April 2003

The MINEX Center

Minex Minex

MINEX

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/vol7/iss1/17

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.
The MINEX Center

This article highlights the efforts of the French Army Engineer School’s MINEX program.

by MINEX

History

Since 1978, in the scope of cooperation or defense agreements that link us to some countries (e.g., Chad and Lebanon), the French Engineers have taken part in overseas operations in countries that are greatly affected by the problem of mines and battlefield pollution, and that are no longer at war. Those sappers will acquire an experience recognized worldwide.

In 1992, the MINEX Center standardized mine clearance techniques and to elaborate an acceptable training doctrine for all the military actors, the Joint Chiefs of Staff decided to set up a training center for post-war mine clearance within the French Army Engineer School in Angers called “Centre MINEX.”

The center stood out rapidly at the international level thanks to the quality of the teaching, experience of the staff and constant innovations in developing pedagogic tools.

At that time, the French Army Engineer School received two orders:

• Train Officer and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) in post-war mine warfare.

• Collect and spread information concerning landmines and submunitions.

In 1997, the process of the Ottawa convention and France’s ratification of it opened the door to a new step: putting the abilities and expertise of French soldiers at the disposal of the countries and organizations that fight against anti-personnel mines.

The MINEX Center became “Département de Formation au Déméningage” (DFD), a training and information center whose aim is to train the sappers to be able to carry out a squad for a mine clearance action or for an area clearance action and to take part in actions of demining or neutralization of known and studied ammunitions, including landmines, submunitions, demolition equipment and pyrotechnics. The training lasts about two weeks.

MINEX 2 Level 2 training is dedicated to all the engineer squad leader-to-be, whose field of specialty is “combat and engineer techniques.” The soldier who has obtained the MINEX 2 qualification is able to command a squad for a mine clearance action or for an area clearance action, including neutralization of known and studied ammunitions, including landmines, submunitions, demolition equipment and pyrotechnics. The training lasts about two weeks.

MINEX Platoon Leader MINEX Platoon Leader training is dedicated to young engineer officers as well as NCO candidates for the BSTAT (Superior diploma for French Army technicians) assigned to “combat engineer” and “creating sections.” The aim of this level is to train platoon leader to organize and command under safety rules, mine clearing and clearance missions.

MINEX 3 Level 3 training is opened to engineer NCOs who have already obtained the first two levels—MINEX 2 and MINEX Platoon Leader—assigned in combat units and are volunteered to obtain the third level. The MINEX 3 graduate is particularly able to fulfill reconnaissance missions over polluted areas. He is also experienced enough to demilitarize or neutralize known ammunitions, especially landmines and attack ammunitions. The training lasts six weeks.

For constant innovations in developing engineering technologies, the French Engineer School received two orders: war mine clearance within French pedagogic tools.

The French Army Engineer School has the following qualifications:

• The major part of an action program against mines is the training of the all the actors implicated in it. The National Center for Humanitarian Demining Training created in Angers gives to those people all the experience and the know-how of the French Army for all demining operations.

National Center for Humanitarian Demining Training

The French Army Engineer School opens its demining training ministry to all the categories of staff, dealing with humanitarian organizations or working for humanitarian operations against mines. The school proposes trainings for different people, including management for demining programs and operations, instructors, advisors, inspectors for QA and specialists who will help increase the population’s awareness.

The training will be under the responsibility of a French company accredited by the French Ministry of Defense. The School, as a service provider, gives assistance in the form of offering teaching help, lending technical and infrastructure equipment and delivering a "Quality Label." The trainings are in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) decreed by the United Nations and adapted to the very specific needs of a country or an organization. Moreover, the Center works closely with international agencies that deal with mine action.

Expertise

The training and information center for mine action (DFD-TICMA) proposes:

• Conceptual expertise allowing for texts to be written (memos, rules, notes, studies).

• Technical expertise in research and development for new mine clearance technologies.

• Advice to the ministries and to the Parliament National Commission for the Eradication of Anti-Personnel Mines.

The specialists working at the French Army Engineer School have developed a database containing more than 1,000 different types of mines and submunitions used all over the world. This database, presented on CD-ROM, is an internationally recognized reference in that domain. The database gathers two kinds of information:

• Technical information about characteristics and functioning of ammunitions; this information can be widely distributed.

• More confidential information about neutralization procedures. This information can only be given to accredited staff having all the technical abilities to use it.

Mine Risk Education

Awareness is one of the Center’s capacities recognized throughout the world; thus, DFD-TICMA also participates in several high-level trainings for civilians, especially for students in law and politics from the university in Aix-en- Provence (southern France), who are about to work for international humanitarian assistance and for Bioforce, an organization working with the World Health Organization (intervening in training, experts and engineering).

The department also draws the attention of searchers, engineers and public or private agency technicians to the problem of mines and mine clearance within research programs in that field. The department also organizes seminars to increase awareness about this problem in the French Army schools and units and also for the French or foreign forces overseas.

Contact Information

Ecole Supérieure d’Application du Génie Département de Formation au Déménage 106, rue Ebé BP 4125 49041 ANGERS CEDEX F 49041 ANGERS CEDEX 01 Tél. : (33) 2 41 24 82 27 Fax : (33) 2 41 24 83 88 E-mail: minex@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr

The MINEX Center

Deminers, Manual Demining & PPE

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2003

62

63