriate" knowledge has changed behaviour (among both kids
> and adults). This is complicated by the word "appropriate" - which should
> take account of the "students' " current knowledge and behaviour. In some
> areas, people need to know what mines and UXO actually look like: and they
> are unlikely to learn that from a crude sketch or touchy-feely
screen-print
> made by a local artist who has not seen one either. In Kosovo, many kids
> were taught how common AP mines worked in school - and the kids themselves
> are far more experienced at recognising and even disarming them than the
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Cluster bombs shut out of arms fair

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 8:27 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Cluster bombs shut out of arms fair

Manufacturers asked not to bring controversial weapons to London

Owen Bowcott
Saturday August 30, 2003
The Guardian

Weapons manufacturers have been requested not to display cluster bombs at next month's military equipment exhibition in the London Docklands because they are considered "inappropriate" for the UK market.

The Guardian has been told that the decision to hide the trade in such lethal anti-personnel devices is being enforced despite the fact that British and US forces used them extensively in the invasion of Iraq.

The sensitivity reflects mounting public concern over the dangers posed by the multiple "bomblets" contained in cluster bombs. A significant number do not explode on impact, remaining on the ground and attracting the attention of youngsters.

The UN children's fund Unicef believes more than 1,000 children have been injured by cluster bomblets and other unexploded munitions since the official end of conflict in Iraq.

A spokeswoman for Spearhead Exhibitions, the company organising the Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi) exhibition, said yesterday that - unlike landmines - "cluster bombs are not on the illegal list".

But, she added, "we have suggested they wouldn't be appropriate in the UK. We have asked exhibitors not to bring them. We suggested that cluster bombs would be inappropriate for the UK market, even though [the UK] used them in Iraq."

The desire to present a socially acceptable face of the defence industry marks a new departure for the show, which takes place this year from September 9 to 12. When the defence secretary, Geoff Hoon, opens the trade fair, television cameras and the media will be allowed in for the first time.

DSEi will have more than 950 exhibitors and is expected to attract 20,000 visitors.

The UK arms industry is worth more than £5bn a year and accounts for around 20% of world weapons sales. It employs between 70,000 and 150,000 people, and the UK is the world's second largest manufacturer after the US, which has 32% of the market.

Martin Hogbin, of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, said: "Arms fairs are where arms deals take place. It is where people come to network and do deals.

"The decision on cluster bombs shows that it has become an area of public

concern. Just because they have been asked not to sell them there doesn't mean they can't do a deal about them later."

A campaign report published on Monday says that arms are not, as is often conceived, a "vast money earner for the UK". The organisation estimates that the industry receives subsidies of around £750m a year.

The campaign says it is concerned that many of the countries invited to DSEi are impoverished, or have controversial human rights records. They include Angola and Tanzania as well as Israel, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Syria was invited by the Ministry of Defence, but it has not accepted.

"Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the US, Colombia, China and Russia were all invited to DSEi in 2001; all received UK arms in 2002," the campaign report says. Inviting such countries "provides implicit approval of their actions", it says.

The government's defence export services organisation, which coordinates sales, insists that just because countries attend the exhibition it does not entitle them to purchase weapons. British arms firms must obtain approval for sales, a Deso official said.

Special reportm/info/terms/

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Pentagon Rethinks Use of Cluster Bombs

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 8:25 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Lundi 25 Aout 2003 -
Wall Street Journal -
par PHILIPPS,
Michael M.

Armes / USA / Irak. Pentagon Rethinks Use of Cluster Bombs

Unexploded Bomblets in Iraq Create 'No Go' Areas That Impede Maneuvers

By Michael M. Phillips in Karbala, Iraq, and Greg Jaffe in Washington

Pentagon planners are rethinking how the military uses cluster bombs, because unexploded bomblets littering Iraq significantly impeded American troops' battlefield maneuverability.

Indeed, Marines trying to clean up unexploded ordnance in the Karbala region south of Baghdad say they are finding more deadly cluster bomblets than they expected, which are killing and maiming civilians and complicating U.S. reconstruction efforts.

"It's a big problem, and the military has come to recognize that it's not just a humanitarian problem, it's a military problem," says a senior Pentagon official recently back from Iraq. "You're creating 'no-go' areas on the battlefield. I don't think we appreciated that until this conflict."

At a time of increasingly precise weaponry, cluster bombs are among the most indiscriminate -- and thus controversial -- conventional munitions. Bomblets left over from the first Persian Gulf War killed 1,600 civilians and injured 2,500, according to a Human Rights Watch study. During and after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, they killed or injured at least 129 civilians, the group says.

Though long criticized for civilian cluster-bomb casualties, the Pentagon's current re-evaluation is being driven primarily by a tactical military consideration: Unexploded bomblets render significant swaths of battlefield off limits to advancing U.S. troops.

These bombs also pose a bigger headache for the Pentagon in Iraq because as an occupying power, U.S. troops not only must live amid the danger, but are responsible for the health and well-being of Iraqi citizens -- which involves clearing the ordnance, a United Nations spokesman says.

Cluster bombs are designed to destroy armor and kill troops over wide areas. The bombs scatter as many as 900 individually armed bomblets in midair, across a wide area. The U.S. showered between 1 million and 1.5 million bomblets on Iraq during the three-week invasion earlier this year.

The military considers this weapon unsurpassed for attacking massed

enemy troops. The trouble comes when the bomblets don't explode, which can happen when they land in soft marshes, sandy deserts or thick foliage.

This bomblet fell through the roof of an animal-feed factory in Imam Awn.

Other countries that use cluster bombs have developed technology that limits the number of unexploded munitions, but Pentagon attempts to do so have encountered technical difficulties.

"The military should definitely have been more proactive, particularly when you see what other countries ... have been able to do," says Bonnie Docherty, a Human Rights Watch researcher just back from Iraq.

The Defense Department hopes to start producing bomblets with dud rates of 1% or lower by early 2005, an Army official working on the program says. The Army also plans to equip some cluster bombs with precision-guidance kits to give commanders more control over where the bomblets land. And the Pentagon is taking a look at whether to use them as extensively as it has up to now.

The Pentagon said its tests show that between 2% and 6% of its bomblets don't explode on impact, which it considers acceptable at present. The General Accounting Office has found so-called dud rates as high as 16%, but Army officials call such estimates far too high. Precise rates in Iraq aren't available, but U.S. Marine experts in Karbala say they believe dud rates in some places were as much as 40%.

"It's absolutely overwhelming," says Staff Sgt. Steven Mannon, head of a two-man ordnance-disposal team there.

Moreover, they are in places they generally aren't supposed to be. The Pentagon had urged commanders to avoid using them in urban areas to minimize civilian casualties, but some populated areas are littered with unexploded munitions.

Marine explosives specialists in the hard-hit Karbala-Hillah area have destroyed more than 31,000 unexploded bomblets -- some Iraqi, most American -- that landed on fields, homes, factories and roads. Two were on the roof of a downtown hotel, one stuck in its soft tar. Many were in populated areas on Karbala's outskirts.

As the Marines prepare to turn over control of the region and the cleanup to multinational peacekeepers Tuesday, commanders say the job is nowhere near done. "There could be 100,000 of the things out there, for all we know," says Capt. George Schreffler, operations officer for the Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment.

It is impossible to say how many people have been killed or injured by leftover bomblets in Iraq. Unicef officials estimate more than 1,000 children have been wounded since the end of heavy combat by unexploded American and Iraqi munitions of all types.

In the two weeks following Saddam Hussein's fall on April 9, unexploded ordnance killed 23 and wounded 29 in Karbala, according to the city's General Hospital. The hospital hasn't kept track of civilian casualties since then, but bomb-disposal Marines say bomblets killed at least two Iraqis in the past two weeks alone. On

July 2, a bomblet exploded during disposal, killing one Marine and seriously wounding another.

Many postwar casualties might have been avoided had the Army equipped the bomblets with self-destruct mechanisms like those used by Britain, Israel, France and Germany, say defense-industry officials and human-rights advocates. Developed by Israel in the late 1980s, such devices detonate bomblets that survive impact and reduce failure rates to less than 1%. They cost about \$12 to \$15 each.

The Army began developing what it considered even better self-destruct devices in the late 1990s, but officials say problems making batteries small enough to power them slowed their efforts. The Army plans to test four different self-destruct devices -- made by both foreign and domestic suppliers -- at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico this week.

Given cluster bombs' inherent danger, the Army official says, "there was a conscious effort by commanders not to use these weapons unless necessary because of the hazard to advancing troops and civilians." During an April attack on Salman Pak, near Baghdad, Marine ground commanders requested air support and were told they could only get a cluster-bomb-armed B-52. The Marines declined because they didn't want U.S. troops moving into a maze of unexploded bomblets.

The Army's Third Infantry Division dropped hundreds of thousands of bomblets on Iraqi troops threatening routes to Baghdad. Later, cluster bomblets forced Iraqi soldiers armed with rocket-propelled grenades and shoulder-fired antiaircraft guns to take cover inside buildings and tanks, allowing helicopters to swoop in and fire precision weapons.

While reluctant to second-guess Army battlefield decisions, many Marines in the Karbala region privately wonder why so many bomblets were dropped near civilians. The Marine ordnance-disposal team has found bomblets in date trees, vegetable gardens and inside homes, including closets. "It's a little horrifying to walk into a house and see a family with children living with all these cluster bombs," Sgt. Mannon says.

Marines searching for bomblets just outside Karbala found indications that two U.S. cluster-packed rockets hit the village of Imam Awn, where Iraqi troops were stationed near civilians. Called to the neighborhood repeatedly by panicked locals, the bomb-disposal team has destroyed about 100 bomblets there.

Despite eliminating a number of threats, the Marines encountered a mixed reception. Mohammed Habib, a 42-year-old farmer, stuffed pomegranates and pears into their fatigue pockets after they blew up 10 bomblets in his orchards. But Fahad Toma Abd, 40, fumed at the U.S. military for wounding four of his five children during the invasion. He found 169 bomblets on his farm and had most of them destroyed by an Iraqi free-lancer, who since has lost too many fingers to continue such work. Mr. Abd told the Marines he doesn't dare work his land, and his savings are running out. "The Army should clean up my farm for me, so I can go back to working as a farmer," he said.

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 8:08 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete

Sounds like the powerpoint presentations had been 'sexed up' in the time between them originally being written (the original IFOR ones had none of that technical detail) and you quite rightly taking it all out again

I would certainly be interested in seeing the stuff from the child psychologist you mention

Yes, I heard that the leatherman incident was in Tuzla and it was in about Jan-Feb 96

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Pete Hindy

Sent: 30 August 2003 17:08

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

I am a firm believer in fluidness and encouragement with very few (if none) restrictions on the trng to get the point main needed to be conveyed across... just like you mentioned...Good UNICEF thinks that way...tailoring is paramount...

When I was in the Cdn Army in 2001 in Bosnia we took a big look at the very thing you mention in our own MRE for all the troops when we discovered the existing MRE powerpoints were lacking in the media and what points needed most to be driven home to make it more effective.Behavior change name of the game, no trainspotting, bells or whistles leading the lecture, just the required behavior adaptation... Example: We Changed the existing powerpoints to suit exactly what training value and skill the student is really supposed to get out of the instruction and really requires for what theyre doing. This was "preventitive medicine" as you describe.... Some MRE remained the same like those meant for an Engineer audeince with all the detailed pics, how the mines work , etc., the rest was tailored to what a Cdn Non Soldier Civilian worker or Non Engineer Soldier "really needs" to know at their own level of responsibility. Truck driver, clerk et.And thus to appropriatly change eachs behavior. We always had all the training mines and UXO on hand and described them basically (thats all etc. "This is a PMA1, its A/P, works on 3 Kg pressure, uses blast to do its damage, then show the pic of the magled foot and state, follow your avoidance drills, be mine awareand this won't happen to you, its not your job to take these apart, just to avoid them, if you see the signs you don't have to see the mines..Most importantly Yes it cannn happen to you:"etc " and not a big speil on, this mine is this and this and this and this, blah bla.It worked really well as for instance some of the Cdn civilian workers people listened a bit more intently than before as a scatter guy here or there was not really intrested

at being at MRE after supper for an hour and would rather be having a smoke or watch t.v- Which I could always pick out and jack up. After we updated some current MRE presentations with before and after foot pics etc... to enforce the point this changed that. I agree when Non Engineer people are taught too much about the mines than they need to know they start to feel like they can take care of these situations themselves. In 1996 on IFOR I remember one Particular CO, actually our Camp CO who came up asking my Engr Sqn OC in the Smoking area if his troops could have a prodding competition with the Sappers in the Emergency Response sections to see who could prodd better fastest... ???!!! The OC swiftly informed him, that "No" he would not be having in Prodding competitions "ever" and it was "solely" the job of the Sappers to do the prodding and you to do the "being stuck" in the minefield for some "silly reason!"...I believe that is an example when somebody trained for only avoidance and self extraction feels they are confident to take it on their own... which is 100% the wrong slant on the purpose of the MRE...The programme was changed and had awesome results... Now we couldn't use the stats of strikes to prove its effectiveness but people were a lot more serious when they asked us questions from that point on...And during the practical Prodding drills and vehicle self extraction drills they were way more intent on details they had not been on before--after they saw before and after pictures....I believe also that the comic strip like Handicap International made is an effective tool in training 3rd world audiences in what's most important, avoidance....to avoid them getting brave enough to get into trouble....Just like you say about the children knowing about taking the Mines apart.....

For example in the powerpoint Some useful media we changed (as with the practical too) to what you described:

- 1) Avoid this
- 2) Pic of mangled hand
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
- 3) Follow the drills and come home
- 4) Pic of mangled foot
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
- 5) Descriptions of the mines with Mangled pics following
- 6) All the recent stats and numbers of persons who had been killed wounded etc etc since 1992..
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...
- 7) How the odds were better for stepping on a mine than the lottery, luck not in your favor etc...
YES IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU...

I believe the most important thing was to put it into the language and understanding of the student and exactly tailor make it, what they really need to get out of the training:

Ref:

How do you stop a child being naturally curious - in a way that is selective enough not to inhibit the learning that they need to do? Maybe by shock/horror images of the consequences? Maybe not in areas where the kids have seen plenty of that for real?

Once again my take is tailoring is paramount and Behavior change, name of the game....but it needs to be achieved willingly by the student. You can't stop a kid from being naturally curious but you can get their attention through certain means....shock and horror images are not what a child thinks

like. A child identifies more with loss of what they think is most important so...You gotta get inside their train of thought...Not get "inside the animals" like Tom Green:)).."actually how they learn".....Just as an example If you say Whos the best soccer player in the country, now here, and lead it into the mines/UXO, and you can play soccer, but dont avoid touch and play with the mines/UXO etc and you might become hurt and not be able to play soccer ever again as you might lose your leg or die..Can anyone imagine if (the best) player in Bosnia couldnt play soccer anymore because he was hurt? Would you all be sad?Also kids love maps and stuff which can be greatly expedited on instead of slides and slides of pictures of what you could normally just show to an adult...or the fact that they have to be able to identify an object thats common with one thats common but is unsafe...and they need to be able to spot this and keep away...not play with it.....I wondered how to do this myself the best way and I went to see a Child Psych as well as a friend who's Childrens teacher (under 12) to ask exactly how children learn and had her look at the current MRE that was being taught to children and how it was organized. It was set up for older children and very much contained a command element realising the point. This is the very wrong thing for getting younger kids who have been traumatized or not, to learn and understand what youre trying to tell them and whats most important to listen to and why. She told me several tools that would really be good to teach children and get the medium of this information effectively across to them. I Typed out a possible lesson and practical (for under 12's) which I think would be really effective from what She conveyed and how it could work in getting into their minds, if anyone wants it I can email it. That is how I think some problems with the instruction of children can be addressed.

P.S I remember the US Soldier with the PMA2 and the pliers and dead. Is that the same guy?Tuzla Jan-Feb 96?

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2003 7:02 AM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

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> Regards all
> Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 7:27 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks Alan, found it! Now to look for the Angola report...

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Alan Jones

Sent: 30 August 2003 12:18

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Bob,

Try www.ciet.org/welcome.html - report can be downloaded from their library/links section.

Alan J

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Keeley [mailto:BobKeeley@compuserve.com]

Sent: 30 August 2003 15:00

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Thanks Andy, this all makes sense. One of the main features of the changes wrought by Belinda and Vanja was to remove the 'trainspotting' element of the existing UNPROFOR MRE and concentrate on behaviour change.

Ironically, one of the first lessons of cross-cultural appropriateness came when I was trying to use the 'trainspotting' metaphor to explain what was going wrong and found that no-one apart from Brits understood it!

For all those non-Brits out there, trainspotting is a hobby carried out by a strange but sizable minority of people who stand on railway station platforms and make notes of the serial numbers of trains that pass! Don't ask me to explain why... but it has become a metaphor (in the UK) for people who obsessively concentrate on not very interesting points of technical detail, and hence the (apparent) appropriateness of the metaphor to describe early mine awareness, except for the small flaw in the cunning plan that no-one

understood what it meant!

However what was going on was soldiers standing up and holding up a series of mines and saying "this is a PMA1, this is a PMA2, this is a PMA3....etc"

In 1996, Vanja brought us into contact with a Croatian public health specialist who explained that effective public health meant modification of behaviour. That's why our MRE program included a definition of MRE as "an educational process intended to help reduce casualties through the modification of behaviour". There are a lot more complicated definitions out there today but I feel that this one summed up the requirements simply and clearly.

The MRE program we developed (and later adopted by IFOR) was very simple. It took about an hour. No technical data, no mine names. There is one story that the US adopted the idea and expanded it for their own troops. The trouble is, what can you say in more than an hour that adds any more significant information? (I have since learned that this is called "diminishing marginal returns of information")... the story goes that in order to fill up all the extra classroom time allotted because this was such an 'important' subject that back in went all the 'trainspotter' (or perhaps I should say 'bubble gum card collector'?) factoids on fuses, weights etc. Perhaps this was because the instructors were themselves specialists (hence the risks of using (ex)soldiers as MRE providers unless we are trained out of this). Anyway, the story goes on to say that, when the US personnel arrived en masse, inoculated by their enhanced MRE training, one individual went straight into the bushes, armed with a leatherman, having glimpsed a PMR2 stake mine (the 'armoured pen holder' that unfortunately appeared on too many desks) and decided to put all his extra knowledge to use to get himself a souvenir. As I understood it he became the first US fatality in IFOR...

...you are also right to say that people can go too far the other way, and I also worry about the blobby and vague pictures on some of the material around the place.

The other risk that we saw in the early days of IFOR was the 'ghostbusters effect'. All those psyops teams deployed to tell people mines were dangerous and were completely unprepared for the key ghostbusters question of "ok, so who you gonna call?". MRE instructor goes in to village and tells people mines are dangerous, man in audience stands up and says, "ok, I'm a cabbage

farmer and there are mines in my cabbages, so when are you going to come and clear them?" Unfortunately the risk of running MRE programs that aren't connected to a clearance capacity is that there is then an embarrassing silence...

Thanks again for the heads up on the CIET study, I hope someone can let us know where we can get a copy!

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos
Sent: 30 August 2003 10:32
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

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Regards all
Andy

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 7:17 AM

From: Alan Jones <alan@UNMACA.ORG>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob,

Try www.ciet.org/welcome.html - report can be downloaded from their library/links section.

Alan J

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Sent: 30 August 2003 15:00

To: network@mgm.org

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Sent: 30 August 2003 10:32
To: network@mgm.org

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 7:04 AM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob I hear ya Loud and clear!!!!(at this early turkish Coffee drinkin woman naggin websurfin job searchin too early for a new civi hour!)..

I've been right there with one of my team members once in Bihac on the overgrown sided Village road stopping the Serb families (and just by fluke we noticed them-unannounced) full of mixed emotions as they returned to their village of rubble after 12 years just wanting to run into their yards and orchards and touch everything...MRE works but only if instructed in time!!! These people hadn't even recieved official MRE yet on this day but after I gave them MRE right there , they stood back,and they were deadly intrested in attending one ASAP and for the saftey of their surviving family and children still on route later to their location. These Grandads, dads and moms were pretty tuned in to what my Bosnian team 2IC was interpreting from me about the danger on thier land...They just wanted to get on with life and just like you say thats where the risk takers will come into it.... I'm glad I caught them in time before they could risk anything...Those people are the answers to the stats that prove that the MRE works if relayed to as many people as possible and whats in our hearts cos we know we were given the oppurtunity to reach someone in time....But on the other hand like you say handing out t shirts from the doors of my jeep (as i did enrout to work daily) and posters is identical to just putting a poster on the wall and calling it mine MRE as you mentioned was happening in certain places years ago in Croatia...I agree Its also paramount as you say that the info gathered from these people who know the strike and ground history, maybe even laid some of the mines helps out in the Area reduction and to enable effective Survey operations which help address the mine problem in the quickest and most efficent manner for each contaminated area....MRE also enforces it to them to leave it to the experts instead of a needless amateur home demining accident...

Is there anybody from SFOR MICC on here? Or UN MAC BiH? Have there been any studies in respect to MRE covered Communitis vs. Minestrikes and if persons involved had recieved MRE prior?

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: Robert Keeley <mailto:BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2003 3:30 AM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Hi Pete

That would certainly be a good start, though there would be some other explanatory variables that would have to be taken into account.

For example, at one stage in Cambodia one program manager claimed that a reduction of mine casualties in time 'proved' the effectiveness of their MRE program. The technical advisor for MRE himself disputed this, and said that the figures also supported a hypothesis that people had had more mine accidents before because that's when the resettlement took place and people moved/returned to land that had been mined and they didn't know where the mines were. Once they found out themselves where the mines were they stopped going there. Residual casualty levels could be explained by newcomers, incorrect assessments of the edge of the mined areas or by voluntary risk taking (i.e. people who were totally 'aware' of the risk but who took it anyway - perhaps due to immediate financial necessity). It is possible to imagine this reduction happening without any MRE activity. Unfortunately (in a scientific sense) given that Bosnia has been bombarded by all sorts of MRE messages in the last few years it might be very hard to find a community that hasn't had access to any MRE and compare mine strike numbers there to a similar community that has. But it might be a start.

Hey, but this is all speculation at this point. Perhaps someone has already done some work on this... anybody out there know of any?

cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]**On**
Behalf Of Pete Hindy
Sent: 30 August 2003 04:27
To: network@mgm.org
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM
Demining Network: MgM ...

I don't personally know about statistics in civilians who received Mine awareness programmes and then were involved in strikes but I vaguely recall seeing "something" like that in Banja Luka at the SFOR Mines cell on some of the statistics that they have there always on hand. I know it was broken down to what communities had received it (which is always on record) and then the age, sex, month, etc of pers involved in strikes on a different document. I suppose you could cross refecne quickly....I have such a paper document here with all Bosnia Mine strikes from 1992 and onwards by month, age, sex, location etc etc... I would dearsay they have prepared some sort of study down in Sarajevo at the SFOR MICC about Strikes vs. What communities and persons have had MRE to see how they're doing with getting the word out. They've produced alot of good visual media and documents out of there.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 7:43 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Pete:

Only one problem with your comment and Jackie's briefing -
the minefields in the Korean DMZ belong to the Republic of
Korea, which is why they took it upon themselves to clear a
portion of those minefields for the new unification railroad.

George

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 6:29 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Thanks Andy, this all makes sense. One of the main features of the changes wrought by Belinda and Vanja was to remove the 'trainspotting' element of the existing UNPROFOR MRE and concentrate on behaviour change.

Ironically, one of the first lessons of cross-cultural appropriateness came when I was trying to use the 'trainspotting' metaphor to explain what was going wrong and found that no-one apart from Brits understood it!

For all those non-Brits out there, trainspotting is a hobby carried out by a strange but sizable minority of people who stand on railway station platforms and make notes of the serial numbers of trains that pass! Don't ask me to explain why... but it has become a metaphor (in the UK) for people who obsessively concentrate on not very interesting points of technical detail, and hence the (apparent) appropriateness of the metaphor to describe early mine awareness, except for the small flaw in the cunning plan that no-one understood what it meant!

However what was going on was soldiers standing up and holding up a series of mines and saying "this is a PMA1, this is a PMA2, this is a PMA3...etc"

In 1996, Vanja brought us into contact with a Croatian public health specialist who explained that effective public health meant modification of behaviour. That's why our MRE program included a definition of MRE as "an educational process intended to help reduce casualties through the modification of behaviour". There are a lot more complicated definitions out there today but I feel that this one summed up the requirements simply and clearly.

The MRE program we developed (and later adopted by IFOR) was very simple. It took about an hour. No technical data, no mine names. There is one story that the US adopted the idea and expanded it for their own troops. The trouble is, what can you say in more than an hour that adds any more significant information? (I have since learned that this is called "diminishing marginal returns of information")... the story goes that in order to fill up all the extra classroom time allotted because this was such an 'important' subject that back in went all the 'trainspotter' (or perhaps I should say 'bubble gum card collector'?) factoids on fuses, weights etc. Perhaps this was because the instructors were themselves specialists (hence the risks of using (ex)soldiers as MRE providers unless we are trained out of this). Anyway, the story goes on to say that, when the US personnel arrived en masse, inoculated by their enhanced MRE training, one individual went straight into the bushes, armed with a leatherman, having glimpsed a PMR2 stake mine (the 'armoured pen holder' that unfortunately appeared on too many desks) and decided to put all his extra knowledge to use to get himself a souvenir. As I understood it he became the first US fatality in IFOR...

...you are also right to say that people can go too far the other way, and I also worry about the blobby and vague pictures on some of the material around the place.

The other risk that we saw in the early days of IFOR was the 'ghostbusters effect'. All those psyops teams deployed to tell people mines were dangerous

and were completely unprepared for the key ghostbusters question of "ok, so who you gonna call?". MRE instructor goes in to village and tells people mines are dangerous, man in audience stands up and says, "ok, I'm a cabbage farmer and there are mines in my cabbages, so when are you going to come and clear them?" Unfortunately the risk of running MRE programs that aren't connected to a clearance capacity is that there is then an embarrassing silence...

Thanks again for the heads up on the CIET study, I hope someone can let us know where we can get a copy!

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos

Sent: 30 August 2003 10:32

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Monitoring Mine Risk Education (MRE) effectiveness solely by reference to a reduction in reported civilian accidents is unlikely to be accurate - although most efforts will prove "successful" that way. MRE is not that simple - and people learn from events more readily than from "experts". For example, there are two incidents around a particular town in one month. An emergency MRE response team goes in. There are no more incidents over the following six months. Why? Perhaps because the two incidents themselves taught a powerful lesson? Perhaps because the two incidents involved the only two operational devices in that vicinity? Perhaps because the MRE was effective. Perhaps because

Monitoring of this kind of educational effort should be by assessing how the sharing of "appropriate" knowledge has changed behaviour (among both kids and adults). This is complicated by the word "appropriate" - which should take account of the "students' " current knowledge and behaviour. In some areas, people need to know what mines and UXO actually look like: and they are unlikely to learn that from a crude sketch or touchy-feely screen-print made by a local artists who has not seen one either. In Kosovo, many kids were taught how common AP mines worked in school - and the kids themselves are far more experienced at recognising and even disarming them than the MRE specialist (who often has not really seen one). The content of the instruction MUST be varied appropriately for the audience, but in my experience, it rarely is. One reason for this is that many MRE people do not know much about the mines and devices they are teaching about. I believe that they should - and so it is not necessarily inappropriate to use ex-soldiers as MRE people. But all MRE instructors need to be taught something about how to communicate and train.... Sadly, this is often not the case whether the trainers are ex-soldiers or civilians.

CIET Canada carried out a structured study of MRE effectiveness in Afghanistan and Angola. It was supposed to be published to 2001, but I do not know whether it was - Robin, can you help? I saw parts of it during preparation because I wanted to ensure that the Mine Action training materials I was producing took note of any appropriate lessons. I was surprised how honest and "direct" some of the CIET conclusions were (and if it has not been published, that honesty may explain why it was not widely publicised).

For example, the Afghanistan study report found that several mine awareness agencies were teaching technical details of devices - where fuses and pins are, the kind of explosion mines/UXO create, etc. In their operational

areas, there was an increase in the number of mine injuries among their target audiences. It was almost certainly inappropriate to show young men how the devices worked but, as always, the report begs other questions. If they had also shown the results of human-interaction with the device (shock-horror photographs of carnage) perhaps the effect would have been different? Giving people half the story can be worse than leaving them in ignorance.

Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of MRE is as difficult as monitoring any other training in a field environment. A mere accumulation of knowledge is not the main aim. Changing behaviour in real situations is.... This can be achieved when IDPs are pouring into an area simply by telling them the places to avoid (after a protracted conflict they are unlikely to need to be told that mines and UXO are nasty). When IDP movement is over, changing behaviour is a greater challenge. How do you stop a child being naturally curious - in a way that is selective enough not to inhibit the learning that they need to do? Maybe by shock/horror images of the consequences? Maybe not in areas where the kids have seen plenty of that for real?

UNICEF put very few restrictions on the content of MRE (and should put none at all). This is probably because they recognise that the training must be tailored to achieve the effect with the audience - and there are as many ways of doing that as there are audiences. Genuinely effective monitoring may have to be just as varied - but will always be assessing behavioural change.

Regards all
Andy

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the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
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the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: MgM Demining Network: the risks of MRE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 5:32 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Regards all
Andy

This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2003 2:00 AM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete

That would certainly be a good start, though there would be some other explanatory variables that would have to be taken into account.

For example, at one stage in Cambodia one program manager claimed that a reduction of mine casualties in time 'proved' the effectiveness of their MRE program. The technical advisor for MRE himself disputed this, and said that the figures also supported a hypothesis that people had had more mine accidents before because that's when the resettlement took place and people moved/ returned to land that had been mined and they didnt know where the mines were. Once they found out themselves where the mines were they stopped going there. Residual casualty levels could be explained by newcomers, incorrect assessments of the edge of the mined areas or by voluntary risk taking (i.e. people who were totally 'aware' of the risk but who took it anyway - perhaps due to immediate financial necessity). It is possible to imagine this reduction happening without any MRE activity. Unfortunately (in a scientific sense) given that Bosnia has been bombarded by all sorts of MRE messages in the last few years it might be very hard to find a community that hasnt had access to any MRE and compare mine strike numbers there to a similar community that has. But it might be a start.

Hey, but this is all speculation at this point. Perhaps someone has already done some work on this... anybody out there know of any?

cheers

Bob K

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] **On Behalf Of**
Pete Hindy

Sent: 30 August 2003 04:27

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
Network: MgM ...

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UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 7:43 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Pete:

Only one problem with your comment and Jackie's briefing - the minefields in the Korean DMZ belong to the Republic of Korea, which is why they took it upon themselves to clear a portion of those minefields for the new unification railroad.

George

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 11:26 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I don't personally know about statistics in civilians who received Mine awareness programmes and then were involved in strikes but I vaguely recall seeing "something" like that in Banja Luka at the SFOR Mines cell on some of the statistics that they have there always on hand. I know it was broken down to what communities had received it (which is always on record) and then the age, sex, month, etc of pers involved in strikes on a different document. I suppose you could cross refecne quickly....I have such a paper document here with all Bosnia Mine strikes from 1992 and onwards by month, age, sex, location etc etc... I would dearsay they have prepared some sort of study down in Sarajevo at the SFOR MICC about Strikes vs. What communities and persons have had MRE to see how they're doing with getting the word out. They've produced alot of good visual media and documents out of there.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 7:43 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

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George

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 11:01 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Good point!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 7:43 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

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George

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 10:03 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hey Bob,

On a strategic part of the Border in Korea. Contact Jackie Hansen, a very knowledgeable woman at ICBL in New York for the details. In March during Landmine awareness week in St.John's Newfoundland at Prince of Wales Collegiate Highschool She gave a Very good breif to a class that I sat in on reference how the treaty is going so far. There are problems she stated that some of the A/P Mines have migrated with the precititation into unmined areas and causing Strikes. The US won't has not accepted responsabilty for these strikes so I heard from her breifing.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb
----- Original Message -----

From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:31 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

> Pete, where does the U.S. "maintain A/P Minefields?"
>
> Bob S.
>
> "Pete Hindy" <phindy@webhart.net> wrote:
>
> >I am quite pro Mine awareness too,its the bread and butter and a big part
> of
> >avoiding the needless effects of the mines themselves. The MRE programmes
> I
> >am sure are a result of the word being spread and out of conviction to
> help
> >as an offspan of the world effort to remove the mines and reduce their
> >effects .I think the fact that its been effecive or not should be in the
> >stats before and after, take Bosnia for an example. Apart from that This
> is
> >one stat...I feel at good knowing I've at least spread the word to the
> >affected people.If one was to say that the MRE that one instructed was
> not
> >effective I would look to what was the quality of MRE that was instructed
> >and why was it even instructed?. I thought the whole Idea was to get the
> >word out as 1/2 the problem.The day we stop spreading the word ...that is
> a
> >dark day. I have no idea who has contributed more, but I know that since
> the
> >ban and the fact that many Countires started donating money towards
> Demining
> >and Mine risk education and activites, its for the better. Also I will

still
> >stand my ground and say there are people who are alive today and a
> >generations that will live from those people because the training "got"
to
> >their communities. Thats all I was trying to say before. If a country
like
> >the USA wishes to spend lots of cash on MRE,spread the word but yet lay
> >mines and maintain A/P Minefields thats their own problem and they are
the
> >ones to be tarnished. I rest my case.
> >
> >UBIQUE!!
> >
> >Pete
> >Zagreb
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 4:14 PM
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
> >Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining
> >
> >
> >> Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the measure,
does
> >anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members have contributed more?
> >>
> >> Bob S.
> >>
> >> "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com> wrote:
> >>
> >> >Hi Pete
> >> >
> >> >I think you are on a bit of dodgy ground here. As someone who helped
> >> >establish mine risk education programs in Croatia (back when it was
> >> >called
> >> >mine awareness!) I am quite pro- mine awareness. Nevertheless I dont
> >> >think
> >> >that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's
the
> >> >pity.
> >> >
> >> >Similarly, I am not sure that we can directly link the funding
situation
> >now
> >> >to being 'because' of the ban as we have no scientific way of judging
> >> >where
> >> >donor contributions to MRE programs would be with (or without) the
ban.
> >> >Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their
> >> >opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on
> >> >field
> >> >programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just
> >> >can't
> >> >prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of
> >> >effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities
> >> >and,
> >> >er, hasn't signed the treaty...
> >> >
> >> >Bob Keeley
> >> >

> > >BobKeeley@compuserve.com
> > >
> > >-----Original Message-----
> > >From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf
Of
> > >Pete Hindy
> > >Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03
> > >To: network@mgm.org
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM
> > >Demining Network: MgMDemining
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >Bobs right...
> > >
> > >Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of
educating
> > >the very people (Farmers, Children, etc) effected by the Mines to
avoid
> > >them
> > >and how the standard and media relay of this education has greatly
> > >improved
> > >these peoples chances to exist in Mine contaminated areas has chnage
big
> > >time. That is on a whole different plane than it was 15 years ago I
would
> > >imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in
> > >their
> > >life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its
> > >unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if
it
> > >were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.
> > >
> > >UBIQUE!!
> > >
> > >Pete
> > >Zagreb
> > >----- Original Message -----
> > >From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> > >To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM
> > >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM
Demining
> > >Network: MgMDemining
> > >
> > >
> > >> The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with
> > >that
> > >>which would have existed if no action had been taken, not with what
went
> > >>before.
> > >>
> > >> Bob S.
> > >>
> > >> Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
> > >>
> > >>> I'd have to run to get the full list, but post-Ottawa there has
been a
> > >>>signficiant reduction in trade and production of apms. This positive
> > >>>motion
> > >>>was disrupted in a serious way along the India-Pakistan border, so

there
> >is
> >> >no perfect norm that's for sure.
> >> >> >
> >> >> >Ottawa can't take all the credit for the reductions, but neither
can
> >it
> >> >take all the blame for the newly planted mines.
> >> >> >
> >> >> >Robin
> >> >> >
> >> >> >>
> >> >> >> From: "alfieri" <alfierifontana@libero.it>
> >> >> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST
> >> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> >> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM
Demining
> >> >> >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
> >> >> >>
> >> >> >> how many new types of ap mines , and from which country have been
> >> >fielded
> >> >> >> after the Ottawa ban treaty has been proposed and after ccw rules
> >have
> >> >been
> >> >> >> accepted?
> >> >> >> alfieri
> >> >> >> ----- Original Message -----
> >> >> >> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> >> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> >> >> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM
> >> >> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds
Refuse
> >To
> >> >Sign
> >> >> >> Anti-Landmine
> >> >> >>
> >> >> >>
> >> >> >> > I don't want to spend a lot of time on ancient history, but the
> >idea
> >> >that
> >> >> >> there was a "failure" at CCW is an myth created by ICBL for
> >political
> >> >and
> >> >> >> debating purposes. (I don't say this to be critical of Robin.)
> >> >> >> >
> >> >> >> > To say CCW AMP failed to ban APL is like saying it "failed" to
> >cure
> >> >> >> cancer. Banning APL, like curing cancer, wasn't the purpose of
CCW
> >AMP.
> >> >> >> Its purpose was, and is, to reduce post-combat non-combatant
> >landmine
> >> >> >> casualties. One requirement for doing this is to go where the
mines
> >> >are.
> >> >> >> CCW AMP captures four to five times as many stockpiled APL-years
as
> >the
> >> >> >> Ottawa Convention.
> >> >> >> >
> >> >> >> > Bob S.

> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > > Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > > >Joe,
> > > > > >
> > > > > >your thoughts are reasonable ones I think although I disagree
> > >ultimately
> > > > with your conclusion. I would argue the ban campaign was right in
> > >thinking
> > > > that the norm-setting of the ban will be more effective than the
> >norm
> > > > setting of the CCW that was not achieved sufficiently. Indeed
> >failure
> > >at the
> > > > CCW therefore contributed to the decision to work towards the
ban.
> > > > > >
> > > > > >But I agree that time will tell which approach ultimately is
more
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> > > > > >
> > > > > >Robin
> > > > > >
> > > > > >
> > > > > >
> > > > > > From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> > > > > > Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
> > > > > > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > > > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign
> > >Anti-Landmine
> > > > > >
> > > > > > This isn't going to get solved here. Too many
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> > > > > > contradictory objective in that if the goal of "proper
> > > > > > use" were achieved, there would be no civilian impact
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> > > > > > > R.
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>

> >> >
> >> >#####
> >> >This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
> >> > the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
> >> >To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 7:54 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I am quite pro Mine awareness too, its the bread and butter and a big part of avoiding the needless effects of the mines themselves. The MRE programmes I am sure are a result of the word being spread and out of conviction to help as an offspan of the world effort to remove the mines and reduce their effects .I think the fact that its been effective or not should be in the stats before and after, take Bosnia for an example. Apart from that This is one stat...I feel at good knowing I've at least spread the word to the effected people.If one was to say that the MRE that one instructed was not effective I would look to what was the quality of MRE that was instructed and why was it even instructed?. I thought the whole Idea was to get the word out as 1/2 the problem.The day we stop spreading the word ...that is a dark day. I have no idea who has contributed more, but I know that since the ban and the fact that many Countires started donating money towards Demining and Mine risk education and activites, its for the better. Also I will still stand my ground and say there are people who are alive today and a generations that will live from those people because the training "got" to their communities. Thats all I was trying to say before. If a country like the USA wishes to spend lots of cash on MRE,spread the word but yet lay mines and maintain A/P Minefields thats their own problem and they are the ones to be tarnished. I rest my case.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 4:14 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

> Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the measure, does anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members have contributed more?

>

> Bob S.

>

> "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com> wrote:

>

> >Hi Pete

> >

> >I think you are on a bit of dodgy ground here. As someone who helped

> >establish mine risk education programs in Croatia (back when it was called

> >mine awareness!) I am quite pro- mine awareness. Nevertheless I dont think

> >that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's the

> >pity.

> >

> >Similarly, I am not sure that we can directly link the funding situation

now
> >to being 'because' of the ban as we have no scientific way of judging
where
> >donor contributions to MRE programs would be with (or without) the ban.
> >Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their
> >opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on
field
> >programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just
can't
> >prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of
> >effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities
and,
> >er, hasn't signed the treaty...
> >
> >Bob Keeley
> >
> >BobKeeley@compuserve.com
> >
> >-----Original Message-----
> >From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of
> >Pete Hindy
> >Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03
> >To: network@mgm.org
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM
> >Demining Network: MgMDemining
> >
> >
> >
> >Bobs right...
> >
> >Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating
> >the very people (Farmers, Children, etc) effected by the Mines to avoid
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> >and how the standard and media relay of this education has greatly
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> >these peoples chances to exist in Mine contaminated areas has chnage big
> >time. That is on a whole different plane than it was 15 years ago I would
> >imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in
their
> >life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its
> >unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if it
> >were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.
> >
> >UBIQUE!!
> >
> >Pete
> >Zagreb
> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> >To: <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining
> >Network: MgMDemining
> >
> >
> > The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with
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> >> >
> >> >Ottawa can't take all the credit for the reductions, but neither can
it
> >take all the blame for the newly planted mines.
> >> >
> >> >Robin
> >> >
> >> >>
> >> >> From: "alfieri" <alfierifontana@libero.it>
> >> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST
> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
> >> >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
> >> >>
> >> >> how many new types of ap mines , and from which country have been
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> >> >> after the Ottawa ban treaty has been proposed and after ccw rules
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> >> >> accepted?
> >> >> alfieri
> >> >> ----- Original Message -----
> >> >> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> >> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM
> >> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse
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> >> >> Anti-Landmine
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> >> >> Ottawa Convention.
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> >> >> > Bob S.

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> >> >> > >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
> >> >> > >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> >> > >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign
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> >> >> > >> by definition. It's the inherent distrust in
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> >> >> >> >> > R.
> >> >> >> >> >
> >> >> >> >> >
> >> >> >> >> > >
> >> >> >> >> > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
> >> >> >> >> > > Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST
> >> >> >> >> > > To: <network@mgm.org>

> > > > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
> > > > > > Sign Anti-Landmine
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > I had thought the ICBL's focus on AP while
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> > > > > > > Bob S.
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> > > > > > >
> > > > > > >

> > > > > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > > > > > From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On
> > > > > > > Behalf Of Robin Collins
> > > > > > > Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM
> > > > > > > To: network@mgm.org
> > > > > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
> > > > > > > Sign Anti-Landmine
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > more achievable in the short term maybe (although
> > > > > > > I am doubtful, and the
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> > > > > > > a better idea.
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > Robin

> > > > > > > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
> > > > > > > > Confining landmine use
> > > > > > > > > to military targets is more achievable than
> > > > > > > > > trying to ban it altogether.
> > > > > > >
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 7:13 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hey Bob,

Understand your position. I'm not as experiecned as you are here, but speaking from feedback what i've heard from the people I worked with in communities in Bosnia, not speaking all of them around the world or in other places, they are very happy with what they've been taught. Thats all i'm getting at. I dont think thats dodgy ground.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 3:20 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

> Hi Pete

>

> I think you are on a bit of dodgy ground here. As someone who helped
> establish mine risk education programs in Croatia (back when it was called
> mine awareness!) I am quite pro- mine awareness. Nevertheless I dont think
> that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's the
> pity.

>

> Similarly, I am not sure that we can directly link the funding situation
now

> to being 'because' of the ban as we have no scientific way of judging
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> Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their

> opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on
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> programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just
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> prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of

> effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities and,

> er, hasn't signed the treaty...

>

> Bob Keeley

>

> BobKeeley@compuserve.com

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of

> Pete Hindy

> Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03

> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM
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>
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> Bobs right...
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> Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating
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> ----- Original Message -----
> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining
> Network: MgMDemining
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> > >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
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> > >> > >> > > Do you Yahoo!?
> > >> > >> > > Yahoo! SiteBuilder - Free, easy-to-use web site design software
> > >> > >> > > http://sitebuilder.yahoo.com
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 6:28 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete

I think that we both agree about MRE programs at a personal level, and I think that you have hit the nail on the head about not all MRE programs being equal!

As I recall, at one point there were some incredible numbers of MRE programs in ex-Yugoslavia, something like 70 or so in total. Unfortunately some - if not most - of these consisted of people putting up posters with lots of different mine pictures in offices, or telling people not to step on mines because they were dangerous. Considering that something like one in four families in Bosnia apparently had a mine victim I don't think that we were telling them anything new.

It took two girls, both civilian, and both never before connected with the mine issue to make a difference. One was an English teacher with a background in marketing, the other was a Croatian who had worked in the local media before the war. They were both working in UNPROFOR on other jobs when I recruited them, and between them they worked out that mine awareness was not a job for old soldiers like us standing up and talking about mines. Belinda Goslin has never had the credit she deserves for almost single-handedly re-inventing mine awareness and recognising it as a communication and public health issue, and Vanja Sikarica for working out some feasible ways of getting the message across to real people.

Unfortunately it has taken a long time for their ideas to percolate. A few years later we evaluated an MRE program from another agency. A survey showed that that one, very expensive MRE program had had almost NO effect on the knowledge, attitudes or beliefs of the population.

We all think that mine awareness/MRE makes sense, but, as far as I know, there has still never been a scientific study of its effectiveness. We have no scientific evidence, even though the MRE stuff that is in circulation now is often much better than it was some 10 years ago, and in no small part due to the effort of the two people I've mentioned. However, without such a study whatever you - and I - might believe it is hard to tell what is really the case. It's much easier to measure mine clearance...

If someone knows of a scientific study into the effectiveness of MRE I would be very interested in finding out about it!

cheers

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of

Pete Hindy

Sent: 30 August 2003 00:13

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Hey Bob,

Understand your position. I'm not as experiecned as you are here, but speaking from feedback what i've heard from the people I worked with in communties in Bosnia, not speaking all of them around the world or in other places, they are very happy with what they've been taught. Thats all i'm getting at. I dont think thats dodgy ground.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>
To: <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 3:20 PM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

> Hi Pete

>

> I think you are on a bit of dodgy ground here. As someone who helped
> establish mine risk education programs in Croatia (back when it was called
> mine awareness!) I am quite pro- mine awareness. Nevertheless I dont think
> that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's the
> pity.

>

> Similarly, I am not sure that we can directly link the funding situation
now

> to being 'because' of the ban as we have no scientific way of judging
where

> donor contributions to MRE programs would be with (or without) the ban.

> Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their
> opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on
field

> programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just
can't

> prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of
> effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities and,
> er, hasn't signed the treaty...

>

> Bob Keeley

>

> BobKeeley@compuserve.com

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of

> Pete Hindy

> Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03

> To: network@mgm.org

> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM

> Demining Network: MgMDemining

>

>

>
> Bobs right...
>
> Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating
> the very people (Farmers, Children, etc) effected by the Mines to avoid
> them
> and how the standard and media relay of this education has greatly
> improved
> these peoples chances to exist in Mine contaminated areas has chnage big
> time. That is on a whole different plane than it was 15 years ago I would
> imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in their
> life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its
> unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if it
> were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.
>
> UBIQUE!!
>
> Pete
> Zagreb
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining
> Network: MgMDemining
>
>
> > The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with
> that
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> before.
> >
> > Bob S.
> >
> > Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
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> is
> no perfect norm that's for sure.
> > >
> > >Ottawa can't take all the credit for the reductions, but neither can it
> > take all the blame for the newly planted mines.
> > >
> > >Robin
> > >
> > >>
> > >> From: "alfieri" <alfierifontana@libero.it>
> > >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST
> > >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
> > >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
> > >>
> > >> how many new types of ap mines , and from which country have been
> > fielded
> > >> after the Ottawa ban treaty has been proposed and after ccw rules
> have
> been
> > >> accepted?

> > >> alfieri
> > >> ----- Original Message -----
> > >> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
> > >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM
> > >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse
To
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> > >> Anti-Landmine
> > >>
> > >>
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> > >> Its purpose was, and is, to reduce post-combat non-combatant landmine
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> > >> > Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
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> > >> > >Joe,
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> > >> setting of the CCW that was not achieved sufficiently. Indeed failure
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> > >> > >But I agree that time will tell which approach ultimately is more
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> > >> >
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> > >> > >> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> > >> > >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
> > >> > >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> > >> > >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign
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> > >> > >> This isn't going to get solved here. Too many
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>>>>> everyone. That too makes assumptions that have yet to
>>>>> be reflected in conflict situations but, in principle,
>>>>> seem the most achievable and best alternative for
>>>>> avoiding the unintended consequences of war.

>>>>>

>>>>> - joe

>>>>>

>>>>> --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

>>>>> > civilian impact; and focus on a ban rather than

>>>>> > proper use...

>>>>> > were those supposed to be contradictory objectives?

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> R.

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>

>>>>> >>>> Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST

>>>>> >>>> To: <network@mgm.org>

>>>>> >>>> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To

>>>>> >>>> Sign Anti-Landmine

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> > I had thought the ICBL's focus on AP while

>>>>> >>>> > excluding AT was based on the

>>>>> >>>> > civilian impact of the former. But maybe I'm

>>>>> >>>> > wrong and it was something

>>>>> >>>> > else.

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> > Bob S.

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> > -----Original Message-----

>>>>> >>>> > From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On

>>>>> >>>> > Behalf Of Robin Collins

>>>>> >>>> > Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM

>>>>> >>>> > To: network@mgm.org

>>>>> >>>> > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To

>>>>> >>>> > Sign Anti-Landmine

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> > more achievable in the short term maybe (although

>>>>> >>>> > I am doubtful, and the

>>>>> >>>> > campaign was based precisely on that doubt), but

>>>>> >>>> > easier doesn't always mean

>>>>> >>>> > a better idea.

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> > Robin

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>>

>>>>> >>>> > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>

>>>>> >>>> > Confining landmine use

>>>>> >>>> > to military targets is more achievable than

>>>>> >>>> > trying to ban it altogether.

>>>>> >>>>

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> > >> the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 6:28 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Mind you, the devil is in the details. As I recall, the US included R+D into landmine replacement systems in the HD budget at one time. The point I was trying to make is that it isn't very easy to make a simple comparison and say that Ottawa has 'put more money into mine clearance' as we have no idea of knowing what countries would have contributed without it.

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] **On Behalf Of**
Robin Collins

Sent: 29 August 2003 23:06

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the measure, does anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members have contributed more?

Bob S.

<http://www.icbl.org/lm/2002/funding.html>

The newest Landmine Monitor is coming out in a week or so, but here are the data from LM 2002 (current to 2001). Note that this is for mine action broadly speaking, not just clearance. The USA leads the pack by a long shot. I was wrong about 1996, it appears to be more incremental, but a kick-in after 1997 in particular. Someone else might want to do the CCW versus Ottawa comparison, but I don't think it is relevant as all Ottawa signatories are CCW signatories (I think), but not vice versa.

Robin

Mine Action Funding in 2001: \$237 million

USA
\$69.2 million

EC
\$25.3 million

Norway
\$19.7 million

Canada
\$15.5 million

Mine Action Funding Reported To Date: \$1.419 billion

USA
\$375.5 million

EC
\$203.3 million

Norway
\$127.2 million

UK
\$94.1 million

Sweden
\$80 million

Japan
\$70.8 million

Canada
\$67.4 million

Netherlands
\$67.2 million

Germany
\$62.7 million

Denmark
\$62.3 million

Australia
\$43 million

Switzerland
\$39.6 million

Italy
\$36 million

Finland
\$27.9 million

France
\$16.8 million

Belgium
\$11.8 million

Austria
\$7.9 million

Ireland
\$7.8 million

New Zealand
\$6.6 million

Spain
\$4.2 million

Others
\$7.2 million

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- \$375.5 million

2001
\$69.2 million

2000
\$82.4 million

1999
\$63.1 million

1998
\$44.9 million

1997
\$30.8 million

1996
\$29.8 million

1995
\$29.2 million

1994
\$15.9 million

1993
\$10.2 million

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM ...

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 6:13 PM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Pete:

Only one problem with your comment and Jackie's briefing - the minefields in the Korean DMZ belong to the Republic of Korea, which is why they took it upon themselves to clear a portion of those minefields for the new unification railroad.

George

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Who contributes the most?

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 6:05 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the measure, does anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members have contributed more?

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Canada
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Netherlands
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Germany
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Denmark
\$62.3 million

\$43 million

Switzerland
\$39.6 million

Italy
\$36 million

Finland
\$27.9 million

France
\$16.8 million

Belgium
\$11.8 million

Austria
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Ireland
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New Zealand
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1993

\$10.2 million

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 6:03 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bobs right...

Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating the very people (Farmers, Children, etc) effected by the Mines to avoid them and how the standard and media relay of this education has greatly improved these peoples chances to exist in Mine contaminated areas has chnage big time. That is on a whole different plane than it was 15 years ago I would imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in their life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if it were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

> The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with that which would have existed if no action had been taken, not with what went before.

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> >Ottawa can't take all the credit for the reductions, but neither can it take all the blame for the newly planted mines.

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> >

> >>

> >> From: "alfieri" <alfierifontana@libero.it>

> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST

> >> To: <network@mgm.org>

> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

> >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

> >>

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> > accepted?
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> > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM
> > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign
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> > > > > To: <network@mgm.org>

> > > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To

> > > > > Sign Anti-Landmine

> > > > >

> > > > > I had thought the ICBL's focus on AP while

> > > > > excluding AT was based on the

> > > > > civilian impact of the former. But maybe I'm

> > > > > wrong and it was something

> > > > > else.

> > > > >

> > > > > Bob S.

> > > > >

> > > > >

> > > > > -----Original Message-----

> > > > > From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On

> > > > > Behalf Of Robin Collins

> > > > > Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM

> > > > > To: network@mgm.org

> > > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To

> > > > > Sign Anti-Landmine

> > > > >

> > > > > more achievable in the short term maybe (although

> > > > > I am doubtful, and the

> > > > > campaign was based precisely on that doubt), but

> > > > > easier doesn't always mean

> > > > > a better idea.

> > > > >

> > > > > Robin

> > > > >

> > > > >

> > > > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>

> > > > > Confining landmine use

> > > > > to military targets is more achievable than

> > > > > trying to ban it altogether.

> > > > >

> > > > >

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> >> > >> #####
> >> > >> > > This message is sent to you because you are
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> >> > >> > the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
> >> > >> > To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>
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> >> > >> _____
> >> > >> Do you Yahoo!?
> >> > >> Yahoo! SiteBuilder - Free, easy-to-use web site design software
> >> > >> <http://sitebuilder.yahoo.com>
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the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: money talks

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:50 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I'm pretty sure the Yanks have contributed more than anyone else. I don't know about totals otherwise. There was a graph I once saw that showed a major increase coming from the US as of 1996 (1 year before Ottawa) if I remember correctly.

Cash is certainly one measure of commitment and an important one.

Robin

>Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the
>measure, does anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members
>have contributed more?

>

>Bob S.

#####

This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.

To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 4:24 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

I agree All, Time will tell...

"He who saves one life saves the world in time."

UBIQUE!!

Pete
Zagreb

This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.
To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 4:01 PM

From: Shermaro@cs.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Pete, where does the U.S. "maintain A/P Minefields?"

Bob S.

"Pete Hindy" <phindy@webhart.net> wrote:

>I am quite pro Mine awareness too,its the bread and butter and a big part of
>avoiding the needless effects of the mines themselves. The MRE programmes I
>am sure are a result of the word being spread and out of conviction to help
>as an offspan of the world effort to remove the mines and reduce their
>effects .I think the fact that its been effecive or not should be in the
>stats before and after, take Bosnia for an example. Apart from that This is
>one stat...I feel at good knowing I've at least spread the word to the
>effected people.If one was to say that the MRE that one instructed was not
>effective I would look to what was the quality of MRE that was instructed
>and why was it even instructed?. I thought the whole Idea was to get the
>word out as 1/2 the problem.The day we stop spreading the word ...that is a
>dark day. I have no idea who has contributed more, but I know that since the
>ban and the fact that many Countires started donating money towards Demining
>and Mine risk education and activites, its for the better. Also I will still
>stand my ground and say there are people who are alive today and a
>generations that will live from those people because the training "got" to
>their communities. Thats all I was trying to say before. If a country like
>the USA wishes to spend lots of cash on MRE,spread the word but yet lay
>mines and maintain A/P Minefields thats their own problem and they are the
>ones to be tarnished. I rest my case.

>

>UBIQUE!!

>

>Pete

>Zagreb

>----- Original Message -----

>From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 4:14 PM

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

>Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

>

>

>> Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the measure, does
>> anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members have contributed more?

>>

>> Bob S.

>>

>> "Robert Keeley" <BobKeeley@compuserve.com> wrote:

>>

>> >Hi Pete

>> >

>> >I think you are on a bit of dodgy ground here. As someone who helped

>> >establish mine risk education programs in Croatia (back when it was

>> >called

>> >mine awareness!) I am quite pro- mine awareness. Nevertheless I dont
>think
>> >that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's the
>> >pity.
>> >
>> >Similarly, I am not sure that we can directly link the funding situation
>now
>> >to being 'because' of the ban as we have no scientific way of judging
>where
>> >donor contributions to MRE programs would be with (or without) the ban.
>> >Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their
>> >opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on
>field
>> >programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just
>can't
>> >prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of
>> >effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities
>and,
>> >er, hasn't signed the treaty...
>> >
>> >Bob Keeley
>> >
>> >BobKeeley@compuserve.com
>> >
>> >-----Original Message-----
>> >From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org]On Behalf Of
>> >Pete Hindy
>> >Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03
>> >To: network@mgm.org
>> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM
>> >Demining Network: MgMDemining
>> >
>> >
>> >
>> >Bobs right...
>> >
>> >Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating
>> >the very people (Farmers, Children, etc) effected by the Mines to avoid
>them
>> >and how the standard and media relay of this education has greatly
>improved
>> >these peoples chances to exist in Mine contaminated areas has chnage big
>> >time. That is on a whole different plane than it was 15 years ago I would
>> >imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in
>their
>> >life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its
>> >unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if it
>> >were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.
>> >
>> >UBIQUE!!
>> >
>> >Pete
>> >Zagreb
>> >----- Original Message -----
>> >From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
>> >To: <network@mgm.org>
>> >Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM
>> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining
>> >Network: MgMDemining
>> >
>> >

>> >> The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with
>that
>> >which would have existed if no action had been taken, not with what went
>> >before.
>> >>
>> >> Bob S.
>> >>
>> >> Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
>> >>
>> >> >I'd have to run to get the full list, but post-Ottawa there has been a
>> >signficiant reduction in trade and production of apms. This positive
>motion
>> >was disrupted in a serious way along the India-Pakistan border, so there
>is
>> >no perfect norm that's for sure.
>> >> >
>> >> >Ottawa can't take all the credit for the reductions, but neither can
>it
>> >take all the blame for the newly planted mines.
>> >> >
>> >> >Robin
>> >> >
>> >> >>
>> >> >> From: "alfieri" <alfierifontana@libero.it>
>> >> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST
>> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
>> >> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining
>> >> >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
>> >> >>
>> >> >> how many new types of ap mines , and from which country have been
>> >fielded
>> >> >> after the Ottawa ban treaty has been proposed and after ccw rules
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>> >> >> alfieri
>> >> >> ----- Original Message -----
>> >> >> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>
>> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
>> >> >> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM
>> >> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse
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>> >> >> Anti-Landmine
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>> >> >> > To say CCW AMP failed to ban APL is like saying it "failed" to
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>> >> >> cancer. Banning APL, like curing cancer, wasn't the purpose of CCW
>AMP.
>> >> >> Its purpose was, and is, to reduce post-combat non-combatant
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>> >> >> casualties. One requirement for doing this is to go where the mines

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>> >> >> CCW AMP captures four to five times as many stockpiled APL-years as
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>> >> >> Ottawa Convention.
>> >> >> >
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>> >> >> >
>> >> >> >
>> >> >> > Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
>> >> >> >
>> >> >> > >Joe,
>> >> >> > >
>> >> >> > >your thoughts are reasonable ones I think although I disagree
>> >ultimately
>> >> >> with your conclusion. I would argue the ban campaign was right in
>> >thinking
>> >> >> that the norm-setting of the ban will be more effective than the
>norm
>> >> >> setting of the CCW that was not achieved sufficiently. Indeed
>failure
>> >at the
>> >> >> CCW therefore contributed to the decision to work towards the ban.
>> >> >> >
>> >> >> > >But I agree that time will tell which approach ultimately is more
>> >> >> successful. They may both turn out to be mutually reinforcing.
>> >> >> >
>> >> >> > >Robin
>> >> >> >
>> >> >> >
>> >> >> >>
>> >> >> >> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
>> >> >> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
>> >> >> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
>> >> >> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign
>> >Anti-Landmine
>> >> >> >>
>> >> >> >> This isn't going to get solved here. Too many
>> >> >> >> logical inconsistencies on both sides. I'd substitute
>> >> >> >> combatant for military to reflect the nature of most
>> >> >> >> conflicts today. The logical inconsistency in the
>> >> >> >> ICBL approach, as Robin described it, is, of course, a
>> >> >> >> contradictory objective in that if the goal of "proper
>> >> >> >> use" were achieved, there would be no civilian impact
>> >> >> >> by definition. It's the inherent distrust in
>> >> >> >> achieving that goal that makes the ban the desired
>> >> >> >> alternative albeit the least likely to ever fully
>> >> >> >> succeed. The problem with CCW is that it presumes
>> >> >> >> "proper use" is the most effective way to mitigate
>> >> >> >> civilian, non-combatant casualties if followed by
>> >> >> >> everyone. That too makes assumptions that have yet to
>> >> >> >> be reflected in conflict situations but, in principle,
>> >> >> >> seem the most achievable and best alternative for
>> >> >> >> avoiding the unintended consequences of war.
>> >> >> >>
>> >> >> >> - joe
>> >> >> >>
>> >> >> >> --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
>> >> >> >> > civilian impact; and focus on a ban rather than
>> >> >> >> > proper use...
>> >> >> >> > were those supposed to be contradictory objectives?
>> >> >> >> >

>> >> >> >> > R.
>> >> >> >> >
>> >> >> >> >
>> >> >> >> > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
>> >> >> >> > Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST
>> >> >> >> > To: <network@mgm.org>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:44 PM

From: Shermaro@cs.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Bob has an interesting point. If mine-clearance cash is the measure, does anybody know whether CCW members or Ottawa members have contributed more?

Bob S.

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>that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's the
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>Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their
>opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on field
>programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just can't
>prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of
>effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities and,
>er, hasn't signed the treaty...

>

>Bob Keeley

>

>BobKeeley@compuserve.com

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of
>Pete Hindy

>Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03

>To: network@mgm.org

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM

>Demining Network: MgMDemining

>

>

>

>Bobs right...

>

>Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating
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>imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in their
>life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its
>unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if it
>were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.

>

>UBIQUE!!

>

>Pete

>Zagreb

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>To: <network@mgm.org>

>Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM

>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining

>Network: MgMDemining

>

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>> >

>> >Robin

>> >

>> >>

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>> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST

>> >> To: <network@mgm.org>

>> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

>> >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

>> >>

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>> >> Anti-Landmine

>> >>

>> >>

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>> >> > >
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>> >> > >
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>> >> > >>
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>> >> > >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
>> >> > >> To: <network@mgm.org>
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>> >> >> >> >> Bob S.
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>> >> >> >> >> -----Original Message-----
>> >> >> >> >> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On
>> >> >> >> >> Behalf Of Robin Collins
>> >> >> >> >> Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM
>> >> >> >> >> To: network@mgm.org
>> >> >> >> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
>> >> >> >> >> Sign Anti-Landmine
>> >> >> >> >>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 1:50 PM

From: Robert Keeley <BobKeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Hi Pete

I think you are on a bit of dodgy ground here. As someone who helped establish mine risk education programs in Croatia (back when it was called mine awareness!) I am quite pro- mine awareness. Nevertheless I dont think that we have much evidence to prove how effective it has been. More's the pity.

Similarly, I am not sure that we can directly link the funding situation now to being 'because' of the ban as we have no scientific way of judging where donor contributions to MRE programs would be with (or without) the ban. Indeed, there are several people out there who have often voiced their opinion that the campaign took up funds that could have been spent on field programs, though again the 'causality' problem applies again - we just can't prove it one way or another. After all, if we use cash as a measure of effectiveness the US has spent quite a lot of money on MRE activities and, er, hasn't signed the treaty...

Bob Keeley

BobKeeley@compuserve.com

-----Original Message-----

From: network-report@mgm.org [mailto:network-report@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Pete Hindy

Sent: 29 August 2003 23:03

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Bobs right...

Also apart from the ban details..... The amount and standard of educating the very people (Farmers, Children, etc) effected by the Mines to avoid them and how the standard and media relay of this education has greatly improved these peoples chances to exist in Mine contaminated areas has chnage big time. That is on a whole different plane than it was 15 years ago I would imagine... Everybody who chooses to accept this knowledge for use in their life is way ahead of those who don't choose to accept it and think its unimportant. I don't believe that any of this would be this big now if it were not for the ban and the acceptance of the world to help.

UBIQUE!!

Pete

Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 2:33 PM
Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

> The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with that which would have existed if no action had been taken, not with what went before.

>

> Bob S.

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> Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

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> >Ottawa can't take all the credit for the reductions, but neither can it take all the blame for the newly planted mines.

> >

> >Robin

> >

> >>

> >> From: "alfieri" <alfierifontana@libero.it>

> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri PM 12:36:35 EST

> >> To: <network@mgm.org>

> >> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

> >> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

> >>

> >> how many new types of ap mines , and from which country have been fielded

> >> after the Ottawa ban treaty has been proposed and after ccw rules have been

> >> accepted?

> >> alfieri

> >> ----- Original Message -----

> >> From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

> >> To: <network@mgm.org>

> >> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM

> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign

> >> Anti-Landmine

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> >> > >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
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> >> > >> > > Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST
> >> > >> > > To: <network@mgm.org>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgMDemining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 1:03 PM

From: Shermaro@cs.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

The relevant question is how does the present situation compare with that which would have existed if no action had been taken, not with what went before.

Bob S.

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>> To: <network@mgm.org>

>> Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

>> Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

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>> To: <network@mgm.org>

>> Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 12:39 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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> > >> >> Bob S.
> > >> >>
> > >> >>
> > >> >> -----Original Message-----
> > >> >> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On
> > >> >> Behalf Of Robin Collins
> > >> >> Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM
> > >> >> To: network@mgm.org

> > >> > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
> > >> > Sign Anti-Landmine
> > >> > >
> > >> > > more achievable in the short term maybe (although
> > >> > I am doubtful, and the
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> > >> > > Robin
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> > >> > > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
> > >> > > Confining landmine use
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: R: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 12:36 PM

From: alfieri <alfierifontana@libero.it>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

how many new types of ap mines , and from which country have been fielded after the Ottawa ban treaty has been proposed and after ccw rules have been accepted?

alfieri

----- Original Message -----

From: <Shermaro@cs.com>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2003 5:23 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

> I don't want to spend a lot of time on ancient history, but the idea that there was a "failure" at CCW is an myth created by ICBL for political and debating purposes. (I don't say this to be critical of Robin.)

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> To say CCW AMP failed to ban APL is like saying it "failed" to cure cancer. Banning APL, like curing cancer, wasn't the purpose of CCW AMP. Its purpose was, and is, to reduce post-combat non-combatant landmine casualties. One requirement for doing this is to go where the mines are. CCW AMP captures four to five times as many stockpiled APL-years as the Ottawa Convention.

>

> Bob S.

>

>

> Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:

>

> >Joe,

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> >your thoughts are reasonable ones I think although I disagree ultimately with your conclusion. I would argue the ban campaign was right in thinking that the norm-setting of the ban will be more effective than the norm setting of the CCW that was not achieved sufficiently. Indeed failure at the CCW therefore contributed to the decision to work towards the ban.

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> >But I agree that time will tell which approach ultimately is more successful. They may both turn out to be mutually reinforcing.

> >

> >Robin

> >

> >

> >>

> >> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST

> >> To: <network@mgm.org>

> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

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> >> This isn't going to get solved here. Too many

> >> logical inconsistencies on both sides. I'd substitute

> >> combatant for military to reflect the nature of most

> > conflicts today. The logical inconsistency in the
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> > contradictory objective in that if the goal of "proper
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> >
> > - joe

> > --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
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> > > > Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST
> > > > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
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> > > > From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On
> > > > Behalf Of Robin Collins
> > > > Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM
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> > > >

> > > > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 11:51 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Not wanting to spending a lot of time on ancient history, but the idea that the CCW sufficiently reduced the problem is a myth, such that the ICBL and a large number of states determined a new strategy might yield more productive results in the long run. As you say Bob, the CCW was designed to reduce the problem by an insistence on proper use, not an insistence on a ban. The numbers of civilian casualties (not the existence of the CCW) so captured public attention that something more that the CCW was necessary. Will the CCW plus the Ottawa Treaty be the combination that ultimately works?

Robin

>
> From: Shermaro@cs.com
> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 11:23:29 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network:
> Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
>
> I don't want to spend a lot of time on ancient history, but the idea that there was a "failure" at CCW is an myth created by ICBL for political and debating purposes. (I don't say this to be critical of Robin.)
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> >> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> >> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
> >> To: <network@mgm.org>
> >> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
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> >> combatant for military to reflect the nature of most

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> > avoiding the unintended consequences of war.

> >

> > - joe

> >

> > --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
> > > civilian impact; and focus on a ban rather than
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> > > were those supposed to be contradictory objectives?

> > >

> > > R.

> > >

> > > >

> > > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>

> > > > Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST

> > > > To: <network@mgm.org>

> > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To

> > > > Sign Anti-Landmine

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> > > > Bob S.

> > > >

> > > >

> > > > -----Original Message-----

> > > > From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On

> > > > Behalf Of Robin Collins

> > > > Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM

> > > > To: network@mgm.org

> > > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To

> > > > Sign Anti-Landmine

> > > >

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 11:23 AM

From: Shermaro@cs.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Bob S.

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>Robin

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>> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST

>> To: <network@mgm.org>

>> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 10:52 AM

From: Shermaro@cs.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Joe is of course correct re the use of "combatant" as opposed to "military". My original wording was sloppy, for which I apologize.

Bob S.

Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com> wrote:

> This isn't going to get solved here. Too many
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Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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Robin

>
> From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>
> Date: 2003/08/29 Fri AM 10:14:04 EST
> To: <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

>
> This isn't going to get solved here. Too many
> logical inconsistencies on both sides. I'd substitute
> combatant for military to reflect the nature of most
> conflicts today. The logical inconsistency in the
> ICBL approach, as Robin described it, is, of course, a
> contradictory objective in that if the goal of "proper
> use" were achieved, there would be no civilian impact
> by definition. It's the inherent distrust in
> achieving that goal that makes the ban the desired
> alternative albeit the least likely to ever fully
> succeed. The problem with CCW is that it presumes
> "proper use" is the most effective way to mitigate
> civilian, non-combatant casualties if followed by
> everyone. That too makes assumptions that have yet to
> be reflected in conflict situations but, in principle,
> seem the most achievable and best alternative for
> avoiding the unintended consequences of war.

>
> - joe

>
> --- Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca> wrote:
> > civilian impact; and focus on a ban rather than
> > proper use...
> > were those supposed to be contradictory objectives?

> >
> > R.

> > >
> > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
> > > Date: 2003/08/28 Thu PM 03:15:18 EST
> > > To: <network@mgm.org>
> > > Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
> > Sign Anti-Landmine
> > >

>
> _____
> Do you Yahoo!?
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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

Date: Friday, August 29, 2003 10:14 AM

From: Joe Lokey <parallax53@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

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>> Bob S.
>>
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>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: network@mgm.org [mailto:network@mgm.org] On
> Behalf Of Robin Collins
>> Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM
>> To: network@mgm.org
>> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To
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> > > From: "Robert Sherman" <shermaro@cs.com>
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<http://sitebuilder.yahoo.com>

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 3:24 PM
From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>
Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>
To: <network@mgm.org>

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> To: network@mgm.org
> Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine

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Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:02 AM

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 9:51 AM

From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@cs.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Adam –

You could interpret the rebel's comments either as pointing out that their command-detonated devices are Ottawa-compliant and CCW-compliant, or as reflecting ignorance of the distinction. The rest of the report suggests the latter, but who knows?

You're certainly right, that the military advantages of mines create a powerful incentive for their use against a superior military force. Use against military forces, as was done in this instance, is consistent with the spirit of CCW, and to some extent with Ottawa. Confining landmine use to military targets is more achievable than trying to ban it altogether.

Bob S.

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-network@mgm.org [mailto:owner-network@mgm.org] **On Behalf Of** Adam Lewis

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 4:18 AM

To: Multiple recipients of list network

Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

Bob,

Don't apologise - although there is certainly plenty of nonsense in the reported remarks, they also illustrate something important. The rebel group insisted on using mines to compensate for other advantages that the government forces have. This belief will always place a limit on any attempt to restrict mine use by international agreements like Ottawa and CCW. It is interesting, however, that even that even a small insurgent force felt it worth pointing out that their devices were command detonated.

Adam.

Subject: Clean Up The Heaps Of Deadly Debris

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 9:07 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

International Herald Tribune

August 28, 2003

Clean Up The Heaps Of Deadly Debris

In memory of Vieira de Mello

By Martin Barber

NEW YORK - At 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19, I had just finished giving a briefing to journalists in Baghdad about the unprecedented quantities of bombs, grenades, missiles and other explosive ordnance lying in unguarded heaps throughout Iraq.

A moment later a bomb ripped through the United Nations offices at the Canal Hotel where the briefing was taking place, killing the UN secretary general's special representative to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello, and at least 20 of my colleagues. It is a tragic irony that this bomb was made from the very munitions I was describing in my briefing.

Tons of explosive ordnance remain in schoolyards, public buildings, mosques and on the ground in the center of villages. Looters have made the problem worse by raiding warehouses and dumping weapons on the ground to get at the crates for firewood. Unexploded ordnance and land mines left behind from recent conflicts only add to the mess.

These explosives pose a daily threat to the people of Iraq, and to those who are working to help them. Children have been removing and igniting propellants, resulting in fatal burns and other injuries. Adults have been collecting the weapons, removing the fuses and salvaging the metal for scrap and sale, resulting in explosions that maim or kill.

Only a day before the explosion at the UN headquarters, I met with Vieira de Mello in his office in the Canal Hotel to discuss what I should highlight during my press briefing the following day. He recommended that I express the United Nations'

sympathy to the Iraqi people for the contamination of their country not only by the explosive ordnance, but also by countless land mines laid over the years. He wanted me to express our conviction that Iraq had the people, the skills and the determination to clear up the mess, with a little help from their friends in the international community. He wanted me to pledge the United Nations' support for this effort.

The United Nations is all the more determined, after this tragedy, to work with the authorities and people of Iraq to clear the country of the explosive remnants of war that are so freely available to anyone who would abuse them. It will require a massive effort, inevitably over several years, but Iraq will not be safe for its people until it has been done.

A good start has been made with the establishment, on Aug. 4, of a National Mine Action Authority to lead the effort, and by practical cooperation on the ground between the Coalition Provisional Authority, national and international nongovernment organizations and the United Nations, which will help accelerate the vital clean-up - in memory of Sérgio Vieira de Mello and the other friends we lost that day.

The writer is director of the UN Mine Action Service.

Subject: 2 U.S. Soldiers Killed By Mines On Iraqi Roads

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 8:24 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

Washington Post

August 28, 2003

Pg. 14

2 U.S. Soldiers Killed By Mines On Iraqi Roads

Another Relief Agency Leaves

By Anthony Shadid, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Aug. 27 -- Mines planted along roads in Baghdad and the restive town of Fallujah killed two U.S. soldiers today, as growing security worries in Iraq prompted another aid organization to evacuate its staff. Oxfam, an international relief agency, finished withdrawing its 15 workers today. Officials with the British-based organization said the Aug. 19 suicide truck bombing at U.N. headquarters here was only one factor in its decision. But the attack, which killed 23 people, including the top U.N. envoy, and wounded dozens more, has already prompted similar moves by other groups.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund ordered their small staffs to leave Iraq last week. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which stayed throughout the U.S.-led invasion, reduced the number of its employees. The United Nations has resumed its work, but only after sending a third of its 300 workers to Cyprus and neighboring Jordan.

Security -- and the perception by many in Baghdad that it is lacking -- poses a challenge to U.S. forces trying to restore a sense of normality to the Iraqi capital, still suffering from a dearth of basic services. L. Paul Bremer, the civilian administrator of Iraq, has said that U.S. forces have returned 40,000 police officers to work around Iraq and are planning to double that within two years. But many complain the United States has yet to stanch a crime wave replete with car jackings, robberies and increasingly bold kidnappings for ransom.

Along Saadoun Street, one of Baghdad's main commercial thoroughfares, a shootout erupted today between police and men trying to rob a currency exchange office. Witnesses said two policemen and three robbers were killed.

"To be realistic, the security situation is not as it should be," Ibrahim Jafari, the head of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, said. "We have to provide security."

In today's attacks on U.S. soldiers, a military convoy struck at least one improvised mine, killing one soldier and wounding three. The incident took place in Fallujah, a city about 30 miles west of Baghdad in a region dominated by Sunni Muslims. In the capital, a similar attack followed about a half-hour later, killing another soldier and wounding two, the U.S. military said.

The deaths brought to 67 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action since President Bush declared major combat over May 1. U.S. officials say about a dozen attacks are carried out each day, mostly in Baghdad and the Sunni regions to the north and west that provided former president Saddam Hussein's government most of its support. While the number of attacks has remained consistent, the tactics, particularly the use of improvised mines against military convoys, have grown more sophisticated, officials say.

The military has made finding Hussein a high priority, hoping that his demise or capture will diminish if not end the guerrilla attacks. But Hussein, said by officials to change his location every few hours and possibly be in disguise, has eluded a massive manhunt involving thousands of U.S. troops in cities and towns along the Tigris River.

The military began putting up wanted posters today with the face of Hussein and his two sons, Uday and Qusay, who were killed in the northern city of Mosul last month. Both sons have an "X" marked across their faces. Against a red background, the text offers a reminder of the \$25 million reward for information that leads to Hussein's death or capture.

U.S. officials say they plan to put up 130,000 posters and hand out 400,000 leaflets in the next few weeks.

Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 4:17 AM

From: Adam Lewis <adam.lewis@jrc.it>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Bob,

Don't apologise - although there is certainly plenty of nonsense in the reported remarks, they also illustrate something important. The rebel group insisted on using mines to compensate for other advantages that the government forces have. This belief will always place a limit on any attempt to restrict mine use by international agreements like Ottawa and CCW. It is interesting, however, that even that even a small insurgent force felt it worth pointing out that their devices were command detonated.

Adam.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Re: Mine clearance by machine?

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003 1:43 AM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Points well noted....thanks for the corrections.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 9:26 PM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: Mine clearance by machine?

> Thanks for the information about the CASSPIR incident.
>
> But, bear with me if I offer a gentle correction - because your English is
> good enough to be corrected and because there are newcomers on the forum
who
> may not spot your error.
>
> > The vehicles have been despatched to the Maringue area in central
> Mozambique
> > where they have begun with a mechanical mine clearance operation.....
>
> Please use the terms "mechanical assistance" and/or "area preparation".
>
> This is not just pedantry. If they were using the machines for "mine
> clearance", NPA would be in breach of IND's National standards and the
> current IMAS. As you know, machines don't clear mined areas - although
they
> can help manual deminers do so with "area-preparation".
>
> There have been severe and fatal deminer accidents following
> area-preparation with steel wheels on a CASSPIR, which proves the
obvious -
> that the land was NOT clear. So I hope Kevin knows what he is doing and
has
> devised (and had approved by IND) safe SOPs. I am sure they have - and
that
> the SOP includes a full follow-up before the area can be declared "clear".
>
> Regards all
> Andy
>
>
>
> -----
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> discussion list for experts in humanitarian demining
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please contact listmaster@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Re: Vehicle explanations

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 3:35 PM

From: KBiritan@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

In a message dated 8/27/2003 1:15:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time, didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk writes:

Even so, the Chubby's survival despite being abandoned by its developers is a bad joke. BUT it was not an RSA design and they did abandon it - which is a lesson some others could learn.

It had stared out life in the 70s in Rhodesia, had it not?

There is a lot of stuff out there that was simply ill-conceived but

continues to be pushed and "developed" despite the waste.....

Yeah, whatever happened to the US Army (Belvoir) vehicle mounted detector project for which Chubby competed against Schiebel's package, and one or two others, if I remember correctly from 4 years ago or so?

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: Mine clearance by machine?

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 3:26 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

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There have been severe and fatal deminer accidents following area-preparation with steel wheels on a CASSPIR, which proves the obvious - that the land was NOT clear. So I hope Kevin knows what he is doing and has devised (and had approved by IND) safe SOPs. I am sure they have - and that the SOP includes a full follow-up before the area can be declared "clear".

Regards all
Andy

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Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 3:05 PM
From: Robert Sherman <shermaro@cs.com>
Reply-To: network@mgm.org
To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

What is the "Geneva Convention not to use landmines"?

What agreement bans "command-detonated landmines"?

Apologize for wasting list members' time with this nonsense. But since the nonsense was posted, I had to respond to it.

Bob S.

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-network@mgm.org [mailto:owner-network@mgm.org] **On Behalf Of** GZahaczews@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 11:58 AM

To: Multiple recipients of list network

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

Why does this not come as a surprise?

Philippine Daily Inquirer

August 27, 2003

Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

By Ferdinand Zuasola, Inquirer News Service

MATI, Davao Oriental -- An international group working for a total ban on the use of landmines said the communist armed wing New People's Army (NPA) has not violated any agreement outlawing the device.

Lawyer Soliman Santos, director of Geneva Call in Asia, told the Inquirer that the rebel group has not yet signed any agreement about the non-use of landmines.

Earlier, Davao Oriental police director Senior Superintendent Catalino Cuy lambasted the NPA after its guerrillas set-off a landmine during an ambush on Army engineers in Baganga town on Tuesday last week.

At least five soldiers were killed while another one was wounded during the attack.

"The New People's Army is breaking its earlier commitment with the Geneva Convention not to use landmines in its protracted war with the Philippine government. The Philippine government, being a signatory to the Geneva Convention, is no longer using landmines," Cuy said.

But Santos clarified that the communist rebels have not signed the Deeds of Commitment Under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-personnel Landmines.

"The NPA has not yet entered into such deed of commitment but Geneva Call hopes it does so in the near future," he said.

The communists, however, said they were not about to give up the use of landmines.

In a statement sent to the Geneva Call, a copy of which was furnished the Inquirer, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NPA's umbrella group, said there should first be a ban on the manufacture of the device.

"Depriving us of the use of these command-detonated landmines will further favor the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines, which already enjoys an overwhelming advantage over the NPA in terms of number, arms and logistics, and which the US government trains and supplies," the statement read.

Meanwhile, the resurgence of violence in the province has displaced hundreds of civilians, mostly members of the indigenous communities.

Since Wednesday afternoon, Mandaya lumad (indigenous people) from Baganga fled to safer grounds to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Re: Vehicle explanations

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 2:27 PM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Thanks - I am learning more and more bit by bit!!

Ashley

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-network@mgm.org [mailto:owner-network@mgm.org] On Behalf Of Didactylos

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 5:30 PM

To: Multiple recipients of list network

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: Vehicle explanations

Ashley,

Sorry. The CASSPIR is an armoured vehicle designed to withstand anti-tank (AT) mine blasts under its wheels without injury to the occupants - and while sustaining field-repairable damage. So it is an MPV (Mine Protected Vehicle). MECHEM (a South African commercial demining company) pioneered its use in Humanitarian Demining (HD), and it has been bought by many NGOs and companies subsequently because it allows safe transit in unknown areas. There are variants, some of which are considered better because of their engines or more rapid repair (the Wolf and Werewolf spring to mind) or lighter and cheaper (Samil) but none are any better at being "mine-protected".

KBiritan,

OK, there is the Chubby to balance against the RSA's achievements.....

Usually I would leave Roger to comment about a machine like the Chubby, but he is a tad distracted in Iraq right now. My South African colleagues are not terribly proud of the Chubby - but they made it to order so it is not really their fault. An armoured vehicle with a detector-array mounted on it, the detection system simply never worked as it was meant to. But there are still at least two in use - hopefully with full follow-up using a second method. (Sadly, I know that is not always the case even in Humanitarian Demining.) What the US forces are doing at Bagram is not HD, of course, because they do not work to the IMAS (International Mine Action Standards) and do not claim to. Do not confuse military mine-clearance with Humanitarian Demining - the aims are different so it is not appropriate to judge one by the standards of the other. Even so, the Chubby's survival despite being abandoned by its developers is a bad joke. BUT it was not an RSA design and they did abandon it - which is a lesson some others could learn. There is a lot of stuff out there that was simply ill-conceived but continues to be pushed and "developed" despite the waste.....

(Yes, its "Be nice to ALL South Africans" week!)

Regards all

Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: Vehicle explanations

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 12:29 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Ashley,

Sorry. The CASSPIR is an armoured vehicle designed to withstand anti-tank (AT) mine blasts under its wheels without injury to the occupants - and while sustaining field-repairable damage. So it is an MPV (Mine Protected Vehicle). MECHEM (a South African commercial demining company) pioneered its use in Humanitarian Demining (HD), and it has been bought by many NGOs and companies subsequently because it allows safe transit in unknown areas. There are variants, some of which are considered better because of their engines or more rapid repair (the Wolf and Werewolf spring to mind) or lighter and cheaper (Samil) but none are any better at being "mine-protected".

KBiritan,

OK, there is the Chubby to balance against the RSA's achievements.....

Usually I would leave Roger to comment about a machine like the Chubby, but he is a tad distracted in Iraq right now. My South African colleagues are not terribly proud of the Chubby - but they made it to order so it is not really their fault. An armoured vehicle with a detector-array mounted on it, the detection system simply never worked as it was meant to. But there are still at least two in use - hopefully with full follow-up using a second method. (Sadly, I know that is not always the case even in Humanitarian Demining.) What the US forces are doing at Bagram is not HD, of course, because they do not work to the IMAS (International Mine Action Standards) and do not claim to. Do not confuse military mine-clearance with Humanitarian Demining - the aims are different so it is not appropriate to judge one by the standards of the other. Even so, the Chubby's survival despite being abandoned by its developers is a bad joke. BUT it was not an RSA design and they did abandon it - which is a lesson some others could learn. There is a lot of stuff out there that was simply ill-conceived but continues to be pushed and "developed" despite the waste.....

(Yes, its "Be nice to ALL South Africans" week!)

Regards all
Andy

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<mailto:ls@mgm.org?body=unsubscribe%20network>

and send the generated email as it is. For questions please contact listmaster@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Re: RSA leadership

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 12:13 PM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Andy

The Casspir in question is 1 of 2 that we supplied to NPA in December last year together with several other MPV's and area clearance equipment.

The vehicles have been despatched to the Maringue area in central Mozambique where they have begun with a mechanical mine clearance operation under the leadership of Kevin Williams.

The full details of the incident are still a little sketchy, however from the info I have received thus far, is that the vehicle was travelling on steel wheels that we supplied, when it struck an AT mine on the left front wheel. As you may or may not know, the steel wheels are only used for AP mine clearance, and hence never survived the blast. All occupants are fine, however the left front has sustained substantial damage to the wheel, hub, axle and drive train. We have suggested that we remove the entire front axle (end to end) the right side can be kept as spares for future and replace with new. We would also like to do a full inspection of the hull and armouring, in order to establish if any structural damage has been incurred before the vehicle can be deployed again.

Will keep you informed as and when we receive further information. However we are delighted that the Casspir has once again proven its reputation in the field as a reliable MPV and that all occupants are safe, save for a few ego's.

Regards
Dave O'Connor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 11:30 AM
Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: RSA leadership

> I hear that an NPA operated CASSPIR detonated an AT mine in Mozambique last
> Friday. Apparently no one was injured. Any details of how and where, and how
> much damage to the vehicle occurred, would be much appreciated.

>
> Well done Filipe for buying them when some said it was a case of "shutting
> the stable door..." You were right.

>
> The CASSPIR is an example of how post-conflict RSA has led the way in HD -
> but no one seems to acknowledge how much they have done. Some of us carry
> too much apartheid baggage I guess - but it is high time to give credit
> where it is due. Well done Vernon, Theo and the RSA developers.

>
> At the same time, two separate new initiatives in RSA are now producing
> blast-resistant handtools - following the design rules published in the
JMU
> Journal but with different shapes and ergonomic characteristics.....

There
> are some excellent ideas there. But, while hand and arm injury is still
> common and severely disabling, not everyone has taken the need for
> purpose-designed tools seriously. More on tools if anyone is interested.

>
> Regards
> Andy

>
>
>
>
> -----

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Oxfam's International Staff Leave Iraq

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 11:59 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

London Daily Telegraph

August 27, 2003

Oxfam's International Staff Leave Iraq

By John Crowley

Oxfam has pulled its non-Iraqi staff out of the country because of the "urgent security situation", it said yesterday.

Nine Oxfam personnel, including four Britons, have left. The risk to foreign workers was at present "unacceptable", said the development and relief agency, which will monitor the situation from neighbouring Jordan.

The decision follows the suicide bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad last week, which killed at least 23 people, including the UN's senior official in Iraq, Sergio Viera de Mello. Relief agencies have been warned that they and other "soft targets" may be hit next.

About 50 Iraqis will remain in the country to work for Oxfam.

The International Committee of the Red Cross reduced the number of its members in the Iraqi capital last week.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 11:58 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Why does this not come as a surprise?

Philippine Daily Inquirer

August 27, 2003

Reds Refuse To Sign Anti-Landmine Pact

By Ferdinand Zuasola, Inquirer News Service

MATI, Davao Oriental -- An international group working for a total ban on the use of landmines said the communist armed wing New People's Army (NPA) has not violated any agreement outlawing the device.

Lawyer Soliman Santos, director of Geneva Call in Asia, told the Inquirer that the rebel group has not yet signed any agreement about the non-use of landmines.

Earlier, Davao Oriental police director Senior Superintendent Catalino Cuy lambasted the NPA after its guerrillas set-off a landmine during an ambush on Army engineers in Baganga town on Tuesday last week.

At least five soldiers were killed while another one was wounded during the attack.

"The New People's Army is breaking its earlier commitment with the Geneva Convention not to use landmines in its protracted war with the Philippine government. The Philippine government, being a signatory to the Geneva Convention, is no longer using landmines," Cuy said.

But Santos clarified that the communist rebels have not signed the Deeds of Commitment Under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-personnel Landmines.

"The NPA has not yet entered into such deed of commitment but Geneva Call hopes it does so in the near future," he said.

The communists, however, said they were not about to give up the use of landmines.

In a statement sent to the Geneva Call, a copy of which was furnished the Inquirer, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NPA's umbrella group, said there should first be a ban on the manufacture of the device.

"Depriving us of the use of these command-detonated landmines will further favor the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines, which already enjoys an overwhelming advantage over the NPA in terms of number, arms and logistics, and which the US government trains and supplies," the statement read.

Meanwhile, the resurgence of violence in the province has displaced hundreds of civilians, mostly members of the indigenous communities.

Since Wednesday afternoon, Mandaya lumad (indigenous people) from Baganga fled to safer grounds to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Re: RSA leadership

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 10:45 AM

From: KBiritan@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

US Army is operating a Chubby to clear in and around Bagram AB in Afghanistan

In a message dated 8/27/2003 12:31:46 PM GTB Daylight Time,
didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk writes:

I hear that an NPA operated CASSPIR detonated an AT mine in Mozambique last Friday. Apparently no one was injured. Any details of how and where, and how much damage to the vehicle occurred, would be much appreciated.

Well done Filipe for buying them when some said it was a case of "shutting the stable door..." You were right.

The CASSPIR is an example of how post-conflict RSA has led the way in HD - but no one seems to acknowledge how much they have done. Some of us carry too much apartheid baggage I guess - but it is high time to give credit where it is due. Well done Vernon, Theo and the RSA developers.

At the same time, two separate new initiatives in RSA are now producing blast-resistant handtools - following the design rules published in the JMU Journal but with different shapes and ergonomic characteristics..... There are some excellent ideas there. But, while hand and arm injury is still common and severely disabling, not everyone has taken the need for purpose-designed tools seriously. More on tools if anyone is interested.

Regards

Andy

Subject: this is a test, please ignore

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 9:10 AM

From: Tilman Hampl <th@qtv.com>

Reply-To: <network@mgm.org>

To: <network@mgm.org>

#####

This message is sent to you because you are subscribed to
the mailing list <network@mgm.org>.

To unsubscribe, E-mail to: <network-off@mgm.org>

To switch to the DIGEST mode, E-mail to <network-digest@mgm.org>

To switch to the INDEX mode, E-mail to <network-index@mgm.org>

Send administrative queries to <network-request@mgm.org>

Subject: RE: MgM Demining Network: Re: RSA leadership

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 6:20 AM

From: Ashley Dean <ashley.dean@aigis.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Please could you tell me what a NPA operated CASSPIR is?

Ashley

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-network@mgm.org [mailto:owner-network@mgm.org]On Behalf Of Didactylos

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 10:31 AM

To: Multiple recipients of list network

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: RSA leadership

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Regards
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Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 5:30 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MgM Housekeeping Change of Server

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 2:48 AM

From: Hendrik Ehlers <ehlers@mgm.org>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Folks around the globe

The MgM mail server is moving to a new location. We had some data crash and will have to use last week's subscriber list. In case you only subscribed during the last ten days and do not get a mail confirming that the move of the mail server is concluded, please subscribe again.

Thx

Hendrik Ehlers
Director of MgM
Menschen gegen Minen
MineClearance NGO
ehlers@mgm.org

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and send the generated email as it is. For questions please contact listmaster@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Making The World Safe For Humanitarianism
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2003 9:22 AM
From: GZahaczews@aol.com
Reply-To: network@mgm.org
To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

New York Times

August 26, 2003

Making The World Safe For Humanitarianism

By Michelle Cullen

WASHINGTON -- The humanitarian workers who died last week in the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad may have achieved small victories alleviating human suffering in Iraq. But they would not have won the war against it. The harsh reality is that the risks of aid work often exceed its achievements.

Humanitarian workers will always be outnumbered by the problems that surround them, of course. And even small triumphs are near miracles to those they affect. But aid workers in Iraq would have never been able to provide water for all the thirsty, shelter for all the homeless or food for all the starving. While some complex humanitarian emergencies are addressed successfully, many are not readily resolved, dragging on for years or reappearing over time.

Despite extensive aid, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan has lasted more than 15 years, in southern Somalia roughly since 1991. In Ethiopia, famine has returned after a decade. In extreme cases, like Sri Lanka, aid may even enable wars to continue. In addition, complex humanitarian emergencies have increased in the past two decades, and since 1994, the number of humanitarian emergencies has hovered at about 20 annually.

Through it all, humanitarian workers continue to struggle against overwhelming odds. I have spent my career helping to rebuild societies torn apart by war, and I have sometimes been placed in precarious situations while conducting my work — as have many of my aid colleagues, who have survived kidnappings and mock executions.

Increasingly, aid workers are being threatened with attack. Between 1985 and 1998, 382 aid workers died — two-thirds of them from intentional violence. Often the attacks are committed by the very people the workers are trying to help.

The bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, however, is something else entirely: it is an assault against all humanitarian missions. The bombing has made it clear that the humanitarian community is a target. Humanitarian groups must therefore reconsider how they conduct their work and what they are willing to sacrifice for it.

Secretary General Kofi Annan has stated that the United Nations will remain committed to Iraq. It is no longer feasible, however, for the United Nations to forgo extensive security measures in order to uphold its image of neutrality. For Iraq and future humanitarian interventions, the United Nations needs to strike a new balance between neutrality and security.

Smaller humanitarian and other organizations also need to reassess their priorities. These groups often must send their workers to dangerous places, because that's where the need is greatest. But workers are sometimes put at risk because the groups know their involvement will attract attention — and donors. This is wrong.

Humanitarian aid organizations have two choices. They can adopt an approach similar to that of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, both of which had staff killed or injured in Baghdad, and operate from a safe distance. (Both institutions will remain involved in Iraq yet have moved their staff to safety in Jordan.) The other option for aid groups is to improve security measures for their workers, either with American troops, as in Iraq, or an enhanced United Nations peacekeeping force.

Both of these solutions present problems of their own. But at least they would offer better protection for aid workers.

The days of aid workers being widely welcomed for the relief they offer are gone. The sooner we recognize this, the better off the workers will be — as will those they are trying to help.

Michelle Cullen is co-author of "Violent Conflict and the Transformation of Social Capital."

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Chechnya Land Mine Kills 9 Russian Troops
Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 11:59 PM
From: GZahaczews@aol.com
Reply-To: network@mgm.org
To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Los Angeles Times

August 23, 2003

Chechnya Land Mine Kills 9 Russian Troops

Nine Russian soldiers were killed when a land mine exploded near a column of military trucks in breakaway Chechnya, Russian news agencies said.

A military officer at army headquarters in the republic was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying two other soldiers were injured in the blast, which hit the convoy Thursday near the regional capital, Grozny.

Russia sent troops back into the rebel region in 1999 to end three years of de facto independence by Chechens and says it has established nominal control over the territory. But there is a daily loss of life among Russian soldiers from rebel raids.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: AFGHAN

Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 4:40 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Dear All,

I have to professionally state here incase anybody is getting the wrong slant on my breif comment, which has obviously occured with one individual....My comments towards my old troop and my freind Rob kettlewell are in no malious means. Rob who I spent 7 years in the Regular Army with and 2 tours in Bosnia is a Fine Individual as you can see by this article as are some of the troops who were once my own Section members. He is a very gifted unpredicatble humourous guy who everyone in the Regiment loves for this!!! Extreemly Humourous in the worst of worst times!!!. This humour as i stated (but should have probably used a different example) Reminds me of the humour (Not looks) of Donn Knotts one of my favorite actors and I wish to express to the 1500 persons on mgm (as I have ben advised 1500 there are) that there is no other intent made by this comment. God bless my freinds for what they are doing, the 4 that lost their lives so far in Bosnia and the Sappers who over history earned the title UBIQUE!! (not so rudley UNIQUE!!).in every Combat Action of the Forces of Her Majesty.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Afghanistan item, national post (canada)

Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 3:21 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

NO harm meant!!!HE'S A GOOD FREIND OF MINE!!!

Relax my freind relax!!!!

He's one of the funniest guys I know and kept troop morale high at the worst of times!!

UBIQUE!!

Pete

----- Original Message -----

From: "Willy Meurer" <willke@primus.ca>

To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2003 1:10 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Afghanistan item, national post (canada)

Hello Mr. Hindy,

you're giving an excellent desription of your 'old trooper' Mr. Kettlewell as

>"Sort of Mr. Furley from 3's Company<"! (Don Knotts)

I'm sure, that nearly all subscribers of this network (approx. 1.500 worldwide) know now

exactly how Mr. Kettlewell looks like. And isn't this very important - or even UNIQUE?!!

Willy Meurer. Toronto

Pete Hindy wrote:

>Thats my Old troop:)) Kettlewell is a funny guy:)) Sort of like Mr

>Furley from 3's Company.Its good to see thyre doing their job well!!!

UBIQUE!! Pete Hindy Zagreb

>

> ----- Original Message -----

From: Robin Collins To: Multiple recipients of list network

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2003 10:25 AM Subject: MgM Demining Network:

Afghanistan item, national post (canada)

> Anti-tank mine stops Canadians in their tracks Engineers clear the

>way: 'It's what we do,' says soldier patrolling Afghanistan

> Chris Wattie National Post

>Monday, August 25, 2003

>

>KABUL - Everything was going smoothly for Master Corporal Rob

>Kettlewell and his team of Canadian military engineers. After spending

>almost three hours sweeping an abandoned building for booby traps in

>the burning Afghan sun, they were on their way home for a well-deserved

>break.

>

>Then the lanky 34-year-old from Picton, Ont., spotted a squat, ugly

>cylinder sitting by the side of the gravel road from his perch atop an

>LAV III armoured engineer vehicle. "Stop! Mine!" he shouted, loudly enough

>to be heard even without his helmet intercom.
>
>The massive vehicle came to a sliding halt, so quickly the occupants
>were sent tumbling and another vehicle following behind bumped into the
>engineers' LAV with a crash that shook the 17-tonne carrier. "Everyone
>all right?" he asked urgently, then twisted in his station to glare
>malevolently at the mine, a sand-coloured plastic cylinder about a foot
>in diameter lying well off the road in plain view.
>
>After checking the area for signs of other mines, Master Cpl.
>Kettlewell noted its position and continued to camp.
>
>"Friggin' mines," he swore vehemently over the LAV's intercom. "I hate
>mines."
>
>The anti-tank mine was found less than a kilometre from the home base
>for the Canadian mission to Afghanistan, on a route heavily travelled
>by soldiers patrolling the Afghan capital as part of the International
>Security Assistance Force (ISAF).
>
>The powerful Italian-made explosive, designed to penetrate even the
>thick armour of a main battle tank, was later destroyed and spokesmen
>for the Canadian battlegroup said they did not believe the mine was
>planted to attack one of their vehicles or foot patrols.
>
>"It was visible from the road and quite far off the road ... [so] the
>local people could have put it there so that we would get rid of it,"
>said Major Roland Lavoie, spokesman for the Canadian contingent. "It
>would be very unlikely that this would have been put there with an
>intent to harm."
>
>It certainly harmed the good mood of Master Cpl. Kettlewell and his
>team of sappers >from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment.
>
>They had already spent a busy afternoon, crawling through a bombed-out
>building looking -- ever so carefully -- for booby traps in the area of
>Camp Julien, home to most of the 1,900 Canadian troops in Kabul.
>
>They were clearing the structure, which, like so many in Afghanistan,
>was all but destroyed during two decades of warfare, for use as an
>observation post by other Canadian troops. More than two decades of war
>have left the nation littered with hundreds of thousands of land mines,
>explosives and unexploded shells or bombs, and Canadian soldiers are
>forbidden to enter areas until they have been cleared by the
>contingent's squadron of engineers.
>
>Even before their sudden discovery of the anti-tank mine, Master Cpl.
>Kettlewell had warned his men to watch out for danger as their LAV
>climbed up a winding road to the top of a ridge near the Canadian base on
>the outskirts of the Afghan capital. "Remember, guys," he told his two
>mine specialists, "the whole side of this ridge is mined."
>
>When they reached the top, Corporal Jeff Isaac, of Campbellford, Ont.,
>jumped out the back with his partner, Sapper Damien Kachur, 21, of
>Scarborough, and began unloading his kit of probes, lights and other
>specialized gear to help them find land mines, unexploded weapons or
>booby traps.
>
>With Spr. Kachur close behind, carefully stepping in the same
>footprints, he began checking almost every square inch of the area.
>Patches of sand were delicately prodded with a long thin probe, looking

>for anything metallic or out of place beneath the surface. Loose rocks
>were carefully examined from every side, including the bottom, before
>being placed aside.
>
>"It's tiring doing this," Cpl. Isaac said. "You can only do it for
>about 20 minutes at a time, then you start to get the shakes ... it's
>stressful.
>"But this is our bread and butter, it's what we do."
>
>A branch across the steps leading up to what is left of the front door
>took Cpl. Isaac several minutes to declare safe -- clear of trip wires
>or hidden explosives. A pile of loose rubble inside took longer, and in
>minutes his dark hair was plastered to his skin beneath his helmet and
>Spr. Kachur took over, pulling out a selection of telescoping probes
>and flexible lights from his case.
>
>"It's no problem taking your time," Cpl. Isaac said while catching his
>breath. "No problem at all. You don't want to hurry, believe me."
>
>Master Cpl. Kettlewell, watching their work from a safe distance, said
>there are enough mines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan to keep
>his sappers busy for a long, long time. "The stuff's everywhere. Look,"
>he said, pointing to a rusty cannon shell lying half-buried in the dirt
>a few metres away.
>
>"American anti-tank round, probably depleted uranium. It's just
>everywhere.") Copyright 2003 National Post

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To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

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UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy
Zagreb

----- Original Message -----

From: Robin Collins <mailto:robinco@sympatico.ca>

To: Multiple recipients of list network <mailto:network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2003 10:25 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Afghanistan item, national post (canada)

Anti-tank mine stops Canadians in their tracks

Engineers clear the way: 'It's what we do,' says soldier patrolling Afghanistan

Chris Wattie

National Post

Monday, August 25, 2003

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"American anti-tank round, probably depleted uranium. It's just everywhere."

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Message for Roger Hess

Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 12:44 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

All,

I am currently also sitting on my favorite chair, if anybody else is recruiting.

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

011 385 1 388 3071

----- Original Message -----

From: William Lawrence <mailto:willielawrence@hotmail.com>

To: Multiple recipients of list network <mailto:network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2003 8:38 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Message for Roger Hess

Message for Roger Hess:

If you are reading this, please contact me.

I'm currently free and if there's anything I could do in Iraq, I'd be grateful for an opportunity.

Willie

22 Worpleston Way
Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Afghanistan item, national post (canada)

Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 11:40 AM

From: Willy Meurer <willke@primus.ca>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Hello Mr. Hindy,
you're giving an excellent description of your 'old trooper' Mr. Kettlewell as
>"Sort of Mr. Furley from 3's Company<"! (Don Knotts)
I'm sure, that nearly all subscribers of this network (approx. 1.500
worldwide) know now
exactly how Mr. Kettlewell looks like. And isn't this very important -
or even UNIQUE?!!
Willy Meurer. Toronto

Pete Hindy wrote:

>Thats my Old troop:)) Kettlewell is a funny guy:)) Sort of like Mr
>Furley from 3's Company.Its good to see thyre doing their job well!!!
UBIQUE!! Pete Hindy Zagreb

>

> ----- Original Message -----

From: Robin Collins To: Multiple recipients of list network
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2003 10:25 AM Subject: MgM Demining Network:
Afghanistan item, national post (canada)
> Anti-tank mine stops Canadians in their tracks Engineers clear the
>way: 'It's what we do,' says soldier patrolling Afghanistan
> Chris Wattie National Post
>Monday, August 25, 2003

>

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>"American anti-tank round, probably depleted uranium. It's just
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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Afghanistan item, national post (canada)

Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 8:55 AM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Anti-tank mine stops Canadians in their tracks

Engineers clear the way: 'It's what we do,' says soldier patrolling Afghanistan

Chris Wattie

National Post

Monday, August 25, 2003

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Message for Roger Hess

Date: Monday, August 25, 2003 7:08 AM

From: William Lawrence <willielawrence@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Message for Roger Hess:

If you are reading this, please contact me.

I'm currently free and if there's anything I could do in Iraq, I'd be grateful for an opportunity.

Willie

22 Worpleston Way

Glen Lorne

Harare

Residence ++263 (4)499 743

Mobile ++263 (0)91 908 524

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: condolences can be sent on-line

Date: Friday, August 22, 2003 4:52 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

UN site:

<http://www.un.org/staff/condolence.html>

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and send the generated email as it is. For questions please contact listmaster@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: UN Baghdad

Date: Friday, August 22, 2003 4:12 PM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Well, I am not at all sure about the UN cuddling the US on TV in terms of perceived "neutrality" but I am not there - so I can make no informed judgement. Best wishes to Polly and Younas - may you both recover fully, along with the others whose names I do not recognise.

Roger Hess has written to me and is fine - he and his team were rescuers rather than victims. Worst problem for him and SDF was having to find a new home for most of his staff.

Following other messages and for anyone interested, the attached shows what the UN compound is like - and includes a before and after image. I was sent it - but I believe it is more or less accurate. Given the people who were killed, I can only presume that the truck detonated precisely where it could do most high-profile harm - regardless of whether it was a suicide bombing or an RCIED.

Regards all,
Andy

Accommodation & Parking

Main entrance

Detonation



NORTH →

UN HQ Baghdad

Before & After



Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Job opening

Date: Friday, August 22, 2003 8:13 AM

From: Perry Mason <xrncd1@msn.com>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

I might be interested, depending on the specifics, I.e., Where is the contract and what would be the pay?

Chief Petty Officer in Charge, Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal School (DEODS). Mr. Mason was responsible to the Command and NATO for the upkeep, custody, and distribution of the U.S. 60 Series Explosive Ordnance Disposal Publications, writing, and approving Render Safe Procedures for various weapons from other nations and weapons currently in the NATO inventory. He was responsible for the upkeep and rewriting of the NATO Allied Explosive Ordnance Disposal Publications which included a special section on weapon technical evaluation and explosive stripping.

Leading Chief Petty Officer, Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD). As Senior Instructor and Subject Matter Expert for the Underwater Ordnance section of the Naval School, Mr. Mason completed a total rewrite of the curriculum, enhancing the quality of training. He developed lesson guides for an Advanced Underwater Ordnance Course, including in-depth instruction on the investigation of unknown ordnance, unique render safe techniques, and the use of explosives in stripping operations. He also initiated the participation of Navy Intelligence Center experts in foreign underwater ordnance into the basic course curriculum. These one day lectures on "New Developments" provided the basic EOD student with much needed up to date information. Mr. Mason initiated and implemented an exchange of inert training aids between this command and their counterparts in the U.K. This exchange was unprecedented and is viewed as a major step forward in ensuring current training aids are available to the students of both schools. Additionally, Mr. Mason constructed numerous practical problems, designed to "function as designed", for the practical areas of the course. These problems required great amounts of ingenuity and a vast knowledge of underwater ordnance to incorporate.

Senior Instructor, NATO Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal School. Mr. Mason was responsible for the preparation of reports and informational papers. He advised

and commented to the Ministry of Defense, as well as to staff and students on occupational safety and health, on safety aspects of Explosive Ordnance Investigations. He was responsible for the safe instruction and training of U.K., U.S., NATO, and overseas personnel in the use of all forms of military and some civilian explosives. He also developed curriculum, course presentations, and was responsible for logistic supply, and ensured the day to day running of a specialized military training school. Additionally, he was responsible for the safe transportation and handling of explosive and chemical munitions, and the safe use and transportation of radioactive isotopes used in ordnance radiography.
Regards

Perry Mason

Work Phone: (703) 289 3804

Cell Phone: (301) 536-3316

----- Original Message -----

From: john bidwell <mailto:jbcam@hotmail.com>

To: Multiple recipients of list network <mailto:network@mgm.org>

Sent: Friday, August 22, 2003 7:29 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Job opening

Is there an EOD trainer out there for a 15 month contract, available asp.
Contact me asp with quals. Thanks

Best Regards

John B

8HMBENUK/2740??PS=> -----
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for experts in humanitarian demining run by "MgM The Humanitarian
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Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

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Best Regards

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: (Kenya) Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2003 6:02 PM

From: ACARLG@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

NEWS

August 21, 2003

Posted to the web August 21, 2003

Nairobi

The government of Kenya has begun the destruction of assorted anti-personnel mines it has stockpiled over the years, National Security Minister Chris Murungaru announced on Wednesday.

He was presiding over the detonation at a range in Isiolo district, northeastern Kenya. In a statement, received by IRIN on Thursday, Murungaru said that by 26 August, the government will have destroyed 35,774 assorted anti-personnel mines it has in its armoury.

"We shall retain only 3,000 assorted anti-personnel mines for research purpose," he said. He added that Kenya recognises the Ottawa Treaty to ban mines "which is part of the international response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the global proliferation of anti-personnel mines".

He said Kenya signed the treaty prohibiting the use, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines on 5 December, 1997 and ratified it on 23 January 2001.

"Kenya is bound to comply and subscribe to the treaty," he said, adding that the destruction was a follow-up to an international conference held in Brussels, Belgium, in June 1997 that advocated a global ban on anti-personnel mines.

In order to promote openness and confidence that the Ottawa Treaty was being implemented, the minister said, the government would continue providing the UN Secretary-General with an annual report concerning the action it had taken on landmines.

"Landmines cannot distinguish between the soldiers and civilians," Murungaru said. "They kill or maim a child playing football just as readily as a soldier on patrol. In post-conflict situations, it is most often the civilian going about his or her daily activities who is likely to be the unfortunate victim."

He said that in addition to the devastating impact on individual lives, mines also had severe social and economic consequences.

"The presence of mines can leave large portions of the national territory unusable," he said. "Farmland, grazing pastures and other food producing areas may be rendered inaccessible and as a result the ability of a community to feed itself is impaired."

He noted that the destruction of the mines was carried out as preparations were underway for the fifth meeting of states that are party to the landmines convention, due to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 15-19 September.

"As a nation, we are glad to demonstrate our stand on the ban to use landmines through our actions," he added.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Aid Agencies Split Over Military Backing

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2003 9:35 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

London Financial Times

August 21, 2003

Pg. 9

Aid Agencies Split Over Military Backing

By Judy Dempsey

A number of international aid agencies operating in Afghanistan have expressed sharp concern about the US-backed military forces designed to support them - at a time when violence is making their work more hazardous.

Some agencies say the backing of the US-backed Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan would compromise the distinction between military forces and humanitarian aid. Other aid agencies think that the PRTs are vital for security.

The differences among agencies coincide with growing violence caused by the inability of Hamid Karzai, interim president, to expand his influence beyond Kabul and the slow pace of training an army and police force.

In response to the lack of central control in many parts of the country, the US last year created three PRTs - military units of up to 100 soldiers who provide security and work closely with the aid agencies and reconstruction teams whose work has often been hampered by warlords or armed gangs. The PRTs are under the command of US coalition forces and do not have a United Nations mandate.

Separately, the US has 12,000 troops involved in anti-terrorism operations under the "Enduring Freedom" mission - also with no UN mandate.

Germany this week sent a fact-finding delegation to the northern province of Kunduz to assess the possibility of running a PRT. German officials said the Bundestag, or parliament, would back the PRT only if it were under a UN mandate.

Britain established a PRT last month in the region of Mazar-i-Sharif. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) said the PRT was a joint civil-military team designed to help the Afghan Transitional Authority extend its power beyond the capital and promote stability and security.

DFID, which has a Pounds 1m budget for Mazar-i-Sharif, is the "development adviser to the PRT", the department said.

Yet it is precisely the aid agencies' close relationship with the military component of the PRTs that has left some influential humanitarian organisations worried about the long-term impact on the independence of aid delivery.

"We cannot work with the PRTs," said Eros Bosisio, Asia spokesperson for the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross. "We ask for no protection. We have to be seen to be independent. We keep away from the military. If you mix the military and humanitarian, it will lead to big confusion."

Mr Bosisio's greatest concern was that if aid became "militarised", local people would no longer think it was impartial.

Medecin Sans Frontie res was just as critical of the PRTs. Marc Joolen, MSF's operations co-ordinator in Belgium, said the organisation "would never co-operate with the PRTs".

"The lines between the military and humanitarian agencies will become blurred," he said. "We do not want to become in any way identified with the military."

The independent New York-based Human Rights Watch, which has criticised the abuse of human rights in many parts of Afghanistan, said the non-governmental organisations are "over-reacting".

"The PRTs can be very useful for providing security on the highways and for sending troops to trouble areas where no proper police forces exist," said John Sifton from the HRW's Asia division.

"The reality is that the local people are faced with a lot of bullies. The needs in Afghanistan have to be judged on a case-by-case basis.

"If there can be a bigger bully, like a PRT, to provide security and make it easier to speed up reconstruction, is that such a bad thing?"

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Baghdad Bomb Had The Mark Of Experts

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2003 9:30 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Los Angeles Times

August 21, 2003

Pg. 1

Baghdad Bomb Had The Mark Of Experts

By Patrick J. McDonnell and Tracy Wilkinson, Times Staff Writers

BAGHDAD — The bomb that devastated the United Nations complex in Baghdad was a potent blend of Soviet-era artillery shells, mortar rounds and grenades packed around a powerful centerpiece — a 500-pound bomb meant to be dropped from an aircraft, the FBI said Wednesday.

Although the explosives are widely available in armament-strewn Iraq, the bomb's structure suggests a high level of expertise, authorities said.

"This was not a homemade bomb," said Thomas Fuentes, the FBI official heading the investigation. "We're talking about highly powerful, military-grade munitions."

Investigators are considering a wide array of potential attackers, including Saddam Hussein loyalists, foreign and domestic terrorist groups and religious extremists — or some combination of these and others enraged at the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

The use of weaponry once part of the largely Soviet-equipped Iraqi arsenal strongly suggests a connection to Hussein loyalists.

The munitions were standard issue and would have been relatively easy to obtain for any Iraqi close to the nation's former security apparatus. And many former military men in Iraq are well trained in explosives and sabotage.

The FBI said it was too early to say whether the bombing was a purely Iraqi operation or involved foreign collaborators. At the least, the sheer size of the bomb suggested an operation involving several people.

The proliferation of munitions in Iraq underscores a deep irony: While no one has yet found the alleged weapons of mass destruction that were the catalyst for the

war to topple Hussein's regime, the easy availability of high-powered explosives provides anti-U.S. militants with an almost limitless supply of conventional weaponry with which to wreak considerable havoc and destruction.

The audacity and precision of Tuesday's attack also suggest a foreign hand, according to several Iraqis.

"There is a feeling, based on accumulated data from the past, that it is the remnants of Saddam's regime and their 'friends' " who staged the attack, said Ahmad Chalabi, a member of the fledgling Iraqi Governing Council, at a news conference Wednesday.

Chalabi did not offer evidence of his claim.

Officials with the Governing Council, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that U.S. as well as Iraqi officials had intelligence that Hussein loyalists and Muslim extremists had met about a week before the bombing and planned a large attack on a "soft target" in Baghdad.

Chalabi said the information was detailed.

"The information specifically said the attack would use a truck and would be carried out by using a suicide mechanism or by remote control," he said.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said officials there and at the U.S. Central Command were unaware of any notification by Chalabi of a potential terrorist threat.

Tuesday's massive blast — the second in Baghdad in less than two weeks — added to the debate here over the extent to which foreign fighters have joined the campaign against U.S.-led forces.

L. Paul Bremer III, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, said this month that several hundred operatives from the Islamic extremist group Ansar al Islam — who fled their bases in northern Iraq during the war — have slipped back into the country since May 1, and that radical Iranians and suspected members of the Al Qaeda terrorist network have also entered. Some have used passports from Sudan, Yemen and Syria, according to Bremer.

The U.N. bombing was "of a different scale than the ones we've seen here before," he said after the attack.

"It does not mean that we can exclude the possibility that the Fedayeen Saddam [militia] or some of the old Saddam guys did it," he said. "They had very substantial explosives capabilities in parts of their intelligence services, and it's not impossible

that it was done by them."

The degree to which foreign and home-grown groups cooperate remains a matter of debate. An emerging theory is that well-armed former Baath Party militants may now be teaming up with Islamic extremists from outside the country who see occupied Iraq as the new battleground against the West.

Body parts discovered amid the truck wreckage point to a suicide mission in Tuesday's attack, the FBI said, but officials were awaiting forensic examination of samples that were to be sent to the United States.

Another possibility is that the lethal package went off somewhat prematurely, not giving the driver or others in the truck time to escape.

Several Iraqis interviewed, including police Maj. Riad Kadhm, whose precinct is participating in the U.S.-led inquiry, said it was not likely that many Iraqis would eagerly take on a suicide mission.

There is no tradition of suicide bombings in Iraq. The intense religious zeal, for example, that motivates some Palestinian suicide bombers has not materialized here to the same degree; in fact, several recent *fatwas*, or religious edicts, have instructed Muslim Iraqis to remain calm.

A suicide mission, Kadhm said, suggests the participation of Ansar or other more radical elements.

U.S. intelligence officials working with the FBI said they had yet to determine who was behind Tuesday's blast.

"Right now, there's nothing that would point one way or the other," one U.S. official said. "And no one we've seen has stepped forward."

The official said a bombing that killed 17 people this month outside the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad involved some sort of dynamite-like explosives, not the aerial bomb, hand grenades and other military munitions used in Tuesday's truck bomb at the U.N. headquarters.

The attack on the Embassy involved a truck but was not a suicide attack, the FBI says. In that case, someone parked the bomb-laden vehicle and walked away before it was detonated.

"It's too early to tell whether or not they're related," the official said.

Another official said U.S. eavesdroppers had intercepted no phone calls or other

electronic "chatter" between suspected terrorists in Iraq or elsewhere that clearly indicated whether Al Qaeda or one of its affiliate groups was responsible for either attack. "It just isn't clear yet," he said.

In Tuesday's bombing, plotters loaded the lethal amalgamation — weighing as much as 1,500 pounds — onto a huge flatbed, had it driven to an unguarded alley adjacent to the U.N. compound and detonated it around 4:30 p.m., the FBI said. The size of the charge means a team of attackers must have been involved, the FBI said.

The truck — its lethal cargo presumably concealed — was somehow able to maneuver its way through busy Baghdad streets to its destination without raising suspicion among occupying forces. The FBI dismissed early reports that the vehicle was a cement mixer.

So powerful was the explosive heap that there was no need to drive the truck into the U.N. compound: The adjoining alley was only 10 yards or so away from the building, and a protective concrete wall put up recently was obliterated.

The blast left a crater more than 10 feet deep and sent what is thought to be a piece of the truck's bumper flying more than 500 yards, across a nearby highway and canal. Authorities believe they have found the truck's identifying numbers — its license, engine and vehicle ID numbers. But tracking the vehicle's ownership will take time, because many of those records were destroyed or looted in the U.S. invasion and its aftermath. The truck may have once been part of a government fleet, the FBI said.

"This is not as easy to investigate as it would be back in the United States," said Fuentes, assigned to Iraq a month ago from his regular duty as head of the FBI office in Indianapolis. "You can't just telephone some of these people and make an appointment for them to come over to your office."

Still unclear is whether the truck was parked in a specific site to kill the top U.N. official, Sergio Vieira de Mello — who died in the blast — or whether its placement in line with his office was simply designed to ensure maximum carnage.

Times staff writer Bob Drogin in Washington contributed to this report.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2003 3:07 AM

From: bobkeeley@compuserve.com <bobkeeley@compuserve.com>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Thanks Dave for expressing all of our thoughts

good luck lads

Bob K

Original Message:

From: Dave O'Connor dsoc@mweb.co.za

Date: Wed, 20 Aug 2003 07:18:20 +0200

To: network@mgm.org

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

Many thanks for the update Didier we are very relieved to hear that all FSD staff are ok.

Our thoughts go out to the families, colleagues and friends of those who have died in this tragic, unnecessary and senseless act.

Dave O'Connor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didier LEONARD" <didierleo@hotmail.com>

To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 6:53 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

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> I talked to Roger 20 mn ago, he is okay but Internet is not working.

> I think he will be in touch in 2 or 3 days.

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> >From: "Dave O'Connor" <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

> >Reply-To: network@mgm.org

> >To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

> >Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2003 17:10:43 +0200

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> >Thank you kindly for the info.

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> >Look forward to hearing good news from you regarding all of the guys. I saw

> >Alan Johnson and Scott on CNN, and hopefully all the other guys are safe.

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> >----- Original Message -----
> >From: "Didier LEONARD" <didierleo@hotmail.com>
> >To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>
> >Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 4:38 PM
> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion
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> > >From: "Dave O'Connor" <dsoc@mweb.co.za>
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> > >To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>
> > >Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion
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> > > MSN Search, le moteur de recherche qui pense comme vous !

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mail2web - Check your email from the web at
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please contact listmaster@mgm.org

Subject: MgM Demining Network: virus alert

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2003 4:01 AM

From: Mate Gaal <Mate.Gaal@bam.de>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Dear all,

Please do not open a message from me with a subject:

"Thank you!"

because it contains a virus. Be carefull, it is activated by opening the message. I am sorry if I have infected your computer.

Dakle, poruka s naslovom "Thank you!" nosi virus, prenosi se samim citanjem poruke, a salje se automatski. Ispricavam se svima kojima sam inficirao kompjuter.

Mate

--

Mate Gaal, Dipl.-Phys.
tel. +49-30-8104-4616

BAM - Federal Institute for
Materials Research and Testing
Lab. VIII.33
Unter den Eichen 87
12205 Berlin
Germany

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2003 1:18 AM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Many thanks for the update Didier we are very relieved to hear that all FSD staff are ok.

Our thoughts go out to the families, colleagues and friends of those who have died in this tragic, unnecessary and senseless act.

Dave O'Connor

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To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 6:53 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

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> >Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

> >Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2003 17:10:43 +0200

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: MA people in the bomb blast in Bagdad

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 9:13 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

fwd.

Subject: Re: FW: [icblcc] MA people in the bomb blast in Bagdad

You have likely heard by now that Sergio Vieira de Mello has died...eight days away from the end of his assignment. The number 2 in the UNICEF office, Chris Eaton, a Canadian, was also among those killed. Patrizia Alyan in Martin's office confirms that Martin is fine. Mohammed Younnis was flown out by helicopter and at last report was in serious condition.

Earl

Earl Turcotte
Chief, Mine Action Unit / Chef, Unité d'action contre les mines
United Nations and Commonwealth Division
Direction des Nations Unies et du Commonwealth
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI)

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 12:53 PM

From: Didier LEONARD <didierleo@hotmail.com>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Dave,

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regards

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>From: "Dave O'Connor" <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

>Reply-To: network@mgm.org

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>Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

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Dave,

last news, are nobody from FSD have been killed or seriously injured.

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> >
> > Didier Leonard FSD
> >
> > didierleo@hotmail.com
> >
> >
> > _____
> > MSN Search, le moteur de recherche qui pense comme vous !
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didierleo@hotmail.com

MSN Messenger 6 <http://g.msn.fr/FR1001/866> : plus de personnalisation, plus
de fun pour vous et vos amis[]

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Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 11:10 AM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Didier

Thank you kindly for the info.

Look forward to hearing good news from you regarding all of the guys. I saw Alan Johnson and Scott on CNN, and hopefully all the other guys are safe.

Cheers

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: "Didier LEONARD" <didierleo@hotmail.com>

To: "Multiple recipients of list network" <network@mgm.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 4:38 PM

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

>

>

>

> >From: "Dave O'Connor" <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

> >Reply-To: network@mgm.org

> >To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

> >Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

> >Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2003 15:59:10 +0200

> >

> >

> >----- Original Message -----

> >>From: Dave O'Connor

> >>To: network@mgm.org

> >>Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 3:54 PM

> >>Subject: UN Compund Explosion

> >

> >

> >>As you may have heard the UN compound in Baghdad has been hit by a car bomb

> >>explosion.

> >

> >>Reportedly many injuries. If any person hears from Roger Hess please let us

> >>all know if he is safe

> >>and OK.

> >

> >>Truly is very eerie, especially after what Roger wrote just yesterday.

> >

> >>Dave O'Connor

>

> Dave,

> I am working with Roger but I am based in Erbil. So I try to have more news

> from him too. I just can tell you, WFP left Canal Hotel one or two weeks ago

> to set up an office close the main hotel where WFP staff lives. According to

> WFP country director any WFP staff in Baghdad has been injured.
> When I'll have more news, I'll send you a mail.

>
> Keep in touch.

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> Didier Leonard FSD
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Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

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>Reply-To: network@mgm.org
>To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>
>Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion
>Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2003 15:59:10 +0200

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>Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 3:54 PM
>Subject: UN Compund Explosion

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Re: UN targets in Iraq

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 10:17 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Roger,

Don't you work in the Baghdad UN building - hotel next door or something?
Please confirm that you are OK.

So much for the perception of neutrality. Another bloody, stupid,
unnecessary mess....

Andy

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Subject: MgM Demining Network: Fw: UN Compund Explosion

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 9:59 AM

From: Dave O'Connor <dsoc@mweb.co.za>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

----- Original Message -----

From: Dave O'Connor <mailto:regis@pixie.co.za>

To: network@mgm.org

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 3:54 PM

Subject: UN Compund Explosion

As you may have heard the UN compound in Baghdad has been hit by a car bomb explosion.

Reportedly many injuries. If any person hears from Roger Hess please let us all know if he is safe and OK.

Truly is very eerie, especially after what Roger wrote just yesterday.

Dave O'Connor

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Explosion At Ammo Dump Kills 12 Looters

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 8:19 AM

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

USA Today

August 19, 2003

Pg. 4

Explosion At Ammo Dump Kills 12 Looters

Twelve Iraqis were killed when an ammunition dump they were looting near Tikrit blew up, witnesses said. The fatalities were mostly young men who lived in a neighborhood of unemployed former Iraqi soldiers. The U.S. military said it had recovered only one body. Col. Bill MacDonald of the 4th Infantry Division, said the site was a former military arms dump. It is being used to store weapons and ammunition confiscated from suspected Iraqi resistance fighters. He said that no Americans were injured.

A similar explosion at an arms dump killed at least 25 looters in June near Haditha.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: U.S. Soldiers Try To Thwart Bomb Makers

Date: Monday, August 18, 2003 3:10 PM

From: Pete Hindy <phindy@webhart.net>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

George,

This is exactly the same duty some of my comrades were "very happy" to have to carry out in the Croatian Zadar county -Obrovac-Benkovac Area cemetarys on UNPROFOR. For them it involved similiar duties of unceromoniously and unpleasantly opening certain coffins and crypts to find hidden Explosives and Weapons that the local Krajina Serbs had been hiding in the cemetary as the Iraqis are trying in this article. To sum it all up after finding the caches and a few days later the Cdn Shit sucker truck while stopped at the Serbian checkpoint for one of those "delays" on the front line on Zone of seperation dedcided it was a good time to have an "unexpected leak in the lines" by accident of course.....:):). Moral of the story.. "what goes around comes around."

UBIQUE!!

Pete Hindy

Zagreb

011 385 1 388 3071

----- Original Message -----

From: GZahaczews@aol.com

To: Multiple recipients of list network <mailto:network@mgm.org>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2003 11:38 AM

Subject: MgM Demining Network: U.S. Soldiers Try To Thwart Bomb Makers

For those who are interested, there are some tips here on what to look for and avoid, if you are operating in an RCIED environment.

George

Los Angeles Times

August 18, 2003

U.S. Soldiers Try To Thwart Bomb Makers

American troops in Iraq are working to intercept materials used to make improvised explosives.

By Chris Kraul, Times Staff Writer

MOSUL, Iraq — Lt. Dan Stuewe knows that the hallowed ground of an Islamic cemetery is normally off-limits for U.S. soldiers. But one day last week at 4:30 a.m., his squad from the 101st Airborne Division bent the rules and slowly combed through a burial ground near their battalion headquarters, searching for artillery and mortar shells.

Anti-American guerrillas pick up shells left for them by other insurgents and turn them into makeshift bombs — what the military calls improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. These remote-controlled bombs have become their weapon of choice, a United Nations security analysis reports, and are taking an increasing toll on coalition forces.

The weapon has been so effective that U.S. troops now come every morning to check the cemetery, part of their new counter-guerrilla routine, one this elite attack force didn't train for and didn't expect to be carrying out.

"We have altered our tactics," said Maj. James P. Shaver, of Statesboro, Ga., who is the second in command of the 2nd Battalion in the Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade. "We're sending a signal we will keep pressure on the area and that we are watching."

About 7,000 soldiers are in Mosul, and while security is generally better here than in other cities in Iraq, Shaver said the improvised explosive devices represent a new phase of the conflict.

They are a "more sophisticated method of attack than your everyday Iraqi who runs up to a police station or military compound and lets go with a grenade or an RPG," he said, referring to a rocket-propelled grenade.

On Thursday, a makeshift bomb killed a British soldier in the southern city of Basra. Two days before, a soldier with the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment died

and two others were hurt in the central Iraqi city of Ramadi when their convoy hit three such improvised bombs strung together.

On Aug. 10, another device killed a 4th Infantry Division soldier near a police station in Tikrit, north of Baghdad. And on Aug. 7, a U.S. soldier with the 1st Armored Division lost a leg to one in a Baghdad market district.

On July 23, a makeshift bomb strapped to a telephone pole killed Sgt. Brett Christian of Stuewe's company as the sergeant drove a loaded troop transport truck down Highway 1, which fronts the cemetery in Mosul. The road has been dubbed "ambush alley" for the increasing number of attacks along it. Maj. Mike Shervington, a British officer attached to the 101st Airborne, said Mosul was relatively quiet until July 22, when coalition forces killed Saddam Hussein's two sons here. Now, he said, the highway has become a favored "target of opportunity."

"Highway 1 is a key transit route for coalition forces. It goes to Syria and also to our weapons range, nine miles out of Mosul," Shervington said. "It's also the way to the prison we are building in Badush. Bottom line is, it's just a vital road into the city and south to Baghdad."

How much damage the attacks cause and how long they will continue depends in part on how well soldiers such as Stuewe and his charges do their jobs. Since Christian's death, they have found five unexploded improvised bombs but have had three others set off at them, luckily to no major effect.

Sgt. Darrin Griffin, a battalion explosives specialist, said attackers use artillery or large mortar shells because they are easy to convert to remote-control bombs and safer than land mines to handle.

"They have been taking out the fuse at the top of the shell that detonates the main charge after it flies through the air and hits the ground. They replace it with one of their own, usually a blasting cap," Griffin said. "That and a 9-volt battery, which produces a current strong enough to ignite the cap, is all you need."

To trigger the device, the guerrillas often use wire, hundreds of yards long, that can be activated from a distant lookout point, like the sloping ridge on the far edge of the cemetery. Or, Griffin said, the bombs are triggered with remote devices such as a car alarm, garage door opener or beeper, which can send voltage to the blasting cap.

The attackers typically lean the charge against something that faces the target, such as a light pole or cement curb, since the blast will take the path of least resistance.

Lt. Chris Wood of Buffalo, N.Y., was riding in the front seat of the troop transport truck July 23 when the shell exploded, killing Christian, 27.

They "were over a part of the road with high ground on either side when it happened," Wood said. "I didn't see the explosion, just felt the blast and debris in my face. I thought we were being ambushed, so I turned to Sgt. Christian to tell him to step on the gas. But when I turned to him, he was already dead."

Wood added that if the shell had exploded a half-second later, the bomb would have killed five or six of the 18 soldiers riding in the back, and wounded more. That day, a second unexploded makeshift bomb was found a few hundred yards farther down Highway 1.

Soldiers think the widespread use of the devices and similarities in their design across Iraq may mean those who deploy them are being trained by a central authority. That belief was reinforced by results of a sweep called Ivy Lightning last week around Tikrit by a task force of U.S. Army units from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 4th Infantry Division.

The operation netted 180 heavy artillery shells, five tank rounds and several heavy mortar shells that had been stored for apparent use as IEDs.

The sweep also resulted in the detention of two suspects thought to be organizing resistance and possibly the use of the devices, said Lt. Col. Bill MacDonald, task force spokesman.

On Sunday, U.S. troops shut down a major bomb factory near Tikrit and arrested two people, Associated Press reported.

Subject: Re: MgM Demining Network: Roger on why HD is taking place in Iraq

Date: Monday, August 18, 2003 12:24 PM

From: Robin Collins <robinco@sympatico.ca>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

Roger,

I don't think many dispute the tone of your comment. The question still returns to what you say at the top, which is about who decides when the intervention is over, and (therefore) post-conflict work can begin. Is there general agreement that the coalition forces are past wrap-up mode, and humanitarian aid can now flow (in a "typical" fashion)?

There are good arguments for setting up zones even during war-time to enable humanitarian corridors (and I supported those for Kosovo). This does not mean, however, that the "war is over" just because someone in Washington says so, and so by someone's neat packaged political definition, HD can start up. But you make a good point -- it may be that the coalition forces are being asked to accompnay the HD crew, not the other way around.

Still, nobody suggests that there are not risks in "peacetime" that deminers accept by the very nature of their profession. This is about whether the war is over or not, though. I'm not sure. I raise this in defence of you folks on the ground, not to slight your daily bravery.

Robin

>
> From: "Didactylos" <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>
> Date: 2003/08/18 Mon AM 10:45:18 EST
> To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>
> Subject: MgM Demining Network: Roger on why HD is taking place in Iraq
>
> Acting as mailman for Roger Hess:-
>
>
> -----
> So, hello once again;
>
> Since sending emails from my personal system is not an option right now,
> I'll have to ask Andy to be a relay point again (Sorry Compadre).
>
> This is the first chance I've had since coming back into Iraq to really sit
> down and read all of the personal emails that piled up, and take the time
> to do a response. So now that I've had a chance to digest all of the text,?
>
> The main question seems to focus around "Why is HD taking place when RCIED
> are being used and bullets are going back and forth". Many people have
> thrown some good reasons, but one thing was overlooked:
>
> The answer is very simple: It's to protect the humanitarian aid effort from
> explosive hazards.
>
> Humanitarian aid is meant to start flowing once the "declared" combat
> action is over. Some agencies have taken to bring on a dedicated HD/EOD
> partner who works side-side with them so their tasks do not have to wait in
> line while other higher priority tasks are accomplished by the rest of the
> HD/EOD groups.
>
> Iraq is a unique situation in some ways, but in others it's not. When a

> regime is overthrown it will always ruffle the feathers of those who had
> the good life under the old system. There are also those who just do not
> agree with the new power curve in place because men can now shave their
> stubble and women do not have to look out through two slits in a black
> cloak 365 days a year.
>
> The old saying of "you can't make everyone happy all of the time" stands
> true, but unfortunately (in the case of Iraq), those who are not happy
> right now have the means to cause some serious problems. It's called
> guerrilla warfare and is a totally different animal than declared combat.
>
> These tactics do not always kick in when the combat actions are declared
> over. The leaders and instigators often need time to sit back and regroup,
> and then they will test the waters to see if they can get support for their
> cause.
>
> Without going through a psychological operations lecture, there will be a
> lull before the storm.
>
> During this lull when it seems quiet and everybody is doing big group hugs
> (when they are not busy looting the hell out of their neighbors house), the
> first question asked is: "Where are the aid agencies, we need them now!"
>
> Being the big-hearted conglomerates that aid agencies are, they do their
> best to answer these cries for help. They come in convoys loaded with good
> intentions and are backed up by trucks full of food that ends up for sale
> in the local market, and pockets full of money to pay the rental costs that
> just went sky high.
>
> Once things finally get moving and aid starts to flow (which sometimes
> takes a while, as I found out), those with a grudge have had time to
> regroup, collect some followers, convince the locals that it was better
> under the old system, and problems start kicking in.
>
> The military forces who are left in country are at the highest risk since
> they are not in good standing with those who have a bone to pick, however
> these groups will also go after anyone who they feel are in close
> association with those forces.
>
> Be it freshly laid mines, ambushes with automatic weapons and RPG's,
> RCIED's, or any other means, they will start trying to make their point.
> Often the point is: "If you are not with us, then you are against us".
>
> Any HD/EOD organization who has joined on as a partner to keep the aid
> people safe from explosive hazards need to be ready for this type of
> threat. Their partner is relying on them for their safety.
>
> You can sit back and say that "This job is for the military" and sometimes
> you are right, however when the military is getting the hell bombed out of
> them every time they turn a corner, do you really want them side-side with
> your aid convoys?
>
> Smart people say "No" since they realize that they become a target by
> association. Remember the neutrality issue?
>
> So if the military or the police were not your first choice for
> "protection" from explosive hazards; then who would you rely on?
>
> IMAS and HD are both broad terms and misnomers since it also deals with EOD
> issues. For conventional landmine clearance operations, EOD is a support
> element.

Subject: MgM Demining Network: Roger on why HD is taking place in Iraq

Date: Monday, August 18, 2003 10:45 AM

From: Didactylos <didactylos@landmines.demon.co.uk>

Reply-To: network@mgm.org

To: Multiple recipients of list network <network@mgm.org>

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So if the military or the police were not your first choice for "protection" from explosive hazards; then who would you rely on?

IMAS and HD are both broad terms and misnomers since it also deals with EOD issues. For conventional landmine clearance operations, EOD is a support element.

For Central and Southern Iraq at this time, EOD is the lead issue since there is far more of these types of threats then there are demining tasks. This may change in 2-3 years time once things do stabilize, but we have to deal with what is killing people here and now.

Isn't that what we are supposed to be doing?

It doesn't matter if its hypergolic fuels or RCIED's; they are a threat and they must be dealt with for the safety of all those around you.

If your partner decides to pack up their tents and leave until all is quiet, then the HD/EOD partner packs up and leaves with them. However until that time, we are there to help keep people safe from explosive threats that place them at risk.

So after considering these circumstances, is it really that different?

If we are not up for it, then we need to get away from this line of work.

Cheers

Roger

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