THE ALBANIA APM STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROJECT

“THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF APM AND OF THEIR DESTRUCTION”
BACKGROUND

- Albania ratified the Ottawa Treaty on 29 February 2000
- Assessment of the viability in April 2000 by Mr. Livermore and Gen Reay
- Trust Fund approved in May 2000
- Project commenced 15 January 2001
OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

- Demilitarisation at ULP Mjekës:
  - TNT recycled as commercial explosives Ammonite
  - ULP Mjekës developed as basis for demilitarisation industry in Albania
- Albania’s contribution:
  - Operation of demilitarisation facility at ULP Mjekës
  - Transportation of mines to ULP Mjekës
- NATO Maintenance and Supply Company (NAMSA) was selected as executing agency
- EBV GmbH (Germany) was contracted to install machinery for demilitarisation of APM’s
DESIGN OF THE PROJECT

- Albania project the first to be implemented under the auspices of NATO Trust Fund
- The project was conceived, designed, funded and implemented in 5 months
- Implementation in 3 phases:
  - Planning
  - Operations
  - Post-operations
- Logistics were carried out by the Logistics Directorate of the MoD
- The planning phase was extended to include capacity building and training
- Verification and monitoring were conducted in a formal and effective manner
EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT

- Because of extended planning phase, the tempo of execution had to be increased, but the target completion date was not compromised.

- Demilitarisation was based on reverse assembly and recycling was a major aspect:
  - Over 1,100 tons of ferrous metals were recycled for the repair of infrastructure.
  - 192 tons of TNT were reconstituted into commercial explosives.

- Employment for 70 personnel.

- Last APM was demilitarised on 4 April 2002, 2 years ahead of obligatory period in terms of Ottawa Treaty.

- In total 1,683,860 APM’s demilitarised.

- The additional 76,440 APM’s were discovered by AAF internal verification programme.
CONCLUSIONS

- All objectives were achieved
- A noteworthy success was the ability of different agencies to effectively cooperate
- Benefits of the project:
  - Compliance with Article 4 of the Ottawa Treaty
  - Elevation of the status of Albania as a responsible signatory of the Ottawa Treaty
  - Increased national and regional security
  - Socio-economic benefits
  - Enhancement of demilitarisation capabilities in the region