

## MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE – SOUTH LEBANON



مركز التنسيق لنزع الألغام - جنوب لبنان

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### **REPORT OF THE MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE, SOUTH LEBANON for the MONTHS OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2006**

#### **GENERAL**

1. During the months of January and February clearance operations continued but slowly due to bad weather. Several AP and AT were destroyed mainly in the village of Marun Ar Ras adjacent to the Blue Line.
2. MACC SL completed and distributed in both English and Arabic versions the Annual Report 2005. In future, all such key reports will now be produced in Arabic.
3. The Finance & Administration Officer, Mr. Johan Smith left the MACC SL on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January and his replacement Mr. Pehr Lodhammar arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. MACC SL recognizes the hard work of Mr. Smith and wishes him the best in his new position with UNOPS in New York.

#### **National Demining Office**

4. The NDO Director Brigadier General Raad has left the NDO, and his new replacement is Col Mohamad Fehmi.
5. The GICHD conducted training about Explosive Ordnance Disposal Information System (EOD IS) from 14 February till 23. MACC SL Information Officer along with the Ops Officer attended the training held at the NDO in Beirut.

#### **UNIFIL, Demining Co-ordination Cell, OGL**

6. The rotation of DCC has taken place with the new officers taking up their posts pending the withdrawal of all Ukrainian personnel from the UNIFIL Mission. The planned date for the repatriation of DCC and UKRBATT personnel/equipment from Lebanon will commence 10 Mar with the final group departing by 28 Mar.
7. The Chinese have offered to replace UKRBATT in its entirety, however at this time the replacement demining component has yet to be decided. The UNMACC Chief of Operations will participate in the Pre-Deployment Visit (PDV) to China (26 Feb – 4 Mar) in order to conduct a full evaluation of the proposed Chinese demining equipment, procedures and general conformity in regard to compliance with IMAS. Upon completion of the PDV, a comprehensive report will be produced with details

*PO Box 300, Avenue du Senegal, Tyre, Lebanon  
Tel: +961 7 349276 / 349456. Fax: +961 7 349459*

of this demining assessment. Based on this report DPKO will decide if the Chinese will replace the UKRBATT demining component or other options pursued.

8. In the interim, the UKRBATT demining teams continue clearance in support of UNIFIL and OGL operations. The UNMACC will ensure all minefield documentation is complete prior to their repatriation.
9. The UNMACC has been in discussions with OGL in order to provide readily available accurate up to date mine information to the various OGL Patrol Bases. This will be in the form of maps and providing each Patrol Base with a read only access to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. The UNMACC will provide training to ensure the OGL officers are familiar with the use of IMSMA and will also regularly update the databases at each team site.

### **VISITS/TRAINING**

10. The Chief of Ops attended the pilot Mine Action Technical Advisors Course in the UK at the Defence Academy (Cranfield University) from 8<sup>th</sup> till 21<sup>st</sup> of January.
11. Two Swedish interns arrived to MACC SL for training in the end of February. Both will spend four days with each section for introduction briefs and training. After that, one of the interns will spend 3 months with the Public Information Section, and the second with the Finance & Admin Officer for the same period.
12. The Chief of Ops gave a Landmine Safety Brief to all current UNIFIL Liaison Branch Officers on 21 Feb. Arrangements have now been made for all new Liaison Branch Officers to be included with the monthly Landmine Safety Brief given by the UNMACC to new OGL officers upon arrival in the mission.
13. A group from NPA involved in potential clearance of Israeli minefields along the Jordan/Israel border visited MACC SL and were briefed on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of January about MACC SL reconnaissance of Israeli minefields, tasking and clearance methods.
14. The LMRC and Mines Action Canada prepared a joint workshop about “Working with You in Mine Action” from 16<sup>th</sup> of January till the 20<sup>th</sup>; MACC SL Programme Manager along with Programme Information Officer attended the workshop, as well as the participation of one of MACC SL CLOs during the field visit to Jezzine area.
15. As the rotation of DCC officers is taking place, UN PM gave a brief for the new DCC Officer, Col. Zubarevsky on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. He was briefed on MACC SL and the Mine/UXO situation in South Lebanon.
16. The briefs for OGL continued during this period; MACC SL Planning Officer gave a brief on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January and Chief of Ops on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February regarding Landmine Safety and Mine/UXO situation in South Lebanon.
17. Mr. Phil Bean, head of IMAS in GICHD, visited MACC SL on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. During his visit, he was briefed about the QA Process, the Management of OES and TSGs adopted by MACC SL.
18. Miss Amanda Burns, from MAG HQ, visited the MACC SL on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, she attended the coordination meeting, and met with UN PM where she was briefed about MACC SL work. She also conveyed thanks from MAG HQ regarding the

\$6000 raised during DMA and presented to MAG Lebanon. The money will be allocated to support spare parts for the MAG MineCat flail.

19. Stewart Henley visited the LAF Survey Team in Marun Ar Ras 26 January to evaluate the teams metal detector (CEIA) drills and assessed they were all competent.

## **PROPOSED AREA 6**

20. The overall area is now broken down into six separate, sub-sectors, that may be operationalised individually or all at once. The new Lebanese government has now begun formal representation to various GCC countries to secure the necessary funding assistance to complete clearance of this remaining mine/UXO contaminated area in South Lebanon.
21. The concept note prepared by MACC SL and UNDP Socio-economic Rehabilitation Programme for South Lebanon for a proposed demining and socio-economic rehabilitation project in South Lebanon supported by the Japanese supported, United Nations Human Security Trust Fund (UNHSTF) has been approved and UN HQ are now working on submission of the full Proposal document. It is hoped to be able to implement this much-needed project in the coming months.

## **OPERATIONAL CAPACITY**

### **Mines Advisory Group (MAG)**

22. The MAG Technical Operations Manager, Mr Nick Guest left Lebanon on 20 Jan as he was posted to the MAG programme in Sudan. During his time of over one year in Lebanon Mr Guest enhanced the very good working relationship between MAG and the MACC SL. The staff of MACC SL wish Mr Guest all the very best in Sudan. His replacement Mr Andy Gleeson is expected in country mid Apr 06.
23. A new Technical Field Manager (TFM) for MAG, Mr Magnus Rondstrum has arrived. He worked for MAG previously in Lebanon in 2003 and has returned to provide training and supervision for the additional manual clearance team MAG is establishing. The preparations for this are in the final stages with the new team expected to be operational by Jun 06.
24. MAG clearance teams continue operations in Area 6 with the manual teams working near the village of Sejoud, Kfar Roummame and Kfar Tebnit. The clearance teams progress in Sejoud has been hindered due to wet weather and snow. Almost all minefields in this task dossier have now been completed. There remains one minefield to locate and four booby traps to clear. New information has been acquired which has resulted in a number of visible AT mines located along the side of a former route used by the IF tanks. The Plans Dept has written a clearance plan for this site and has issued this to MAG.
25. The Minecat flail has experienced major problems with various components and has been out of commission for the best part of this reporting period. New

parts have been ordered from Norway and it is expected the machine will be back in operation within the coming week.

### **LAF Survey/Sampling Team**

26. The LAF Survey Team continues clearance in the village of Marun Ar Ras adjacent to the Blue Line, and have continued to find and destroy a mix of AT and AP mines. The pattern emerging from this minefield is of a conventional pattern with an AT mine (TMA-3 or M7A2) with up to five M1e 51 AP mines in a semi circle around the AT mine. This minefield was laid in the 1970's and therefore the pattern has been some what disrupted in the 30+ years.

### **Quality Assurance**

27. The new MAG TFM successfully passed a joint MACC SL UN/LAF accreditation on 22 Feb. A letter will be forwarded to the NDO recommending a one-month provisional accreditation. Upon four successful QA evaluations a full operational accreditation for twelve months will be issued.
28. The MACC SL QA Officers continue with weekly QA evaluations of all clearance sites within the Area of Operations. This currently consists of the LAF Survey Team, the MAG manual clearance teams and MineCat flail as well as the UKRBATT manual clearance teams.

### **Mine/UXO Clearance Statistics**

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

<b>Clearance Operations Progress In South Lebanon</b>	<b>This Month</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>
Cleared Area/Land - m <sup>2</sup> (see note 1)	<b>14,304</b>	14,304	5,071,757
Hazardous Area, which, as a result of actions other than clearance, is reconsidered not to represent a Risk from mines/UXO – m <sup>2</sup>	<b>0</b>	0	2,064,000
Total Area released to the community (see note 2)	<b>14,304</b>	14,304	<b>7,135,757</b>
Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed	<b>69</b>	69	56,909
Anti-Tank Mines Destroyed	<b>16</b>	16	1,724
Unexploded Ordnance Destroyed	<b>28</b>	28	4,538

*Note 1: This is area/land all of which has been physically and systematically processed by a demining organisation to ensure the destruction/removal of all mine/UXO hazards.*

*Note 2: This figure represents the total land released back to the community through either clearance or “actions other than clearance/ cancellation” process.*

### **Public Information**

30. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2006, MACC SL presented a brief for students in the American University of Beirut. The briefing was prepared upon request from AUB staff/student after they attended the DMA initiative event and they were curious to know more about the situation of Landmine problem in South Lebanon.
31. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2006, the Media & Post Clearance Officer attended the Post Marathon ceremony in which the “Beirut International Marathon organization” presented the achievement of the “BIM” 2005 and thanked all the different parties, which participated and helped to make this success possible.
32. MACC SL received two certificates of appreciation from the “Beirut International Marathon organization” and certificates for the volunteers who worked on the refreshment stand on the Marathon day. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, MACC SL prepared a celebration and invited “Mines Advisory Group” staff where the PM of the MACC SL delivered for the volunteers their certificates.
33. The PM of MAG delivered by his turn to the “DMA initiative” team a letter of gratitude for the fund they provided to MAG which was raised by the launching event of the movement.
34. As part of the Media campaign for awareness about the landmines situation in Lebanon, a journalist of Al-Balad newspaper gathered information from the Public Information section at the MACC SL and posted an article about the Mine problem in the South and the work of the MACC SL. Another journalist from “The Voice of Lebanon” radio station conducted an interview with the PM of the MACC SL about the same subject and it was broadcasted on the radio.
35. Based on the locals need to use their lands in South Lebanon, representatives of the local communities in Al Nabatiyah, Hasbayya, Jezzine and West Bekaa areas signed a petition asking for Landmine clearance from their villages.

### **OBJECTIVES FOR THE MONTH UNDER REPORT**

36. The objectives for the months of January & February 2006 and the activities undertaken in respect of these objectives were as follows:

<b>General:</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken:</b>
Work with NDO to secure funding/donor to support mine/UXO clearance in the proposed Area 6	Ongoing
Work with UNMAS to access UNHSTF funding for Lebanon	Concept Note has been approved, preparation of Proposal document commenced
Complete draft of Qtly and Annual Reports	Completed
Complete input for UNMAS Annual Report	Completed
Conduct telephone interviews (UNOPS) for new Admin/Finance Offr	Completed
Conduct brief for AUB	Completed

Assist NDO with MAX visit from Jordan	Ongoing
Conduct DPKO PDV to China	Ongoing
Receive and brief group from NPA involved in potential clearance of Israeli mfd along the Jordan/Israel border	Completed
<b>Operations:</b>	
Monitor clearance operations in UNIFIL AO	Ongoing
Write Clearance/Survey Plans for targets in Area 6	Ongoing
Monitor current operations within MACC SL AO	Ongoing
QA Monitoring of LAF Sampling/Survey Team, MAG Manual/Mechanical Teams, UKRBAT Manual Teams	Ongoing
LAF Sampling/Survey Team continue working in large mfd at Marun al Ras, adjacent to the Blue Line	Ongoing
Conduct OGL UNMO Landmine Safety Briefs	Ongoing
Conduct detailed planning for clearance of selected areas along the Blue Line	Completed
<b>Administration and Logistics</b>	
Complete full hand-over of functions to new Finance/Admin Officer	Completed
Issue NSC contracts	Completed
Set up all FASS modules for 2006	Completed
Complete stationery, printing and plotting material list for procurement through UNIFIL budget	Completed and ordered through UNIFIL
Procurement of demining equipment through UNIFIL	Completed and ordered through UNIFIL
<b>Public Information:</b>	
Re-organise and update all the Public Information section folders and data base	Completed
Update the MACC SL website with short stories related to Mine Action environment	Completed
Update the Business Card for MACC SL Staff	Completed
Start preparing the draft for the MACC SL Newsletter	Ongoing
Prepare petition form for local communities to sign regarding clearance needs in South Lebanon	Completed
Prepare Draft of New MACC SL Logo	Ongoing
<b>Information Technology:</b>	
Coordinate with NCRS over up-to-date geo data	Ongoing
Coordinate with Ops over extending the IMSMA data entry responsibilities of the Ops staff members along with the technical training and support required	Completed
Update the Information Section SWP in order to cope with the extended data entry capabilities and responsibilities of the Ops staff	Ongoing
Coordinate with DCC over minefield and clearance information along the border	Ongoing
Updating the UNIFIL military locations/helipads	Completed
Perform database synchronization with the NDO	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

## OBJECTIVES FOR MARCH 2006

37. The following are the objectives for March 2006:

<b>General:</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken:</b>
Work with NDO to secure funding/donor to support mine/UXO clearance in the proposed Area 6	
Work with UNMAS to access UNHSTF funding for Lebanon	
UN PM attends NPA Operational Meeting in Croatia in end of February/ beginning of March	
UN PM visits Rome to partake in designing new UN Mine Action Strategy in end of March	
Assist NDO with MAX visit from Jordan	
<b>Operations:</b>	
Monitor clearance operations in UNIFIL AO	
Write Clearance/Survey Plans for targets in Area 6	
Monitor current operations within MACC SL AO	
QA Monitoring of LAF Sampling/Survey Team, MAG Manual/Mechanical Teams, UKRBAT Manual Teams	
Conduct OGL/Liaison Branch Landmine Safety Briefs	
Provide OGL with Maps and IMSMA training	
Conduct PDV evaluation of Chinese Demining Component	
Write PDV Report	
Conduct induction briefs and visits for UNMACC Interns	
Conduct annual re-accreditation of LAF Svy Team	
Planning Officer assists with implementation of IMSMA Version 4, in New York	
<b>Administration and Logistics:</b>	
Receive and inspect requested demining equipment from UNIFIL	
Review and update support SOP's	
Prepare and submit budget requirements for UNIFIL budget period 2006 - 2007	
Receive requested stationary from UNIFIL	
Conduct induction briefs and visits for UN MACC interns	
Training of the admin and finance intern	
Assist with SRSA Course in Sweden	
Budget for unspent funds to be re-phased by UNOPS to 2006	
<b>Public Information:</b>	
Plan and organize a gala dinner to be held in April to fundraise money for mine clearance and raise awareness& exposure (2 <sup>nd</sup> DMA event)	
Start planning for the Tyr Marathon	
Present a briefing for 600 students gathered in Lebanese American University through the UN US Association training programme	

Prepare the draft for the MACC SL Newsletter	
Prepare Draft of New MACC SL Logo	
Conduct introduction briefs and training for UN MACC Interns	
Training of Public Information Intern	
<b>Information Technology:</b>	
Exploring new digital techniques for automated minefield field data capturing and processing	
Installing IMSMA and GIS software and data along with performing training for the various OGL (Observers Group Lebanon) teams operating along the Lebanese – Israeli border in order to enhance their knowledge of the location and status of un-cleared minefields/dangerous areas and clearance operations	
Data entry of completions in OES1-5 as per the lane clearances and assets used as part of the IMSMA database customisation and enhancement	
Data entry of new LAF targets in Area 6	
Update the Information Section SWP in order to cope with the extended data entry capabilities and responsibilities of the Ops staff	
Coordinate with NCRS over up-to-date geo data.	
Coordinate with DCC over minefield and clearance information along the border	
Updating the UNIFIL military locations/helipads	
Perform database synchronization with the NDO	
Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the Area 6 targets and the rationalization of the target list	

### **Constraints**

38. At present the following constraints are limiting the scale and effectiveness of the operation:
- a. There are no current operational constraints, although the overall political and security situation in Lebanon remains volatile.

### **Support Required From UNOPS/UNMAS**

39. The following support is requested from UNOPS/UNMAS for March 2006:
- 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 demining capability to work in south Lebanon:



- (1) UNMAS to continue working with UN OCHA regarding the necessary actions/follow up required for the UN Human Security Trust Fund now that the Concept Note has been agreed/approved.
- (2) UNMAS to advocate for continued support for the mine clearance programme in South Lebanon.
- c. UNMAS to follow up the current situation/status of the Recommendations of the DPKO Assessment Visit Report regarding possible options for the replacement of Ukrainian demining elements within UNIFIL.
- d. UNOPS to provide copies of BRIO reports for the year of 2006 through February month.

**Support Required from the Office of the PRSG**

- 40. 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 Lebanon during March 2006:
  - a. Continued overall political guidance regarding the mine action programme and future intentions. *(Note that the mandate of the PRSG now covers all of Lebanon)*

C J Clark  
UN Programme Manager  
South Lebanon

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