

## **APL's Destruction in Thailand**

Thailand will destroy 120,000 APLs this year and 100,168 APLs by next April to retain 4,970 APLs for training and research purposes in accordance with the Ottawa Convention under control of Thailand Mine Action Center.

The finding established that an accidental explosion of ammunitions occurred during transportation of expired ammunitions from The Army arsenal at Pakchong. In the ensuing explosions approx. 48,688 APL were destroyed in the process.

### **The recommendations for Preventive Measures**

1. The arsenals must be located at least 10 km. away from the residential community and must cover with protective bunkers.

2. All expired amunition must be destroyed immediately under a clear plan to destroy all ammunitions as rapidly as possible.

- 3 The measure on careful transportation of expired ammunitions must be taken. Not only does it need well-trained personnel, but it also need an appropriate time for transferring these ammunitions, especially in the hot-weather country like Thailand because heat can generate an explosive effect inside a rocket to melt and leak out. In addition, some bullets with smoke emitted from fallen shells and phosphorus can easily produce the chemical reaction leading to the explosion, particularly

at the temperature of more than 40<sup>0</sup>C. However to assure the safety, we should avoid transferring ammunitions during the day and choose to do it during the night if the temperature is more than 35<sup>0</sup>C.

The Royal Thai Army arsenals exploded on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2001 at Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima province, 150 KM. north east of Bangkok. The massive blast caused death of all EOD personnels who were transferring those ammunitions and personnels that work nearby and many villegers were injured most of them were in shock. The various types of amunitions were scattered in a 2 km. radius of the explosion. This incident also caused the damage to houses schools and a factory nearby.

After the explosion, the Supreme Commander ordered the TMAC Director in organizing the Humanitarian Mine Action Unit 1 or HMAU-1, HMAU-2 and HMAU-3 with all types of mine detectors and related equipment to assist the villagers who were suffering from scattered mines. HMAUs operated for 2 months clearing UXO and mines from affected Pak Chong residents and agricultural fields.

THANK YOU

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