

Meeting of the standing committees
Statement of the Czech Republic on mines retained for permitted purposes
on 21 May 2012

As it is known the Czech Republic retains a certain number of antipersonnel mines for permitted purposes. Currently it is 2443 (PP-Mi-Shr - 1179, PP-Mi -□Shr II - 1246) antipersonnel mines which is 54 less since the Second Review Conference. This number represents about a half of the 2001 numbers.

Remaining antipersonnel mines are being used generally for special courses to train and/or educate EOD personnel in mine detection, mine clearance and destruction techniques. Additional courses are provided for EOD teams within the framework of preparation to NATO standards for ISAF operations in Afghanistan. Every EOD team member has to have detailed knowledge about construction and composition of antipersonnel mines, techniques of their detection, identification, secure clearance and destruction. About 30 Czech army personnel are trained to national and NATO standards every year.

Mine detection, mine clearance and destruction techniques are being developed in cases, when the new demining equipment, like new mine detectors or clearance systems, are procured and tested.

Currently there are two development projects focused on IED detection in progress within the Army of the Czech Republic. The first one titled FALX deals with so called harmonic radar for IED detection along the roadsides. The second one (SANDA) is IED detection research in radio locator and optoelectronic area.

The Czech Republic intends to keep the up to date standard of preparation of its personnel in this area also for the future and that is why it will continue to train its own personnel in mine detection, mine clearance and destruction techniques. Though we will not acquire any more antipersonnel mines for permitted purposes, we intend to make the best use of remaining number of antipersonnel mines retained in this respect.