



# Training with anti-personnel mines ... Belgian approach



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## Briefing Overview

- AP Mines within (BEL) Defense – Historical background
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal / Combat engineer deminers  
Operational requirements
- Procedures with AP mines in the field
- Training and instruction with AP mines
- Training needs
- (BEL) EOD Field experience
- Conclusions

## (BEL) Defense



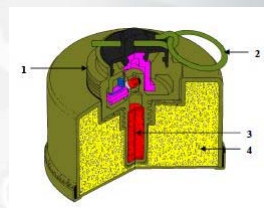
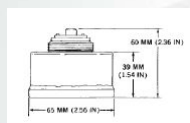
### AP Mines historical background

- The (BEL) parliament, already in March 95, adopted the first ever national law banning anti-personnel mines.
- Law of 10 August 1998 on the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction
- (BEL) MOD Disposal of the AP mines stockpile
  - 1995 till 1997 : stockpile destruction through NAMSA : about **340.000 EA**
  - 1998 : destruction of residual stockpile : **4.489 EA**

## (BEL) Defense – AP Mine



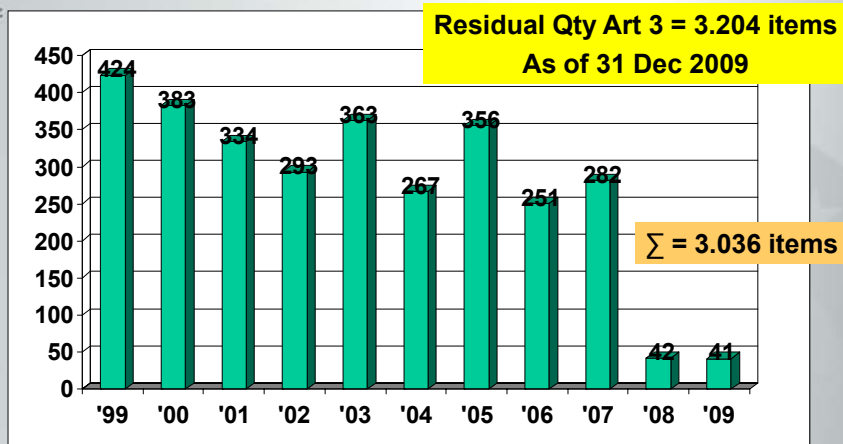
### M35 Bg – (BEL) antiper-sonnel mine



Since 2008 : used without fuze for **training purposes** !

Dismantling : removal of the fuzes (destroyed through NAMSA)

## Training consumption



- Residual stock after destruction from 95 till 97 : **10.729 items**
- In **1998** destruction of 4.489 items
- 01 Jan 99 : Initial stockpile AP mines – Art 3 = **6.240 items**

## Operational requirements



Requirements for (BEL) EOD Homeland Support and Operations abroad?

- Primary goal = disposal of all explosive devices on the field.
- Prior to working in real conditions

→ Compulsory Instruction and Training

- Training ↗ = Security ↗ and Risk ↘

=> GOAL : Acceptable Operational level for:

detection, identification, destruction of a single item, mass destruction, neutralization

## Procedure with mines on the field



### • EOD Team

On request after discovery

- Identification
- Safety Measures
- Destruction / neutralization



### • Combat Engineer Deminer

Detection of large areas : demining site

- Identification **Time is not a constraint**
- Destruction / neutralization

Combat support (mobility of the troops)

- breaching of minefield **Time is a constraint ...**



## Instruction and Training



- Instruction according to STANAG 2389 (NATO- Minimum standards of proficiency for trained EOD personnel) and IMAS (International Mine action standards)

THREE steps :

- Identification
- Detection – clearance operations
- Destruction and /or neutralization of the AP mines

## Instruction and Training



### Identification with INERT ammunition

- Description
- Dangers of the ammunition
- Arming and firing function
- RSP (Render Safe Procedures)



International courses given by  
(BEL) EOD School !

## Instruction and Training



### Detection - Demining Site with INERT ammunition

- Reconnaissance
- Training - detection with mine detector (VMH 3S)
- Organisation of a demining site



## Instruction and Training



**Destruction:** with live ammunition



**Neutralization:** with INERT ammunition



## Training needs / assets



- **Reconnaissance, Identification and neutralization**

- Inert ammunition

- **Instrumental detection**

- Inert ammunition with the same electromagnetic signature

- **Destruction**

- Live ammunition M35 Bg : **6.249 items** (initially)
  - Each trainee needs to destroy **5 EA M35 Bg** during his instruction and training period (single item or mass destruction)
  - Explosive Risk Education prior to deployment

- **Tests to improve a Render Safe procedure - demolition techniques**

- Live ammunition



## CONCLUSIONS

Reduction of the residual risk during operations MEANS

- A thorough technical knowledge and experience
- Good instruction for each EOD / Combat engineer Deminer personnel prior to deployment

**Assets prior to the mission :**

- Retention of a LIMITED stockpile of AP mines at least 5 items/operator
- Good Mission Oriented Training tailored to the mission and operational theatre according to the type of ammunition found on the field  
= effective international system allowing the **exchange** of AP mines stockpiles between countries for training and testing purposes

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## Questions ?

