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OTTAWA CONVENTION ON APM

12 MSP

GENEVA, 3 - 7 DECEMBER 2012

STATEMENT BY GERMANY

ON ARTICLE 3: UPDATE ON MINES RETAINED FOR PERMITTED PURPOSES

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, we have a duty to our soldiers as well as to innocent bystanders, to give them the best protection possible.

Hence for the German Armed Forces, 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 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 unfused or even live anti-personnel mines.

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.

Since 1999, the number of retained APMs has been substantially reduced by 876 in total. Those 876 APMs have been used in Germany for non-operational purposes permitted by the Convention. 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 67 APMs.

As you can see on the depicted slide, Germany has a continuous consumption, reducing the stockpile year by year. Since 2007 the uptake rate has been slightly increased. However these statistics cannot be used to create a credible projection of the time when no APMs will be held in stock.

Technological developments usually do not generate a predictable and steady demand for APMs according to schedule so the consumption will continue to vary according to the need for technical testing.

Additionally, a considerable number of mines are used on a permanent basis for the training of mine detection dogs in accordance with NATO standards. Since those mines are not consumed during training, their numbers remain unchanged.

To be more specific, retained APMs are needed in particular for the following purposes:

- The training of dogs at the Federal Armed Forces School of Dog Handling.
Dogs employed for the detection of explosives and mines can only be successfully trained in realistic settings, using unfused mines with real explosive material.
- The testing and evaluation of mechanical demining equipment for civil and military employment.
For example, the well-known demining vehicles “Minebreaker” and “Minewolf” have been successfully tested in the course of one of these programs.
- The development of safeguards for wheeled vehicles against the effects of mine explosions.
This covers the physical protection of operators and passengers within lightly armoured vehicles against the blast of mine explosions, as well as the resistance of light armour against shrapnel penetration
- The testing and evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against the effect of mine explosions, including protective vests and helmets, thus directly contributing to the personal safety of our soldiers and embedded civilians on deployments as well as anyone else using the tested PPE.
- The testing and evaluation of metal detectors and multi sensor systems.
This is an issue that Germany considers highly beneficial, not only for soldiers but also for humanitarian demining operations. It is in our common interest that we constantly improve sensor equipment for the detection of mines. Current tests are concentrating on the development of vehicle-based mine detectors and counter-measure systems against electronic mine fuses.
- Furthermore: comparative tests between IEDs and APMs
- And finally, the documentation of the ageing process of explosives contained in APMs for the development of specific disposal / clearance methods.

These programmes will have to be continued, based on a regular review of realistic current and future needs which takes into account military needs as well as the requirements of this treaty, thus ensuring that we retain only the minimum quantity of APMs necessary for permitted development and training.

Germany is pleased to inform you, that the latest review of these requirements will lead to an early and additional destruction of approximately 500 APMs by the end of 2013.

The retention of a limited number of APMs of various types therefore remains indispensable to Germany. It goes without saying that a controlled, effective and responsible application of the German APM pool is ensured at all times.



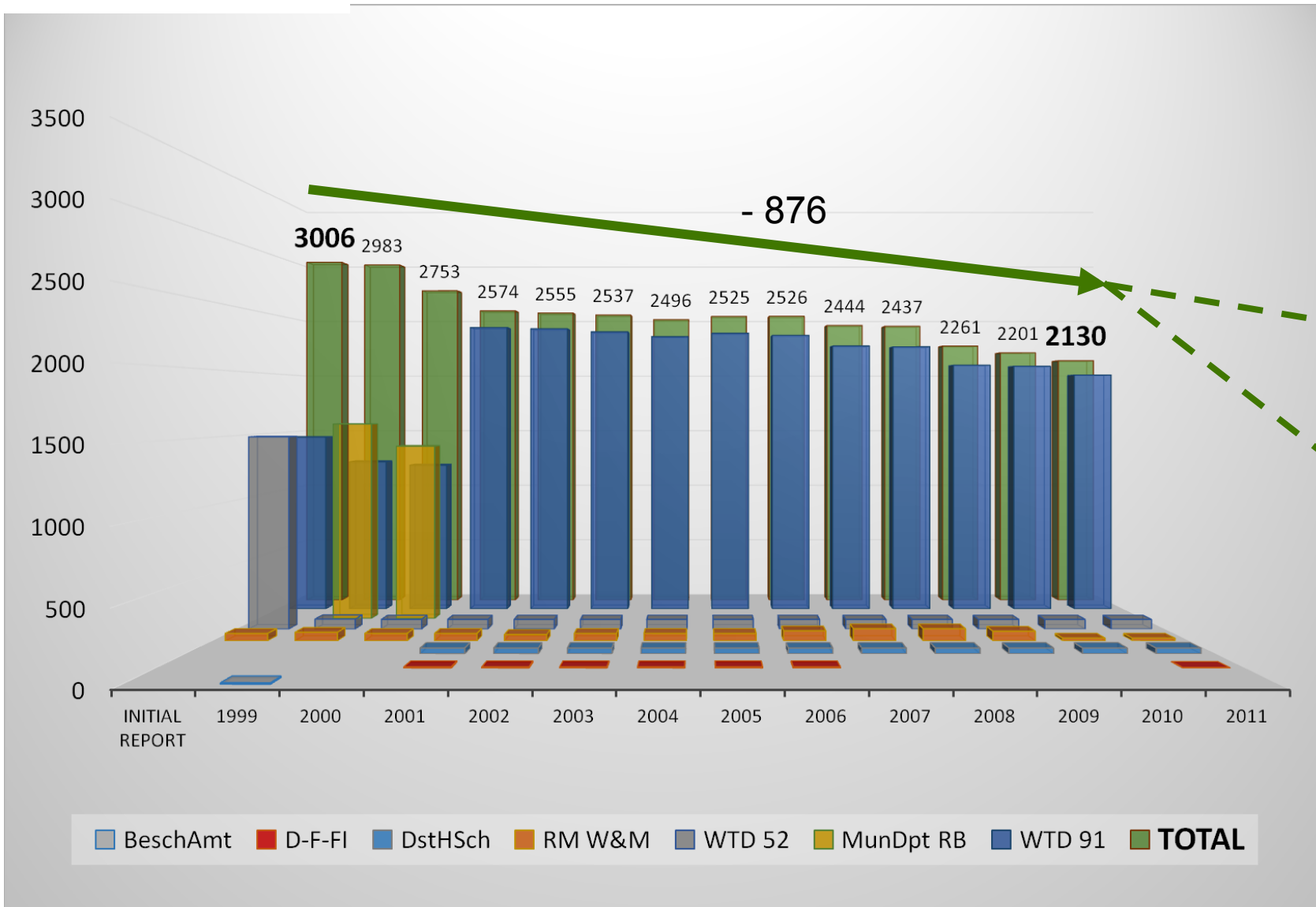
Federal Republic of Germany

**12th Meeting of States Parties to The
Convention on Antipersonnel Mines**
Geneva, 3 - 7 December 2012

Statement by Germany
APM Retention



APM Retention Stockpile Development





Retained APM employment (example)



Dog Training



Test of civil/mil
mechanical
demining equipment



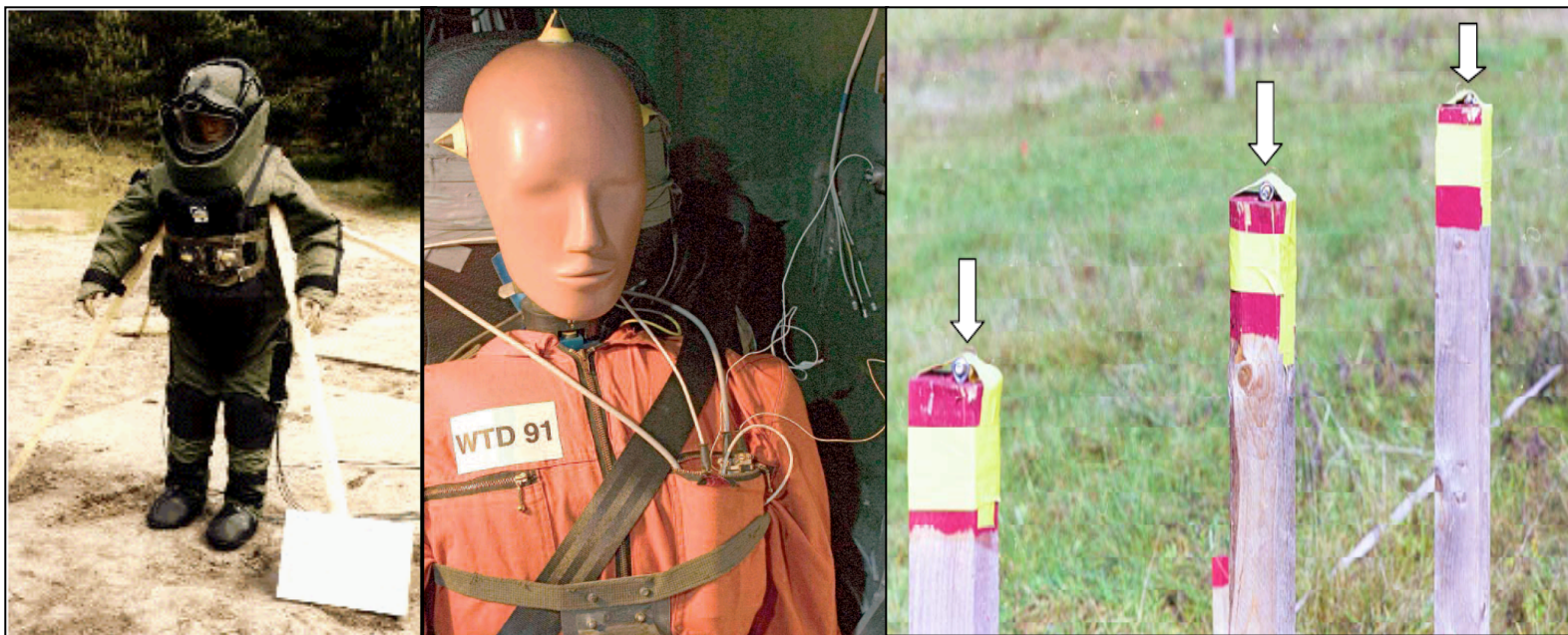
Protection for
lightly armoured
vehicles - research

Mine protection
field testing





Retained APM employment (example)



Personal Protective Equipment



Crew Safety



Metal Detectors & Sensors





APM Retention Stockpile Development Projection

