

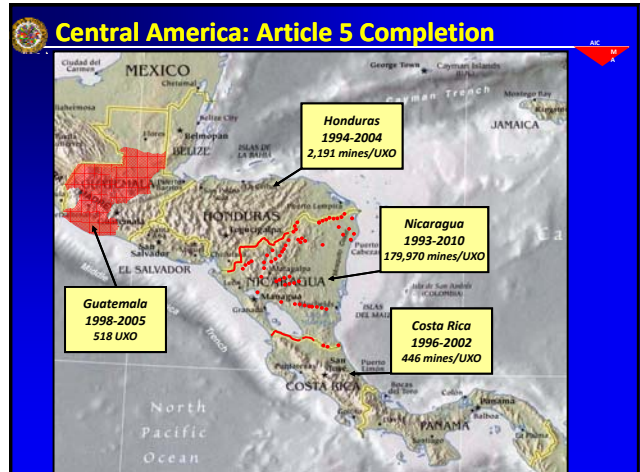
AICM A Organization of American States
Comprehensive Action Against Antipersonnel Mines

Perspectives on Post-Article 5 Completion Issues: Experiences in Central America

Meetings of the Standing Committees
Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies
Geneva, 22 June 2011

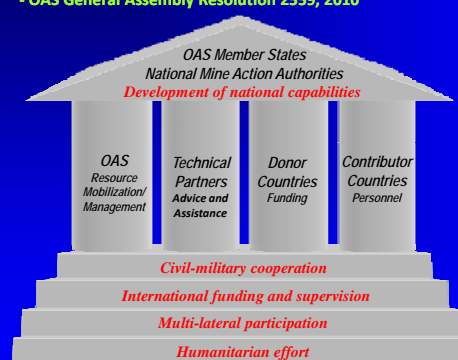

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OAS Mine Action: A regional approach

"Convert the Americas into the world's first antipersonnel-landmine-free zone."
- OAS General Assembly Resolution 2559, 2010



Since 1991, the OAS has assisted ten of its member states with financial, technical, logistical and administrative support, leading the fight against landmines in the Americas.

Three Cases

- ▼ **Honduras**
 - ◆ Limited conflict zone along border with Nicaragua where Nicaraguan government and insurgent forces used landmines
- ▼ **Guatemala**
 - ◆ Extended conflict in broad area of country without significant use of landmines
- ▼ **Nicaragua**
 - ◆ Wide area of conflict over nearly a decade with extensive use of landmines by government security forces to limit movement and infrastructure sabotage by insurgent forces

Post-Completion Issues



Residual threats



Capacity conversion / demobilization

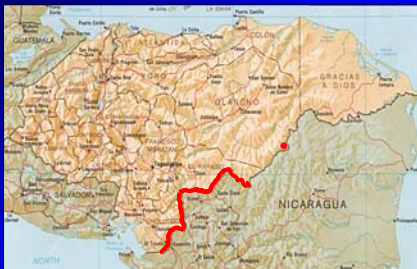


Mine action authority / management structure

Residual Threats

- ▼ Explosive remnants of war (ERW) – Honduras, Nicaragua
 - ◆ Previously unrecorded mined areas
 - ◆ Peripheral mines
 - ◆ UXO in heavy conflict zones
- ▼ Abandoned ammunition - Nicaragua
- ▼ Ammunition stockpiles – Nicaragua, Guatemala

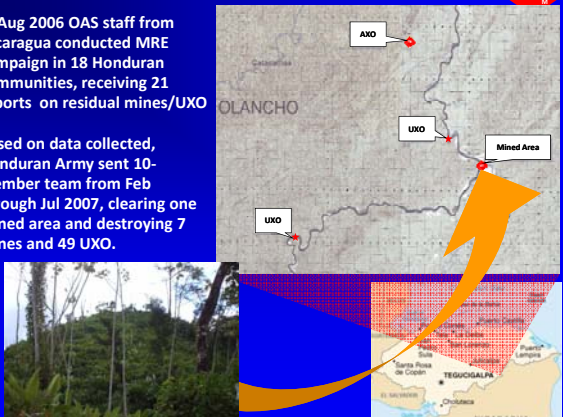
Honduras: Mine Clearance Program



- ▼ Clearance operations began 1994
- ▼ Honduran military provided clearance structure of 100 deminers
- ▼ Total of 2,191 mines/UXO cleared along Nicaraguan border
- ▼ Article 5 completion in October 2004

Residual Operations: ERW in Honduras

- ▼ In Aug 2006 OAS staff from Nicaragua conducted MRE campaign in 18 Honduran communities, receiving 21 reports on residual mines/UXO
- ▼ Based on data collected, Honduran Army sent 10-member team from Feb through Jul 2007, clearing one mined area and destroying 7 mines and 49 UXO.



Nicaragua: Mine Clearance Program

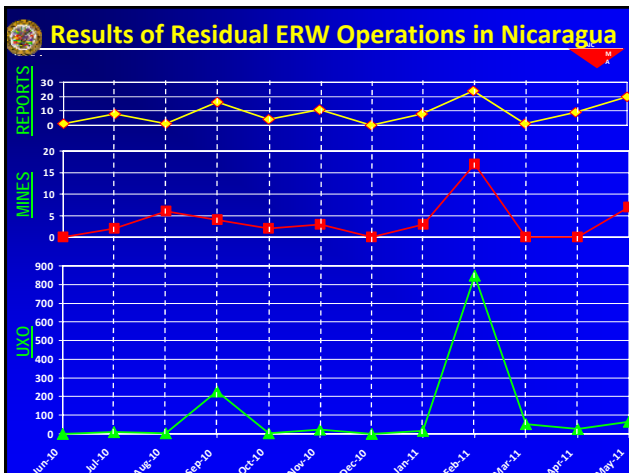


- Clearance program began in 1993
- Nicaraguan military provided clearance structure with peak strength of 650 deminers
- Total of 179,970 mines/UXO cleared throughout country
- Article 5 completion in May 2010

Residual Operations: ERW in Nicaragua



- Continue MRE/community liaison effort for six to eighteen months post-plan
- Sustain telephone "hotline"
- Retain approximately 25% of peak clearance capacity (180 deminers) for response to reporting during first six months
- Retain approximately 5 - 10% of peak capacity (30-50 deminers) for response from six to eighteen months post-plan



Residual Operations: AXO in Nicaragua



- Former military operating bases and insurgent demobilization sites with surface/buried ammunition contamination
- 35 army deminers retrained in battle area clearance using deep search
- Hitachi mine clearing machine for vegetation clearance and excavation
- Operations / Results
 - May 2010 - Feb 2011
 - 52 hectares released
 - Ammunition destroyed:
 - ≤ 12.7 mm: 391,840 units
 - > 12.7 mm: 4,077 units

Residual Operations: Stockpiles in Nicaragua

- Large stockpiles of munitions remaining from conflict of 1980s
- 35-member destruction team formed from military personnel from reduced demining units
- Technical advice and QA by OAS and Golden West Humanitarian Foundation
- Operations Feb 2007 – Sep 2008
- Results

	Units	Tons
Total:	258,086	950



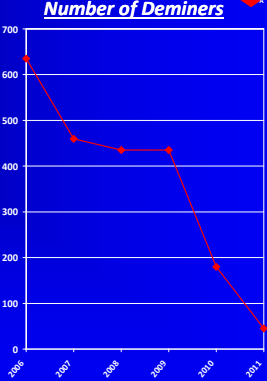
Residual Operations: Stockpiles in Guatemala

- 18 military munitions storage sites, many in urban areas
- Deteriorating white phosphorus munitions in emergency storage
- 35-member destruction team formed from military personnel
- Technical advice and QA by OAS and Golden West
- Operations Feb 2010 – present
- Results: Over 4 million units / 400 tons destroyed to date




Capacity Demobilization / Conversion: Nicaragua

- Reduction by 200 deminers between 2006 and 2008
 - Financial reality more than reduced requirements
- Retraining fund offered by Denmark – US\$ 500k
- Severance benefits in accordance with national labor laws were programmed with donor support
 - One month salary for each year of service up to 5 years
- Retention of limited numbers of deminers after 2010



Year	Number of Deminers
2006	650
2007	450
2008	430
2009	430
2010	180
2011	50

Management Structure Transition

Nicaragua: National Demining Commission (chaired by MoD) inactive since May 2010 completion; Army Corps of Engineers assumed coordination / control of residual operations

Guatemala: National Commission for Peace and Demining (chaired by member of National Congress); after completion operational responsibility for residual operations passed directly to Ministry of National Defense

Honduras: National demining plan was responsibility of Armed Forces Command in coordination with Foreign Ministry before and after completion

OAS: Coordination office provided technical assistance and cooperation to national authorities until demining completed; since 2005, OAS regional coordination office based in Managua supports residual ERW, AXO, and ammunition and SALW stockpile management and destruction activities throughout Central America, as requested by national authorities



Lessons Learned

- ▼ MRE/community liaison capacity is important after demining program completion to reinforce prevention message and focus efforts to deal with residual contamination.
- ▼ Although focus is necessarily on mine clearance in working to meet Article 5 requirements, overall planning should also consider broader context of residual operations, if possible, before completion.
- ▼ A plan for residual capacity to handle ERW, AXO and stockpile destruction may be needed, according to national situation and context of contamination.
- ▼ Demining capacity can be reoriented with minimal training to handle residual contamination issues, including ERW, AXO, stockpile destruction.