

Standing Committee of Stockpile Destruction
June 24
Geneva

In 2002, Lithuania, as a signatory state to the Ottawa Convention, submitted voluntarily its Article 7 report, in which a stockpile of 8091 antipersonnel mines was declared. The stockpile was retained for training purposes.

It should be noted that out of the total stockpile, 3987 APLs were Claymore type command-controlled mines and 3925 APLs falling under the scope of the Ottawa Convention.

On 1 November 2003 the Ottawa Convention entered into force for Lithuania. In the meantime, the review of a national mine policy was underway.

In January 2004, the conclusions of the review led to a decision to do away with all APLs banned under the international agreements, namely PMN blast mines and MON-50 directional fragmentation mines. It was judged that other means available would satisfy the demining training needs and keeping PMNs and MON-50s was not necessarily in terms of training.

On 14 April 2004, the destruction process at the Kazlu Ruda military range commenced.

APLs, anti-vehicle mines, fuses as well as old and excess ammunition were destroyed by the way of open detonation.

12 military engineers in 43 days have destroyed 3925 PMN blast mines, 4 MON-50 mines, 4064 PMN fuses, 3475 APL fuses MUV-2 and MUV-3, 3899 anti-vehicle mines TM-57, 4200 AVM fuses, many tones of old artillery and mortar ammunition, other explosive material.

On June 7 2004 near Vilnius at the official ceremony the last 340 PMN mines were destroyed. The ceremony was attended by the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Ambassador W.Petritsch, Ambassador C.Trezza, ICRC vice-president, President of the Council Foundation of the Geneva International centre for Humanitarian Demining, representatives of other governments and non-governmental organizations.

Summary and conclusions

In 43 days, all APLs banned under the Ottawa Convention were destroyed in accordance with Article 4, by the Corps of Engineers at the cost of about 17000 euros: fuel, C-4 explosive material, detonators, wire.

After each detonation, the ground of the site was sifted out and flattened in order to avoid any environmental impact.

No APLs have been left for training purposes. Lithuania has joined the ranks of countries that have no anti-personnel mines, falling under the definition of the Convention.