

DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

- Check against delivery -

**Meetings of the Standing Committees established by the State Parties to
the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

STATEMENT

**of Colonel Tomislav Rizeski, Head of Arms Control Centre
Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia
- *Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines* -**

Geneva, Swiss Confederation, May 21-25 2012

Mr. President, *Mr or Ms Co-Chair*
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express my pleasure for having the opportunity to participate in the Meetings of the Standing Committees established by the State Parties to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel and their destruction.

I am happy to provide you with the information on the recent activities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention.

As we already informed during the 11th SPM held in Cambodia last year, Macedonian army specialists in an effort to determine what munitions would need to be destroyed in accordance with obligations under the Convention on Cluster munitions discovered 8 (eight) containers containing of PFM-1S type anti-personnel mines.

Being aware of our obligations under the Convention and our commitments deriving from the Cartagena Action Plan we communicated the Implementation Support Unit asking for technical support in the process of destruction of the discovered stockpiles. In the period after, the Macedonian MoD had a series of meetings with representatives of the GICHD. GICHD offered a technical assistance in the process of destruction, resulting in a field visit to the storage facility by a GICHD's technical expert, which determined the most appropriate methodology for destruction of the PFM-1S. 15

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that on May 10th, the Macedonian army specialists, in cooperation with GICHD technical experts, destroyed the previously unknown stockpile of more than 1,200 PFM-1S anti-personnel mines, further demonstrating our commitment to the Convention and to the Cartagena Action Plan.

At the end, allow me to once again express my pleasure for having completed an extraordinary important task and to extend my gratitude to ISU of the AP Mine Ban Convention and the technical expertise of GICHD in providing support to this process and aided us in ensuring that would be done in the safest and most effective possible manner. Having in mind Action 12 of the Cartagena Action Plan and its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, the Republic of Macedonia has already submitted its report on this matter.

Thank you very much for your attention.

A large explosion is captured in a wide-angle shot. A massive, dark, billowing plume of smoke and debris rises from a valley floor, dominating the center of the frame. To the left, a smaller, lighter-colored cloud of dust or smoke spreads out. The background consists of rolling hills with sparse green vegetation under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a grassy field with small shrubs.

The Republic of Macedonia Meetings of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction

Geneva, 21 May 2012

Col. Tomislav Rizevski

PFM-1S



PFM-1S



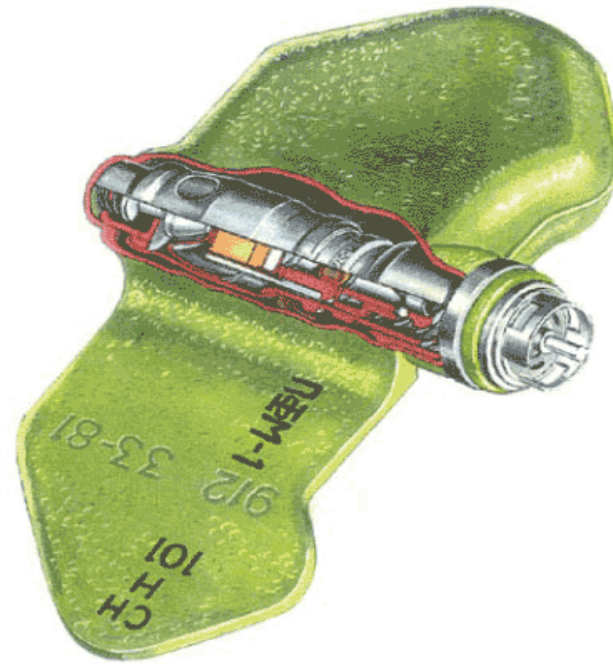
PFM-1S



Container of PFM-1S
anti-personnel mine



PFM-1S
anti-personnel mine



- Main charge: 40 grams liquid explosive
- Impact armed antipersonnel mines designed only to maim a human foot when stepped upon
- Packed into cartridges for wide dispersal over large areas
- The liquid explosive main charge deteriorates over time creating a disposal issue
- The disposal issue has been a heated topic in many countries who have been left with these items

PFM-1 (Russian: *ПФМ-1*, short for *противопехотная фугасная мина* - anti-infantry high-explosive mine; NATO name: **Green parrot**, also known as **butterfly mine**) is a **land mine** of **Soviet** production, very similar to **BLU-43 US Army** landmine. Both devices are very similar in shape and principles, although they use different explosive.

Thank you

