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Mine Action Clearance Operations Set to Begin in Tajikistan

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information can then be displayed by superimposing the in formation onto mapping using various themes to represent the types of UXO and mine clearance that has been, or will be conducted. One of the functions of the UNMIK EOD management section is the administration of the IMSMA system; KFOR and sections of the humanitarian community have been using IMSMA since it was first introduced in 1999. Any new information regarding dangerous areas that are reported by KFOR or areas that are cleaned by the KPC or NGOs can be entered into the system and updated immediately.

KPC

The KPC is a civil protection organisation that has been working in Kosovo since February 2000. They are split into various subdivisions such as Communications, Emergency Preparedness, Training and Doctrine, Supervision and Engineering. The KPC EOD teams are all members of the engineering unit and are known as a Protection Zone. There are currently six Protection Zones within the Province of Kosovo, comprising an EOD team and the headquarters of the engineers also have an EOD team making seven teams in total.

Current KPC EOD Team Capability

Each KPC EOD team consists of 15 members per team, which includes:

• One team leader
• Two deputy team leaders
• Eight EOD personnel
• Two paramedics
• One dedicated ambulance driver
• One Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

KPC CLO

In that the local communities are both aware and satisfied with the clearance work that is being conducted by the KPC EOD teams, 14 members of the KPC Community Liaison. Each CLO informs the community about the work conducted by the KPC in their area. The CLO will inform the head of the village or landowner about why, what, and when to organise a community meeting in the area, so that as many people as possible are informed about what areas are clear.

KPC Training and Supervision

The KPC teams are trained and developed by the OKPC, EOD management section and currently delivered by Handicap International (HI). HI was chosen to train the KPC as they have a proven record in national capacity building. In late 2001, and early 2002, the KPC was trained in demining, battle area clearance (BCO) and limited EOD response. In early 2003, HI conducted a number of refresher courses in BAC, and basic demolitions prior to any clearance operations taking place. HI plans to continue the training and development of the KPC for the foreseeable future. HI also provides international supervisors and national monitors to the sites on a daily basis as well as acting as a liaison between the KPC, KFOR and the OKPC. In addition to this supervision and monitoring role, HI also provides 16-person BAC teams, which is currently funded by UNMAS. The HI team works independently of the KPC on BAC sites in conjunction with the Kosovo clearance plan.

Future Capability of the KPC EOD Teams

KFOR is downsizing their troop strength in Kosovo and the KPC will continue to take over the role of EOD in response from KFOR in the future. By the end of 2004, the KPC should have a fully functional operations cell that mirrors the EOD management sections in Pristina. The EOD teams should be capable of updating the EOD response teams that can operate Kosovo-wide and are able to discontinue the non-mine clearance tasks and be capable of conducting technical surveys to verify or discredit the presence of any items of UXO or mines reported by members of the public on land that has a socio-economic impact on the population in the Province of Kosovo.

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Current Situation (Mid-June 2003)

Currently in Kosovo, there are 129 dangerous areas that require a minimum of either a technical survey or some form of mine or BAC. However, these dangerous areas are not new; in fact, 120 of these were handed over to UNMIK when the UNMACC transferred responsiblity to KFOR in January 2001. The majority of these dangerous areas are contaminated with subsurface cluster munitions dropped during 1999 and 2000. The remaining dangerous areas contain mines and items of UXO. Additionally, there are over 50 suspicious areas that require a technical survey to discern or verify the presence of any mines or UXO. These areas have been reported by KFOR, the ICRC, and members of the public to the EOD management section in the last 18 months and were not previously known to the UNMACC.

There are still areas within Kosovo that are affected by mines and UXO and although there has been a gradual decline in the number of victims over the last two years since the closure of the UNMACC, there has been a reported on a regular basis, mainly notable incidents involving children. In 2002, the EOD management section and the IPH gathered information on mapping using various themes to represent the types of UXO and mine clearance that has been, or will be conducted. One of the functions of the UNMIK EOD management section is the administration of the IMSMA system; KFOR and sections of the humanitarian community have been using IMSMA since it was first introduced in 1999. Any new information regarding dangerous areas that are reported by KFOR or areas that are cleaned by the KPC or NGOs can be entered into the system and updated immediately.

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Landmines in Europe & the Caucasus

Victim Assistance in Iraq

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The ongoing presence in central and southern Iraq since the Gulf War in 1991, during which the first few years in Iraq, they provided logistic support and assistance to other UN Agencies. CARE's work in Iraq began in the northern Kurdish region of Duhok, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah and in parts of central and southern regions such as Basra, Babel, Diyala and Najaf. As humanitarian needs increased, CARE expanded its central and southern regions during the mid-90s. CARE's focus turned toward providing these areas with clean water, health care, clean water and proper sanitation.

Conclusion

As expected, the recent conflict brought new humanitarian concerns to the civilian population of Iraq. Large amounts of explosive remnants of war (ERW) such as artillery shells, grenades, mortar bombs, cluster bombs and other submunitions, rockets and missiles left in residential areas cause the number of victims to increase daily. Those dedicated to helping these victims must create a climate of keeping track of the number of victims and the nature of their injuries. This is a secondary concern if the government does not have a secure way in which to deliver or administer medical or mental assistance. Finally, they must train Iraqi specialists, medical workers, and civilians in their various areas to help reach the ultimate goal of a self-sufficient Iraqi health care system. Despite these hurdles, the UN and NGOs are slowly making progress in their efforts to heal the wounded in Iraq.

References

5. All UNOPS and EMERGENCY information is provided through email correspondence with Mr. Brian Rae, Head of UNOPS, and Mr. Dimitri Bondy, Head of UNOPS and EMERGENCY in Iraq, April 5, 2003.

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Hierarchical Approach to Mine Action in Croatia

For successful demining operations to occur, detailed data collection, planning and a mode in order to meet the expectations of the many stakeholders involved in the demining process. This article discusses the hierarchical approach of priority assessment for demining, using a multicriteria analysis and geographic information system (GIS) approach.

Introduction

The Republic of Croatia is one of the 10 most mine-contaminated countries in the world. There are almost 750,000 mines on 1,600 km of mine-suspected areas. About 170 sq km are actual minefields, while the rest of the area is contaminated with individual explosive ordnance. Mine-affected areas have not been used for years, pose a huge economic problem and obstruct infrastructure development, reconstruction and return of refugees and displaced persons and special projects to upgrade the national infrastructure (such as cleaning the Sava River). Moreover, the government of Croatia itself lacks the means demanded by the international community.

Background

As stated in a 2002 report, the existing research and law pertaining to the national mine action plan and for identifying priority tasks in Croatia has evolved over time. In the immediate post-war period, mine clearance was seen as an integral part of the reconstruction effort and priorities for survey and clearance were determined by plans for reconstruction, the return of refugees and displaced persons and special projects to upgrade the national infrastructure (such as cleaning the Sava River). Moreover, the government of Croatia itself lacks the means demanded by the international community.

The international community noticed that humanitarian mine action in Croatia presented problems and has been offering help. In 1996, it established the United Nations Mine Action Center (UNMAC) with the mission of implementing humanitarian demining in Croatia and collecting data on detected and suspected minefields. By the end of 1998, the mandate of UNMAC in Croatia ended, but almost immediately the Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC) was established. CROMAC developed into an efficient and cost-effective mine action operation. By the end of the 1990s, Croatia became the primary donor for humanitarian mine action operations. It contributes almost 80 percent of total funds for annual "Demining Plans" with its own finances from the state budget and World Bank loans. In order to satisfy ever-growing expectations, new criteria have to be determined for the optimal solution for the humanitarian demining problem. Therefore, in 2001, CROMAC, in collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Center (UNMAC) and the University of Split, developed a hierarchical approach for the demining problem in Croatia. Within the project framework, the methodology and application method was applied in order to provide an objective approach

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