April 2002

Ukrainian Mine Action

Sergio Pashinsky
Ukraine MAC

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal

Part of the Defense and Security Studies Commons, Emergency and Disaster Management Commons, Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons, and the Peace and Conflict Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol6/iss1/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction by an authorized editor of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.
Ukrainian Mine Action

The Ukraine is highly affected by landmines and UXO, but long-term preparatory planning and integrated efforts of local NGOs offer a promising future for mine action in the area.

Introduction

There is no doubt that the Ukraine is a mine- and UXO-affected country. This fact is well known but still not recognized by the international mine action community. Perhaps the biggest issue is that the Ukrainian government has not acknowledged this national challenge, and consequently, international assistance has not been given.

Mine Action Principles

The three principles required for the development of the national MA program are currently being identified. First, authorities have recognized the mine and UXO problem in the Crimea region and allocated a considerable sum from the state budget for its solution. Also, other Ukrainian regions are being investigated to define the most hazardous ones. Second, having learned from the international experience of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and other countries, the Ukrainian Mine Action Information Center (UMAIC) is working with the Humanitarian Demining Center (HDC) of the Ministry of Defense to implement the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) for further domestic and international activity. Third, an infrastructure (though still uncoordinated) is gradually being designed on various issues of national MA.

NGO Involvement

A number of significant NGOs play a key role in the Ukrainian MA program. These include the HDC of the Ministry of Defense (HDC/MOD), UMAIC, the Emergency Ministry (EM), and the State Department for Veterans.

Demining Organizations

As the participation of Ukrainian specialists in domestic and overseas EOD operations is fairly obvious, there should be organizations and companies here to run the system of selecting, training, supplying, and managing demining manpower. At the moment, there are several organizations that have already started similar activities. Among them are UkrOboronService (UOS), the Engineer-Veterans Demining Group (EVDG), the Peacekeeping Veterans Demining Team (PVDT) and Serhii Demining Detachment (SDD), who are all currently prepared to bid in tenders.

Propects

The future of MA in the Ukraine looks promising. In fact, legislation regarding Ukrainian MA should be implemented in late 2002. Looking forward to late 2002, we see the Ukrainian MA legislation taking effect. On the foundations of these existing elements of a future integral system, we will be able to build the national program. Furthermore, this program can be immediately put into action, thanks to such a long-term (and even a bit subtle) preparatory phase. We also foresee future cooperation with the UN, European Union (EU), OSCE, a group related to the EM, and other international organizations.

Contact Information

Lt. Col. Sergio Pashinsky, Director Ukrainian Mine Action Information Center
67 Soborna str. 204 Vinnica, 21050 Ukraine
Tel: 380-0432-27-72-45 Fax: 380-0432-32-58-33
E-mail: unver@mail.vinnica.ua

1. For more information on the extent of the landmine situation in the Ukraine, please refer to the 1999-2001 Landmine Monitor reports.

Russian deminers navigating a rough terrain.