

MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE – SOUTH LEBANON



مركز التنسيق لنزع الألغام - جنوب لبنان

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APRIL 2007 REPORT OF THE MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE, SOUTH LEBANON

GENERAL

1. Cluster Bombs and mines clearance continued during this month resulting in around **3,000** additional cluster bomblets destroyed by all the teams working in South Lebanon. Mines have also been cleared in the area North of Litani river (Area 6) and more than 18,000 m² of mine contaminated land is released back to the community.
2. MACC SL Operational teams discovered three additional Cluster strike locations leading to a total of **872** locations with an estimated contaminated area of more than 35 million sqm.

UNIFIL, Demining Co-ordination Cell, OGL

3. The following is the current establishment of UNIFIL Troops Contributing Countries (TCC) with Mine Action capabilities:
 - a. CHINBATT - 4 Demining/BAC Teams (Accredited),
 - b. BELUBATT - 3 BAC/EOD Teams (Accredited),
 - c. ITALBATT - 3 EOD, 2 IED Teams & 1 Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) Team (Not Yet Accredited),
 - d. GHANBATT - 1 EOD Team (Not Yet Accredited),
 - e. SPANBATT - 2 EOD/IED Teams (Not Yet Accredited),
 - f. FRENCHBATT - 2 BAC, 1 EOD Team (Accredited),
 - g. FIN/IRISHBATT - 3 EOD Teams, 1 Flail, 1 EDD Team (Not Yet Accredited),
 - h. TURKBATT - 1 EOD Team (Not Yet Accredited).
 - i. Those TCC not yet accredited as listed above are in various stages of proceeding to accreditation. The intention is that all TCC with a Mine Action capability will be subjected to accreditation from MACC SL and become formally recognised as in conformance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Lebanese national requirements.

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CIVILIAN MINE INCIDENT

4. Unfortunately, during April two accidents occurred involving seven civilians as a result of cluster munitions. See the following table for the summary of casualties as at 30 April 2007:

Civilian Accidents in South Lebanon 14 August 06 - 30 April 07							
	Children (0 -12)		Youth (13 -18)		Adult (19 +)		Total (Injury/Death)
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Injured	20	6	36	3	101	12	178
Killed	2	0	5	0	15	0	22
Total (Age/Gender)	22	6	41	3	116	12	200

5. One of the key aims of the MACC SL in the short term is to reduce the casualty rate, with a medium to long-term aim of preventing the casualty figures from increasing.

DEMINEING/CBU ACCIDENTS

	Demining Accidents in South Lebanon 14 August 06 - 30 April 07										Total (Injury/Death)
	LAF	Armor Group	BACTEC	MAG	NPA	SRSA	HI	DCA	FSD	UNIFIL (DCC)	
Injured	13	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	25
Killed	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total (LAF/Company)	21	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	33

OPERATION EMIRATES SOLIDARITY (II)

6. Recognising the urgent humanitarian need for landmine and un-exploded ordnance (UXO) clearance in South Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to continue with the Project known as Operation Emirates Solidarity (OES). The UAE have generously provided the necessary funding to demine Area 6 as well as clear all the cluster bomb sites in Areas 1 – 5.

BACTEC

7. UAE Funded Teams (Demining). BACTEC are responsible for the clearance of all minefields and booby trap sites in Area 6. The BACTEC mine clearance capacity currently consists of the following:
- 14 x Manual Clearance Teams (including 2 UAE MCT),
 - 3 Flail Teams,
 - 3 MDD Teams, and
 - 3 Mechanical Support Teams (Armoured Bulldozer, Sifter & 4 Types of flails).

8. The MCT are made up of Zimbabwean, Mozambiquean and Lebanese teams as well as two teams from the UAE Army. The targets in Area 6 consist of minefields with and without records, as well as IF Booby Traps with records. These teams are all based in Nabatiyah and travel on a daily basis from the BACTEC Nabatiyah base to their clearance sites.
9. The joint MACC SL & BACTEC planning team continues with visiting all BACTEC contracted sites in Area 6 in order to assess the work required; the most suitable asset needed and determine the plan for clearance.
10. The Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) continues with orientation and familiarisation training prior to accreditation. The MACC SL has made available its MDD training area in Al Qalya.

Armor Group

11. UAE Funded Teams (Battle Area Clearance). The Armor Group BAC teams continue with clearance of cluster bomb sites in Areas 1 – 5. These teams are now switching focus from predominately surface clearance to sub-surface clearance. It has been established that most sites now contain more sub-surface bomblets than those lying exposed on the surface.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

12. MAG now has a total of twelve bilaterally funded BAC teams conducting clearance in Area 6, in and around the villages of Yohmor, Zawtar west and Adchit. The village of Yohmor was one of the most heavily contaminated villages in the south, with almost seven months of continual sub-munitions clearance this village is now on the verge of becoming completely free of the threat of cluster bombs.
13. As a result of funding from the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund, MAG has trained and successfully accredited additional two BAC teams. These two teams are currently employed in the village of Mayfadoun conducting BAC around the village and outlying agricultural fields. As the funding for these two teams comes from the Japanese Government, the Japanese Ambassador visited these teams on site on Saturday 28 April.
14. The eight VTF funded BAC teams continue clearance in Area 7 in the fruit plantations near the village of Hosh and As Samaiyah. Due to the soft ground in and around these plantations and orchards many sub munitions have been found subsurface. Sub surface clearance is considerably slower than surface clearance, especially during this time of the year where the vegetation is extremely dense.

BACTEC

15. VTF Funded Teams (BAC). The ten (10) BACTEC BAC teams continue with cluster bomb clearance in Area 8. BACTEC has recently nationalised one of the Site Supervisor positions and it is expected another position will soon be nationalised pending accreditation. The augmentation of the two EOD teams conducting survey for the BAC teams has worked out well for BACTEC. This has allowed the BAC teams

to focus their clearance efforts not waste unnecessary time and effort locating the centre of the strike area.

Swedish Rescue Service Agency (SRSA)

16. The two SRSA BAC teams continue with clearance in the fruit orchards in the village of Al Malkiyah. These teams have six female searchers included within the teams.
17. The mechanical team operating the two Armoured Front-End Loaders have passed accreditation and have been operational in supporting a DCA site in the village of Sultaniyah as well as a FSD site in the village of Siddiqin. These sites contained areas with rubble that was suspected to have contained cluster munitions, although no sub-munitions were located with the rubble these sites have now been able to proceed to completion without having to conduct additional mechanical clearance at a future date.

Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA)

18. The 3 x NPA BAC teams continue clearance operations in Area 7 with two teams in the village of Deir Qanoun and the other team in the village of Baflay. The team conducting clearance in Baflay is working in a site containing M85 cluster munitions.
19. The NPA EOD Team continues Rapid Response and reconnaissance tasks in their AO as directed by MACC SL.

Handicap International (HI)

20. The three HI BAC teams continue with cluster bombs clearance in and around the village of Al Bazourieh.

Swiss Foundation For Mine Action (FSD)

21. The four FSD BAC teams continue with BAC operations in the village of Siddiqin in Area 7. There is a requirement to conduct a systematic search of this village for any sub-munitions that may have been left over as a result of the extensive emergency clearance conducted by various organisations (not managed by MACC SL) since the cease-fire. These organisations and individual persons destroyed and removed thousands of cluster munitions from this village and many other locations in the south without conducting systematic clearance. Moreover none of this clearance was recorded and therefore all information regarding these cluster bomb strikes has been lost.
22. The FSD BAC teams are locating cluster munitions in the village of Siddiqin despite the extensive clearance conducted by those various organisations.

Dan Church Aid (DCA)

23. The three DCA BAC teams funded by the ECHO continue with clearance in the village of Sultaniyah. This village has also received extensive emergency clearance however has yet to have a systematic clearance in and around the built up areas of the village. The teams have improved productivity following an internal review of clearance methods and restructure of management.
24. The two BAC teams funded by the UN have recently completed training and have all been accredited. These teams are conducting clearance in Area 8 in the village of Mazraat Al Mushrif.

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)

25. The New Zealand Defence Force (Kiwi) BAC team has continued with clearance in Area 1 near Naqoura. This site has also had extensive non-systematic clearance conducted by various organisations not managed by the MACC SL without any recording of work conducted. Despite this the Kiwi BAC team has located and destroyed many sub munitions. The intention is that this team will rotate back to New Zealand in June and be replaced with another Kiwi military team.

Summary of Clearance Capacity

26. The current and planned clearance capacity presently at the MACC SL is as follows:
- | | |
|--|--|
| a. <u>MAG</u> | 22 BAC teams. |
| b. <u>BACTEC</u> | 10 BAC teams, 5 EOD teams, 14 Manual Demining teams, 3 Flail teams, 3 MDD teams, 3 Mechanical Support teams. |
| c. <u>Armor Group</u> | 10 BAC teams. |
| d. <u>SRSA</u> | 2 BAC teams, 2 EOD teams, 1 Mechanical team |
| e. <u>NPA</u> | 3 BAC teams and 1 EOD team |
| f. <u>FSD</u> | 4 BAC teams |
| g. <u>HI</u> | 3 BAC teams |
| h. <u>DCA</u> | 5 BAC teams |
| i. <u>New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)</u> | 1 BAC team |

Quality Assurance

27. Desk Assessments for all the organisations conducting operations in South Lebanon have now been completed. Ongoing Operational Capacity Accreditations for additional and new clearance capacity increases and changes continued throughout the month. Currently 101 Full Operational Accreditations for various mine/UXO clearance capacities and 65 Provisional Assessment/Accreditations have been completed for the organisations currently conducting operations in Southern Lebanon.
28. Daily planned QA monitoring has also been conducted for all operational teams. The MACC SL QA section intention is that all clearance sites will be subjected to a QA visit a minimum of once per week and in some cases twice per week.
29. A satellite QA/Ops office has been established in the LAF compound in Nabatiyah, to support the MACC SL QA requirements in area 6. This is due to the travel distance required to conduct QA inspections and the early start to operations in this area.

CBU/UXO Clearance Statistics

21. The clearance results for the period under report are as follows:

	CBU		UXO		UXB	
	This Month	To Date	This Month	To Date	This Month	To Date
MACC SL Teams (Bactec, Armor Group, MAG, SRSA, NPA, HI, DCA, FSD, NZDF)	2,017 ¹	33,421	243	1,789	1	13
UNIFIL	512 ²	23,263	144	2,008	4	60
LAF	477 ³	59,563	127	6,378	1	401
Total	3,006	116,247	514	10,175	6	474

¹ MACC SL teams are now almost exclusively conducting sub-surface clearance.

² Accredited UNIFIL Teams are conducting sub-surface/Not yet Accredited UNIFIL Teams are conducting Visual/Surface clearance only.

³ LAF teams are conducting visual/surface clearance only.

Organization	Number of BAC Teams	Sqm Cleared Visual/Surface	Sqm Cleared Instrument/Sub-Surface	Total Sqm This Month	Total Sqm To Date
MAG	22	308,190	76,457	384,647	3,713,093
BACTEC	10	25,137	171,190	196,327	1,088,080
ARMOR GROUP	10	342,905	28,291	371,196	4,182,622
SRSA	2	25,481	1,822	27,303	112,691
NPA	3	24,850	23,615	48,465	291,006
HI	3	16,827	45,849	62,676	180,480
NZDF	1	6,576	561	7,137	57,821
FSD	4	31,209	591	31,800	57,112
DCA	5	35,130	20,957	56,087	56,087
UNIFIL	9	44,892	65,873	110,765	4,745,237
Total	69	861,197	435,206	1,296,403	14,484,229

Note: these figures are as at 26 April 2007.

Mine Clearance Statistics

30. The mine clearance results for the period under report are as follows:

Clearance Operations Progress In South Lebanon	This Month	Year To Date	Statistics as at June 2006(Before the War)	Total To Date
Cleared Area/Land - m ² (see note 1)	18,900	121,648	5,126,888	5,248,536
Hazardous Area, which, as a result of actions other than clearance, is reconsidered not to represent a Risk from mines/UXO – m ²	0	0	2,064,000 <i>Note: There are 28 areas awaiting final confirmation from NDO totalling in 336,000 m²</i>	2,064,000
Total Area released to the community (see note 2)	18,900	121,648	7,190,888	7,312,536
Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed	29	89	57,152	57,241
Anti-Tank Mines Destroyed	2	5	1,755	1,760
Unexploded Ordnance Destroyed	14	62	4,653	4,715

Note 1: This is area/land all of which has been physically and systematically processed by a demining organisation to ensure the destruction/removal of all mine/UXO hazards.

Note 2: This figure represents the total land released back to the community through either clearance or “actions other than clearance/ cancellation” process.

Public Information

31. April was a very active and busy month. In the first few days, the Public Information section was finalising the preparation of the Gala Dinner that was planned to commemorate the International Day for “Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action”.
32. On the 3rd of April, the country manager of Oxfam visited the MACC SL and was briefed by the Media and Post Clearance Officer about the situation of Cluster Bombs and Landmines with reference to the socio-economic Impact on the local communities.
33. On the 4th of April, the Media and Post Clearance Officer did two live interviews: One for a local TV station called “Future TV” on a morning show and the second was on “Al Jazira International” TV.
34. Also on that day, two main Lebanese Newspapers published a page and half a page articles about the problem of Landmines and Cluster Bombs in South Lebanon with reference to the International day for “Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action”.

35. The Gala Dinner on the night of the 4th was held in the “Metropolitan Place Hotel” and was considered a great success. More than 420 attendees representing the Donor Embassies, the Mine Action Community, UN representatives in Lebanon (The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the Resident Coordinator for Lebanon, the UNIFIL Force Commander and different UN agencies) and the representative of the Lebanese Army Commander.
36. The Gala included a full course Menu, Raffle Prizes a Live band and a DJ and was covered by different Media outlets.
37. A meeting was held with the Spanish chief of CIMIC to discuss potential future joint activities concerning livelihood projects in Cluster Bombs contaminated villages.
38. Different Media outlets contacted the Media and post Clearance Officer for briefing and field visits. Namely there was Finnish Journalists interested in the M85 Cluster Bombs with self Destruction Mechanism and Japanese and Norwegian journalists interested in the same subject. Also “Al Jazeera International” TV filmed a documentary about cluster bombs focusing on the female teams working in the South. The documentary will be shown for seven consecutive days in June 2007.
39. The Survey for cluster bombs victims (Casualties and fatalities) proceeded through the month of April, the outcome of which is supporting the operation in locating new areas contaminated with Cluster Bombs and also in the prioritisation process of areas to be cleared first on the basis of many casualties in one area etc.
40. The Livelihood projects are also proceeding, funds for the first project are allocated and the execution will take place in May 2007.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE MONTH UNDER REPORT

41. The objectives for the month of April 2007 and the activities undertaken in respect of these objectives were as follows:

General:	Activities Undertaken:
Facilitate the arrival and operational readiness of all incoming EOD/BAC Teams	Ongoing
Liaise and provide briefings for interested Mine Action organizations	Ongoing
Continue to support all aspects of the UN Humanitarian Response and provide key support to UN Agencies and deployment of incoming UNIFIL troops	Ongoing
Support UAE in development and implementation of OES	Ongoing
Austrian Ambassador Visit on the 3 rd of April	Completed
PM to give brief in ISG Meeting on the 4 th of April	Completed
Czech Ambassador Visit on the 11 th of April	Completed
Presentation to ICRC Cluster Bombs Conference, Montreux 18-20 th of April	Completed
Operations:	
Desk Accreditation of clearance organisations	Completed
Operational Accreditation of clearance organisations	Ongoing
Monitor Refresher Training of Organisations	Ongoing

Monitoring of clearance in MACC SL AO	Ongoing
Maintain a Rapid Response Capability within the AO	Ongoing
Prepare Task Dossiers for issue to clearance organisations	Ongoing
Conduct UXO safety Briefs for incoming UN organisations and NGO's	Ongoing
Conduct induction training for new MACC SL staff	Completed
Identify new cluster munitions strike areas	Ongoing
Update and review MACC SL Operational Spreadsheets	Ongoing
Review completions and suspensions from organisations	Ongoing
Assist GICHD with Cluster Munitions TNMA in IMAS	Completed
Administration and Logistics	
Receiving of new equipment from UNIFIL	Ongoing
Monthly Imprest reports to HQ and cash replenishment	Ongoing
Budget for unspent funds to be re-phased by UNOPS to 2007. To follow on from CC with UNOPS/UNMAS	Completed
Preparation of equipment needed for QA sub office	Completed
Additional Procurement for QA from AB budget.	Ongoing
Procurement of Explosives Locally.	Ongoing
Training on new Atlas finance system.	Ongoing
HP payment processing	Ongoing
Inventory Reports	Ongoing
Compound Improvement	Ongoing
Improving UNIFIL Support to MACCSL	Ongoing
UNIFIL Security Update/Review	Completed
Public Information:	
Finalise more Post Clearance studies and start new ones	Completed and Ongoing
Plan & Liaise with NGOs for implementation of Post Clearance projects	Completed and Ongoing
Promote Post clearance studies to be sponsored by donors	Completed and Ongoing
Continue updating the MACC SL website	Completed and Ongoing
Continue working with different Media outlets with focus on promoting different donors	Completed and Ongoing
Prepare Quarterly Report	Completed
Continue collecting data about the victims	Ongoing
Continue the media coverage with focus on the OES 2 project	Ongoing
Manage night of the Gala Dinner on the 4 th of April	Completed
Coordinate field visits and provide briefings for interested Journalists and visitors	Completed and Ongoing
Information Technology:	
Enter CBU information into IMSMA	Ongoing
Update of CBU Strike Location Map	Ongoing
Update/develop QA Database	Ongoing
Perform training on the Plans and QA databases	Ongoing
Perform database synchronization with the NDO	Completed

Perform IMSMA update for DCC, BACTEC, MAG...	Completed
Set up the Hand-held GPS/Palm computers with GIS software and Geographic/Mine action data	Ongoing
Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the Area 6 targets and the rationalization of the target list	Ongoing
Enter completion reports into IMSMA	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES FOR MAY 2007

42. The following are the objectives for May 2007:

General:	Activities Undertaken:
Facilitate the arrival and operational readiness of all incoming EOD/BAC Teams	
Liaise and provide briefings for interested Mine Action organizations	
Continue to support all aspects of the UN Humanitarian Response and provide key support to UN Agencies and deployment of incoming UNIFIL troops	
Support UAE in development and implementation of OES	
PM to brief New Zealand Army Commander on the 2 nd of May	
PM to brief Italian Ambassador, and the new Italian Contingent commander on the 3 rd of May	
PM and Transition Officer to meet Force Commander on the 4 th of May	
PM and the Media & Post Clearance Officer “Rapid Response Plan” meeting in Geneva on the 8 th – 12 th May	
PM to give presentation at the St Georges Day Gala Dinner, 12 th May	
Nepal Visit to MACC SL 14 th – 18 th of May	
PM visit to Peru 21 st – 25 th of May, OSLO Cluster Bombs Process	
PM to visit UNMAS, New York on the 28 th – 29 th of May	
Operations:	Activities Undertaken:
Operational Accreditation of clearance organisations	
Monitor Refresher Training of Organisations	
Monitoring of clearance in MACC SL AO	
Maintain a Rapid Response Capability within the AO	
Prepare Task Dossiers for issue to clearance organisations	
Conduct UXO safety Briefs for incoming UN organisations and NGO’s	
Identify new cluster munitions strike areas	
Update and review MACC SL Operational Spreadsheets	
Review completions and suspensions from organisations	

Administration and Logistics	
Receiving of new equipment from UNIFIL	
Monthly Imprest reports to HQ and cash replenishment	
LAF BAC Team Procurement	
PO preparation for next 6 months budgets.	
Additional Procurement for QA from AB budget.	
Procurement of Explosives Locally.	
Training on new Atlas finance system.	
HP payment processing	
Inventory Reports	
Compound Improvement	
Improving UNIFIL Support to MACCSL	
Public Information:	
Finalise more Post Clearance studies and start new ones	
Plan & Liaise with NGOs for implementation of Post Clearance projects	
Promote Post clearance studies to be sponsored by donors	
Continue updating the MACC SL website	
Implement the first livelihood project in “Baraachit” village	
Continue working with different Media outlets with focus on promoting different donors	
Continue collecting data about the victims	
Continue the media coverage with focus on the OES 2 project	
Coordinate field visits and provide briefings for interested Journalists and visitors	
Information Technology:	
Enter CBU information into IMSMA	
Update of CBU Strike Location Map	
Update/develop QA Database	
Perform training on the Plans and QA databases	
Perform database synchronization with the NDO	
Perform IMSMA update for DCC, BACTEC, MAG...	
Set up the Hand-held GPS/Palm computers with GIS software and Geographic/Mine action data	
Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the Area 6 targets and the preparation of Task Dossiers	
Enter completion reports into IMSMA	
Enter Accidents/incidents reports into IMSMA	

Constraints

43. At present the following constraints are limiting the scale and effectiveness of the operation:

- a. The ever changing and potentially volatile security situation on the ground in South Lebanon increases the level/need for co-ordination with all parties.

Support Required From UNOPS/UNMAS

44. The following support is requested from UNOPS/UNMAS for May 2007:
 - a. UNMAS to ensure that this Monthly Report is posted on E-mine and distributed at HQ as appropriate.
 - b. UNOPS and UNMAS to provide continuous updates on how donor allocations are spent/obligated.

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