Jordan's Military in Mine Action

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Appendix: Anaesthesia in the Field During the GERMED-12 Mission

During the GERMED-12 Mission anaesthesia was started in the field. According to the recommendations of the UN Peacekeeping Mission, the paramedics did the basic-level medical support. An ambulance car was available at the level of primary care. The paramedics included cardiological resuscitation, haemorrhage control, fracture immobilisation, wound dressing, casualty transport and evacuation. There was the possibility of communication and reporting by radio, so the paramedic had to report the emergency situation to the doctor on duty at the operations centre. The medical treatment was coordinated on the advice of the emergency physician.

For treatment and evacuation of casualties the tactical operation, casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) was started. Especially under the conditions of the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), a Forward Medical Team (FMT) was sent, to provide short-term medical support in the field. The FMT was transported by helicopter or ambulance car to the emergency scene. Both were equipped with modern emergency equipment and medical supplies.

The task was to perform emergency resuscitation procedures: maintenance of airway, breathing, and circulation and advanced life support, haemorrhage control, and life- and limb-saving emergency procedures. Especially in GERMED-12 the physicians were trained to use Ketamine in combination with intubation and ventilation. Ketamine could be used in most wounded patients without problems.

The transportation time was sometimes over one hour (see Table II). The transportation support, haemorrhage control, and life- and limb-saving emergency procedures. Especially in GERMED-12 the physicians were trained to use Ketamine in combination with intubation and ventilation. Ketamine could be used in most wounded patients without problems.

References

2. Website: www.un.org/peace/missions/working/index.html

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by Kristen Frahler, MAIC
Interview With a Jordanian Military Mine Specialist

Q: What skills does the military bring to humanitarian demining that humanitarian organizations might lack?

A: The role of Jordan is that of the Royal Jordanian Engineers Corps. We are skilled professionals, highly trained and equipped, and using international standards. We have specific equipment for the task.

Q: How do you feel the military approach to mine action is different from the humanitarian approach?

A: The military approach is different in that we are only a small part of their professional goal. Their main goal is to serve their country without concern for extraordinary remuneration. They never hesitate to do their share, while trying to do their best in preserving their countrymen's lives and their equipment.

Q: Has the role of the Jordanian military changed in humanitarian demining: the methods used, the energy, etc.?

A: Jordan's demining project has its own challenges, which has led to adopting special methods and strategies. These can only be followed by the military through proper training, promotion, and development.

Q: What challenges has the Jordanian military experienced in humanitarian demining operations?

A: Many challenges were faced, which can be summarized in the following:

- High temperatures and severe weather
- Erosion and shifting minefields
- Heavy vegetation
- Sensitivity of mines due to passage of rime

These factors make it be the most difficult to reclaim.

Jordan is one of the many landmine-infested countries in the Middle East. Thus, the REC's superior knowledge in demining and Jordan's efforts to promote a mine-safe world were the main reasons the international community was delighted to have 13 Royal Jordanian Engineers Corps deminers deploy to Afghanistan. December 2002 marked Jordan's first effort to participate in an international mine clearance operation.

Afghanistan Efforts

The Jordanian military, along with numerous coalition forces, was taking part in Operation Enduring Freedom by sending soldiers to Afghanistan in an effort to rebuild the country. After numerous battles and especially the Russian occupation in the 1980s, it is estimated that over 10 million mines exist in Afghanistan, which create severe problems and hinder the international reclamation efforts.

Bagram Air Base

The first deployment of REC deminers was stationed at the Bagram Air Base. By using the Aardvark chain fall system that is designed to destroy AP and AT mines while cutting through vegetation, over 23,100 sqm have been cleared by Jordanian REC deminers. The Aardvark has been highly successful, denoting 95 percent of the AP mines and 190 percent of the AT mines.

With the expertise and skills gained in Jordan, the REC demining team provided in-depth knowledge to the demining operations in Bagram. This 13-member team consisted of mechanics, drivers, guides and maintenance personnel. Although the REC have experienced great difficulty in demining their country, Afghanistan has proven to be even more challenging to the team. The rugged terrain and numerous battles with their associated debris forced the team to replace the chains on the fall once a week.

Kandahar-Air Field

On the completion at Bagram airbase, the Jordanian team was redeployed for a three-month tour to Kandahar Air Field (KAF) to clear the surrounding area. The REC soon discovered the Aardvark's rotor was broken. Due to its mass weight, free from the rotor, the new rotor took four months to deliver from Britain. After promptly installing the new rotor, the 13-member team began working.

Unfortunately, the REC team found it is once more difficult to demine the debris-infested ground down. The hammers located at the end of each chain, which "deliver" one ton of pressure and dig 12-20 inches into the ground, for a total of 72 tons of pressure on a space three inches wide and 10 feet long, were frequently destroyed by the harsh ground conditions. In fact, 1 Lt. Ahmed Odar stated, "We stop every 15 minutes and check the rotor. We replace about 10 hammers a day."

The KAF demining proved to be a considerably slower process than Bagram Airbase.

Current REC Efforts

The new estimated completion date for the three-phase demining plan in Jordan is the year 2009. To date, the REC's efforts show some encouraging results, as it has cleared nearly 100,000 AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mines.

- General Fayez Al-Dwairi, Commander of the REC, told the Landmine Monitor Report that Jordan's first goal is to concentrate on clearing land that will help improve Jordan's economy through development, even though this land can be the most difficult to reclaim.

Jordan is one of the many landmine-infested countries in the Middle East. Thus, the REC's superior knowledge in demining and Jordan's efforts to promote a mine-safe world were the main reasons the international community was delighted to have 13 Royal Jordanian Engineers Corps deminers deploy to Afghanistan. December 2002 marked Jordan's first effort to participate in an international mine clearance operation.

In Jordan, the REC team was led by Task Force Devil Mine action centers, which searches for cleared land, new buildings and roads that can be constructed. Once the KAF is cleared and safe, coalition forces will turn it over to the Afghan government. As Staff Sgt. Oscar Rodriguez, U.S. Army 27th Engineer Battalion out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, stated, "Every inch they [the members of the Jordanian team] clear is one more inch we can use. And when we leave, it's ground the Afghans people can use."