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## Chilean Army Procures MineWolf Large-scale Mine Clearance Systems to Clear Minefields along its Borders



The Chilean Army has acquired two MineWolf large-scale mechanical mine clearance machines with support equipment to be used for demining projects along its remote high-altitude borders with Argentina, Peru and Bolivia. Some of the minefields are at altitudes exceeding 5,000 meters. The terrain is characterized by sand, lava, and rocky soil.



Tembo Quemado, Chile: large area minefields, over 1 million m<sup>2</sup> with AT and AP mines, elevation 4700 meters.

The Chilean government has been tackling its landmine problem starting around 2002 based on a phased approach: survey and marking, manual clearance, quality control, and stockpile destruction in accordance with international mine action standards.

Deployment of the MineWolf machines will be the first time mechanical mine clearance methods are implemented in Chile with the goal of significantly increasing clearance rates.

*“After a lengthy evaluation process, we decided to purchase systems with a proven track record of mine clearance in difficult terrain, as well as reparability in the field. We also based our decision on the vendor’s ability to support our operations with the necessary*

*hardware, expertise, and in-country support. MineWolf Systems clearly fulfills these criteria.”* said Col. Martin Borck Keim, Executive Secretary, Chilean National Commission for Demining.

During Augusto Pinochet’s dictatorship of 1973-1983, approximately one million mines were laid as a defensive measure. With the restoration of democracy in 1990, and the ratification of the Ottawa Treaty in 2001, the removal of these landmines has become a high priority for the Chilean government. In 2008, funding was made available for the acquisition of mechanical demining equipment to accelerate clearance with the goal of becoming mine-free by 2012.



Chile has an estimated 293 minefields along its borders containing one million mines<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carl Case, OAS Mine Action Program, Journal of Mine Action, James Madison University, Issue 8.2, Nov. 2004

## UAE Land Forces Purchase Two MineWolfs based on Rigorous Trials in Extreme Desert Conditions



The Land Forces of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signed a contract with BAL Bauer Industries Ltd. for the procurement of large-scale mine clearance machines "MineWolf". The purchase follows extensive trials of the MineWolf in harsh desert conditions in the Gulf region during the summer of 2006, and includes special modifications for lifting mine fragments buried in sandy terrain to the surface.



MineWolfs with Lifter attachment for bringing mine fragments to the surface for visual inspection and removal

Designed as an attachment to the MineWolf, the MineWolf Lifter further complements the toolbox approach of MineWolf Systems. In combination with the MineWolf as primary clearance tool, it provides a highly effective solution to enhance the quality control process by sifting through the soil and extracting all objects left-over from the tiller/flail process.

All objects larger than 5 x 5 cm are brought to the surface and transported to one side of the cleared lane. This greatly facilitates the examination and removal of mine/UXO fragments.

The systems were delivered during the beginning of 2008, six months after contract signing.

Training of the UAE

personnel was given by MineWolf Systems in-country during February-May 2008. It is the first army in the Middle East to procure the MineWolf.

The MineWolf is a tracked mine clearance machine implementing an interchangeable tiller or flail system. It may be operated as either a manned or remote-controlled vehicle. It has been proven effective against anti-personnel (AP) and heavy anti-tank (AT) mines.

The MineWolf is currently deployed in numerous mine-affected countries including

Sudan, Jordan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

The system is capable of clearing up to 30,000 square meters per day.



MineWolfs deployed in by the UAE Land Forces in the Middle East



MineWolfs with both tiller and flail attachments. The white cabin attachment (left) allows a trainer to accompany the operator during training

## Mini MineWolf in Lebanon: BACTEC Training and Accreditation

A newly formed mechanical team from [BACTEC](#), the UK's foremost Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Landmine Clearance Company, has completed training on the new Mini MineWolf in Nabatiye, South Lebanon, resulting in full UN accreditation of the team and machine. The 4 week training package started on 26th May and consisted of 2 weeks full maintenance procedures plus 2 weeks practical application of both the tiller and the flail under the instruction & supervision of MineWolf Systems Technical Advisor Zeljko Tepes.

The team, all experienced in flail operations using various machines in the past, was very impressed during their initial examination of the Mini MineWolf and its unique interchangeable tiller/flail system. Seeing the complete system from the mobile workshop and trailer through to the machine and working tools made a lasting impact, as the team had never seen such a dedicated 'on-site' support package before for a single machine. BACTEC's



The BACTEC mechanical team in Lebanon

mechanical team is made up of 1 supervisor, two operators, a mechanic, medic, two deminers and a driver. Minefield clearance tasks have already been lined up for the team and the [UNMACC](#) are looking forward to putting their new Mini MineWolf to good use.

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## Mini MineWolf Training in Afghanistan: Accreditation Achieved by DDG



On 1 May Danish Deming Group ([DDG](#)) received delivery of a Mini MineWolf with full support package including tiller/flail and mobile workshop in Afghanistan. Shortly after clearing customs in Kabul, operator and mechanical training for DDG personnel began on 7 May, resulting in full accreditation of the DDG team and Mini MineWolf by the United Nations Mine Action Centre in Afghanistan (UNMAC) on 20 May.

The requirements for accreditation included proof of competence of the newly trained operators as well as achieving stringent ground penetration and clearance capacity targets with both tiller and flail working tools.

DDG currently employ 350 people in Afghanistan: 6 Manual Demining Teams, 16 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams, 3 Stockpile Destruction Teams, a Mechanical Mine-clearance Unit and 4 Mine Risk



DDG Mini MineWolf during demining operations in Afghanistan

Education Teams.

During the period 1999-2007 DDG has recovered and disposed of more than 1,000,000 unexploded ordnance and 100,000 landmines.

## MineWolf Systems Opens Office in Lebanon

To provide local support and service infrastructure for our demining operations and customers in the Middle East, MineWolf Systems has appointed **Lez Levick** as Regional Operations Manager for the region based in Tyre, Lebanon. Lez is responsible for the execution of mine action projects within the Middle East for MineWolf Systems.



Lez Levick, Regional Operations Manager, Middle-East, MineWolf Systems

Lez, a UK citizen, served as Warrant Officer in the Royal Engineers where he gained experience in military engineering and mine clearance. As an instructor in the Battlefield Engineering Wing,

Lez spent 2 years setting up the International Mine Action Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. He has travelled extensively throughout Eastern Africa liaising with and coordinating training for various mine action programmes in Sudan, Eritrea, Somaliland, Uganda, Rwanda and Senegal. After leaving the British Army, Lez joined the UN Mine Action Programme in Sudan as a Quality Assurance Officer in Juba, a path that eventually led to MineWolf Systems.



The new MineWolf office is now ready to support our customers and turnkey demining projects in the Middle East

In Lez's own words:

*"Having seen so many mechanical ground preparation machines throughout the last 4 years, I have no doubt that MineWolf is simply unbeatable in terms of versatility, capability and surpasses all others in product support. It is a system I truly believe in and have no reservations when telling clients and potential clients that we are the best! Akin to Sudan; the Middle East has its own unique challenges, not only the nature and type of ground for the machines, but also the complexity of the political problems, and the volatility of the region."*

Welcome onboard, Lez!

Lez's contact details can be found on our website at <http://www.minewolf.com/contact.html>

## Mini MineWolf Approved for Rapid Response Delivery aboard C-160 Transall Aircraft



C-160 Transall

In conflict regions such as Afghanistan, Lebanon and Sudan, mobility and fast deployment of mine clearance equipment to remote areas is often a key issue. To meet these demands, MineWolf Systems together with the German Army has verified the transportability of the Mini MineWolf with tiller attachment aboard the C-160 Transall turboprop transport aircraft.

The Transall is currently used for combat and support operations by the Air Forces of Germany, France and Turkey, and has been in service since 1967. It is highly valued because it requires a very short airstrip to land (approx. 600 m) while carrying a payload of up to 16 tons.

The German Army sets the highest standards when assuring transportability with its aircraft, as an example the payload has to withstand 8G (8 x gravity) during flight operations, the most stringent requirement among NATO countries.



Loading the Mini MineWolf in the Transall cargo bay

The Mini MineWolf is a light-weight, remote controlled demining vehicle well suited for demining operations in remote regions. It is currently operating in the Balkans, Congo, Sudan, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

To support its operations, MineWolf Systems has established presence in each region.

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## MineWolf Systems at Eurosatory 2008, Paris



Mini MineWolf with new bulldozer blade option (behind the machine)

During 16-20 June, MineWolf Systems exhibited its Mini MineWolf at Eurosatory 2008, Europe's largest defense exhibition held bi-annually in Paris. In addition to bringing an 8-ton Mini MineWolf demining vehicle to our stand, we also exhibited a new bulldozer blade attachment, plus 1:15 scale model of the 26-ton

MineWolf. We were pleased to meet and speak with civilian and military visitors from all over the world.



If you have any questions about our demining products or services, do not hesitate to contact MineWolf Systems at [info@minewolf.com](mailto:info@minewolf.com)

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