

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
MINE ACTION CENTRE

9th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

24-28 November 2008  
Geneva, Switzerland  
AP Mine Ban Convention

The Serbian Mine Action Centre was founded in 2002 as a state body for coordination of works related to humanitarian demining and management of projects in the field of such demining in Serbia.

Legal position and jurisdictions of the Centre are determined by the State Law on Ministries.

The Program of Work of the Centre as a state body is adopted by the Government.

SMAC has qualified personnel and is technically equipped for implementation of works from its domain.

Funds necessary for its work are allocated from the State Budget.

Problems connected with demining in Serbia are numerous and are mostly conditioned by the specificity of the mine situation and lack of funds for conducting demining.

Minefields with antipersonnel and antitank mines contaminate the area of about 1.300.000 sqm.

It is suspected that cluster munitions contaminate the area of about 23.000.000 sqm.

It is assumed that 60 air bombs are on 43 locations in the ground at the depth of up to 20 m.

After the fire and explosion at the military depot in the town Paraćin, in the area of about 8.000.000 m<sup>2</sup>, outside of military facilities, various types of unexploded ordnance or their parts are located.

The Serbian Army removed from the civilian areas about 89.000 pieces of various types of UXO which were on the ground surface, thus eliminating direct danger to people and environment. However, the problem has not been solved by this, since a significant number of UXO can still be found in the ground at the depth of about 50 cm.

In 1944, on the Danube River in the Đerdap Gorge, German war vessels with a large quantity of various types of unexploded ordnance, including anti-ship mines, were sunken. In 2006, a General survey was conducted on the Serbian side of the Danube in the vicinity of the town Prahovo and the positions of the contaminated vessels are defined.

Demining in border area with Croatia is particularly important to us, since it, apart from safety, ecological and economic aspects contributes to further strengthening of confidence among people and promotion of relations between Serbia and Croatia.

So far the area of about 5.200.000 m<sup>2</sup> has been cleared in accordance with 32 projects made by the Serbian Mine Action Centre.

Demining has been done by specialized companies and nongovernmental organizations from Serbia and the region. Works contracts have been awarded to them following public tenders. The Serbian Mine Action Centre has monitored implementation of the projects and conducted quality control of demining.

About 5.900 AP and AT mines of various types have been found and destroyed in so far cleared areas in the border area with Croatia.

Agricultural areas from which mines have been removed have been returned to their owners and are used for an intensive production. Also, local roads and drainage canals have been repaired, as well as low voltage electrical power distribution network.

Apart from the above, the police forces are enabled to control the border more efficiently, which contributes to prevention of illegal migrations and other unlawful acts on the border.

Minefields with AP and AT mines emplaced in 1991 in so called mixed minefields are still located in the area of about 1.300.000 sqm in the border area with Croatia, in the villages of Jamena and Morović, Municipality of Šid. Mines are located on local roads which go through forests, in forests and in drainage canals.

Serbia undertook the obligation under the Ottawa Convention to clear all minefields and destroy stockpiles of antipersonnel mines by 2014.

However, we are planning to remove all minefields from the territory of Serbia in 2009.

Antipersonnel mines are no longer produced in Serbia, and in May 2007, all stockpiles of the above mines were destroyed.

The Centre has conducted a resurvey and made six demining projects, total area of about 1.300.000 m<sup>2</sup>, which, according to estimations, is contaminated with 3.300 AP and AT mines.

We estimate that about 1.500.000 EUROS are needed for implementation of the above projects.

We expect that the funds for implementation of these projects will be provided from donations through ITF, that is, through the program of matching of funds allocated from the State Budget.

Furthermore, the area of about 1.100.000 m<sup>2</sup> is planned to be surveyed in order to confirm or reject doubts of the existence of mines in that area. In relation to this survey, cooperation with the CROMAC has been achieved, given that there are indications that the mines are located along the approximate border in the territory of Serbia and in the territory of Croatia.

The Serbian Mine Action Centre achieves international cooperation with numerous subjects in the field of mine action.

Cooperation with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, known as ITF, as well as regional cooperation through various forms of the work of the Southeastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council, known as SEEMACC, give good results in the field of mine action.

In cooperation with ITF, excellent results have been achieved in providing donations for demining, as well as in training of personnel through seminars for senior and middle management, GIS and MIS training, training for deminers, surveyors, quality control officers, etc.

Good results have been achieved through bilateral cooperation with the regional mine action centres.

In relation to that, I would like to emphasize significant results achieved in cooperation between the Croatian and Serbian Mine Action Centre in making and implementation of joint projects for demining in the border between Serbia and Croatia, exchange of experience, minefield records, training of deminers, etc.

Demining of minefields, clearance of cluster munitions, and disposal of air bombs and other unexploded ordnance, apart from safety of people and protection of environment will provide conditions for an intensive agricultural production, exploitation of forests, maintenance of drainage canals, reconstruction and building of tourist and industrial facilities, which is in a direct relation with implementation of development projects in the above fields.

Problems related to demining in Serbia are numerous and Serbia alone can hardly solve the problems without the help of the international community and donors. Therefore, we expect more help in order to achieve a goal – a mine free Serbia in 2009.

Thank you for your attention!

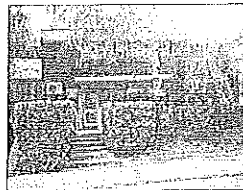


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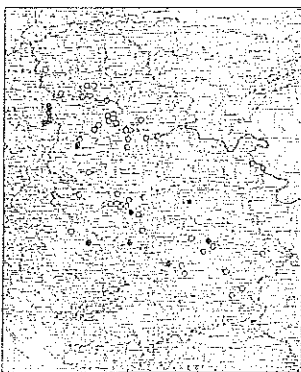
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SERBIAN MINE ACTION CENTRE



- Founded in 2002
- Jurisdictions of the Centre – State Law on Ministries
- Centre's Program of Work adopted by the Government
- Funds allocated from the State Budget

SPECIFICITY OF MINE RELATED PROBLEM IN SERBIA



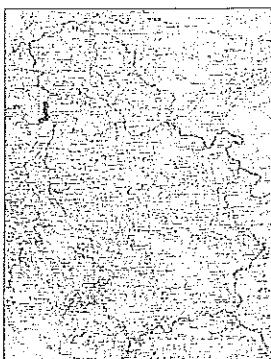
- Data shown below do not refer to sites and facilities of the Serbian Army and Police
- Minefields - contaminated area about 1,300,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Cluster bombs - suspected area about 23,000,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- 60 air bombs - 43 locations
- UXO in the vicinity of the military depot in Paraćin where on 19 October 2006 fire and explosion occurred
- Danube-Djerdap Gorge in WW II German war vessels containing UXO sunken

MINEFIELDS - DEMINED



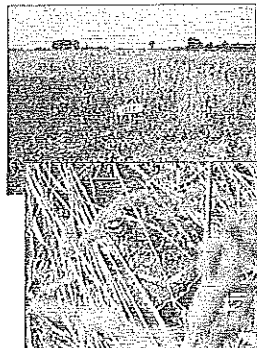
- Border area with Croatia about 5,200,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Found and destroyed 5,900 various types of AP and AT mines
- Funds
  - Donations through ITF
  - Donors: Germany, Norway, Spain, USA, Czech Republic, Canada, EU
  - Building Directorate of Serbia

MINEFIELDS



- AP and AT mines
- Border area with Croatia
- Local roads, forests and drainage canals
- Area of about 1,300,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- A Mine-free Serbia in 2009

2009 DEMINING PROGRAM

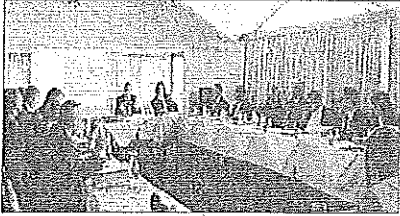


- Border area with Croatia
- 6 projects - total area of about 1,300,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Estimated number of remaining mines 3,300 AP and AT mines
- Survey project - area of about 1,100,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Donations through ITF and other sources of financing

## COOPERATION



- Cooperation within SEEMACC
- Bilateral Cooperation



## DEMINEING IN FUNCTION OF DEVELOPMENT



Demining of minefields, clearance of cluster munitions, and disposal of air bombs and other unexploded ordnance, apart from safety of people and protection of environment will provide conditions for an intensive agricultural production, exploitation of forests, maintenance of drainage canals, reconstruction and building of tourist and industrial facilities, which is in a direct relation with implementation of development projects in the above fields.

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