Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction

Volume 5
Issue 3 The Journal of Mine Action

Article 52

December 2001

Oman

Country Profile
CISR

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/vol5/iss3/52

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.
Oman

History

Since the seventh century, Oman has been an Islamic country, falling under Portuguese rule in the early 1500s. In 1650, Omani citizens revolted, regaining control of the majority of their land until 1741 when Persia took over. Upon signing a friendship treaty with Great Britain in 1798, Oman gained independence, but its troubles were not over. Between 1932 and 1970, a repressive ruler, Sultan Said bin Taimer, sparked a series of revolts in the Dhofar province, which ended when the Sultan’s son, Qaboos bin Said, overthrew him and began modernizing the country. Today, Oman is working to clear the landmines left from these disputes.

Landmine / UXO Overview

The number of landmines that exist in Oman is unknown at this time, but reports indicate that the United States may be stockpiling approximately 10,000 anti-personnel mines in various storage units throughout the country. Roughly 12 different types of landmines have been found in formerly occupied areas of Oman. The majority of Oman’s landmines are found along the border of the Dhofar province, and several major roads pass through landmine-infested regions. Omani officials report that they do not produce landmines and do not have a landmine problem. Currently, they are considering signing the Mine Ban Treaty, but they are not members of the Convention on Conventional Weapons or the Conference on Disarmament.

Casualties

Although the exact number of mine-related accidents is unknown, 103 have been reported since 1971, and the effect of these casualties has been severe. The nomadic population, which inhabits areas where landmines and UXO are often washed during rainfall, is most threatened by landmines.

Demining

In December 1999, the United States agreed to assist Oman in humanitarian demining training beginning in February 2001. The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) established a Mine Clearance Troop in 1984 with 40 deminers (four sections of 10 deminers) and 20 support personnel. This group has performed demining activities throughout Oman and is currently focusing on old battlefields and formerly occupied regions. There are no records of which areas have been demined, and no donors support Oman with its demining efforts at this time. However, the United States may allot $2.2 million (U.S.) in 2001 once the land has been surveyed to evaluate the country’s needs.

Reality Check

Since gaining control in 1970, Sultan Qaboos bin Sain has worked to modernize the Omani society. This involved allotting more freedom and establishing a more
stable health, education and housing structure. Despite these advancements, Oman remains a secluded country with little international relations.

**Contact Information:**

Major Alhunaini Ahmed  
Ministry of Defense for Oman  
P.O. Box 1462  
Code 111  
Seeb, Oman  

Tel: 00968 613602