

MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE



SOUTH LEBANON

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REPORT OF THE MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE,
SOUTH LEBANON
for the
MONTH OF JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2005

General

1. Due to the multiple Annual Reports for 2004 that were drafted during January it was agreed to combine January and February Monthly Reports into a single report. This report therefore covers the period 1 Jan –28 Feb 05.
2. Regrettably, much of this reporting period has been disrupted by the events following the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, in Beirut, on 14 Feb.

National Demining Office

3. In preparation for the International Support Group (ISG) meeting planned for 23 Feb, the Director NDO and UNMAS Programme Manager conducted a series of preparatory visits to various Embassies in Beirut during this period. The visits were very well received and many of the Defence Attaches requested a regular direct line of communication with them, in addition to the more formal chain through the Ambassadors office.
4. Due to the events in Beirut and the associated security situation, the ISG meeting was subsequently postponed. A new date will be tabled in the coming weeks.
5. The US State Dept funded “train and equip” program to support a formal Technical Survey project throughout Lebanon has commenced. A US Army training team has arrived and begun a structured training programme for the LAF Engr Regt. The training is due to be complete on 11 March and Survey operations are planned to commence in the spring. MACC SL staff participated in the training programme with detailed briefings and discussion on 7 Feb and a field orientation visit on 11 Feb.
6. The intent is to objectively refine and ultimately define the actual scope of the landmine contamination throughout Lebanon, thus allowing clearance resources to be deployed in the most expedient manner. It is anticipated that this Survey Project, coupled with the successful completion of Area 6 (still funding dependent) will

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reduce the overall mine/UXO contamination problem in Lebanon (excluding those minefields which lie along the “Blue Line”) to a level easily managed by an internal response mechanism.

Recent Mine Incidents

7. On 12 Feb four teenage boys from the village of Markabe entered a border minefield along the “Blue Line” with the intention of taking a photograph of themselves with Israel in the background. One of the boys stepped on an AP mine and lost a foot, and the three remaining boys suffered minor injuries from the resulting blast.
8. The original Israeli minefield fence at the location of the accident had been replaced by the Lebanese Army as this original fence was in a state of disrepair. New mine warning signs had also been erected. However this fence was stolen, presumably for scrap metal and therefore there was no realistic barrier to deter entry into the minefield. This minefield is a known and recorded minefield, and until recently was also fenced.
9. Until such time as these border minefields are cleared there is going to be a continuing threat of future mine accidents in this area along the “Blue Line”. In order to mitigate future such accidents the LAF component of the MACC SL are conducting an assessment of all remaining minefields in South Lebanon with a view to repairing or erecting damaged or missing minefield fencing.

UNIFIL, Demining Co-ordination Cell

10. The Chief of DCC Lt Col Serhii Prokopeniuk as well as his Deputy Maj Boris Pokaliuk have ended their twelve month term with UNIFIL and have returned to the Ukraine. It is expected that they will be both extended for another six-month term with DCC and return to Lebanon mid Mar.
11. The MACC SL continues to work closely with DCC and UKRBATT with the view to accrediting UKRBATT in accordance with Lebanese National Technical Standards and Guidelines (TSG’s). The UNIFIL/UKRBATT Standard Operating Procedures have been formally assessed as meeting the minimum technical requirement in accordance with TSG’s, and the next step is for an onsite evaluation and the application of independent external Quality Assurance monitoring visits. Pending the successful outcome of this, a recommendation will be made to the NDO to consider formal accreditation.
12. UKRBATT demining teams continue to conduct mine clearance in support of UNIFIL operations within the UNIFIL Area of Operations.

UNDP

13. The new UNDP CTA, Mr Alan Poston, arrived in Lebanon and took post on 24 Jan. Mr Poston will immediately follow up the work conducted by the Mine Action Programme Officer, Mohammed Dbrouk, regarding a formal and documented policy that defines and gives legality to the roles of the differing mine action counterparts in Lebanon.

PROPOSED AREA 6

14. Following a series of informal discussions and meetings with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) regarding potential support for Area 6, formal meetings were held during the period 10-14 Jan. These meetings included the Director NDO, UNMAS Programme Manager, KSA Ambassador, KSA First Secretary and KSA Military Attaché (MA) during which written requests for assistance from both the GoL and UN were presented and discussed.
15. Subsequently the KSA Ambassador requested that all the technical aspects of the "Area 6 Project" be included in a single report that may be forwarded to the relevant authorities in Riyadh for a final decision. Such a report was immediately compiled, translated into Arabic, and presented to the KSA MA on 25 Jan. It is anticipated that initial feedback may be expected during the month of March.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Planning

16. The reconnaissance and information gathering for the proposed Area 6 continues with the MACC SL planning teams. The target list continues to be refined in order to direct clearance to confirmed mined area locations. To date there are a total of 442 landmine/cluster munition/IF booby trap sites that will require either technical survey and/or clearance.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

17. MAG continues to conduct manual clearance in Deir El Qamar of the Mount Lebanon region at two clearance sites. MAG is tasked and managed directly by the NDO. The LAF QA component of MACC SL assists the NDO by conducting QA of the MAG clearance teams.
18. MAG Clearance statistics for the month of January /February 2005 are as follows:

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------|
| a. | M ² cleared | = | 4,100 (Manual) |
| b. | AP | = | 2 |

LAF Sampling Team

19. The LAF Sampling/Survey Team conducted manual clearance at the Anti Tank minefield site in CLDA 009, Ghanduriyah OES 4. Due to the very high metal contamination of the soil the team is conducting clearance by full excavation but is still making good progress: A total of 6 x AT mines have been located and destroyed. Due to the inclement weather and muddy soil conditions it was not possible to conduct clearance on a number of days. The manual clearance was completed 24 Feb and arrangements have been made for the MAG Minecat Flail to confirm the clearance of the LAF Sampling/Survey Team commencing 28 Feb.
20. To increase flexibility regarding the deployment of this crucial asset, one of the LAF Officers (Lt Marcel Khahil) was assessed and successfully passed Accreditation as a

minefield supervisor on 28 Feb.

Quality Assurance

21. MACC SL LAF QA Officers continue with weekly QA evaluations of all clearance sites within the Area of Operations. This currently consists of the LAF Sampling/Survey Team, as well as supporting the NDO with QA evaluations of the MAG manual clearance teams.

Training

17. The MACC SL was requested by the NDO to conduct training for the LAF Engineer Regiment. Briefings were provided to the Engr Regt Technical Survey Course that is being conducted by the US Army in Beirut. The aim of the briefs by the MACC SL Operations Department was to explain to the students the planning review process currently being conducted by the planning teams in the proposed Area 6. This training was well received, and has continued the ongoing close collaboration and working relationship between the MACC SL and the LAF Engr Regt.
18. Additionally, the NDO, MACC SL and Engr Regt have now formalised an ongoing training package for the Engr Regt. The training programme/cycle has been designed as a modular format and will be conducted as follows:
 - a. Stage 1 (Theory). A core of five officers will attend a 3-part lesson package. Each part will cover the entire range of MACC SL Operational activities from initial IMSMA Dangerous Area entry, through task planning, task actuation, QA, completion and final documentation. Training commenced on 25 Feb and will be completed over the following, consecutive Fridays.
 - b. Stage 2 (Practical). Upon completion of this Theory Stage, each officer, at a date to be determined by the Engr Regt, will then participate in an actual operational field activity, corresponding to the various theory subjects, until such time as he has completed the entire range of modules.
19. The attendance of each module will be formally documented and they may be repeated as required. In this way it is intended that a solid and practical knowledge base be continually transferred to the Engr Regt.

Mine/UXO Clearance Statistics

19. The clearance results for the period under report are as follows:

| PHASES | | Area Cleared Square Meters | | Devices Found and Destroyed | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----|---------------|-----|---------------|
| | | SQM | Total to date | AP | Total to date | AT | Total to date | UXO | Total to date |
| 2003 | OES PHASE 2 | - | 4,324,988 | - | 35,189 | - | 1,536 | - | 3,272 |
| | OES PHASE 3 | - | 516,361 | - | 19,866 | - | 40 | - | 682 |
| 2004 | OES PHASE 3 "Sweep Through" | - | 91,085 | - | 1,400 | - | 61 | - | 257 |
| | Non OES | - | 5,636 | - | 27 | - | 44 | - | 209 |
| 2005 | Non OES | 339 | 339 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 339 | 4,938,409 | 3 | 56,485 | 2 | 1,683 | 1 | 4,421 |

Note: Phase 3 "Sweep Through" operations commenced on the 19th Jan 04 and finished on 29th May 04 (4 months). Non OES operations continue with the LAF Survey/Sampling Team.

Public Information

20. The village reservoir renovation project in Bayt Yahoun, identified through the Post Clearance Review and funded by the Australian Embassy has been completed with the assistance of UNIFIL UKRBATT Engrs. A formal ceremony, attended by the Australian Ambassador, is scheduled for 10 March.
21. On Tuesday 8th of February 2005 the secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in Beirut, Mr De Macedo visited MACC SL and Yarin village. After a tour of Yarin village he announced that the Brazilian government intends to support a "Trees for Mines" Project in the village.
22. Circulation of the Arabic version of the MACC SL Newsletter is now being widened to include distribution to the villages and communities of South Lebanon.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE MONTH UNDER REPORT

23. The objectives for the month of January/February 2005 and the activities undertaken in respect of these objectives were as follows:
- 24.

| General: | Activities Undertaken: |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Work with NDO to secure funding/donor to support mine/UXO clearance in the proposed Area 6. | Ongoing |
| Draft and distribute Dec Qtly Report | Complete |
| Complete draft of Annual Reports (DPKO/Ass Budget, Annual VTF, Final UAE/OES, UAE 6 month support.) | Complete |
| Operations: | |
| Continue monitoring clearance operations in UNIFIL AO | Ongoing |
| Continue Level 1 Surveys in Area 6 | Ongoing |
| Complete manual clearance of DA 009/Ghandereah | Completed |
| Request NDO for deployment of MAG Minecat flail to DA 009. | Completed |
| Give Brief to Engr Regt Technical Survey Course | Completed |
| LAF Sampling/Survey Team continue with technical survey tasks | Ongoing |
| Conduct OGL UNMO'S Ops briefs | Ongoing |
| Assist with Accreditation of UNIFIL Ukrainian Engineer demining MDD/Teams | Ongoing |
| Administration and Logistics: | |
| Issue NSC contracts | Completed |
| Complete and close year end accounts | Completed |
| Repair/renovate MACC SL compound fence | Completed |
| Repaint major buildings within MACC SL compound | Completed |
| Public Information: | |
| Translate MACC SL Newsletter No. 6 from English to Arabic | Completed |
| Distribute the Arabic copy of MACC SL Newsletter No. 6 | Completed |
| Distribute MACC SL Quarterly Report | Completed |
| Update the Contacts Database | Completed |
| Information Technology: | |
| Coordination with the NDO over the entry of the MRE activities performed from 2001 – 2003 in Southern Lebanon into IMSMA. | Completed |
| Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the area 6 targets and the rationalization of the target list. | Ongoing |
| Perform database synchronization with the NDO. | Completed |
| Assist with preparation of Area 6 reports and maps. | Completed |

OBJECTIVES FOR March 2005

25. The following are the objectives for March 2005:

| General: | Activities Undertaken: |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Work with NDO to secure funding/donor to support mine/UXO clearance in the proposed Area | |

| | |
|---|--|
| 6. | |
| Attend/participate in ISG (subject to new dates) | |
| Continue joint meetings with embassies in Beirut | |
| Conduct briefings and field visit for visiting delegation from Sudan. | |
| Operations: | |
| Continue monitoring clearance operations in UNIFIL AO | |
| Continue Level 1 Surveys in Area 6 | |
| Complete confirmation of DA 009/Ghandereah with MAG Flail | |
| Conduct mine incident investigation of MF 256 OES 3 | |
| LAF Sampling/Survey Team continue with technical survey tasks | |
| Conduct OGL UNMO'S Ops briefs | |
| Assist with Accreditation of UNIFIL Ukrainian Engineer demining MDD/Teams | |
| Complete CLDA 1050/Der Serian | |
| Conduct training of selected officers from Engr Regt | |
| Administration and Logistics: | |
| Finalising budget for 2005 | |
| Quarterly stock take of all accountable equipment | |
| Finalise requisition for 2 x colour printers from UNIFIL budget | |
| Update security plan and related procedures | |
| Public Information: | |
| Translation of Landmine and UXO Safety Leaflets from English to Arabic and editing it on Quark Express. | |
| Translation of Landmine and UXO Safety Leaflets from English to French and editing it on Quark Express. | |
| Information Technology: | |
| Entry of information on clearances performed by the LAF engineering regiment in Area 6. | |
| Entry of UXO disposal reports performed by the LAF engineering regiment into IMSMA. | |
| Perform IMSMA training for the LAF engineering regiment. | |
| Coordination with the NDO over the entry of the MRE activities performed from 2001 – 2003 in Southern Lebanon into IMSMA. | |
| Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the area 6 targets and the rationalization of the target list. | |
| Perform database synchronization with the NDO. | |

Constraints

26. At present the following constraints are limiting the scale and effectiveness of the operation:
- a. Winter weather, rain/snow and high winds continue to hinder all operations through to the spring of 2005.
 - b. Various security and movement restrictions, following the Harriri assassination and subsequent political events continue to interdict operations.

Support Required From UNOPS/UNMAS

27. The following support is requested from UNOPS/UNMAS for March 2005:
- a. UNMAS to ensure that this Monthly Report is posted on E-mine and distributed at HQ as appropriate.
 - b. UNMAS are requested to continue to seek funds to support a small demining capability to work in south Lebanon.

Support Required from the Office of the PRSG

28. The following continued support is requested, for the UN Component of MACC SL, from the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary General in South Lebanon during March 2005:
- a. Continued overall political guidance regarding the mine action programme and future intentions.

C J Clark
UN Programme Manager
South Lebanon

Distribution:

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