

UNDAC Mission



NIGERIA

City of Lagos

Ammunition Dump Explosion

January-February 2002

THE INCIDENT

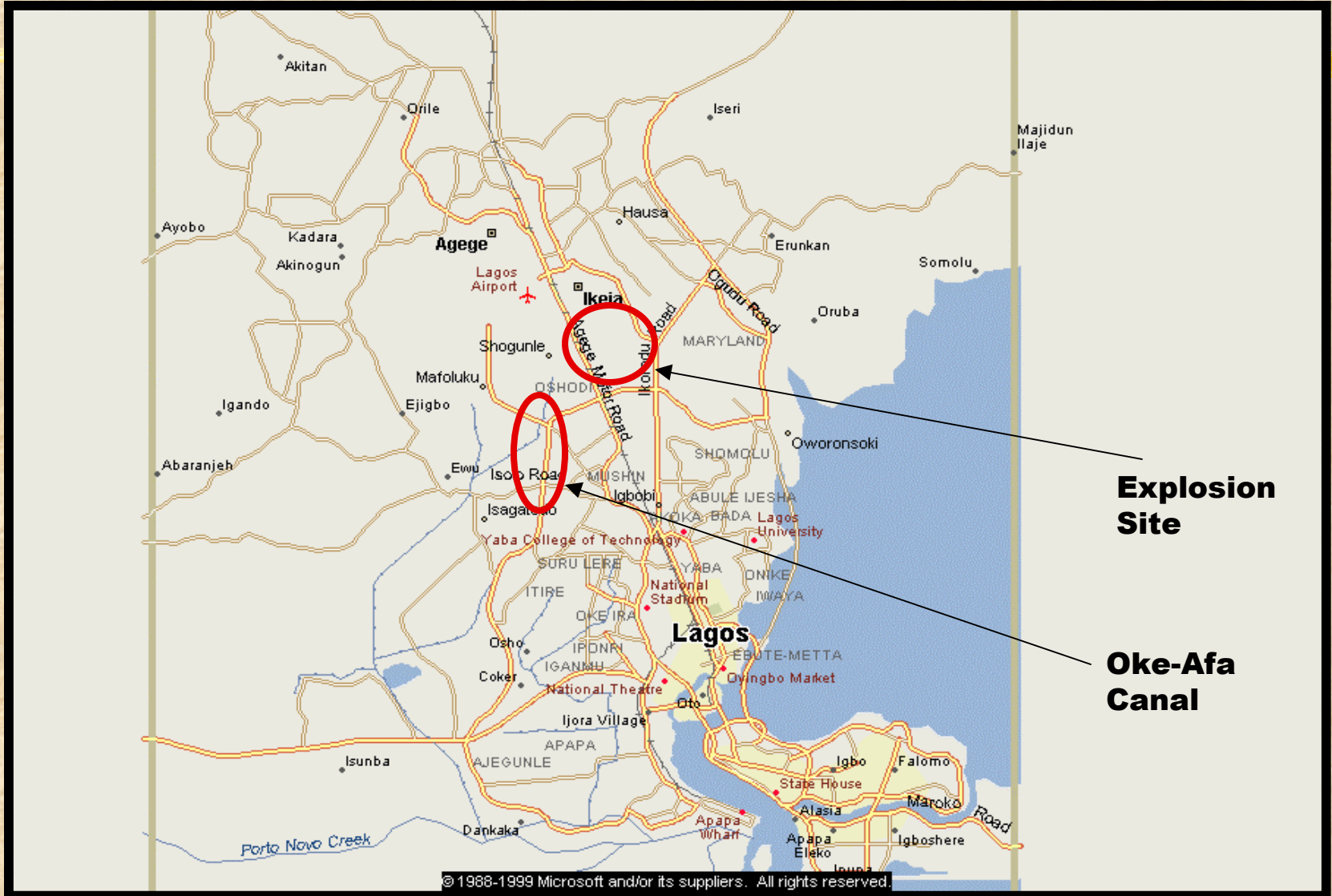
- ◆ Ammunition dump in a military cantonment started exploding on Sunday 27 January.
- ◆ Large explosions continued into the next day, resulting in massive damage at the centre of the cantonment covering approx. 1.5 km².
- ◆ Site originally used as ammunition transit centre.
- ◆ Poor munitions management, old and unserviceable stock - unknown quantities and types of ordnance.



HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

- ◆ About 300 people killed in direct blast area.
- ◆ Some 800 people perished in subsequent panic outside the cantonment – lack of credible information.
- ◆ Some 20,000 people directly affected by this incident to varying degrees of severity.
- ◆ Many families became separated in the confusion – urban environment leading to high mobility of displaced population.

LAGOS, NIGERIA



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- ◆ Temporary shelter and camp accommodation - tents
- ◆ Emergency water and sanitation
- ◆ Health services
- ◆ Support to children returning to school



CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ Typical example of a man-made incident in densely populated urban area.
- ◆ Humanitarian situation largely resolved by efforts of the national authorities and international agencies.
- ◆ Strong connection between humanitarian and technical aspects of this incident.
- ◆ Consequences of military response and clean-up operations for displaced civilian population.

CONCLUSIONS



- ◆ Evident lack of preparedness and awareness - led to increase in fatalities.
- ◆ Coordination problems at different national levels – political sensitivities.
- ◆ Involvement of military adds another dimension to humanitarian response efforts.



LESSONS LEARNED

- ◆ Importance of a strong national disaster management structure.
- ◆ Definition of roles and responsibilities between different partners -federal, state, military and civil society.
- ◆ Need for contingency and preparedness planning at all levels.
- ◆ Need for risk assessment of other potentially hazardous ammunition sites