Stiftung Sankt Barbara

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Sankt Barbara

History: Stiftung Sankt Barbara is a private foundation with its central headquarters in Munster, Germany. The organization was established in 1995, but its first mission was organized in October 1996. Sankt Barbara is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to protect the native people of different countries through knowledge of landmines, accurate demining and rehabilitation.

The organization is based upon the guidance of a board of directors, which handles the foundation’s business and capital, and a board of trustees, which advises the board of directors and gives the foundation a set of business regulations to follow. The only other authority over Sankt Barbara is that of the Luneburg government, which requires the directors to keep them informed of projects and problems as well as to turn in a yearly balance with a financial outline of the money spent. This practice ensures that every penny is saved for the demining and rehabilitation process for countries in need. Throughout the course of its ascension in the demining field, Sankt Barbara has worked hard and trained hundreds of new deminers in order to clear as much land as possible, as quickly as possible. Its purpose is to make new and improved advancements in the medical care of war victims, orphans and those who were disabled due to circumstances beyond their control as well as working on economic issues within the developing country.

Mission: The mission of the organization is to remove as many landmines as possible so that there are fewer victims. Coinciding with its goal of demining, it also focuses on assistance for native people and their lands in the hopes that the people can resume their normal lives. It is also involved with the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims. The people of Stiftung Sankt Barbara work together to ensure that adequate help and attention is focused on the victims’ integration back into society and education on how to care for and handle the prostheses.

Current Projects: There are several locations in which Stiftung Sankt Barbara is working, but Angola and Somaliland are its two major areas of concern. In 1997, it began the quest to remove landmines in Angola. It is currently stationed in the Huila Province of Angola at Hoque where it is demining a large mine field on the side of a hill filled with old Russian mines.

This crusade is funded by the Italian Embassy with a staff of 30. Another chief site in Angola is Camp Xangongo, a logistic base staffed by 12, located in the Cunene province and funded by a coalition of German companies. At this site, it is working to demine agricultural lands for the surrounding communities. They, too, are plagued by old Russian mines. Most of the landmines were produced in China, Romania or Russia, but some were brought from Germany, South Africa and the United States.

UXS International, Inc.

The mission of UXB is to provide a world-class, comprehensive program of demining-ordnance and explosive waste (D-OWE) remediation-engineering services designed to meet the needs of a diverse client base in a safe, effective, efficient manner while complying with increasingly stringent regulatory requirements. UXB is committed to providing quality programs and services using an integrated systems approach, utilizing state-of-the-art science technologies and field-proven methodologies by well-qualified and highly trained personnel under the supervision of a streamlined, responsive, customer focused management team.

UXB places the highest importance on working side-by-side with the host nations to educate citizens about the dangers and complexities of working in mined areas. UXB augments, expands and consolidates the experience and knowledge of former combatants, military personnel and other local experts so that the required work and clearance standards of the multi-national workforce can be safely and efficiently met and maintained.

The aim of UXB is to leave the affected communities with an indigenous capability and capacity to ensure long-term success neutralizing the landmine threat. It has developed specialized training courses that utilize classroom lectures, technical manuals, hands-on reinforcement training, field exercises and formal testing.

Current Projects: Several current projects, most notably those on the Koho’olawe Island Reserve, Hawaii; Bosnia-Herzegovina; and many others throughout the U.S., have been models of community involvement and participation. UXB, working with PeaceTrees Vietnam and others, cleared land for re-use where the Danean Parry Landmines Educational Center was built in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

Demining Capabilities: UXB has mobilized and deployed multi-skilled and equipped teams tailored for specific missions and tasks, such as conducting landmine surveys, conducting landmine and UXO clearance operations, developing and conducting site-specific landmine awareness/avoidance training, establishing landmine action headquarters, establishing a landmine database, providing explosives storage plans and facilities, establishing a local demining capability and introducing new demining technologies.

UXO Capabilities: Demining teams need additional technical capabilities to safely defeat UXO. For more than 14 years, UXB has successfully located and removed/eliminated UXO at depths well in excess of the United Nations 200 millimeter clearance standard for landmines. UXB has the capabilities to conduct wide area assessments tied to geophysical mapping, integrate surveys into databases, including geographic information systems (GIS), conduct UXO clearance operations on land and underwater and employ risk assessment and footprint reduction.

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