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AFGHANISTAN

**MINE CLEARANCE
PROGRAMME FOR 1993
ANNUAL REPORT 1992**

UNOCHA
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to
Afghanistan

FOREWORD

Mines and unexploded bombs constitute the most terrible threat to thousands of families seeking to rebuild their shattered lives in Afghanistan. Nothing can be more heart-breaking than the sight of young children lying in hospital after losing a leg from the blast of an anti-personnel mine. It is a tragic irony to see refugees, who for years have longed to return home, lose their limbs or their lives as they finally reach their destroyed houses and abandoned fields.

Since 1989 the United Nations has sponsored the work of incredibly brave Afghan deminers, who daily risk their lives to make their country a safer place for the five million refugees who are now returning there, as well as hundreds of thousands of people who were displaced within the country.

In 1992 nine Afghans and two British deminers lost their lives working on this programme. Their sacrifice and their memory will live on in the minds of all those who seek to bring peace and prosperity to Afghanistan.

This document brings together a detailed description of UNOCHA's Mine Clearance Programme for 1993 and a series of reports, including those by demining NGO's on the activities in 1992. It is intended to give an insight into all aspects of this complex operations, on which over 2,000 people are now employed full-time.

At present levels of funding, the demining programme can clear 10 square kilometers each year. Experience suggests that if a further 60 square kilometers were cleared, most people in Afghanistan could resume a normal, productive life. It would therefore take six years to complete clearance of these priority areas at the present rate.

But if funding were to double to \$20 million per year, the target could be met within three years. The demining organization can easily expand to satisfy the plea of the Afghans to accelerate the work. The only limitation is inadequate funding.

I should like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who contribute to making this programme a success, and in particular to the governments and other organizations which have provided the funds and equipment without which there would be no programme. I know that we can count on their continued support, and I hope at even more generous levels, in 1993 and beyond.

Sotirios Mousouris
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General
and Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance to
Afghanistan

March 1993

**PROGRAMME
FOR
1993**

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

"Mine Clearance is a precondition for the resumption of daily life in many parts of Afghanistan. Refugees and displaced persons simply cannot return to these areas before the mines are cleared. UNHCR estimates that an increasing proportion of those refugees who are willing to return from neighbouring countries are reluctant to move because they know their home areas are mined."

Quote from: January 1993: Consolidated Appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan (January to September 1993).

In 1992 political changes in Afghanistan led to the return of over one and a half million refugees to their homes. Many of these homes are in areas affected by mines. The need to clear mines from priority areas in Afghanistan has therefore become more urgent than ever. An alarming increase in mine casualties has been noted among recently returned refugees and displaced persons.

The United Nations Mine Clearance Programme for Afghanistan began in 1989. This document provides background to the problem, reviews the programme to date, and sets out the objectives, targets and methods of work which have been adopted for 1993.

Where are the Mines Located?

Mines tend to be laid in and around the areas that experienced the heaviest fighting during the 14 years of war. However, this has not limited their placement and all provinces have suffered incidents involving mines. As shown on the area map at Annex A, the worst affected Provinces are in the East, from Badakshan down to Paktika and in the South from Kandahar to Nimroz. In the Central and Northern Provinces, on the road from Kabul to Takhar, mines also present an enormous danger. In the West the problem is generally less severe. However, the routes to Iran through Herat are heavily mined, and Herat city itself is encircled by huge defensive minefields which prevent the inhabitants from returning there. Ex-military observation posts, usually located on hills and peaks, are ringed with mines, and are found in all parts of the country.

How Much of Afghanistan is Affected?

Although Afghanistan is a large country and the mine problem is immense, the area actually mined is relatively small. Not all of the country requires demining and many of the mined areas can be regarded as low priorities, as they are disused military observation posts on the tops of craggy hills.

Mine casualty statistics from the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) during 1992 are attached at Annex B. These statistics show that almost 1,500 mine casualties were treated at their hospitals and clinics in Kabul, Peshawar and Quetta

during 1992. This figure does not reflect the number of people who died at the accident site or did not have access to an ICRC hospital.

How Many Mines are There?

Information obtained from the Afghan Government, Soviet sources and the Mujahideen groups have indicated that up to 10 million mines may have been used in Afghanistan during the 14 years of war. They were dropped from aircraft, hand laid in concentrated minefields or distributed in random patterns.

In some regions the mines are literally everywhere; in villages, gardens, tracks, canals and fields. However, in others they may be located only on access tracks or roads. Vast areas of land can be denied by a few mines.

Minefield Records

Both the Soviet and the previous Afghan Government forces laid large numbers of minefields throughout Afghanistan. These minefields were usually intended to protect facilities or to deny access and movement around sensitive or strategic locations. They were generally laid in accordance with military procedures and were recorded and catalogued. However, the vast majority of mines laid by the Mujahideen were not recorded or laid to specific patterns. During the war many areas were won and lost by both sides; consequently they are now mined by a combination of random and pattern minefields. In these circumstances formal minefield records lose much of their significance and can only be used to check unsurveyed areas for the likelihood of mines. The most reliable source of information on mine locations are the local people from the area. Sadly, animal, vehicle and human victims are often the first indications of mines.

Which Mines are in Use?

The types of mines vary significantly throughout the country. Although the majority of the mines are of Soviet origin, many mines originating from other countries are now found throughout Afghanistan.

Land mines are made from a variety of materials and are constructed in many different shapes and sizes. They can be detonated by pressure, pressure release, tripwires, electronics, seismic sensors or disturbance. The clearance of mines also includes the clearance of unexploded ordnance and booby trap devices.

- a. Anti-Personnel Mines. Anti-personnel mines are designed to maim rather than to kill. They may be buried, delivered by aircraft or placed above the ground. In all instances they are dangerous and difficult to destroy. Anti-personnel mines are classified as blast or fragmentation mines as below:

Blast Mines. Anti-personnel blast mines use the blast power of the explosive inside the mine to inflict injury. The victim is required to make physical contact with the actual mine.

Fragmentation Mines. Fragmentation mines are anti-personnel mines that use explosives to fire pieces of shrapnel, ball bearings or splinters in a lethal radius to inflict injury.

- b. **Anti-Tank Mines.** Anti-tank mines are larger than anti-personnel mines but are made from similar materials and utilize the same methods of deployment and activation. They are designed to destroy tanks and other vehicles including cars. Anti-tank mines are often booby-trapped with anti-handling devices.
- c. **Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs).** UXOs are all other explosive devices that are not mines. This includes all types of ammunition such as bombs, missiles, rockets and grenades. UXOs can also include booby-traps and unknown explosive devices.

PART 2: REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

Achievements.

Since January 1990 over 70 million square meters of minefields have been surveyed, while more than 25 million square meters have been cleared of mines. During clearance operations, over 60,000 explosive devices have been located and subsequently destroyed. At its present capacity the Mine Clearance Programme can clear about 10 million square meters per year. It is estimated that there remain about 60 million square meters of minefields which require priority clearance.

Size of the Programme.

Currently the Mine clearance Programme employs almost 2,000 personnel, of which over 98% are Afghan nationals. From these personnel a total of 35 demining teams, 16 mine survey teams and 10 mine awareness teams are deployed in the field. A Military contingent of 12 experts from the Australian Army are assigned to the programme.

Each demining team consists of 32 deminers and each survey team consists of 4 surveyors. In 1992 three new demining teams were established in Herat, and six new survey teams were trained and deployed throughout the country.

Safety in the Programme.

Mine clearance is obviously an extremely dangerous task and safety is a prime concern of the Programme. To improve safety, independent monitoring and regular revision courses are conducted for all demining and survey teams from each of the NGOs.

New ballistic helmets and visors have been purchased and are being introduced to all survey and demining teams. These helmets provide protection for a deminers head and eyes against all types of anti-personnel blast mines.

Eight Field Medical Units (FMUs) have been established to support the deminers in the field. Each FMU is fully equipped and staffed by a qualified doctor, two paramedics and a driver, with an ambulance. This is in addition to the medic who is currently assigned to each team.

Innovations.

To enhance productivity and efficiency, several changes to the structure and policy of the Programme were introduced during 1992. Many of these changes were recommended in the independent evaluation report of 1991. They include the following:

- Three regional offices were established in Kabul, Peshawar and Quetta. These offices are responsible for the day to day coordination of the Programme.
- An Operations Center was established at the Demining Headquarters.
- An operational and administrative computer data base has been developed and introduced. This data base is now used throughout the Programme.
- All planning and minefield records are now held centrally at the Demining Headquarters in Islamabad.

These structural changes have allowed for increased control and coordination throughout the Programme, and have significantly improved the coordination of clearance activities with other aid agencies and organizations.

Restructuring at demining team level has also provided an increase in operational efficiency. Each team has reduced their three man breaching parties down to two men. This has provided a 33% increase in manpower and efficiency at minimal financial cost and no loss of safety.

Criteria for consideration of Areas to be Cleared.

Before an area is considered for mine survey or mine clearance and awarded a priority, several criteria must be met. These criteria are necessary to ensure the Programme operates in a secure environment and in accordance with the real needs of the Afghan communities.

- The area must be secure and free of fighting.
- The population living in the area should derive immediate economic or social benefit from the clearance.
- Representatives from all the local parties and groups must be united in requesting assistance from the Programme.
- The local population must be willing to contribute some support to the Programme (e.g. staff, accommodation etc.).

- Priority is given to support projects funded by UN agencies and other organizations.
- The mines must have been laid before 1989.

Categorizing and Prioritizing.

Before teams from the Mine Clearance Programme are deployed into the field, each request is categorized and then allocated a priority.

Potential tasks are firstly divided into one of five broad categories; Agricultural Land, Roads, Canals, Villages, and Grazing Land. Agricultural Land includes all those areas that would normally be under regular cultivation. Roads includes all vehicle, animal and pedestrian roads, tracks and pathways. Villages includes all built-up areas used for residential and commercial purposes, while Canals includes all irrigation canals from individual farms up to district canals.

Once it has been established that a task falls within the criteria for consideration and is in a priority category, the Regional Manager consults with the local authorities, as well as UN and NGO colleagues working in the area to assess its priority among competing demands. The final decision is taken by the Regional Manager.

Sharing Information.

The BBC Pashtu radio service regularly broadcasts updated information programmes on mine awareness throughout Afghanistan on behalf of UNOCHA, whilst technical and operational information is constantly transferred between the NGOs of the Programme. The Mine Clearance Programme's half yearly and annual reports are a summary of reports from the NGOs. They are widely distributed to other agencies, organizations and to all donor countries.

Lessons Learnt

- Operational Training and Planning.

The complexities of Afghan culture and society, combined with the effects and aftermath of war, have necessitated the use of centralized planning and training procedures within the Programme. The dangerous nature of demining requires the training and operational standards to be very high; this can only be achieved by regular revision training and monitoring by independent monitors.

- Organized Teams.

The development of professional teams of deminers and surveyors has allowed the Programme to develop safe and efficient operations. The teams can be readily deployed throughout the country to priority tasks with no extra training and with the minimum of support. Professional mine clearance teams are essential for effective and prolonged demining operations.

- **Neutrality**

The Mine Clearance Programme must be seen as humanitarian, technical and neutral. For this reason teams are spread widely across the country, and decisions regarding deployment are taken by the international staff of UNOCHA.

- **Integral Medical Facilities.**

Independent medical facilities are an essential requirement when working in remote and isolated areas. Trained doctors with support staff, facilities and ambulances are vital to support all mine clearance operations. It is unrealistic to rely on the support of the overburdened and ill-equipped medical facilities within Afghanistan.

- **Transportation.**

The transport infrastructure within Afghanistan is poor. Independently operated vehicles for general movement, logistic and medical support are necessary within the Programme.

- **Use of NGOs with Central Control.**

The training, reporting and operations of demining NGOs within such a Programme must be centrally controlled. The establishment of an independent Headquarters which maintains firm control over the operation of the NGOs allows for good planning and effective operations.

PART 3: THE PROGRAMME FOR 1993

Programme Objectives.

Based on the levels of funding in 1992 the 1993 objectives for the Mine Clearance Programme are as follows:

- Clear 10,000,000 square meters of priority land.
- Survey and mark 25,000,000 square meters of mined area.
- Provide mine awareness training to a total of 330,000 people living in 25 districts.

Scale of the Problem.

Dependent on development priorities, and based on current demining experience, it is considered that if 60 sq.kms of mined areas of Afghanistan can be cleared of mines, then economic activity could be revived in most parts of the country. These areas would include primary commercial routes, irrigation systems and residential areas, together with vital agricultural land. It is estimated that clearance of these areas at current rates will take 6 years. The remainder of the mined areas would be surveyed and marked for later clearance.

Priorities in 1993

Using the same system for identifying and prioritizing potential tasks as in the past, particular emphasis will be given to areas where refugees have already returned, or where it is known that refugees are waiting to return. The Regional Managers will work closely with UNHCR representatives in the regions on this.

Organization.

The Mine Clearance Programme at present consists of a Demining Headquarters and three regional Demining Offices, working in partnership with six Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). The Headquarters is responsible for the administration and operational control of the Programme, with the regional offices responsible for day to day coordination. The Programme is headed by a Programme Manager who reports to the Director of UNOCHA, and is organized into four main components:

- a. Mine Awareness;
- b. Mine Clearance Training;
- c. Minefield Survey, Planning and Management;
- d. Mine Clearance.

Programme Components

1. Mine Awareness Programme:

The Mine Awareness Programme teaches Afghans how to identify and avoid the dangers of mines and other explosive devices. It also encourages wide dissemination of the mine awareness knowledge by those who attend the training.

In 1993 the Mine Awareness Programme will provide training to 330,000 Afghans. This training will be conducted in Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Laghman, Nangahar, Paktia, Paktika and Parwan Provinces. These are the provinces to which the largest numbers of refugees are expected to return during the year. The Programme will also provide training to people in the Northern provinces of Badakshan, Balkh, Samangan and Takhar.

The Mine Awareness Programme is implemented through two NGOs, the Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) and Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS). The Programme is funded primarily through direct grants to OMAR from the European Community. In 1993 increasing use will be made of radio and television broadcasts to spread the mine awareness message. BBC Radio has been contracted to broadcast mine awareness oriented playlets on a weekly basis on its Pashtu Service throughout 1993. It is planned to produce television information bulletins for broadcast on Afghan regional television stations.

Budget for 1993 US \$ 600,000

2. Mine Clearance Training.

The objective of the Mine Clearance Training Programme is to provide training for Afghan demining and surveying teams, and to provide an assessment of the performance of these teams to the Programme Manager. This is achieved through the Monitoring and Training Team (MTT).

The target for 1993 is to monitor each demining team twice per year, to conduct revision training for each demining team once per year and provide monitoring and revision training for surveying teams whenever possible. Other training will be conducted as required.

The total number of courses expected to be conducted by the training team during 1993 are as follows:

Mine Clearance Courses Scheduled for 1993

Course	Eastern Afghanistan	South-West Afghanistan	Western Afghanistan
Counter Mine Training	1	2	2
Pre Deployment Course	3	2	1
Revision Course--Demining	39	6	3
Team Leaders Course	1	1	1
Operations Officers Course	2	1	1
Revision Course--Surveying	2	1	1

The Monitoring and Training Team (MTT) will continue to conduct mine incident investigations as required, and conduct technical assessments as necessary.

The Australian Government has provided a nine man expert instructor contingent which forms the core of the MTT. The Government of Norway has also seconded one officer to the team.

Implementation of the Mine Clearance Training Programme will be conducted through the Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA). MCPA also conducts minefield surveying.

Budget for 1993 \$ US 1.05 million

3. Minefield Survey, Planning & Management.

(a) Survey Programme

In 1993 the Minefield Survey Programme will conduct detailed minefield surveys of 25 million square meters of priority land. These surveys will be conducted in the provinces of Badakshan, Bagdis, Baghlan, Farah, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Nangahar, Nimroz, Paktia, Parwan, Samangan, Uruzgan, Wardak and Zabul. The surveys will be conducted by the Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA), utilizing 16 teams, each of four men.

Efforts will continue in 1993 to obtain military minefield maps and records from the Afghan Government and other sources. While conducting the surveys, MCPA will also gather information on the lower priority areas, in order to produce a comprehensive record of all mined areas within Afghanistan.

Budget for 1993 US \$ 1.15 million

(b) Planning & Management

The headquarters of the Mine Clearance Programme will be moved to Kabul during 1993, as soon as security and physical conditions in the city allow. The regional offices in Peshawar and Quetta will also relocate to major regional centers in eastern and southern Afghanistan. Centralized control and recording of minefield data will continue.

Budget for 1993 US\$ 0.8 million

4. Mine Clearance Programme.

The Mine Clearance Programme will continue to clear mines and unexploded ordnance in priority areas of Afghanistan by both manual and mechanical means. Mine clearance teams are supported in the field by mine detection dogs and Field Medical Units.

● Manual Mine Clearance

Unless substantial new sources of funding become available in 1993, the manual Mine Clearance Programme will retain the current number of 35 demining teams.

The target for 1993 is to clear ten million square meters. This clearance will occur in 14 provinces including Badakshan, Baghlan, Farah, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Nangahar, Nimroz, Paktia, Paktika, Parwan, and Takhar.

Eight Field Medical Units (FMU), each consisting of one doctor, one paramedic, one ambulance and four beds, will support the demining Site Offices in Afghanistan.

The NGOs which will undertake this work are; Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), the South West Afghanistan Agency for Demining (SWAAD), the Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) and the HALO Trust. These latter two NGOs will undertake work utilizing direct funding from donors.

Budget for 1993 US \$ 12 million

- Mechanical Mine Clearance

A Mechanical Mine Clearance Unit consisting of two Flail machines was established within ATC in mid 1990. If funding permits, the Flail machines will continue to be operated during 1993. The Flail machines have had limited success in the past and consequently additional Flail machines will not be purchased. Alternate methods of mechanical mine clearance, such as the use of tanks or other commercial earthmoving equipment, will continue to be assessed and introduced if proved effective and funding allows.

Budget for 1993 US \$ 500,000

- Mine Detection Dogs (MDD).

Mine detection dogs will mainly be deployed on survey and route clearance tasks. In 1993 up to 100 trained dogs will be used. The complete transfer of responsibility for the Mine Dog Center from USAID to UNOCHA is scheduled to occur on 1 June 1993.

Budget for 1993 US \$ 2 million

PART 4: FUNDING

The UNOCHA Mine Clearance Programme budget for 1993 is US\$ 18.1 million.

FUNDING REQUIRED

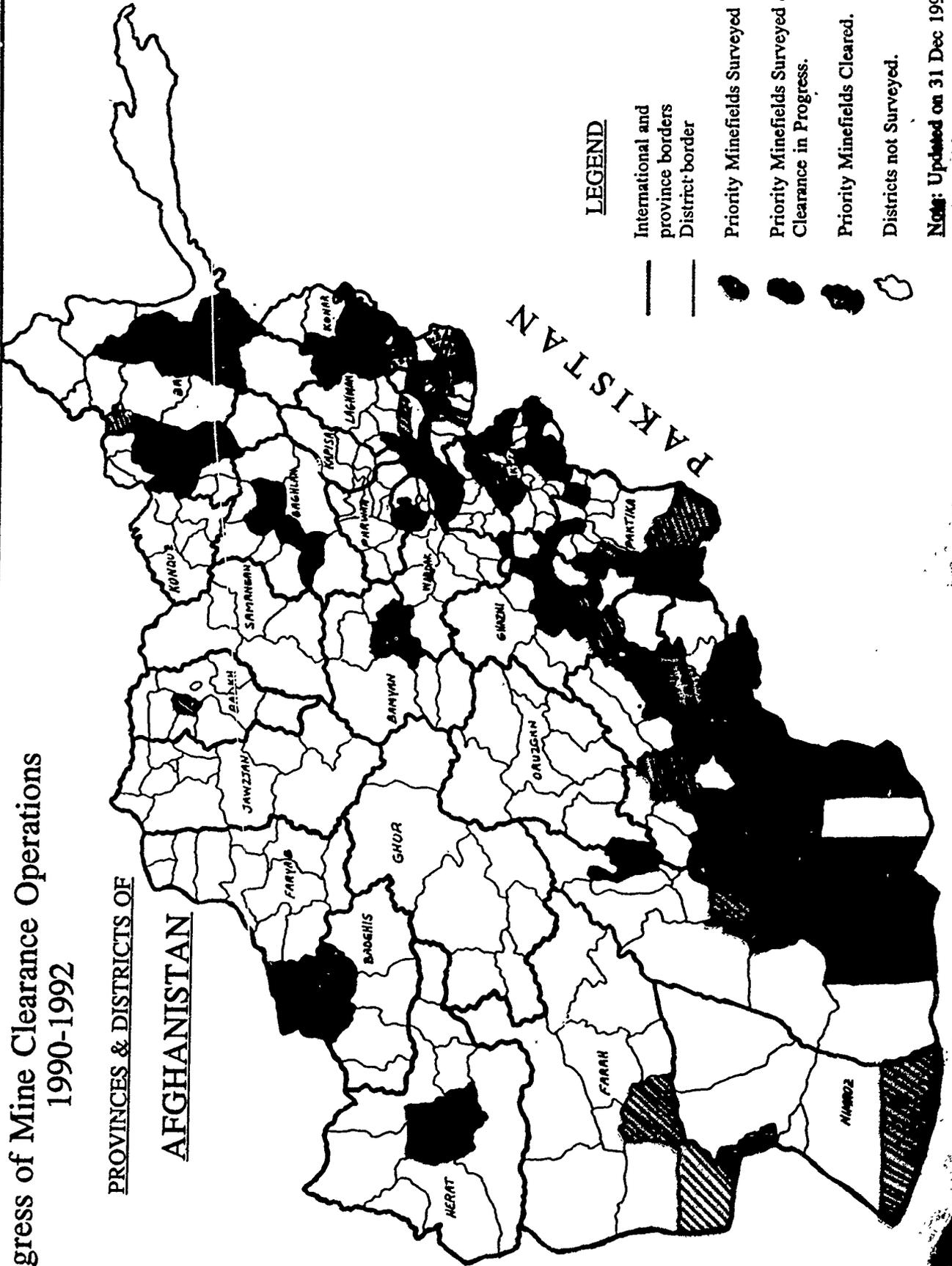
(Funding in thousands of US \$)

PROGRAMME	TOTAL	DIRECT FUNDING	REQUIRED BY UNOCHA
MINE AWARENESS	600	600	
MINE CLEARANCE TRAINING	1,050		1,050
MINEFIELD SURVEY & PLANNING	1,950		1,950
MINE CLEARANCE MANUAL	12,000	3,000	9,000
MECHANICAL	500		500
DOGS	2,000	2,000	
TOTAL	18,100	5,600	12,500

**Progress of Mine Clearance Operations
1990-1992**

PROVINCES & DISTRICTS OF

AFGHANISTAN



LEGEND

International and province borders
District border

- Priority Minefields Surveyed
- Priority Minefields Surveyed & Clearance in Progress.
- Priority Minefields Cleared.
- Districts not Surveyed.

Note: Updated on 31 Dec 1992.

ANNEX "A"

IRAN

PAKISTAN

ICRC STATISTICS
CIVILIAN MINE CASUALTY ADMISSIONS
TO HOSPITALS IN PESHAWAR
AND QUETTA IN 1992

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
PESHAWAR	54	34	41	50	56	28	39	70	46	50	36	64	568
QUETTA	16	18	38	44	70	74	48	47	59	36	52	54	556
TOTAL	70	52	79	94	126	92	87	117	105	86	88	118	1124

NB. ICRC reports that during 1992 mine casualties represented over 50% of total admissions to ICRC hospitals.

These statistics have been provided to UNOCHA by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They do not include mine victims who died before reaching hospital, or those who were taken to other hospitals and clinics for treatment.

UNOCHA takes this opportunity to acknowledge the help provided to mine victims by the ICRC, and their efforts to draw international attention to the problem of anti-personnel mines worldwide.

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PROGRAMME MANAGERS REPORT

1992 proved to be a challenging yet rewarding year for the UNOCHA Mine Clearance Programme in Afghanistan. With one and a half million refugees returning during the year, and up to another two million expected in 1993, mine awareness and mine clearance remain top priorities.

A total of US \$ 11.6 million was made available from donor countries in 1992. This funding enabled operations to continue at existing levels, and allowed the establishment of eight Field Medical Units and four new survey teams. Three new mine clearance teams were also fielded in Herat under emergency funding.

Unfortunately at times, new funds were received from donors only when all previous contributions had been completely spent. As a result, nine demining teams had to be sent on unpaid leave during September and October, as there was no money available to pay them.

The clearance rates for 1992 showed increases over previous years in the number of mines destroyed and minefields cleared. New techniques were introduced to the Programme, and trials were conducted with a number of mechanical clearing devices. Protective helmets with visors were introduced for manual deminers in order to provide a greater measure of safety. The number of deminers killed was significantly reduced in the second half of the year, with two fatalities being recorded.

A total of 33 representatives of donor countries and the international media were taken to Jalalabad or Herat to see the demining work at first hand. These trips were considered an outstanding success, allowing the visitors to see for themselves the extent of the mine problem and the efforts being undertaken by UNOCHA to rid Afghanistan of this appalling legacy of war.

Lt Col I.W.Mansfield CSC
Programme Manager
Mine Clearance Programme

31 January 1993

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

HEADQUARTERS

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

The Mine Clearance Programme Headquarters consists of a small number of international and local staff, who oversee all aspects of the Programme. This includes policy formation, programme development, financial control, preparation of programmes of work, technical advice, trials of equipment, issue of reports and training manuals, as well as the purchase of all non-expendable equipment. The operations and planning section of the Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA) was also co-located with the Headquarters in 1992, to assist with centralized planning and to maintain a central data base of minefield records and progress results.

Coordination was achieved through regular contact with the NGO's and a regular monthly meeting with NGO Directors was held to review progress and assess priorities. An annual work plan for mine clearance was produced, which was revised quarterly in light of changing refugee returns, as well as security and weather conditions. The Mine Clearance Programme had representation at the regular United Nations Inter-Agency meetings.

Three regional offices were established in Kabul, Peshawar and Quetta. Their role was to act as a focal point for the Programme in their respective regions, and to coordinate the day to day work of the NGO's. Separate reports from each region follow.

Programing Section

The Programing Section of the headquarters was involved in the preparation of programmes and project proposals for the Mine Clearance Programme. Specific tasks included.

- Support for international military contingents.
- Preparing proposals for the implementing partners of the Mine Clearance Programme, and establishment of their infrastructures.
- Drafting charters for NGOs and registration with UNOCHA.
- Co-ordination of meetings and conferences.
- Obtaining visas and clearances for Afghanistan.

The following Projects were funded during 1992 :

No.	Non-Governmental Organization	Project
1.	Pakistan Red Crescent Society	Mine Clearance Training
2.	Mine Clearance Planning Agency	Planning & Survey
3.	Afghan Technical Consultants	Manual Mine Clearance (and five Field Medical Units)
4.	Afghan Technical Consultanats	Mechanical Mine Clearance
5.	South-West Afghanistan Agency for Demining	Manual Mine Clearance (and three Field Medical Units)
6.	The HALO Trust	Manual Mine Clearance
7.	Organization for Mine Awareness	Mine Awareness
8.	Organization for Mine Awareness	Manual Mine Clearance (funded by EC)
9.	Afghan Red Crescent Society	Mine Awareness
10.	Mine Dog Centre	Mine Detecting Dogs (funded by USAID)



Brigadier (Retd) Paddy Blagden, Demining Representative, (Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UN NY) with Director ATC (l) and Programme Manager (r) during a fact finding mission to Afghanistan.

Procurement & Logistics

Procurement and logistics activity consisted of coordinating the requests of user agencies, completing procurement procedures according to existing rules and regulations, arranging tax exemptions, customs clearance, transportation, inventory management, distributing equipment to user agencies and coordinating repair activity of mine detectors and radio equipment.

Procurement and logistics support provided by the Mine Clearance Programme Headquarters, Islamabad to Demining Offices, Demining NGOs and Field Medical Units during 1992, included the purchase of vehicles, mine detectors, radio sets, helmets with visors, explosives and office equipment. A total of 193 mine detectors were repaired at the workshop and returned to the users.

The Mine Clearance Programme in Islamabad coordinated the donation of clothing stores from USAID which were proportionately distributed amongst the demining NGOs. The stores donated included work clothing, shoes and bedding.



Programme Manager presenting vehicles to Director
MCPA for use as survey team vehicles

Medical

During 1992, the need to provide immediate first-aid and to stabilize the condition of injured personnel before evacuation was identified. In response to this need, a total of 8 Field Medical Units (FMUs) were raised at a cost of US\$ 420,000. These FMUs are in addition to the normal medic and safety vehicle currently assigned to each team.

Each FMU consists of a qualified doctor, two paramedics trained in advanced first aid, one ambulance vehicle and a 4 bed field hospital.

Five FMUs were allotted to Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) to support the mine clearance teams in the North- Eastern provinces, and three FMUs to the South West Afghanistan Agency for Demining (SWAAD).

During the period, the field unit medical personnel treated 74 mine accident casualties, 13 personnel with injuries sustained from vehicle accidents and 50 local Afghans injured by mines. In addition, the medics treated 20,067 civilian patients (local Afghans) who did not have access to any other medical facility.

Mine accident casualties 1992

Deaths	11
Amputations	16
Blinded	6
Other minor injuries	43



Field Medical Unit (FMU) staff of ATC at a field site office

Funding

Donor Contributions

The following donor contributions were allocated to the Mine Clearance Programme in 1992.

NO.	COUNTRY	AMOUNT IN US\$
1.	AUSTRALIA	1,289,851
2.	AUSTRIA	180,000
3.	DENMARK	400,000
4.	FINLAND	462,929
5.	GREECE	16,365
6.	JAPAN	3,447,911
7.	NETHERLANDS	586,281
8.	NORWAY	1,891,880
9.	SWEDEN	1,278,964
10.	UK	954,350
11.	USA	1,105,492
Total		11,614,023

Note : An amount of US \$ 1,504 ,133 from the above total was carried forward to 1993.



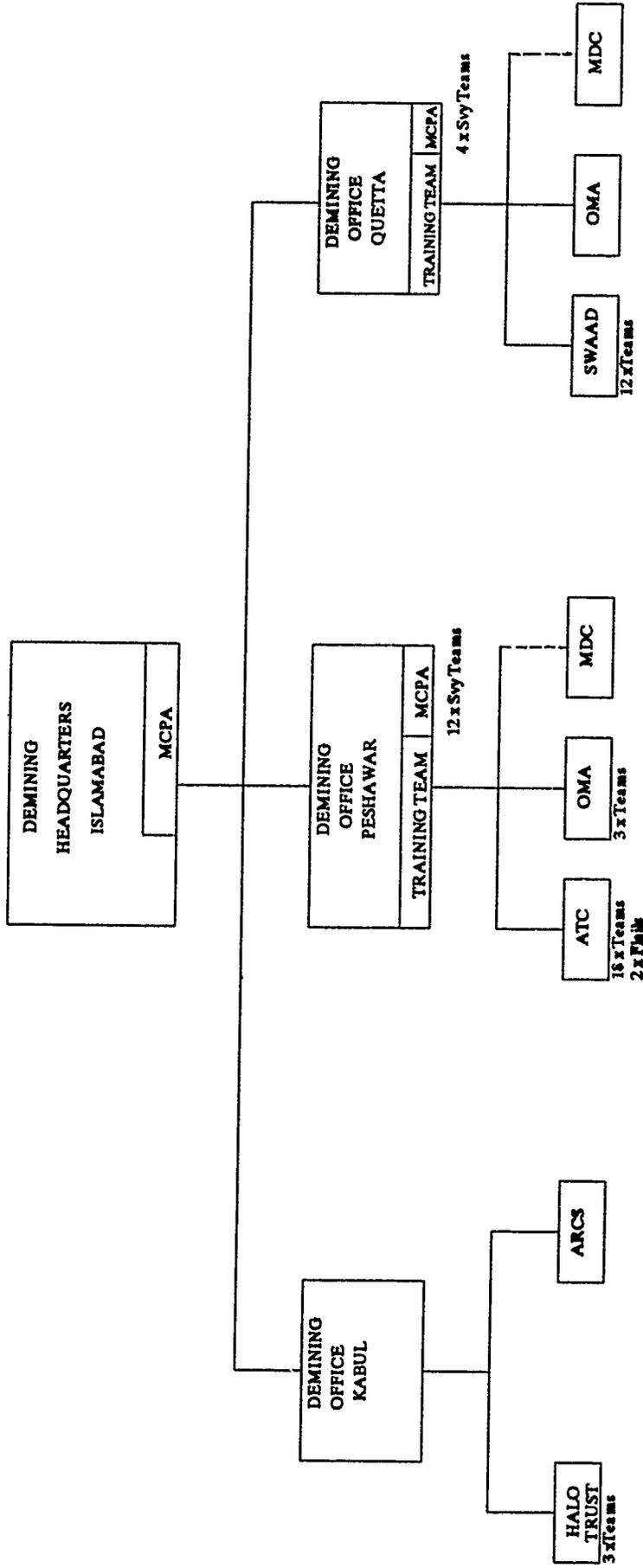
Donor country representatives addressing ATC deminers during a visit to Jalalabad.

Direct Funding

Funding received by NGO's from donors during 1992 is as follows:

NO.	COUNTRY	AMOUNT	AGENCY
1.	European Community	ECU 820,000	OMA
2.	Ockenden Venture	RS 75,000	ATC
3.	Norwegian Afghanistan Committee	US\$ 50,000	ATC
4.	United States of America	US\$ 2,000,000	MDC

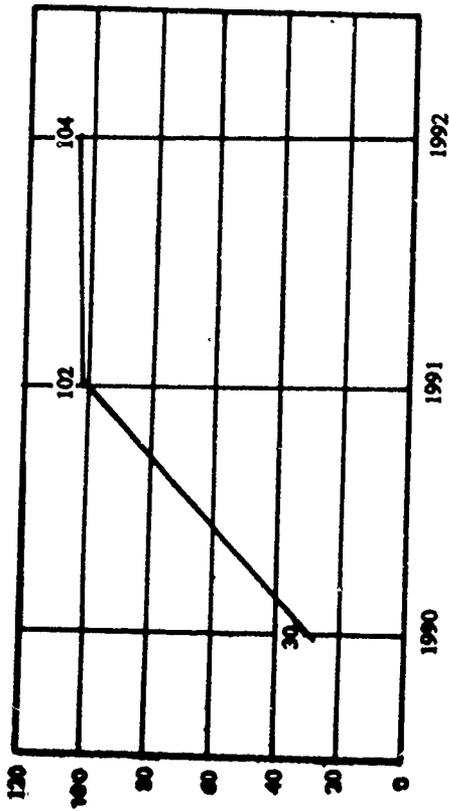
MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME OUTLINE ORGANIZATION



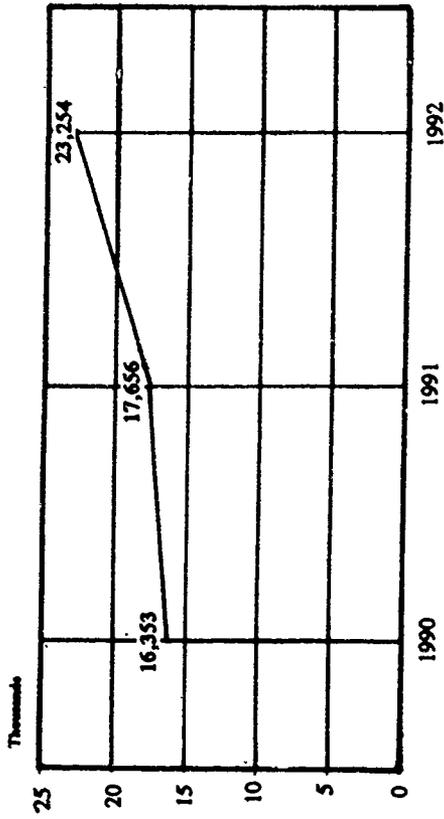
- OMA Organisation for Mine Awareness
- MCPA Mine Clearance Planning Agency
- ATC Afghanistan Technical Consultants
- SWAAD South West Afghanistan Agency for Demining
- HALO Trust Hazards Area Life Support Organisation
- ARCS Afghanistan Red Crescent Society
- MDC Mine Dog Centre

ANNUAL COMPARISONS

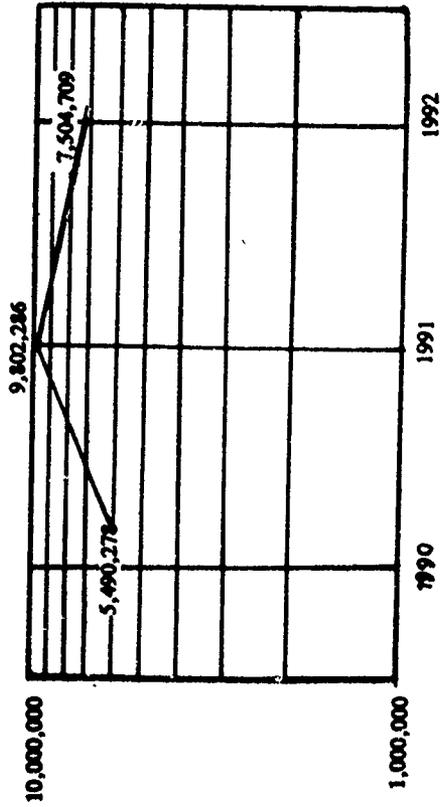
TOTAL NUMBER OF MINEFIELDS CLEARED



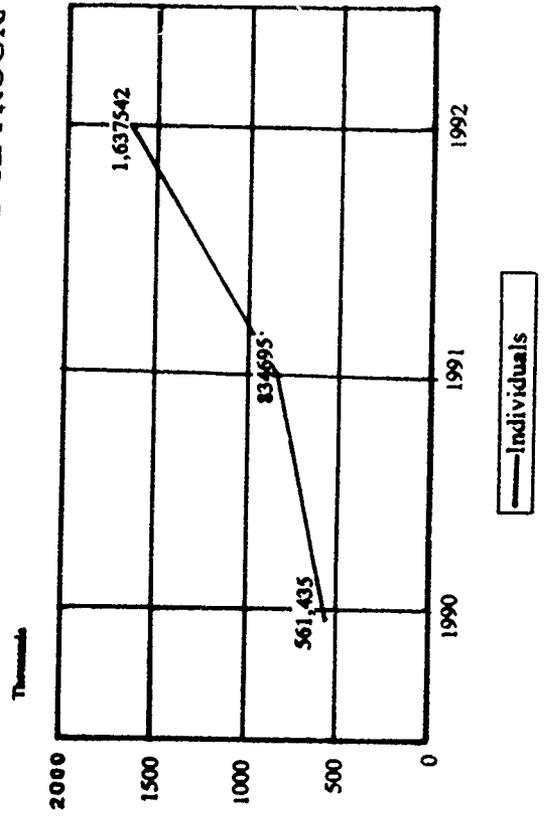
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEVICES DESTROYED



AREAS CLEARED BY DEMINING AGENCIES



BENEFICIARIES OF MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAM



No. of Minefields

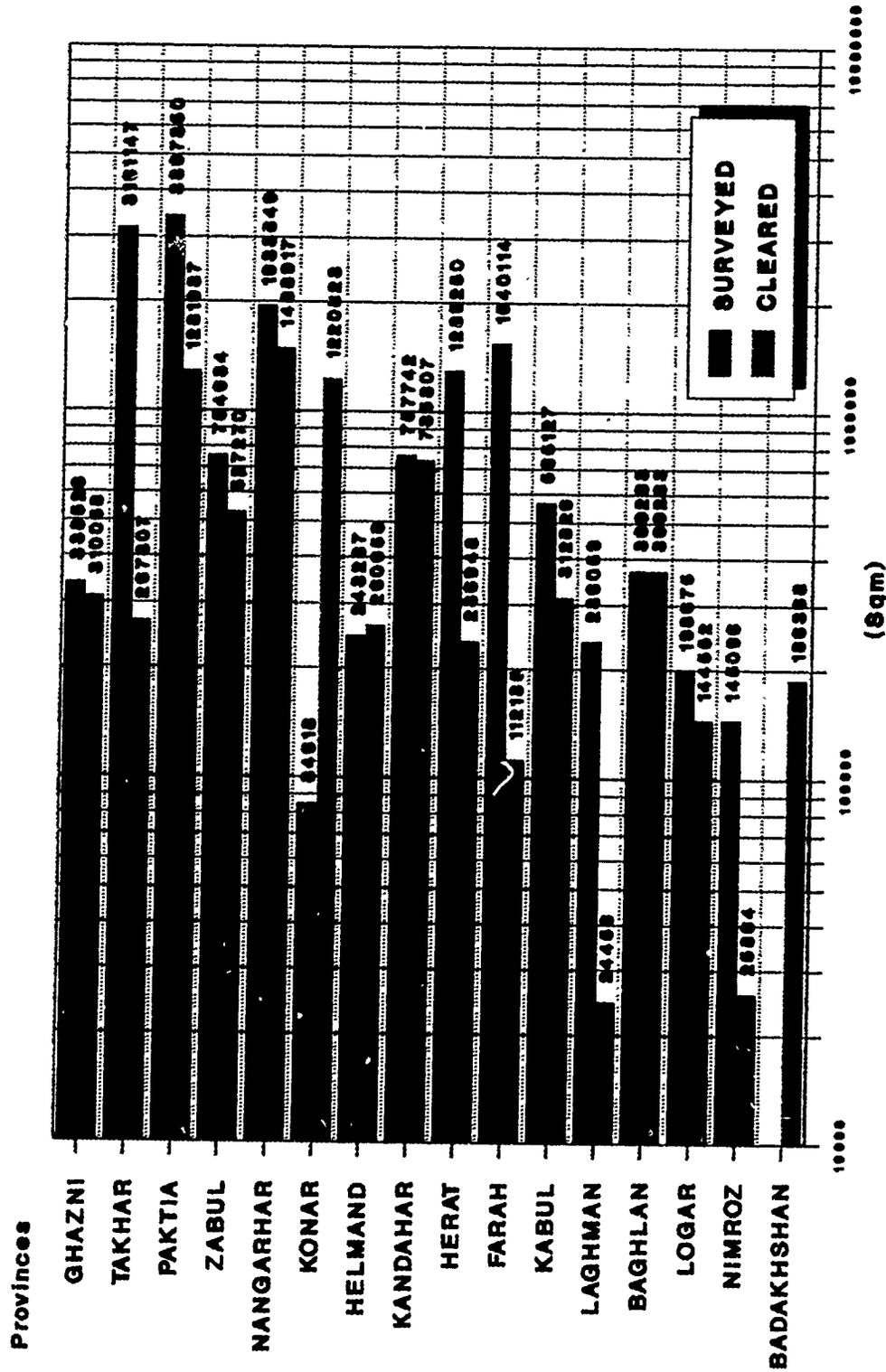
Mines & UXOs

Area (Sqkm)

Individuals

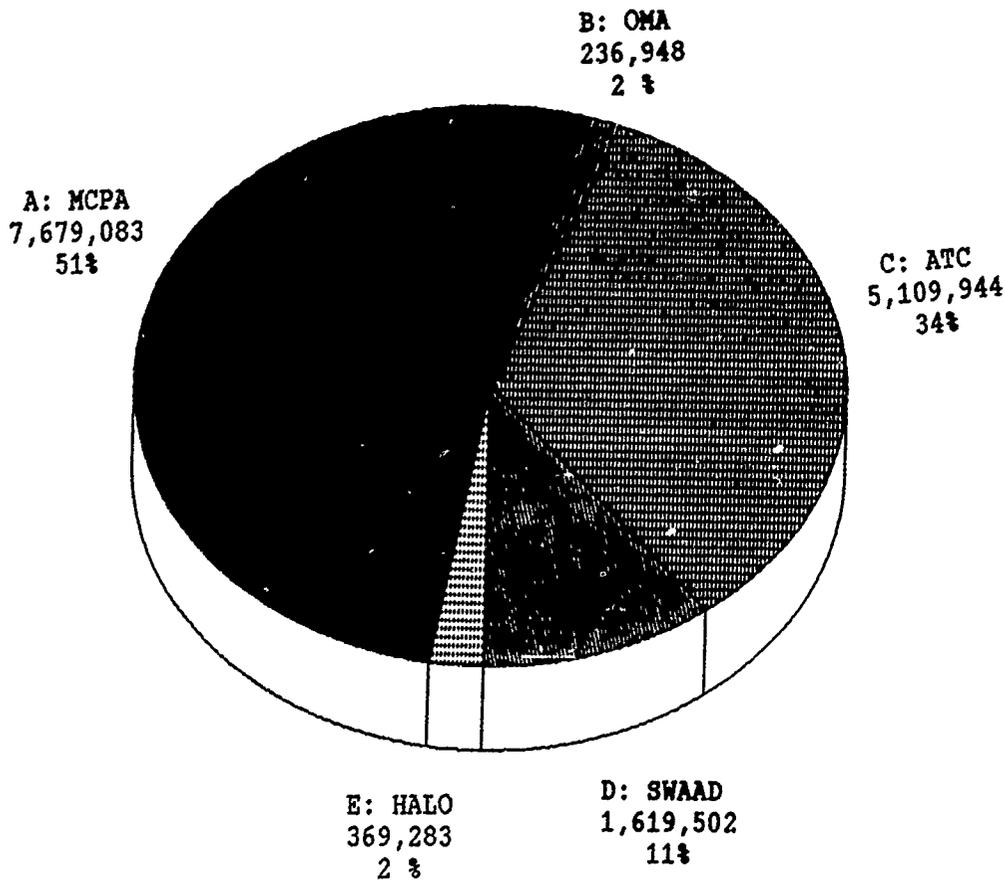
MINE CLEARANCE PLANNING AGENCY

SURVEYED AND CLEARED MINED AREAS BY PROVINCE



Total area surveyed: 15,014,759 m² Total area cleared: 7,504,709 m²

MINE CLEARANCE PLANNING AGENCY TOTAL MINED AREA SURVEYED & CLEARED 1992 (SQUARE METERS)



Note:

Pie Chart represents area surveyed by MCPA

- A: Area surveyed and marked by MCPA during 1992
- B: Mined area cleared by OMA during 1992
OMA started operations in October 1992
- C: Mined area cleared by ATC during 1992
- D: Mined area cleared by SWAAD during 1992
- E: Mined area surveyed & cleared by HALO Trust during 1992

* MDC figures incorporated into the above NGO figures.

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DEMINING OFFICE KABUL

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Introduction

On 1 March 1992 the position of demining liaison officer at the UNOCHA office in Kabul was expanded to form the Kabul Demining Office. The role of the Kabul Demining Office is to coordinate and support all demining activities within the Central and Northern Provinces, including Kabul.

The Kabul Demining Office is the smallest of the three Demining Offices within the Mine Clearance Programme. Despite this, the Kabul Demining Office has been very active throughout the year promoting and coordinating demining activities within the Central, North and Western Provinces. These activities include mine education, mine survey and mine clearance. The Office will also continue to provide the basis for the relocation of the Programmes Headquarters to Kabul when appropriate.

With the appointment of a Regional Manager in Kabul, the Programme has now established firm links with the Afghan Government and is in a good position to strengthen these links in the future. The Demining Office will act as the spring board for the intended move of the Demining Headquarters to Kabul.

Operations

Mine Survey

In April 1992, it was decided to establish a new mine survey group in Kabul Province. Basic demining training was provided for twenty recruits through the HALO Trust. In late April 1992, the existing Government was removed from power and fighting commenced inside Kabul city. As a consequence the mine survey group project was suspended. In mid May 1992, it was decided that MCPA should transfer the surveyors into its existing activities in other more stable provinces. This transfer was undertaken in June 1992, and sporadic but intense fighting has largely prohibited the surveyors from returning to work in Kabul.

Mine Awareness

A mine awareness group of fifteen teachers was trained in December 1991, and deployed in Kabul Province in February 1992. The group was established through the Afghan Red Crescent Society and is coordinated through the Kabul Demining Office. The mine awareness group operate primarily in Kabul city in Government institutions and schools, however they are at times deployed in the northern provinces of Parwan and Baghlan. The groups activities have been hampered by fighting in the city and the consequent lack of attendances at the various schools and Government offices.

Mine Clearance

In August 1992, Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), established an office in Kabul and deployed two demining teams within the Province. Their work was initially in Paghman district and then in Karismere district. ATC ceased its mine clearance activities in Kabul in November 1992, as winter approached, however they are scheduled to return to Kabul in the spring of 1993. ATC has been very successful in the province and their presence was well appreciated by all in Kabul.

HALO Trust (HT) have an administrative office in Kabul and an operations office in Pol-i-Kumri (Baghlan Province). They conduct mine clearance alongside the Salang highway in Parwan and Baghlan Provinces. HT also have a small mine clearance group deployed in Jabal Saraj (Parwan) sponsored by the British Government. HALO Trust is a British based NGO and operate three mine clearance teams totalling 60 deminers.

MCPA and OMA have both established representative offices in Kabul city, however these offices are not yet fully functioning due to the uncertain conditions within the city.

Other Activities.

Other activities completed by the Kabul Demining Office staff during 1992 includes the following:

- Conduct of trials with Army tanks in mined areas.
- Assessment of future mine clearance commitments to the Faizabad and Mazar-i-Sharif regions.
- Design of a bunker for UN personnel in Kabul.
- Removal and destruction of explosive devices in and around Kabul city.
- Obtaining Soviet and Afghan Army minefield maps and records.
- Provision of technical assistance to demining activities in Herat.

Effect of the Demining Office

The establishment of the Demining Office in Kabul has provided greater liaison between the United Nations and the Afghan Government for mine clearance issues. When stability comes to Kabul, the use of Government resources for mine clearance will be readily coordinated through cooperation between the United Nations and the Afghan Government.

Coordination between other agencies and organizations has also been enhanced throughout 1992. The need for mine clearance prior to, and in conjunction with, rehabilitation efforts has now been clearly recognized by all agencies and organizations operating inside Afghanistan.

Finance

The finances of the Kabul Demining Office are accounted through allocations from UNOCHA Islamabad. The Regional Manager authorizes all day to day expenses, whilst capital expenditure is approved through the Programme Manager.

Funding for the office and staff has been problem free throughout the year. However, the transfer of funds to the mine awareness project of the Afghan Red Crescent Society has been delayed at times, due to the reporting delays from the Society in Kabul.

Conclusion

The Regional Manager and his staff look forward to the renewed challenges of 1993 with enthusiasm and hope.

Graeme Membrey
Regional Manager
Demining Office Kabul

31 January 1993

DEMINING OFFICE PESHAWAR

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Introduction:

During the first quarter of 1992, Demining Office Peshawar was established to coordinate the activities of the demining Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and to be more responsive to local requests for support. This coincided with the change of government in Afghanistan and the resultant commencement of the return of refugees to their homeland. The pressure to react to demands for assistance was immediate. One example was the need to clear the important route from Pakistan to Afghanistan, between Torkham to Jalalabad and on to Kabul. Along this road mines were clearly visible close to the roadside, at the abutments to bridges, and around defensive positions where fierce fighting had taken place.

Demining NGOs from the region were quickly able to react to the situation by surveying and clearing the priority sites. Additionally, mine awareness teams were placed at the border crossings to offer advice and instruction to returning families. Traffic now passes freely carrying refugees, their families, food, and all the logistic supplies necessary for the reconstruction of the eastern provinces of Afghanistan.

Site Offices were immediately established in Jalalabad for the Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA) and Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC). Contact was made with the local authorities and with other aid agencies moving into Nangarhar Province. Priority was given to the opening of routes through the Province, the clearance of village areas, irrigation systems and agricultural land. Whereas in May 1992, signs of domestic activity in and around villages and towns was non-existent, the presence of families and domestic animals and the production of crops is now evident in many areas. There still remains a large presence of mines and unexploded ordnance.

Liaison with other aid agencies has been a vital factor in selecting priority areas for work. This is in order to achieve the highest number of beneficiaries.

Coordination, Control and Planning

Coordination, control and planning are achieved by the following means:

- Scheduled meetings at the regional level at Demining Office Peshawar
- Meetings at Provincial, District and Village level with Afghan authorities (Shuras)
- Regular meetings with UN Agencies and other Afghan and International NGOs
- Meeting with coordinating bodies such as the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

- Informal contact with other organisations

Staffing of Demining Office Peshawar

Demining Office Peshawar currently consists of 71 personnel as follows:

- 1 Regional Manager
- 9 Australian Army instructors,
- 15 Afghan instructors,
- 3 Afghan drivers, and
- 43 Pakistani logistics and support staff.

Funding & Expenditure

The lack of regular funding remains the most significant constraint upon the planning and operation of the Mine Clearance Programme. This has inhibited attempts to develop new techniques and introduce new equipment into the Programme.

In late summer of 1992, all funds received by Afghan Technical Consultants had been expended. Although deminers continued to work without pay for two months, teams had to be eventually sent on leave without pay.

Although these teams have been re-fielded, considerable time has been lost, and it is clearly inefficient to withdraw and then relocate teams. At a local level we are most grateful to Ockenden Venture, who kindly donated Rs 75,000, and to the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) which donated US\$ 50,000 in order to keep deminers in the field.

Foreign Military Assistance

The importance of impartial technical input into the programme cannot be stressed enough, and so long as we receive this assistance from the Australian Government, the ability to expand the Programme in the event of an improvement in the funding situation is retained.

The Australian Army contingent remains the only foreign military contingent responsible for training, monitoring and mine incident investigation within the Programme.

Two Australian Army contingents rotated through Demining Office Peshawar in 1992. The system of deploying an advance party for each rotation has maintained continuity in the training.



An Australian Army instructor conducting refresher training in Afghanistan

Photo courtesy THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

Monitoring and Training Team (MTT) Peshawar

All of the monitoring and the majority of the training has been carried out in Afghanistan by mounting in-country missions from Peshawar. At times, due to security and other reasons, it has been necessary to carry out training at the Risalpur Training Camp. It is planned to retain this facility at least until the middle of 1993.

Accident investigations are carried out by the Monitoring and Training Team. The collection of information in this regard is most important as it seeks to identify the causes of accidents and to recommend ways of preventing similar events in the future.

The primary tasks of the MTT during 1992 were:

- to revise and monitor demining teams in Afghanistan;
- to maintain the manning of existing teams through the conduct of Counter Mine Training (CMT) courses, Team Leaders Courses (TLC) and Pre-Deployment Courses (PDC),
- mine incident investigation reporting,
- the production of the Mine Clearance Training Manual, and
- mine awareness training for NGOs.

Training

The focus for training in 1992 has been the revision and monitoring of mine clearing teams in Afghanistan. Counter Mine Training and Team Leaders Courses have been conducted as required to maintain the manning levels of existing teams in ATC and MCPA. Counter Mine Training and one Team Leaders Course were conducted in Herat to enable the Organisation for Mine Awareness to commence mine clearance operations.

The MTT has been directed to continue with Revision Courses (RC) for all mine clearance teams on a six monthly basis. In total MTT have trained over 1600 students in 1992.

Afghan instructors are now conducting all courses, with the Australian Army contingent providing assistance in the form of planning, technical advice, course preparation and administration. The Mine Clearance Training Manual was completed and distributed to all agencies in the Programme. This publication also contains the Programme of Instruction (POI) for all courses conducted by the MTT. In total MTT ran 38 courses in 1992, which consisted of Counter Mine Training, Refresher, Pre-Deployment and Team Leaders courses.

The following training courses were successfully conducted inside Afghanistan during 1992:

COURSE	NO. OF COURSES	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS
Counter Mine Training	6	251
Pre-Deployment Courses	6	421
Team Leaders Courses	4	98
Revision Courses	22	777

Monitoring

Monitoring operations provide the Mine Clearance Programme with a method of validating training and evaluating the performance of the demining teams.

All teams are monitored on the day prior to attendance on a Revision Course (RC). The MTT also monitors mine clearance teams on an independent basis and aims to monitor all teams at least once every six months.

Mine Incident Investigations

In December 1991, the MTT was allocated the responsibility of conducting mine incident investigations for the Mine Clearance Programme. A total of 43 incidents were investigated during 1992.

Risalpur Training Camp

Risalpur Training Camp was established in February 1989. The camp is located on 189 acres of farm land belonging to the Pakistan Army Engineering Centre, located on the outskirts of Risalpur Cantonment. The camp provides essential services such as electricity, water and telecommunications, as well as living, training and demolition areas. Accommodation facilities for over 500 trainees can be provided for.

A total of 15 courses were conducted at Risalpur during 1992. Eight mine dog training courses consisting of 47 dogs and handlers were also held. The courses were held at Risalpur Training Camp in Pakistan when security conditions in Afghanistan did not allow for training to be held in-country.

Other Activities

Demining Office Peshawar organised a number of mine awareness training sessions for NGOs operating out of Peshawar, and plans to continue these in the future. These sessions are designed both for Afghan NGOs and international NGOs. Several visits have taken place in Nangarhar for representatives of current and prospective donor countries. This has enabled the visitors to see the progress of the Programmes activities in Afghanistan.

Future Plans

Further refinements to training and operations are planned for 1993 including:

- translation of the Counter Mine Training manual in Pushto and Dari;
- updating of the Mines Reference Manual;
- investigation and trials of new equipment and procedures;
- further improvements to training methods;
- development of the mine awareness course for NGOs (including a video presentation for NGO personnel who cannot physically attend a course);
- development of an Operations Officers Course;

Andre Millorit
Regional Manager
Demining Office Peshawar

31 January 1993

DEMINEING OFFICE QUETTA

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Introduction

Demining Office Quetta was given a new mandate at the beginning of 1992, which was the management and coordination of the Mine Clearance Programme in the region.

Afghan demining NGOs and Afghan instructors are now playing a vital role in the clearance of mines, and the requirement for supervision by UN instructors has lessened. The major portion of training activities has moved to Afghanistan.

With increasing coordination and cooperation between the NGOs, it is to be hoped that the pace of progress will continue to increase in the months to come.

Training

Training and monitoring activities continued during 1992 and the following results were achieved:

COURSE	NO. OF COURSES	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS
Pre-Deployment Courses	2	118
Team Leaders Courses	2	116
Revision Courses	1	27
Operations Officers Course	8	416
Instructors Course	1	20
Monitoring Missions	1	8
	7	14 Teams

The two monitoring and training teams were made fully mobile and self-sufficient in transport and equipment. They have been organized so that each team consisting of four Afghan instructors can move at a short notice. One instructor on leave from the Norwegian Army was assigned on contract to Demining Office Quetta in May 1992.

Efforts are being made to establish a training site and sub-office in Kandahar city to cater for future training requirements and control of operations inside Afghanistan. These efforts will also provide a base for the future move of the Programme to Afghanistan. An action plan for the move has already been prepared.

Operations

During 1992, Demining Office Quetta has been able to extend operations beyond the province of Kandahar to Zabul, Farah, Helmand and Nimroz. Areas cleared and surveyed in South West Afghanistan can be seen in the progress reports of SWAAD and MCPA.

In accordance with the availability of demining teams and the regional plans, teams worked in the first six months in the provinces of Zabul, Kandahar and Helmand. In the second half of 1992, operations were extended to the provinces of Farah and Oruzgan. The conduct of operations was managed by creating short and long term plans. These plans were developed to assign mine clearance teams to priority tasks over a three to twelve month period. In addition, there was also the marking of maps, transferring of information to computer and display of data on charts. New task completion and survey report has been created. All this information is being updated after survey missions and from minefield completion reports.

A study of various aspects regarding use of Afghan Army resources was conducted in collaboration with demining agencies at Quetta. It was felt that until the establishment of a stable government in Afghanistan, it is not possible to enact this plan. However, minor assistance could be utilized with the consent of the respective Shuras.

Constraints

Due to the unsafe security situation arising out of tribal affiliations, political conflicts and severe weather conditions inside Afghanistan, the short and long term plans had to be revised from time to time.

Liaison with Other Agencies

The Regional Manager has regularly attended SWABAC meetings conducted for the working groups of provinces with all other NGOs.

All UN agencies and NGOs at Quetta were familiarized with the Mine Clearance Programme.

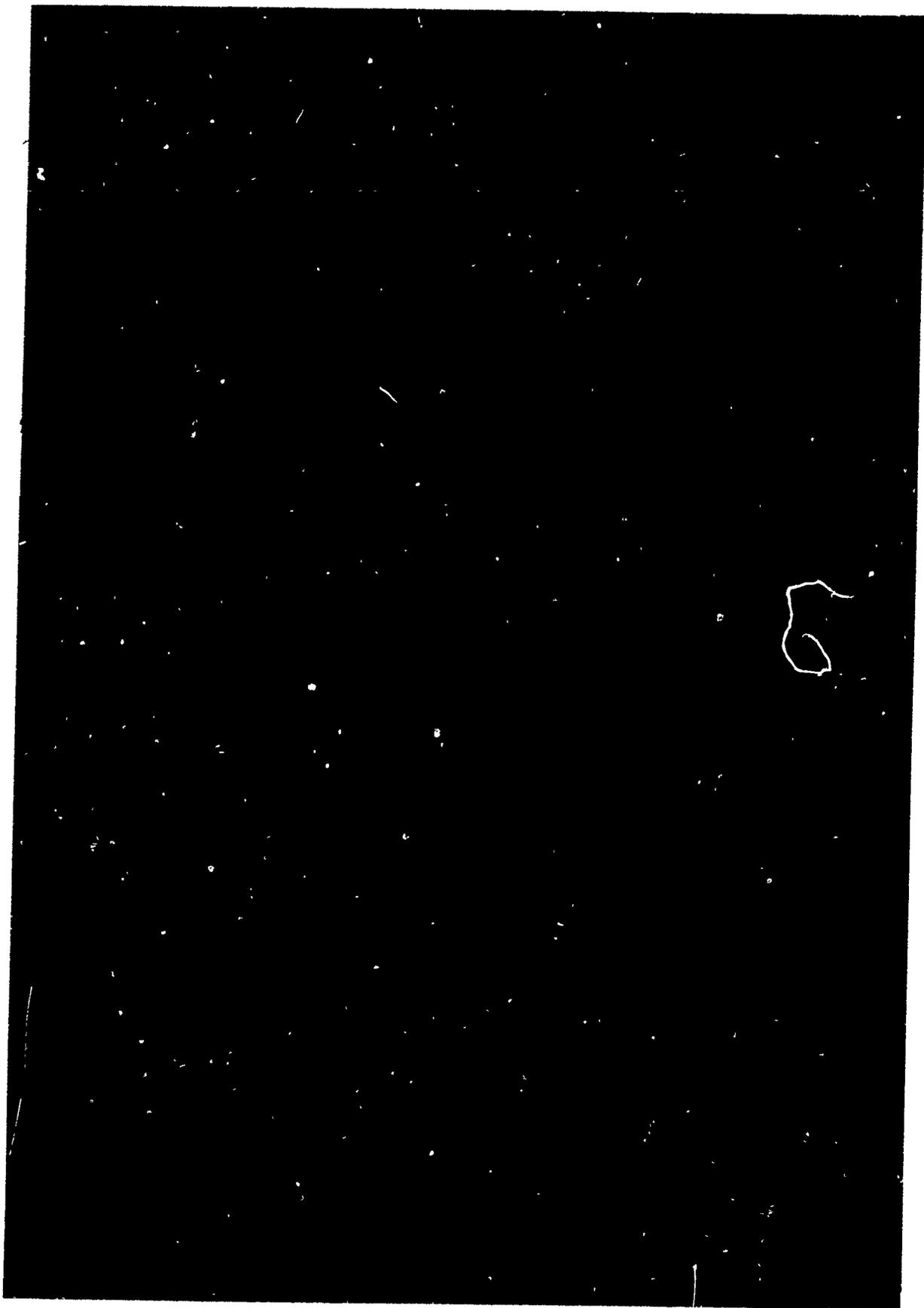
Project areas of a number of UN Agencies were demined in order to facilitate their plans.

Finance

Expenditure of the Demining Office Quetta was US\$ 115,000 during 1992. Funds were utilized by the Demining Office Quetta through the PRCS imprest account. No serious shortfalls were experienced during 1992.

Tashin Disbudak
Regional Manager
Demining Office Quetta

31 January 1993



ROLL OF HONOUR 1992

**The undermentioned mine clearance personnel lost their lives
whilst clearing mines in the service of the Afghan people**

MINE CLEARANCE PLANNING AGENCY

**Sayed Yahya s/o Sayed Kamil
11 October 1992**

SOUTH WEST AFGHANISTAN AGENCY FOR DEMINING

**Mastu Khan s/o Abdul Kadir
16 March 1992**

THE HALO TRUST

**Shah Mohammed s/o Fazil Mohammed
08 July 1992**

**Julian Gregson
13 July 1992**

**Tim Goggs
15 July 1992**

AFGHAN TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

**Sher Mohammed s/o Sher Ahmed
16 February 1992**

**Mohammed Qasim s/o Ghulam Jelani
16 February 1992**

**Syed Rehman s/o Sultan Mehmood
16 February 1992**

**Remat Ullah s/o Gul Ajan
26 March 1992**

**Kalimullah s/o Pir Mohammed
9 July 1992**

**Mohammed Moqim s/o Abdul Jalil
29 July 1992**



د آمانه خیریتہ مؤانسہ

**ORGANIZATION FOR MINE AWARENESS
ANNUAL REPORT 1992**



A Mine awareness lecture being given to women and children.

H. D-3, 21, St.9, 2nd Ghazali Road,
Phase 1, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

ORGANIZATION FOR MINE AWARENESS

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Directors Message

OMA has successfully implemented both Mine Awareness and Mine Clearance Projects in 1992. During the first half of 1992, funding for mine awareness was provided by the European Community, as they considered the project as essential for the rehabilitation of returning refugees. An agreement was made between OMA and the European Community for the mine awareness project in July 1992, and funds were released in late September 1992. Based on good relations with the Afghan community, sound management and successful implementation of the projects, OMA was also funded by the EC to carry-out mine clearance in Herat.

Delegates of several UN and international agencies paid visits to the project sites in Herat and witnessed the progress being made in mine clearance operations in the region. Due to financial constraints, the implementation of the project was delayed for a short period. However, work re-commenced and OMA has since made strenuous efforts to achieve the planned targets.



Fazel Karim Fazel
Director
OMA

31 January 1993

MINE AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Operations

Training in Afghanistan

OMA has deployed a total of 24 mine awareness teams in 22 districts of the provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, Kapisa, Kabul, Logar, Badakhshan, Paktiya, Helmand, Kandahar and Herat. A mine awareness team was assigned at the border crossing point of Torkham on 20 September 1992, to conduct mine awareness for Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan.

Female staff were recruited to assist in the rehabilitation process in the OMA womens mine awareness programmes. The female staff have been trained to carry-out mine awareness courses for women and children in the communities.

The teams have successfully given mine awareness courses to a total of 245,408 persons during the period. This includes 184,173 males and 61,235 females.

Training for NGO's - Pakistan

OMA has arranged numerous mine awareness courses for different NGO's in Peshawar and Quetta. A total of 708 males, females and foreign participants attended these courses. The NGOs included IMC, SCF (UK), International Committee Red Cross and Afghan Red Crescent Society, among others.

Silkscreens, Posters and Mine Model Display Cases.

Since the formation of the Islamic Government in Afghanistan, OMA has been able to move widely into most areas of Afghanistan, and has distributed 174,791 silkscreens, 11,000 posters and 63 mine model display cases.

BBC Pushto Service

During 1992, the BBC updated the Pushto radio programmes with the aid of OMA. A consultant for the BBC visited the refugee camps and various OMA mine awareness locations, gathering information and materials for the BBC Pushto Service Programme.

Incidents

No serious security incidents or accidents were reported during 1992.

Finance

Due to a lack of finance, most of the mine awareness activities were suspended during the first quarter of 1992. The European Community funded OMA to carry-out the mine awareness project during the second half of 1992. Due to delays in releasing the funds, the programme did not commence on schedule as planned, however OMA has made efforts to meet the targets set for 1992.

Summary

OMA teams have received tremendous cooperation and support from shuras, community leaders and local inhabitants of the areas where mine awareness programmes were being implemented. The need to inform innocent civilians of the dangers of mines, and the requirement to reinforce the mine awareness message in the community will continue for years to come.

MINE CLEARANCE - HERAT

1 AUGUST - 31 DECEMBER 1992

Introduction

During an initial visit by the Programme Manager to Herat in May 1992, an agreement was made between the Mine Clearance Programme and the Governor of Herat to commence the training of local Afghan volunteers in the techniques of mine clearance. The aim was to clear the heavily mined areas, initially within the city boundaries, and then gradually into in the whole province. The mines were affecting the safe return of the refugees from neighboring Iran, as well as the rehabilitation efforts in the province of Herat.

Operations

A team comprising of two Australian Army personnel and seven Afghan instructors were deployed to Herat on 1 July 1992. The team conducted Counter Mine Training and a Pre-Deployment Course for local volunteers. A total of 54 students attended the courses, out of which 40 successfully completed both. On 1 August 1992, OMA recruited the 40 trained deminers to carry-out manual demining. OMA began Mine Clearance operations on 9 August 1992 in the Engil district of Herat.



Site Supervisor, Mr. Nazir Gul at the OMA site office in Herat.

By the end of November 1992, two additional teams were trained and deployed to Engil, Zindajan and Gulzara districts of Herat province. The mine clearance teams in Herat have successfully completed all planned tasks on schedule. A total of 384 mines and UXO's were destroyed and a total 236,948 square meters of area was cleared during the period. Over 50,000 people in the three districts of Herat have benefitted directly from the work completed by the OMA mine clearance teams.

Developments

The OMA sub-office based in Quetta, Pakistan was relocated to Herat to supervise the mine clearance activities. An office building has been rented in Herat city to provide offices, storage, parking areas and radio communications. OMA has also set-up a clinic with an ambulance for emergency purposes. A Sitor radio system is due to be installed in the sub-office and is expected to be in service during 1993.

Events leading-up to the implementation of the project were as follows:

- All government agencies were informed of the procedure of trainee selection and recruitment for mine clearance operations.
- Until 19 September 1992, the response to the call for recruitment was quite low.
- During the period 20 - 22 September 1992, announcements were made on television and radio, introducing OMAs mine clearance activities in Herat. As a result, a total of 46 people were registered.
- On the first day of the course, 36 students attended, out of which, two students were discontinued by the second day of training.
- Further announcements were made on the television and radio during the period 27 - 29 September 1992. A further 33 persons were registered for the course.
- A Team Leaders course commenced on 24 October 1992 and concluded on 10 November 1992.
- A Counter Mine Training course for an additional team commenced on 28 October 1992 and concluded on 10 November 1992.
- A Revision Course for the 3 mine clearance teams commenced on 11 November and concluded on 22 November 1992.
- On 23 November 1992, the 3 teams were fully equipped to commence manual mine clearance operations.
- Courses have also been established to upgrade the skills and knowledge of the team leaders and supervisors in December 1992.

Visits

On 20 July 1992, a mission comprising of the Programme Manager MCP, Director ATC and Director OMA visited Herat to review the progress of the mine clearing operations. The mission also attended the graduation ceremony of the first mine clearance teams and held discussions with the Governor of Herat who expressed the satisfaction of the progress being made in the implementation of the project.

The OMA proposal made to the European Community was explained to the Governor, outlining the terms of the agreement which was initially funded for three (3) months with the possibility of extending for a further period.

During another visit to Herat, the Director of OMA held discussions on the repatriation and rural developments in the region. Meetings were attended by the various representatives of the government, WHO mission in Herat, UNHCR and other UN agencies. The representatives were briefed about the EC funding situation among other aspects of the mine clearance operations in Herat.

UN agencies and other organizations requested further mine clearances in Western Afghanistan to assist in the repatriation and reconstruction of the region.



Director OMA with Mr. Willy Demeyer (European Community) during a visit to Herat.

Incidents

During the period, two separate accidents occurred in the Zindajan district of Herat, in which both deminers sustained injuries to their eyes. The first incident occurred on 22 October 1992 involving Abdul Rauf and the second incident on 19 December 1992 involving Fazel Ahmad.

Future Plans

OMA plans to continue mine clearance operations in Herat with plans for expansion of an additional two teams in the field. Mechanical mine clearance is being considered as an option in 1993.

Finance

To date, OMA has received ECUs 320,000 as emergency aid which contributed to the implementation of the project. The project which was originally signed for three months has been extended for a further one month in order to achieve the planned targets'.

Administration

Herat is logistically difficult to support teams by road due to the distance and security in the neighboring provinces. The alternative form of transport in use presently is the UN aircraft Salam-01. The aircraft is being utilized to provide funds and equipment to the site office in Herat.

A total of 132 mine clearance personnel in Herat have been insured with the State Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, which covers accidental and natural death benefits.

OMA has also established a medical clinic in support of the staff and the inhabitants of Herat.

Equipment

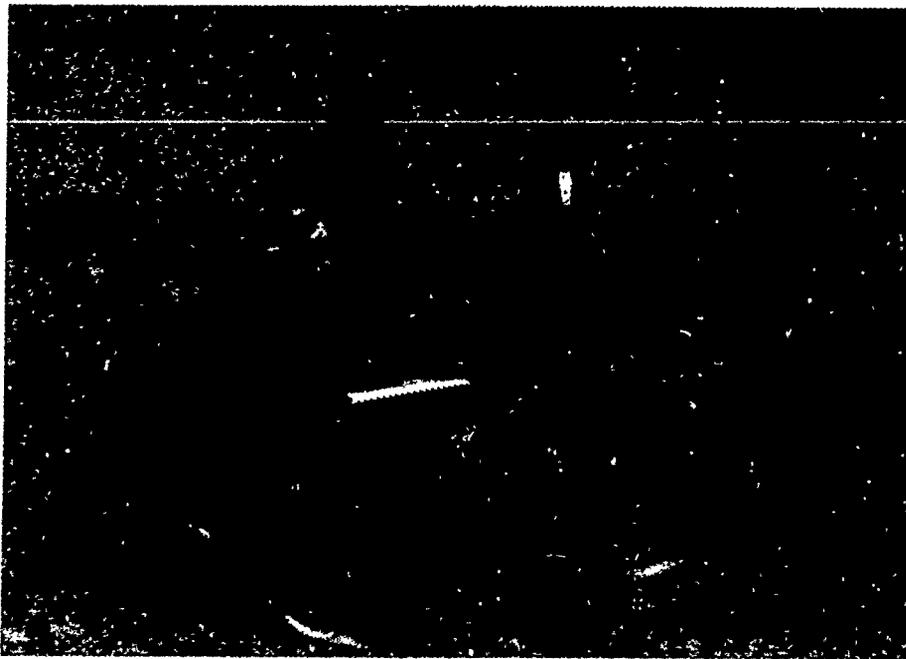
OMA has a total of twenty one (21) vehicles. Of these, fifteen vehicles are operating under the UN project registration numbers (X - 68), and the remaining six are operate under Peshawar registration numbers (PR).

MINE CLEARANCE PLANNING AGENCY



MCPA

ANNUAL REPORT 1992



MCPA Surveyors marking a minefield.

Headquarters
1-A, St.2, F-8/3.
Islamabad.
Tele: 253789 - 92
Fax : 859829

Peshawar Office
House No. 58/H2
Phase 2, Hayatabad
Tel: 810803
Fax: 810194

Quetta Office
164-166, Block No:5,
Satellite Town
Tel: 43979
Fax: 43979

4/11



MCPA Mapping Officer preparing a detailed map of a minefield.

MINE CLEARANCE PLANNING AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Directors Message

The Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA) is an NGO funded by UNOCA, responsible for the survey of mined areas in Afghanistan. During 1992, MCPA faced a number of organizational changes due to developments in Afghanistan. The change of Government in Kabul resulted in access to provincial areas which were previously inaccessible. Civilian mine casualties increased dramatically as a result of the return of refugees into rural areas that had yet to be cleared of mines. In order to address the urgent need to survey and clear mines in the provinces, MCPA survey teams increased from 10 to 16 teams by raising six additional teams.

From the onset of 1992, MCPA underwent a number of organizational changes, firstly, by moving the operations and planning sections to Islamabad in order to enable the central planning of mine clearance operations. This move resulted in the recording and analyzing of data of mine clearance operations to be controlled centrally. A data-base of all survey and clearance operations has now been established to facilitate the planning of mine clearance operations, this data-base has been adopted by the mine clearance NGOs operating in Afghanistan.

Despite the delays caused due to the security situation and weather conditions, work continued uninterrupted throughout 1992, this was achieved through close cooperation with shuras and the central government in Afghanistan. MCPA surveyed a total of 312 minefields covering 14,645,476 square meters of agricultural land, irrigation systems, grazing, residential areas and roads in 14 provinces in Afghanistan. MCPA destroyed 485 devices and detected 165,227 fragments during the survey operations during the same period.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to all those who assisted MCPA to undertake this important task of rehabilitating and rebuilding Afghanistan. My thanks goes especially to UNOCA for their valuable support and to the local authorities for providing security, information and cooperation. I request all donor countries to continue contributing to this program, where every donation, no matter how small, would contribute to save the lives of the Afghans.



Sayed Aqa
Director
MCPA

31 January 1993

Operations

The headquarters of MCPA operations is located in Islamabad, with sub-offices attached to the regional Demining Offices in Peshawar and Quetta. Each Operations section comprises an operations officer, mapping officer and computer operator. MCPAs responsibilities include the tasking of the survey teams, setting priorities for mine clearance NGOs, liaison with other organizations operating in Afghanistan and the maintenance of the Mine Clearance Programme databases. The Operations Room in Islamabad is also responsible for the coordination of Programme wide activities and the drafting of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

During 1992, MCPA carried out survey operations in 36 districts of 14 provinces, and surveyed a total of 312 minefields covering 14,645,476 square meters of different types of mined areas including residential, grazing, irrigation and agricultural land, as well as roads.

In addition to these survey operations, MCPA has carried out the resurvey of 3 previously surveyed minefields. Although these minefields were not in priority areas, they required resurvey due to the markings being removed. MCPA has now permanently marked 20 minefields which were not on the priority list for clearance for the next six months. During 1992, MCPA teams have detected and destroyed 397 anti personnel (AP) mines, 37 anti tank (AT) mines and 52 unexploded ordnance (UXO's).

Suspected Mined Areas

Deployment of mine clearance teams to areas where the presence of mines has not been confirmed and small tasks has proven to be a costly exercise. MCPA has developed technical procedures which prove the actual presence of mines in suspected mined areas with the assistance of Mine Dog Teams. Areas found to be mined are then marked for future clearance, while areas clear of mines are declared safe by the survey teams. During 1992, MCPA teams have cleared a number of small areas in Logar, Nangarhar, Kabul and Paktia provinces. This was in response to requests received from aid agencies such as UNHCR, Care International and local residents. A total of 127,300 square meters of mined areas have been cleared and 23 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed during these operations.

Mine Incidents

During 1992, a total of 4 mine accidents involving MCPA personnel occurred resulting in one death and injuries to 6 personnel. These accidents clearly illustrate the extent of risks faced by the teams involved in survey operations.

Projects

A number of projects were undertaken and completed during 1992. The main projects were:

- Standard weekly, monthly and minefield completion reports were introduced across the Programme.
- A system was developed for cataloguing, using and distributing Soviet and Regime minefield records.
- The radio network handbook for the Mine Clearance Programme was published.
- Operations SOP's for the Mine Clearance Programme and MCPA were revised and are due to be published in January 1993.
- Figures were collated and reports produced on Programme wide mine survey and clearance figures for 1990 - 1991.
- The medical evacuation plan for the Mine Clearance Programme was updated and published.
- Clearance data for demining agencies was collated and analyzed to estimate the average clearance rates per square meters, were developed for planning purposes.

Training

MCPA carried-out refresher courses and training for all surveyors and support staff. A number of training courses and seminars were conducted in different locations during the year. They were:

- The MCPA Survey Course was revised and conducted in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan from 05 - 19 July 1992. 27 students attended the course, out of which a total of 24 students were selected
- A revision course to meet the requirements of MCPA teams was developed and conducted in Peshawar. The same course format will be adopted in Quetta in January 1993. MCPA teams undergo a revision course every six months.
- A three day conference attended by SWAAD and MCPA team leaders and surveyors to examine operational procedures and the development of dissemination of solutions to issues encountered in the field. Participants were also given refresher courses in the use of compasses, map reading and report formats. SWAAD personnel were introduced to cleared area formula for calculations and the new completion report format.

- A three day seminar was held for ATC team leaders, MTT instructors, MCPA surveyors and MDC field personnel. The aim of the seminar was to update participants on operational procedures and to promote a better understanding of the roles and capabilities of the mine clearance NGOs
- A one week first-aid course was conducted for surveyors at MCPA Quetta

Mapping

Maps play a major role in mine clearance operations. In addition to the provision of minefield maps to mine clearance agencies, MCPA provides maps indicating mined and cleared areas to other NGO's, UN agencies and returning refugees.

The mapping section also assists the various NGO's and United Nations agencies by providing maps of districts and provinces for any specific area where they plan to implement their projects. For this purpose MCPA mapping section has produced a complete set of maps which indicate the location of minefields at a district level.

Projects undertaken in 1992 included:

- A filing system for the 1:100,000 scale topographic maps of Afghanistan which included maps drawn by the Russians are obtained from the Government .
- Copies of sketch maps of all minefields surveyed during the year 1992 were provided to mine clearance NGOs.
- Copies of updated general maps were distributed, showing the locations of mined areas which have been surveyed and or cleared of eastern Paktia, and Nangarhar provinces to UNHCR, UNDP, ACBAR, ACLU, DACAAR, Swedish Committee, Save the Children UK and others.
- Maps showing 1:50,000 scale of eastern Paktia and Nangarhar provinces were produced to show the location of minefields, safe areas and roads.
- Copies of updated general maps showing the location of mined areas surveyed or cleared in most provinces for NGO's and other UN organizations operating in Afghanistan were prepared and distributed.
- A number of Russian drawn maps showing the general location of mined areas were reproduced in accordance with the requirements of the Mine Clearance Program were reproduced.
- The code number of some maps which had been prepared in 1990/1991 were incorporated into the new standard code numbers were revised.
- A map for UNDP/OPS showing all main roads in Afghanistan which are believed to be mined was prepared.

Administration

The administration section of MCPA provides support to all sections of MCPA. Specific responsibilities include the hiring of staff, procurement, maintenance and disposal of assets, and administration of properties. A number of changes to staff occurred at the beginning of the year due to the reorganization of the program including the resignation of a number of personnel. In addition, the training project will be implemented by MCPA in 1993, and necessary arrangements have been made to ensure the continuation of the project. Candidates have been interviewed for various posts required for the training project.

Insurance

During 1991, MCPA insured personnel who were working or involved in field activities. In 1992, all MCPA employees were fully insured with an insurance company against accidental death and injury. Insurance claims of personnel killed or injured during 1992 have been processed by the insurance company and the funds paid to the injured personnel and beneficiaries.

Computer Data-bases

Apart from updating the data-base system designed during 1991, copies were provided to MCPA Islamabad for inclusion in the central data-base. In addition to maintaining and updating the staff data base, the following systems were created to increase the efficiency of MCPA:

- A database program was designed for the monthly progress and task completion reports of all demining agencies. These reports are submitted to Mine Clearance Programme Headquarters on a regular basis.
- The finance section has been fully computerized in 1992. A database system capable of storing and processing all types of financial data to provide various outputs in the forms of vouchers, ledgers, monthly financial statements etc. has been developed by the computer section at MCPA Peshawar.
- An inventory database has been designed to keep an updated record of all office assets that are procured and issued within MCPA

Finance

The finance section is responsible for formulating systems and procedures for determining the financial position of MCPA, maintaining budgetary control, and maintaining data for all financial liabilities, commitments and obligations of the agency.

Financial statements are prepared on a monthly basis and are reviewed by UNOCA Islamabad. These statements reflect the total allocation under different heads of account, expenses and commitments incurred and the un-utilized balance. The actual

expenses are compared with allocations under different heads of account and negative variances are analyzed with a view to taking timely corrective action

Funding and Expenditure - Audit

During the first quarter of 1992, a team of United Nations external auditors visited MCPA for a period of three days. The auditors were given all schedules and other documents to be audited. The auditors completed their audit and recommended that a separate bank account be maintained for the self insurance of MCPAs non-expendable equipment. This recommendation has been implemented. No other audit objections were raised.

Developments

A finance data-base system has been developed by the computer section in Peshawar for use by the finance section. The data is now entered into the data-base programme once a day, and is automatically transferred to all associated files. The records and reports are then modified to reflect the transactions made which are then immediately available.

The following transactions have benefitted from the data-base programme :

- Vouchers for US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees.
- Cash Book Pakistani Rupees.
- Bank Book US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees.
- Journal US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees.
- General Ledger US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees.
- Sub-Ledger US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees.
- Monthly Expenditure Statement US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees.
- Consolidated Expenditure Statement US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees
- Monthly Trial Balance US Dollars and Pakistani Rupees and
- Financial Statement.

Logistics

The Logistic section is responsible for the provision of support to all MCPA teams and the offices in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta

The section achieved its goals in 1992 through cooperation and joint planning between MCPA and UNOCA. The financial aspects of the logistic section are handled by the logistic officer in close liaison with the finance section. Sources for the procurement of

all equipment have been found and all transactions made according to the rules and regulations.

A summary of the major activities of the logistic section during 1992 are:

- Survey equipment including 18 x Phillips Mine detectors, 7 x HF Mobile Radio sets, 10 x prismatic compasses, 25 x VHF Radios, 18 x ballistic helmets and 5 x Toyota pick up vehicles were provided to the 6 newly trained survey teams. This was done with the joint co-operation of UNOCA Islamabad.
- Survey teams operating from Peshawar and Quetta have been fully equipped with the necessary survey and operational equipment. Two Vehicles, one Landcruiser and one 4 x 4 Toyota pick up vehicle, were transferred from Peshawar to Quetta. Unfortunately a pick up vehicle was completely destroyed in a mine incident on 19 October 1992 on Umki road in Zabul province. A request has been submitted to UNOCA to replace the vehicle using funds from the self insurance scheme.
- MCPA Islamabad and the sub-offices in Quetta and Peshawar have been fully equipped with all necessary office equipment and furniture. Two desk top computers and one printer were procured to complete the computerization of MCPA activities. Another Lap Top computer from Peshawar office was transferred to the Quetta office.
- Transportation of survey equipment, food stuff and fuel for vehicles into Afghanistan is a difficult task due to the non existence of built up roads into areas. The vehicles require regular repair and maintenance which has been carried-out at regular intervals.
- RONCO provided 6 x modified shower trucks which have proven to be very helpful in conducting operations.
- Inventory lists, stock ledgers and a data base program were prepared and maintained for all non-expendable stores in accordance with UNOCA SOPs. All materials and equipment are stored in accordance with UNOCA storage care and preservation guidelines.
- Offices for MCPA Peshawar and Quetta, MCPA survey teams and accommodation for the Technical Advisor MCPA in Islamabad have been rented at minimal cost.
- An effective accounting system has been devised to ensure all purchases and issues are accounted for and regular agency stock takes are carried out by an appointed group of officers on behalf of the Director.

Future plans

In 1993, MCPA will further expand its operations into Afghanistan. This expansion will be carried-out according to the following measures:

- Continuation of survey operations and also take over responsibility for the funding and implementation of the training project from PRCS.
- Expansion of activities to 22 provinces of Afghanistan.
- Conducting operations according to the priority plan produced by the Mine Clearance Programme Headquarters in Islamabad and concentrate on priority areas. This will include major access roads that are blocked by mines.
- Survey and permanently mark mined areas which are not on the priority list for clearance within six months of survey.
- Liaison with ministries of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan to utilize their resources as appropriate. This will enable a safe, speedy and cost effective mine clearance operation.
- Conducting a nationwide survey if funding becomes available.

Conclusion

1992 has been rewarding for MCPA. The changes in government have encouraged many refugees to return to their homes and villages. However, this has resulted in the increased need for mine clearance, particularly in cities and towns which were previously not accessible.

Close relations have continued with all NGOs, UN agencies and the Islamic Government of Afghanistan. This has assisted MCPA in carrying out the mission of helping the people of Afghanistan.

The major problem faced during 1992 was the funding situation. The lack of funds has caused some undesirable delays in operations and makes effective long term planning difficult.

During 1992 MCPA surveyed a total of 14.6 million square meters and permanently marked 402,113 square meters of mined area. During the same period 83.35 % of the budget proposed for this purpose has been utilized.

MCPA is looking forward to the future with great optimism. The task at hand is huge, but not insurmountable. We hope that one day all Afghans will be able to safely walk the streets and fields, unafraid of the hidden and deadly menace of mines. The most important thing we require now is the assistance of other countries so that we can rid ourselves of this legacy of war.

AFGHAN TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS



**MINE CLEARANCE ORGANIZATION
ANNUAL REPORT 1992**



ATC personnel conducting mine clearance in Nangarhar.

H.45, D-4, University Road, Old Jamrud Road
University Town, Peshawar.
Tele: 0521-41308

AFGHAN TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Director's Message

The Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) was established as a Non-Governmental Organization in 1989. Its achievements in every respect have been creditable. ATC has striven to remain absolutely neutral in dealing with all segments of Afghan society. ATC's success in clearing mines from vast areas of rural and residential land, while maintaining a politically neutral stance, is evidenced by the respect which the Afghan people hold for ATC.

ATC conducts its demining operations in a frequently hostile environment, but was able to overcome many of the obstacles which were created between political parties and the local people of Afghanistan. Most NGOs working in Afghanistan have repeatedly faced security problems posed by Afghan Mujahideen. Highjacking and kidnapping, including theft of equipment and sometimes murder, were frequent events. ATC has had a large number of vehicles and personnel moving to the demining areas in Afghanistan from Peshawar and has not been immune from attacks. Fortunately, ATC has been successful in negotiating for the return of the vehicles and equipment.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the staff of ATC, the Afghan authorities, donor countries, UNOCA headquarters in Geneva and Islamabad, and the Mine Clearance Programme, wishing them further success in the reconstruction of Afghanistan in the New Year.



Kifayatullah Eblagh
Director
ATC

31 January 1993

Introduction

The role of the Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) is to clear land mines from its area of operations according to the priorities set by the Mine Clearance Programme. The ATC area of operations include the Eastern, Central, Southern and Northern Provinces of Afghanistan.

In 1992, ATC developed seven site offices and eighteen demining teams. During the year, ATC was able to extend its operations into provinces such as Logar, Laghman and Kabul. This expansion was made possible by the change of Government in Kabul in April 1992 which removed many obstacles which had prevented operations in those areas. The extension of operations into previously contested areas will continue within the priorities set during 1992.

Outline of Agency activities for 1992

During 1992, ATC was able to successfully carry out 123 demining tasks in the various provinces of Afghanistan. Despite variations in the rate of mine clearance caused by different ground conditions, the overall rate of clearance increased during the year.

Improvements were made to the structure of the demining teams by establishing two man breaching parties, which released an additional person per demining party. The new structure has been operating for the past three months, and it appears much more efficient with consequent gains in productivity without compromising safety.

Security within Afghanistan continues to hamper operations, particularly when road movement is necessary. Through pursuing a policy of complete neutrality and by developing relationships with regional and local leaders, ATC has been able to minimize disruptions.

ATC maintains a Mechanical Mine Clearance Unit (MMCU), consisting of two flail machines. Despite mechanical difficulties which have beset the machines during 1992, the flail machines have shown improved levels of performance when in operation.

Operations

Developments

During 1992, ATC initiated quarterly and annual seminars aimed at improving the skills of the Supervisors and Team Commanders. ATC was also able to provide significant medical assistance to field personnel by reinforcing the Field Medical Units (FMUs).

On the basis of guidelines provided by UNOCA, ATC was successful in developing effective cooperation with the various mine clearance organizations as well as to other allied organizations and NGOs. With the approval of UNOCA, ATC reorganized its teams from 3-man to 2-man demining parties. As a result of this, ATC was able to undertake more work with a smaller number of personnel.

Operational Progress

During 1992 ATC manual and mechanical demining projects were active in Paktia, Takhar, Nangarhar, Kunar, Ghazni, Laghman, Badakhshan, Logar and Kabul provinces. A total of 5,109,944 square meters of land was cleared of mines, mostly in prime rural and residential areas and benefitted a total of 1,505,554 inhabitants.

New Devices Discovered

During 1992, ATC deminers discovered one previously unknown anti-tank mine device. Information on the device was disseminated throughout all mine clearance agencies.

Incidents

A total of 23 accidents occurred during mine clearance activities during 1992. Despite these events, the morale of ATC personnel has remained high and the deminers continue their activities with great courage. With the purchase of protective helmets and visors for use by the deminers in 1993, the injuries sustained should be significantly reduced.

Other Completed Projects

During 1992, ATC was able to successfully computerize most of its administrative support in the field. It is anticipated that software and computers will be acquired in 1993 for the further enhancement of information flow.

ATC has conducted continuation training for ATC Operations Officers working at project sites and at the headquarters. This training has greatly enhanced the ability to record field mine clearance data accurately.

Liaison with UN / Non-Governmental Organizations

After developing an effective organizational structure at ATC, liaison was strengthened with other UN organizations and NGOs by holding periodic meetings. Meetings were held at the various levels with various staff of the UN organizations and monthly conferences with Afghan NGOs. Similarly, organizations concerned with Afghanistans reconstruction activities have held discussions to draw ATCs attention to areas requiring mine clearance.

Future Plans

To respond to the mine clearance requests for 1993, ATC plans to expand its activities to include three new provinces of Parwan, Wardak, and Kunduz. ATC is also exploring the possibility of expanding its activities in some of the Northern provinces.

Financing

Funds received/spent

In 1992, ATC received an amount of US\$ 3,550,000.00 and utilized a total of US\$ 3,722,450.65 to finance the projects. Throughout 1992 ATC faced severe gaps in the flow of funds which affected operations, to the extent that nine teams were sent on unpaid leave for eight weeks.

Additionally, ATC received contributions of US\$ 50,000 from the Norwegian Committee for Afghanistan and Rs. 75,000 from the Okenden Venture.

Audits

During 1990 and 1991, auditing of ATC accounts was carried out by missions from United Nations audit teams from New York and Geneva. Those missions were satisfied with the standards of book keeping maintained by ATC. Various accounting procedures recommended by the auditors were implemented accordingly.

Administration & Logistics

Support given to the teams

Funding for the procurement of essential equipment was adequately provided for in 1992. This included the procuring of additional Schiebel mine detectors to replace the Whites mine detectors. ATC was also able to purchase from its Self Insurance Account new mine detectors and necessary equipment to compensate for stolen or damaged equipment. This timely procurement and supply was an important factor in enabling the continuation of operations.

ATC also received contributions of various demining equipment and clothing which were issued to the demining teams.

Equipment Provided for the Projects

The following items were purchased for use by the projects:

- spray machines for hygiene control in accommodation areas;
- tankers for potable water;
- ambulances for the Field Medical Units;
- communication equipment, (V.H.F and H.F radios);
- tents for field shelter; and
- orders have been placed for fragmentation helmets and visors to enhance safety in the field

Conclusion

1992 has been a successful year for ATC. Improvement in the efficiency of procedures and the application of equipment and ancillary services have combined to produce the clearance of greater area. This has not been without its difficulties as the security situation, mine casualties and funding restrictions, have been restraining factors.

Annexes

- A. Total Area Cleared and Devices Destroyed during 1992.

AFGHAN TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS
 TOTAL AREA CLEARED AND DEVICES DESTROYED DURING 1992

MONTH	AGRI-LAND	GRAZING	ROAD	IRRIGATION	ROAD	GRAZING	AGRI-LAND	UNEXP. TOTAL	UNEXP. TOTAL		
JAN/FEB	332,407	198,624	132,653	0	0	663,684	15	95	209	319	287,273
MAR/APR	437,785	2,821	229,942	0	20,834	691,382	41	848	702	1,591	1,058,817
MAY/JUN	514,861	171,391	112,482	16,568	59,318	874,620	29	1,483	714	2,226	452,571
JUL/AUG	567,722	111,954	171,496	8,002	46,856	905,030	51	3,569	571	4,191	454,244
SEP/OCT	525,510	277,799	200,374	50,361	27,217	1,081,261	35	4,462	551	5,048	911,990
NOV/DEC	500,150	85,616	147,491	15,001	144,709	892,967	35	3,868	311	4,214	849,258
SUB-TOTAL	2,478,435	848,265	944,216	80,932	144,709	3,456,557	205	18,323	2,860	13,328	10,000,000

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**SOUTH WEST AFGHANISTAN
AGENCY FOR DEMINING
ANNUAL REPORT 1992**

د افغانستان په جنوب غرب کې د مین پاکولو موسسه



A SWAAD deminer working in the urban area of Kandhar.

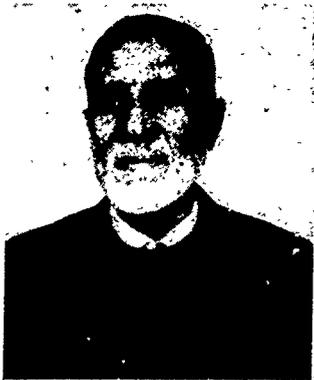
Al Belal Colony, Satellite Town, Quetta
Tele: 081-43722

SOUTH WEST AFGHANISTAN AGENCY FOR DEMINING ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Directors Message

During 1992, a number of events occurred which affected the management of SWAAD. These unfortunately had some impact on operations. The SWAAD Steering Committee decided to change the Director and agreement on a replacement Director has yet to be reached. Haji Ali, the Administration Officer was appointed as acting Director, a position which he holds to date. Consultations are presently underway between UNOCA and the Steering Committee to resolve this matter.

The operations of SWAAD were also affected due to floods, the security situation and the hijacking of vehicles in Kandahar province. SWAAD also faced the problem of clearing mines in the built-up areas of Kandahar city, which proved to be a slow and tedious process. Despite all these difficulties, teams continued to work and reasonable progress has been made during 1992. It is hoped that the situation will improve in 1993.



Haji Ali
Acting Director
SWAAD

31 January 1993

Introduction

In June 1990, South West Afghan Agency for Demining (SWAAD) was established as an Afghan Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The overall objective was to conduct mine clearance operations in the South-Western region of Afghanistan. The provinces covered by SWAAD were Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand, Farah, Nimroz, Herat, Urozgan and Badghis. This was to enable the safe return of refugees and resumption of normal life of the inhabitants. Operations were initially begun in the cross border districts outside and around the main cities.

In April 1992, a new interim government was established in Afghanistan. SWAAD was thus able to extend mine clearance operations into the cities and urban areas. A Regional Demining office and the position of Regional Manager were also established in Quetta. The result of this was a system of improved information flow through joint monthly coordination meetings. It is envisaged that the rate of progress will further strengthen the operations in 1993.

Operations

Effects of Reorganization:

In the later part of 1992, a military Technical Advisor was temporarily assigned to SWAAD. This enabled the operations section to increase the flow of information to an acceptable efficiency level. Appointments of Operations Officers, Assistant Team Leaders and the expansion of the size of demining teams from 27 to 32 men teams resulted in increased efficiency. These changes have enhanced field control and the quality of operations. The training of an additional two teams in May 1992 has increased SWAAD's mine clearance operational capacity from 10 to 12 teams. The tasks of urban mine clearance is rapidly becoming a priority issue and is likely to continue beyond 1992.

Operational Progress

With the exception of the first two months of 1992, during which the weather conditions delayed the mine clearance operations, SWAAD's operations progressed without any major obstacles throughout the remainder of 1992. The total amount of area cleared was lower than previous years due to the fact that most teams were working in the built-up areas of cities, which proved to be difficult and slow. According to plans, SWAAD expanded its operations beyond the province of Kandahar to Zabul, Helmand, Farah and Nimroz.

The following areas by provinces were cleared in 1992.

MONTH	AGRI-LAND	GRAZING	ROAD	IRRIGATION	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL AREA	AT	AP	UXO'S	TOTAL DEVICES	SIRAPNEL
JAN/FEB	250,398	63,637	0	17,876	0	331,911	11	8	297	316	167,151
MAR/APR	62,037	53,645	34,411	1,920	0	152,013	5	18	123	146	99,853
MAY/JUN	11,405	37,709	127,236	19,257	16,942	212,549	49	94	142	285	179,203
JUL/AUG	0	0	71,221	135,661	89,584	296,466	8	186	488	682	205,097
SEP/OCT	0	0	29,090	107,059	221,372	357,521	9	255	417	681	249,444
NOV/DEC	67,827	0	39,985	118,471	84,491	310,774	8	173	458	639	340,469
SUB-TOTAL	391,667	154,091	301,943	400,244	412,389	1,561,234	90	734	1,923	2,749	1,241,217

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Constant requests for mine clearance in different regions of Afghanistan outweighed SWAADs operational capacity to meet with commitments other than those priority tasks planned for during 1992

Incidents

It is worth noting that with the start of demining operations in built-up area of the cities and villages, mine related accidents have been on the increase. Throughout 1992, 14 mine explosions occurred during mine clearing operations, resulting in one deminer killed and 17 injured. Evacuation and treatment procedures were carried out satisfactorily and the injured deminers were paid insurance compensation promptly for injuries sustained.

Administration:

Achievements

- All job descriptions and contracts for SWAAD employees were renewed in January 1992. In 1992 the number of SWAAD employees stood at 580 personnel.
- In January 1992, a building was established at Spinboldak and fitted with radio communication equipment for the use of all mine clearance agencies.
- The SWAAD fourth quarterly and annual reports for 1991 were published in English and Pashtu and distributed. The current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was translated into Pashtu and issued to all teams.
- A total of 8 administration staff from the demining camps and head office attended a two week administration course organized in Quetta. Two radio operators, a technical repairman and a computer operator undertook training courses in Islamabad.
- A complete stocktake of non-expendable equipment took place in May 1992. A number of unserviceable items were discarded according to the UN procedures for disposal.

Medical

Presently, SWAAD maintains 6 first-aid clinics to support 12 teams. The clinics are staffed by a total of 24 first-aiders. In April 1992, three Field Medical Units (FMUs) were established. The FMUs consist of one doctor, two para-medics trained in advanced first-aid, one ambulance and a field hospital. Each FMU was tasked to be responsible for two site offices (four teams). Due to urgent medical requirements, donations of equipment and medicines were supplied through the Mine Clearance Program in Islamabad. SWAAD also received donations of first-aid medicines from Mercy Corps International in Quetta.

A general medical check-up of all SWAAD personnel was carried out prior to the renewal of contracts in 1992. This was carried out free of charge at the ICRC hospital in Quetta. SWAAD personnel donated a total of 293 units of blood to ICRC during the same period. SWAAD now maintains a complete data-base of medical history for all employees.

Liaison

Liaison with other mine clearance NGOs, UN agencies, SWABAC and other organisations was established. Coordination and meetings were held and attended as follows:

- Mine Clearance Programme coordination meetings held at the Regional Demining Office.
- SWABAC general meetings and sub-committee meetings.
- Monthly Mine Clearance Programme conferences held in Islamabad.
- Coordination and operational meetings between SWAAD, MCPA and OMA.

Finance

The total budget allocated to SWAAD for 1992 was US\$ 1,850,000, out of which a total of US\$ 1,849,250 was utilized.

In March 1992, an audit of SWAAD accounts was carried out by a team from Geneva, as well as several audits by teams from UNOCA, Islamabad. Various accounting procedures recommended by the auditors were implemented accordingly.

THE HALO TRUST

U.K. Registered:
Charity No. 1001813

804 Drake House, Dolphin Square, London SW1V 3NW
Tel: (071) 821 9244 Fax: (071) 834 0198

P.O. Box 3036, Shahri Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: Kabul 32436 Fax: (010) 873 150 2531

انجمن بین‌العالمی مصونیت و بسازي ماين ها
شهر نوکابل - افغانستان - نمبر تیلیفون: ۳۲۴۳۶
ممبر تیلیفون لندن: ۹۲۴۴ (۰۷۱) ۸۲۱

۶۹

THE HALO TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Introduction

The HALO Trust provides mine clearance and destruction of UXO in the provinces of Parwan, Baghlan, Samangan and Balkh. Tasks are selected from the UNOCA priority tasks list. Afghan personnel are gradually placed in positions of responsibility of running the operations. The office based in Pol-i-Khumri provides logistical and training support to the teams.

Operations

Mine Clearance

The HALO Trust concept of operations is the maintenance of its operational headquarters in Pol-i-Khumri the provincial capital of Baghlan. Each team is capable of working anywhere within the four provinces and to be entirely self-supporting. The BMR-2 engineer tanks are supported by a manual clearance team and are used for clearing and proving mined areas. Each team has an ICRC trained paramedic, and stretcher equipped vehicle, operating within 30 minutes of either a hospital or an expatriate doctor with ambulance.

Clearance Tasks in 1992

Demining operations continued despite heavy fighting in Kabul and periods of increased tension in areas of HALO Trust responsibility. Task scheduling, surveys and reconnaissance, a third training course, a team leaders course and the operational introduction of dogs and heavy machinery were all conducted in addition to the management of manual clearance teams.

A summary of the total area cleared, mines and UXOs destroyed is as follows:

Total area cleared	369,283 square meters
Total mines destroyed	934
Total UXO destroyed	625

Surveys

The HALO Trust has sought to carry out mine clearance operations beyond the immediate locality of Pol-i-Khumri. Mine clearance surveys have been carried out in the Baghlan Valley, Kinjan and the Salang Pass. Surveys of the worst affected areas has been completed and clearance operations will continue in 1993.

BMR-2 Tanks

The HALO Trust continues to maintain the two BMR-2 mine-clearing tanks (Soviet, T.54 / 55 tanks) which were provided as part of a Soviet contribution in 1991. During the first period of the year, mechanics and drivers were recruited and trained to operate the tanks in the mechanical mine clearance role using KMT-7 rollers. The tanks were deployed on both anti-personnel and anti-tank mine threats in Baghlan Province throughout the summer.

Mine Dog Centre attachment to HALO Trust

Mine dog and handler teams from MDC in Pakistan were loaned to the HALO Trust in September 1992. The HALO Trust decided not to continue using the dog teams and the teams were returned to Pakistan in October 1992.

Mine Awareness

Lectures on mine awareness were given to village locals where mine clearance only covered the high priority tasks, and where it was considered by HALO Trust that further mines existed in ground beyond that made safe. In particular, this occurred in demining work around village localities where the houses, paths to water courses and immediate grazing land has been cleared, but where HALO Trust has marked and left outer areas uncleared, preferring to move demining teams on to further high priority work in nearby villages.

Training

A basic two week mine clearance course was run during September 1992. The course was run at the HALO Trust training ground and included full instruction in mine detection techniques, safe destruction, mine and UXO recognition and mine clearance safety procedures. A total of 17 students passed the course of which 8 joined the HALO Trust in Pol-i-Khumri.

Personnel

The HALO Trust consists of a total of 80 staff in Afghanistan, which includes 5 expatriate staff.

Emergency Medicine

Each demining team possesses fully independent primary care facilities. These include a locally trained medic with a basic medical kit for airway, haemorrhage control and fracture immobilization. A stretcher, vehicle and driver are provided should the ambulance not be nearby. The expatriate doctor mans the ambulance during mine clearance and is linked to teams by VHF radio.

The Eye Clinic

The HALO Trust maintains two clinics held on different days. The GP clinic is responsible for deminers families and the Eye clinic for any form of eye injury and associated operations. Additionally, other mine related injuries are always treated. All of the above facilities are provided free for deminers, their families and for civilians. There is also a system of referral from the local hospitals. Some medical stocks are supplied free to HALO Trust from the ICRC Delegation in Kabul; others are purchased in the UK. A total of 775 patients were examined during 1992. The eye clinic has surgical facilities and performed cataract operations and cornea scleral laceration repairs.

Accidents

14 June 1992. Contrary to training, Gul Rasoul, a deminer, pulled a coil of wire outside a cleared area and set off a POMZ. He was evacuated to Pol-i-Khumri and Kabul ICRC though damage to his femoral artery forced surgeons to conduct a high amputation of one leg. Due to medical complications he will not be fitted with a prosthesis until February 1993.

28 July 1992. Shah Mohammed, Tim Goggs and Julian Gregson suffered injuries while using minerollers attached to a T55 for a task in Kabul province (Karesamir). The vehicle struck a booby trap charge which ignited the internal fuel tanks. All three men subsequently died from burns and smoke inhalation.

15 September 1992. Mohammed Heider detonated a PMN2 mine when he accidentally stepped out of his cleared lane in Baghlan valley. He lost his lower right leg and suffered other blast injuries. He will be fitted with a Prosthesis in January 1993.

Demining Equipment

The HALO Trust maintains a total of 63 mine-detectors, 17 vehicles and 15 radios in support of the teams. The equipment consists of 15 Ebex 420 mine detectors, 44 Vallon mine detectors and 4 Ebex 525 mine detectors. A total of 14 vehicles operate out of Pol-i-Khumri, 2 vehicles out of Kabul and one out of Faisabad. 12 radios are held in Pol-i-Khumri and three in Kabul.

Future Plans

Mine clearance operations will continue during 1993 in villages north of Jebel Seraj, in conjunction with other HALO Trust demining teams working directly from the Province. More than 75% of mines and ordnance destroyed in 1992 were found in the Salang Valley. Extensive mine clearance around Baghlan City was undertaken during 1992 and the destruction of Italian plastic TC6 mines was carried out. The terrain was found to be ideally suited for mechanical clearance. Fighting between the groups interrupted clearance in October 1992. However, clearance operations will recommence in 1993 after a resurvey of cleared areas and guarantees for the security of men and equipment are given.

Afghanization

HALO Trust mine clearance operations are administered by expatriate supervisors, who provide most of the administrative support required, with the assistance of the Afghan management staff. Afghan team leaders control deminers in the field and the destruction of mines and ordnance. Team leaders will continue to be employed as section commanders, allowing the expatriate supervisors the freedom to control demining teams spread out over a number of sites.

Summary

In November 1992, HALO Trust successfully deployed a fully equipped sixty man mine clearance force into Balkh Province, where it carried out nine full days of remote mine clearance work in response to a request initiated by UNCHR.

The same teams spent two months providing invaluable and vital mine clearance for returning villagers in the heart of the Salang Pass, between June and September of 1992. Despite the tragic death of three personnel, HALO Trust continued mine clearance operations without serious interruption.

Note: This report is an edited version of a longer report, copies of which could be obtained from the HALO Trust, London.

MDC

Mine Dog Centre

MINE DOG CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 1992



Mine Dog and handler in the field during clearing operations.

H.No. 6, Street 66,
F-7/3, Islamabad.
Tele: 813679,812893

PABBI,
Peshawar.
Tele: 052-48236

MINE DOG CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Directors Message

The Mine Dog Center (MDC) aim is to assist in the demining effort in Afghanistan by using trained dogs to locate buried mines and unexploded ordnance. The sole purpose of the dog is, by its sense of smell, to detect buried explosive devices so that they may be destroyed by the cooperating demining agencies. The policy of the MDC is to progressively Afghanize all phase of operations and to eventually become part of an appropriate Afghan government agency.

The MDC worked in 13 provinces in Afghanistan in 1992 in support of the UN Mine Clearing Programme, with SWAAD, ATC, MCPA and the HALO Trust. Dog teams also assist the Afghan Construction and Logistics Unit, an NGO funded by USAID. Normally dogs and handlers work in Afghanistan for a period of 60 days, after which the teams return to Pakistan for a period of 30 days for retraining.



Shohab Hakimi
Director
MDC

31 January 1993

Introduction

The dogs sense of smell is several thousand times more sensitive than that of man. Over the centuries certain breeds of dogs have been developed for specific purposes such as hunting or working. It is this latter category of working dog that mine dogs are selected from to be trained. Belgian Malinois, German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers have historically been the breeds selected for explosive and mine detection work. The dogs are able to detect the scent coming from buried mines through the soil and to alert their handlers to the presence of mines by sitting in front of the mine. The dog and handler then leave the mined spot so that it can be destroyed in situ by the mine clearance personnel. Mine dogs are able to detect anti-personnel and anti-tank mines made of metal and plastic or rubber. The mine dogs can also detect anti tank mines buried in the ground up to a depth of one meter.

To date, there are a total of 84 mine dogs and handlers working in support of the Mine Clearance Programme in Afghanistan. A total of 16 additional dogs are due to be delivered to commence work in early 1993. During the period the dogs teams have found thousands of mines and UXOs. The project has proved to be a major contributor in the locating of mines which are un-detectable by electronic mine-detectors.

Mine dogs and handlers undergo a 12 week training course in which they are trained to identify the various explosives used in the mines and to alert the handler by sitting in front of the mine when a foreign scent is encountered. The dogs are able to work on roads, minefields and buildings for the purpose of detecting mines, trip wires and booby traps.

Operations

The major development in 1992 has been the increased number of mine detection dogs and handlers deployed in the field. In December 1992, over 50 mine dogs and handlers were deployed in support of mine clearing operations in Afghanistan.

No new types of devices were found in 1992, but increasingly the effectiveness of the dogs in locating plastic mines was apparent.

Incidents

Unfortunately, two mine dogs were killed during 1992. In both instances the dogs had detected buried PMN mines, which subsequently exploded when the dogs inadvertently triggered the mines. No MDC personnel were injured in 1992.

Projects Completed

The administration of MDC has increasingly become self sufficient and considerably less dependant on support from USAID and RONCO. Computers were procured in support of finance, personnel and logistics branches. Afghan instructors have trained new mine dogs and handlers from the inception of the project, thus allowing MDC the capability to conduct all the training of personnel and dogs within the organization.

Future Plans

Plans are underway for the transfer of the MDC project from USAID to UNOCHA in June 1993. Funding is due to be taken over by UNOCHA in July 1993.

During 1993, the number of mine dog teams is expected to reach 100 in line with the planned goal for the project at full strength. During the same period, a total of 274 personnel will be employed by MDC.

Finance

The MDC was fully funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) during 1992. The total budget for 1992 was US\$ 2 million.

Administration

MDC teams deployed in Afghanistan are fully independent with logistical support from bases in Peshawar and Quetta, Pakistan.

Summary

1992 was a successful year for the MDC project. More dogs were deployed and many more mines were found. This factor contributed to the high morale and confidence shown by the personnel of the various NGOs involved. The Afghan handlers, set leaders, drivers and all support staff remain enthusiastic and dedicated to the task of mine clearance in Afghanistan.

A summary of the total mines and UXOs detected is as follows:

Total anti-personnel and anti-tank mines found:	4878
Total UXOs found:	4690

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBAR	<i>Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Relief</i>
ARCS	<i>Afghan Red Crescent Society</i>
ATC	<i>Afghan Technical Consultants</i>
FMU	<i>Field Medical Unit</i>
HF	<i>High Frequency</i>
HALO	<i>Hazardous Area Life-support Organization</i>
ICRC	<i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i>
MAP	<i>Mine Awareness Programme</i>
MCP	<i>Mine Clearance Programme</i>
MCPA	<i>Mine Clearance Planning Agency</i>
MCTP	<i>Mine Clearance Training Programme</i>
MDC	<i>Mine Dog Centre</i>
NGO	<i>Non -Governmental Organization</i>
OMA	<i>Organization for Mine Awareness</i>
PRCS	<i>Pakistan Red Crescent Society</i>
SOP	<i>Standard Operating Procedure</i>
SWAAD	<i>South West Afghanistan Agency for Demining</i>
SWABAC	<i>Southern and Western Afghanistan Baluchistan Association for coordination</i>
UNHCR	<i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
UNDP	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
UN	<i>United Nations</i>
UNDP/OPS	<i>United Nations Development Programme/Office for Project Services</i>
UXO	<i>Unexploded ordnance</i>
VHF	<i>Very High Frequency</i>