

SURINAME'S DEMINING EFFORTS, COMPLETION & RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

*Regional Stakeholder Dialogue
5 – 7 May 2026,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

*Sustainable Capacities to Address
Residual Contamination and
Strengthen Victim Assistance in the
Americas*



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INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

-
- Limited mine contamination in District Commewijne
 - One known area: Stolkertsijver
 - No other suspected hazardous zones
 - Modest scale compared to others present and CARICOM State Parties
 - Full commitment despite small scope





INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT CONT. *BACKGROUND*

- Civil war in eastern Suriname (1986–1992)
- Peace treaty signed in 1992
- Estimated 1,000 mines employed
- OAS coordinated a multilateral demining mission in February 2005
- Final minefield: Stolkertsijver, Commewijne





CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS FULFILLED

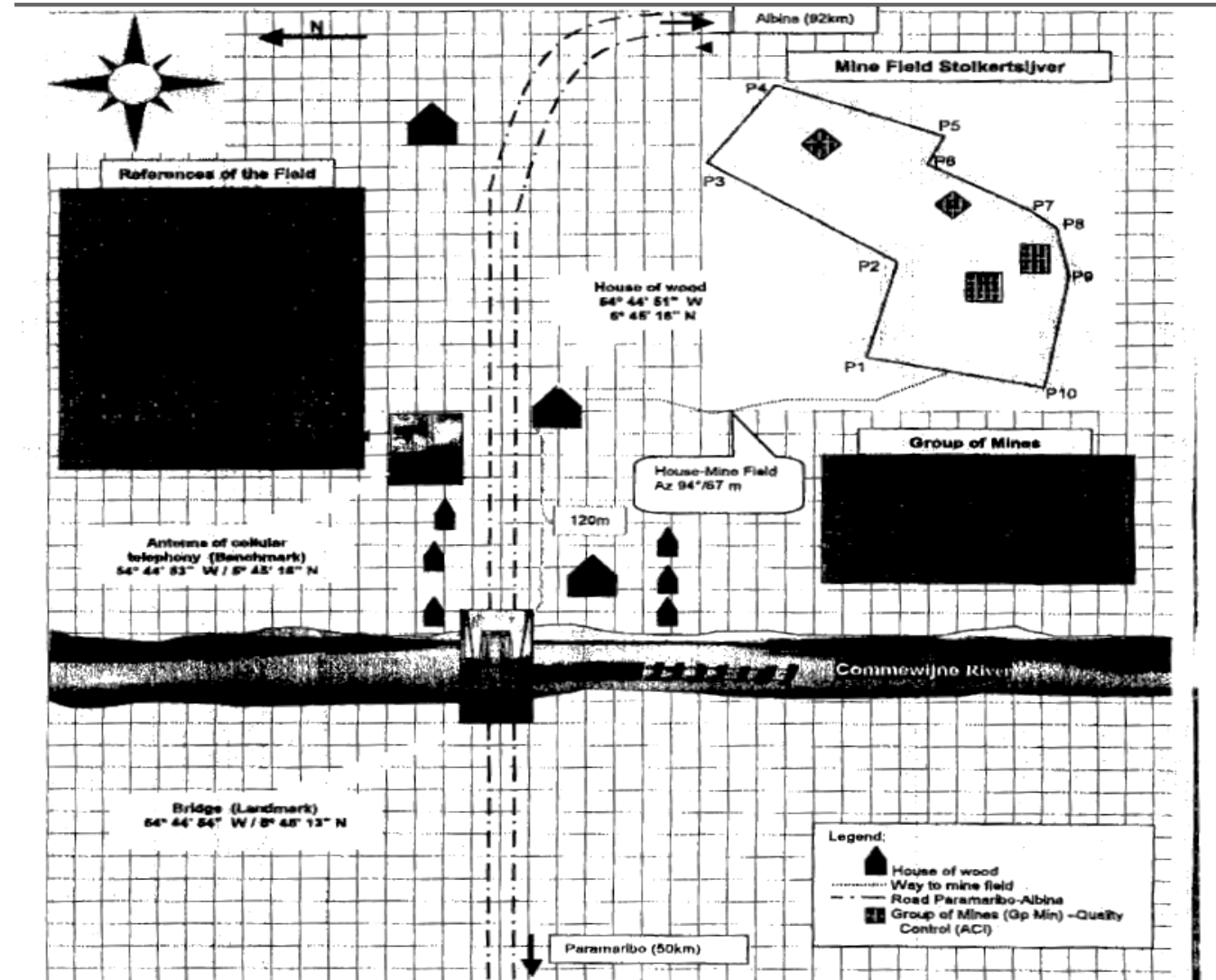
- Ratified: 23 May 2002
- Entered into force: 1 November 2002
- Article 3: Retained stockpile of 150 blast mines for training purposes
- Article 4: Destroyed all 146 stockpiled Blast Mines M/969 (reported: 30 April 2005)
- Article 5: Finished Mine Clearance on 27 April 2004





FINAL DEMINING OPERATION

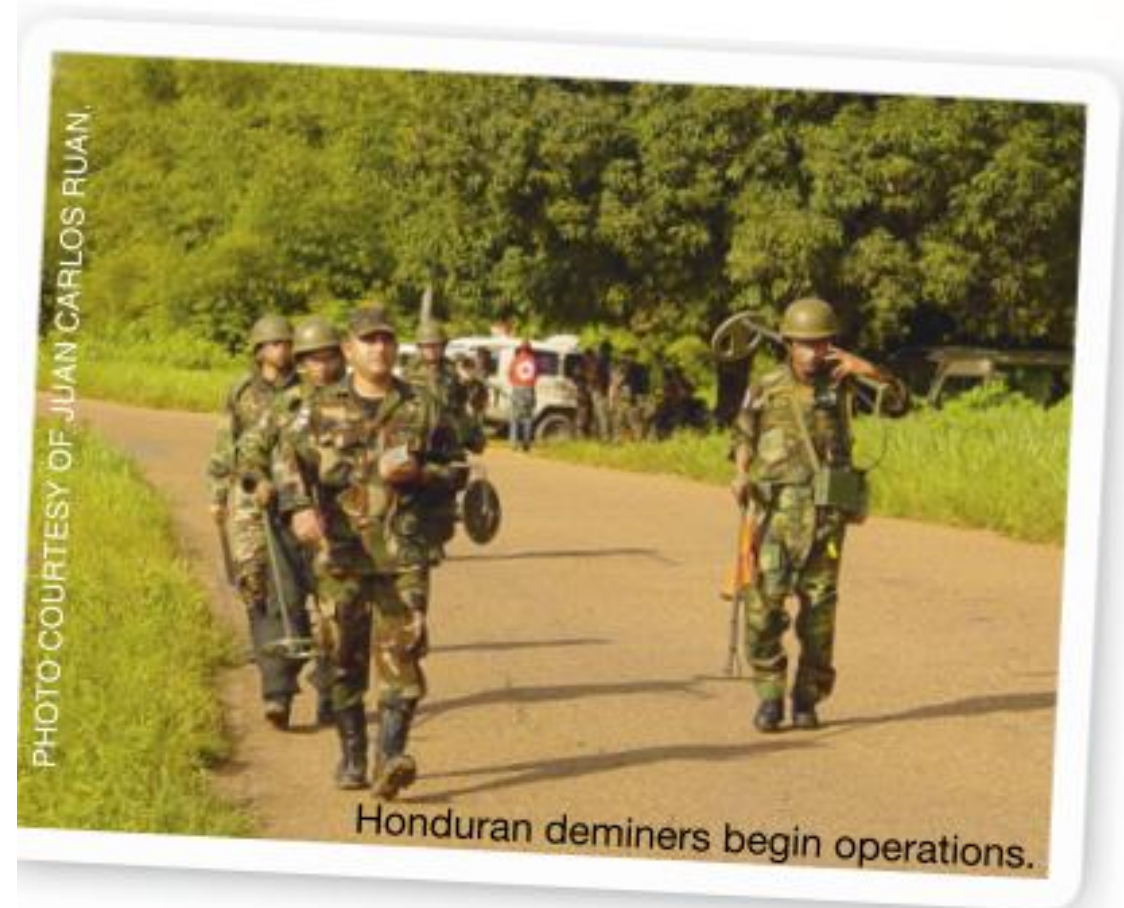
- Location: Stolkertsijver, 50 km east of Paramaribo
- Minefield: 50 m x 75 m
- 13 PRB M-409 mines estimated
- Minefield was immediately adjacent to homes
- Multinational team deployed February 2005





FINAL DEMINING OPERATION CONT. *MISSION COMPOSITION & TIMELINE*

- 14 Honduran soldiers, 8 Surinamese soldiers
- 1 Brazilian international supervisor
- Canada financed, the US and Suriname provided in-kind support
- Operations: 7 February – 20 April 2005
- Surinamese unit took over on 19 March 2005





FINAL DEMINING OPERATION CONT. *RESULTS & COMPLETION*

- Estimated: 13 PRB M-409 mines
- 6 destroyed: 4 effective, 2 by other causes
- 2,613 m² swept and cleared
- 1,258 m² quality control
- 121 hours, 32 minutes worked
- ERW: 7 electric capsules, 7 m detonating cord, and 3.25 kg of TNT were also cleared
- Formal turnover: 21 April 2005
- Article 5 deadline: 1 November 2012
- Completed over 7 years early
- OAS announced completion in the same year Suriname declared mine-free





RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

- No mine incidents since completion
- No residual contamination identified
- Land safely returned to communities
- Civilian confidence fully restored





NATIONAL SAFEGUARDS

- Report suspicious objects to the police/ and do not touch (mines, grenades, or unknown packages)
- Police inform the Public Prosecutor's Office
- EOD, as a specialized unit within the Directorate of National Security, handles safe disposal
- Armed Forces Munitions and Explosives Depot can support
- Part of the national safety plan coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Police





CONCLUSION

Article 4 – Stockpile destruction	✓	Fulfilled
Article 5 – Mine clearance	✓	Fulfilled
Article 6 – Victim assistance	✓	Ongoing
Article 7 – Transparency reporting	✓	Fulfilled
Article 9 – National legislation	⚠	Pending
Residual contamination	✓	None
National safeguards	✓	In place





STAATSOLIE



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION.