

ANTI-PERSONNEL LAND MINES (APL)  
STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION  
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA

INTRODUCTION

1. Thank you Mr. Co-Chair. Your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I am Lieutenant Colonel Baharudin bin Jamin, Chief Ammunition Technical Officer of the 40 Ammunition Engineering Headquarters of the Malaysian Army. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I thank you for the opportunity to present to you the highlights of the Anti-Personnel Land Mines (APL) stockpile destruction in our country.

2. With regards to the Ottawa Convention, held from the 3 - 4 December 1997, of which the Government of Malaysia is one of the signatory, and having further ratified the convention on 22 April 1999, is obliged to strictly comply with the provisions of the convention. The Parliament of Malaysia than ratified the Ottawa Convention whereby The Anti-Personnel Mines Convention Implementation Act 2000 (Act 603) was passed and gazetted thus becoming national law. By virtue of this Act and our international commitment and obligation, the APL stockpile destruction was carried out and successfully completed from 15 - 23 January 2001.

3. The operation was conducted by the Ammunition Technical Officer and personnel from the Royal Ordnance Corps of the Malaysian Army.

#### AIM

4. The aim of this presentation is to highlight the conduct of the destruction operation of the APL.

#### SCOPE

5. The scope of this presentation will cover the following:

- a. Quantities and Types of APL
- b. Location of Operation.
- c. Conduct of Operation.
- d. Financial Implication.

#### QUANTITIES AND TYPE OF APL

6. A total of 94,721 mines were destroyed during the operation.

The types and quantities involved were as follows:

a.	Mines Anti-Personnel PAM 2	-	37,738
b.	Mines Anti-Personnel PROM 1	-	11,990
c.	Mines Anti-Personnel PMA 3	-	44,993
	Total Quantity		----- 94,721 -----

### DESTRUCTION RANGE AND QUANTITIES

7. The choice for the destruction range was carefully selected with paramount considerations being minimum destruction and hazards to the surrounding areas. Further, the Net Explosives Quantity (NEQ) of each range, which is under the authority of the Range Liaison Officer, was strictly observed and was also a major determining factor. The three selected ranges for the conduct of the destruction are as follows:

- a. Asahan Range, Malacca. Located about 2 hours journey from Malacca City and about 4 hours journey from Kuala Lumpur. It is a full military range that provides firing facilities for all types of weapons from small arm to artillery ammunition. The destruction range provides the minimum safety distance of 2000 meters with a clear Line of Sight

(LOS) from the observation tower. Almost 95% of the total stockpiles of APL were destroyed here. The quantities involved were as follows:

(1)	Mine Anti-Personnel PAM 2	-	34,740
(2)	Mine Anti-Personnel PROM 1	-	11,492
(3)	Mine Anti-Personnel PMA 3	-	<u>43,943</u>
	Total Quantity		<u>90,175</u>

b. Kota Belud Range, Sabah. Located to the east of Kota Kinabalu that is about 2 hours journey, this range provides all the facilities for demolition and other military firing requirements. The total NEQ permitted level is 300 kg per detonation. A total of 1,746 mines were destroyed with the breakdown as follows:

(1)	Mine Anti-Personnel PAM 2	-	498
(2)	Mine Anti-Personnel PROM 1	-	198
(3)	Mine Anti-Personnel PMA 3	-	<u>1,050</u>
	Total Quantity		<u>1,746</u>

c. Sempadi Range, Sarawak. The range is located about 3 hours journey from Kuching City. As compared to the other two ranges, this range is considerably smaller in

terms of size. Again minimum safety distance and permitted NEQ was strictly observed. The mines destroyed in this range were as follows:

(1)	Mine Anti-Personnel PAM 2	-	2,500
(2)	Mine Anti-Personnel PROM 1	-	300
	Total Quantity		<hr/> 2,800 <hr/>

#### CONDUCT OF OPERATION

8. Preliminary Operation. Prior to the destruction of the APL, a Board of Officers was convened to verify the quantities, type, lot and batches of the stockpiled APL in accordance with the rules and regulation for the disposal of Malaysian Government assets. The APL was then re-packed and was authorized safe to be transported to selected demolition ranges as determined by the Malaysian Army. At the ranges, activities for the preparation of the APL such as segregation of inner packaging, separation of fuzes, cable laying and preparation of the demolition area was conducted concurrently from 10 January to 14 January 2001. This was to ensure that all subsequent activities will not be affected by pre-destruction operations..

9. Destruction Operations. The operations were launched simultaneously at the three main ranges on 15 January 2001. Members of the local press corps and foreign non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were invited to witness the opening ceremony for the destruction. The initial detonations of the APL were also synchronized and executed at the three ranges at 1145H (local time). Prior to the destruction, the following activities took place at the location.

- a. Inspection and verification of mines including the lot and batches by the official from the NGO.
- b. Confirming the quantities of each type based on the quantity reported.
- c. Verification of the method of destruction, which include safety and in accordance with the Malaysian Army Standing Operating Procedure (SOP).

10. Duration of Operations. The entire operations were completed in 9 days of which the bulk of the operations took place

in Asahan Range, Malacca. The duration of each operation at the three ranges were as follows:

- a. Asahan Range - 15 - 22 January 2001 (9 days)
- b. Kota Belud Range - 15 - 16 January 2001 (2 days)
- c. Sempadi Range - 15 - 18 January (4 days)

11. Method of Destruction of APL. Electrical method was applied for the whole operation. It was the safest conventional method used provided safety precautions were strictly observed by the nominated Safety Officer. The Safety Officer strictly followed the Technical Working Instruction issued by the Chief of Operation. The detail of the job carried out were as follows:

- a. Preparation of Pits.

(1) The quantity of mines for each pit were determined as follows:

- (a) Mine Anti-Personnel PAM 2 - 500  
mines/pit
- (b) Mine Anti-Personnel PROM 1 - 160  
Mines/pit

(c) Mine Anti-Personnel PMA 3 - 700

Mines/pit

- b. Safety check by Safety Officer.
- c. Priming of mines.
- d. Retreat of personnel to safe area (Observation Post)
- e. Connection of cable under the instruction of Safety Officer.
- f. Firing Order.
- g. Inspection of pit by Safety Officer.
- h. Disposal Completed for Subsequent Stage.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

12. The total costing involved for the whole duration of the operation is approximately USD1,836,633,40 million (RM6,979,207.01 million).

## CLOSING

13. Your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen's, I am proud to inform you today that Malaysia is no longer hold any APL in our stock thus fulfilling our obligation under this convention. As a signatory member of the Ottawa Convention and as an active member of the United Nation, once again Malaysia had shown its commitment in carrying out its obligations toward humanitarian grounds. On behalf of the Malaysian Government I can assure you that from the last detonation of APL destruction operation conducted there would no longer be any future indiscriminate APL victim in Malaysia. Malaysia's experience against the insurgencies from 1948 - 1989 had given us a very significant lesson about the traumas, stresses and sufferings of both the victims and members of

their families. To suddenly become disable and disfigured is really a "severe blow" to be inflicted on any person.

14. Malaysia's experiences during the insurgencies forms our ardent hope now that all countries in the world will participate in the Ottawa Convention thus creating a 'mineless world". We do believe that money may be used to replace any part of the human limb however money can never replace even a fraction of the traumas, stresses and sufferings of those who were unfortunate to be victims or associated to the victims..

15. We thanked god that our destruction operation was completed smoothly and successfully. The hard time our ammo technical personnel had during the whole operation were really justified. With the experiences we now have the Government of Malaysia is prepared to provide assistance on APL stockpile destruction where ever it may be. With that, your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies & gentleman, I conclude my brief presentation. Thank you.

.