

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION  
OF THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

GENEVA, 27 MAY 2013

STATEMENT OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION  
ON ARTICLE 3: UPDATE ON PLANS FOR AND USE OF MINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AND  
TRAINING IN MINE DETECTION, MINE CLEARANCE, OR MINE DESTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

Despite the great achievements in implementing the Convention and the Cartagena Action Plan, mined areas as well as unexploded ordnance (UXO) and improvised explosive devices (IED) unfortunately continue to constitute an unacceptable threat to local civilian populations, as well as to soldiers deployed on military operations. Therefore, it is our duty with regard to the life and safety of our soldiers as well as to innocent bystanders, to give our men and women the best protection possible.

Germany retains a limited number of anti-personnel mines and their fuses for permitted purposes in a so-called "APM pool", namely for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques. The necessary quantities, types and estimated future requirements are reviewed on an annual basis.

Please let me further elaborate on the details along the voluntary questions presented to us in the framework of the Cartagena Action Plan in the spirit of an enhanced transparency.

Since 1999, the number of retained APMs has been substantially reduced by almost 900 in total. The numbers used each year varied in the past, ranging from a minimum of 4 APMs in 2005 to a maximum of 270 APMs in 2000. The average number used for training, testing and research purposes is approximately 64 APMs. Since the Second Review Conference in 2009, the number of retained APMs has been reduced by 150 in total. All 150 APMs have been used in Germany for non-operational purposes permitted by the Convention. 64 APM have been disassembled for using as inert training mines, 67 have been used for different development programs in mine protection and clearance and 19 surplus retained APM were destroyed.

The mentioned 67 APM have been used for series of tests in following most recent projects:

- *Vehicle Mounted Mine Detection System* by Rheinmetall Waffe und Munition GmbH
- *Vehicle Mine Protection Programme* by Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre for Weapons and Ammunition (WTD91)
- *Mines Clearance Testing Programme* by Rheinmetall Waffe und Munition GmbH
- *Mine protection Programme* by Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre for Weapons and Ammunition (WTD91) and German-French Research Institute ISL

The *Federal Armed Forces School of Dog Handling Training Centre* uses permanently 40 unfuzed APM for dog training. These APM are included in the number of retained APM in Germany. Since those mines are not consumed during training, their numbers remain unchanged.

The *School of Dog Handling* has the capacity to train approx. 40 dog handlers for ERW and mine detection dogs per year. Additionally it has the capacity for continuing education of more than 70 dog handlers for ERW detection dogs and more than 30 dog handlers for mine detection dogs.

The need for the development of mine detection and destruction techniques, as well as for training in these techniques, will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. Whenever possible, the German Armed Forces and other Institutions authorized by State use mine dummies or surrogate mines, permitted alternative ammunition or technical descriptions as an alternative to live anti-personnel mines for training purposes. Also, most mines are used without fuses or are even equipped with blocking mechanisms that prevent the reinstallation of any fuse. But in Germany's view, there are still a number of very specific training and testing requirements for which there is no alternative to the utilization of unfuzed or even live anti-personnel mines. The necessary quantities, types and estimated future requirements of retained APM are reviewed on an annual basis.

Germany is pleased to inform you, that the latest review of these requirements will lead to an early and additional destruction of 1300 APM by the end of 2014.

Thank you.