

Destruction of anti-personnel landmines, Lithuania

- ◆ The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for Lithuania on 1 November 2003
- ◆ In 2002, Lithuania declared 3925 APLs retained for training purposes. Mainly, PMN blast mines
- ◆ In addition, 3987 anti-personnel mines with command-controlled fuses were declared

Destruction begins on 14 April 2004

- ◆ January 2004, decision to destroy a stockpile of APLs along with other old and excess ammunition
- ◆ 14 April 2004 destruction begins



Method of destruction

- ◆ APLs, anti-vehicle mines as well as old ammunition were destroyed by blowing them up
- ◆ The destruction process lasted 43 days
- ◆ Work was carried out by 12 military engineers



Destruction at the Kazlı Rūda range



Mines destruction

- ◆ 3921 PMN blast mines
- ◆ 4 MON-50 directional fragmentation mines
- ◆ 4064 PMN fuses MD9
- ◆ 3475 APL fuses MUV-2, MUV-3
- ◆ 3899 anti-vehicle mines TM-57
- ◆ 4200 AVM fuses
- ◆ Other ammunition, detonators and fuses



PMN blast mines destruction



PMN blast mines destruction



PMN blast mines destruction



APLs destruction ceremony, 7 June 2004

- ◆ Last 340 APLs were destroyed at the official ceremony on 7 June 2004 near Vilnius
- ◆ Mr.A.Valionis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, attended the ceremony



340 PMN before detonation, 7 June 2004



Destruction ceremony, 7 June 2004



Blast and aftermath



Summary of destruction process

- ◆ 3925 APLs, 3899 AVMs, 4 Claymore type mines and other ammunition and fuses destroyed in 43 days
- ◆ Destruction carried out by the Corps of Engineers
- ◆ Financial cost - about 17.000 euros: fuel, C-4, detonators, wire
- ◆ The ground at the detonation site was sifted out and flattened

Conclusions

- ◆ Lithuania destroyed all APLs in accordance with Article 4 and is a mine-free country
- ◆ No APLs, banned under the Ottawa Convention, have been left
- ◆ No APLs retained for training purposes
- ◆ Some 4000 Claymore type command-controlled mines retained and declared