

Inside this issue:

NPA Mechanical Mine Clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007 – A Productive Year

1

Danish Demining Group Acquires Mini MineWolf for Humanitarian Demining Projects in Afghanistan

2

Mini MineWolf Training Held for Swedish Rescue Services Agency

3

Remote Video Guidance System Proven in Desert Conditions

3

MineWolf Systems at Euro-NATO Training & Engineering Centre

4

[Newsletter archive](#)



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NPA Mechanical Mine Clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007 – A Productive Year



Norwegian People's Aid
Solidarity in Action

As the demining year comes to a close in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the two NPA-owned Mini MineWolfs continue to work in the mine-contaminated areas around Obudovac, in Samac in the Republika Srpska.



Mini MineWolf operating at Sarajevo, Ilijaš

With winter approaching, the environmental conditions make mine clearance difficult. Restricted visibility from the fog and light scatterings of snow hamper operations in general.

The first Mini MineWolf started operations on the 7th of March 2007 and has continued to work throughout the season conducting technical survey and ground preparation for clearance in excess of 655,100 m².

The second Mini MineWolf was purchased by NPA in June 2007 and has produced in excess of 376,000 m². These figures show the machines' productivity up to the end of November 2007 although NPA plans to maintain operations through to the 15th of December.

Since April 2007 NPA have located and destroyed 105 Anti Personnel Mines, 13 Anti Tank Mines and 66 items of unexploded ordnance in the following locations;

- Donje Dubravice, Brcko District
- Vidovice, Orasje, Posavski Kanton
- Bukovac-Kladje, Brcko District
- Dubrave, Brcko District
- Ladjevici, Ilijas, Kanton Sarajevo
- Salkanov Han, Ilijaš, Kanton Sarajevo
- Širokača, Stari Grad Sarajevo, Kanton Sarajevo
- Obudovac, Samac, Republika Srpska

All NPA mechanical operations are supported by the MineWolf support team based from the regional office in Brcko. NPA has a service contract with MineWolf Systems d.o.o. who conducts regular service and inspections of the machines.



MineWolf Service Support Team

All current projects conducted by NPA are financed through the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, German Federal Foreign Office, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Government of Brcko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Danish Demining Group Acquires Mini MineWolf for Humanitarian Demining Projects in Afghanistan



After 25 years of war, Afghanistan has become one of the countries most affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the world. To help tackle this serious problem, Danish Demining Group (DDG) started a

cooperation with the Mine Action Program Afghanistan (MAPA) in 2001, and currently operates in Afghanistan with 6 Manual Demining Teams, 16 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Teams, 3 Stockpile Destruction (EOD) Teams, a Mechanical Mine-clearance Unit (MDU) and 4 Mine Risk Education (MRE) Teams.*

To enhance their mechanical demining assets, DDG has purchased a Mini MineWolf.

*Source: www.danishdemininggroup.dk

A complete support package including flail, tiller, integrated workshop, transport truck and trailer were part of the package. The mobile workshop provides all tools for routine maintenance of the Mini MineWolf as well as heavy repairs in the field. The unit and support vehicles can be quickly deployed to remote locations all over Afghanistan.



DDG
Mine Action

About DDG

Danish Demining Group (DDG) was established in 1997 as an independent organisation. It has since merged with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The vision of Danish Demining Group is to be the preferred strategic and operational partner working to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats caused by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

Mini MineWolf Training Held for Swedish Rescue Services Agency



The Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA; www.srv.se), has received shipment of a Mini MineWolf, followed by training by MineWolf experts. The training course was held at the SRSA training centre in Revinge, Malmö, Sweden from 11 – 23 October 2007 for a total of 8 students. The MineWolf training team consisted of 3 personnel who gave instruction on machine management, mechanical theory and practical operator training; assisting in the training was one instructor from SRSA.

The course was divided 30% / 70% on theory and on-the-job practical training including instruction on daily and weekly machine services. Theoretical lessons were given in classroom facilities and practical operation at a designated area 20 minutes drive from the training centre.

Students were trained in demining operations using both tiller and flail tools, also in operating the machine utilising a new remote video guidance system (RVGS, next article).



SRSA Mini MineWolf training held in Sweden

Students were finally tested on practical operations, servicing and also with a theoretical question test. All students passed the theoretical test with an average score 95 to 98%.

On the practical operation and servicing of the machine the SRSA students performed well and above average. All students were granted a certificate as operator and mechanic for the Mini MineWolf.

Congratulations to all!

Remote Video Guidance System Proven in Desert Conditions

A Mini MineWolf equipped with a new Remote Video Guidance System (RVGS) has been successfully deployed for demining operations along the Jordan-Israeli border by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The machine is an integral part of NPA's humanitarian demining operations in the region where over 1,400,000 m² of AP- and AT-mine contaminated land have been cleared by NPA along the Jordan-Israel and Jordan-Syria Border in Wadi Araba and Aqaba since October 2006.

The RVGS is a new option for the Mini MineWolf and is based on a Sony industrial grade digital video camera with 18x optical zoom and full swivel capabilities: 360° horizontal and 180° vertical degrees of movement. The camera is encased in a special housing which is resistant to extreme weather conditions, shrapnel, small arms, and vandalism. An integrated wiper system and high placement of the camera insures a clear line of site to the working tool.



Mini MineWolf with remote camera during demining operations in Jordan



Remote operation of the Mini MineWolf using Remote Video Guidance System

The machine's robust performance was characterised by the following achievements:

- Operation in extreme heat (51°C, 124°F) and dust, suffering no downtime
- No instance of overheating due to heavy-duty filter and cooling systems
- 8 to 10 hours of continuous operation without refueling due to 210 liter fuel tank
- Excellent remote video quality: the Mini MineWolf with tiller channels dust away from the camera.

Operation of the video camera is done via a remote console with digital transmission for perfect picture quality. The console includes joystick control of all camera movements, daylight LCD display, dust and shock resistant pelicase. The RVGS provides the following benefits:

- Allows operators to work in a more comfortable environment reducing fatigue and errors
- Superior quality assurance due to better visibility of the tool and ground
- Pre-programmed positions allow quick recall of camera positions

MineWolf Systems at Euro-NATO Training & Engineering Centre



The 6th annual Vendors Display Day was held on 6 December by the Euro-NATO Training and Engineering Centre (ENTEC) at the Prinz Eugen Kaserne in Munich, Germany.



MineWolf and Mini MineWolf on display at ENTEC 2007

50 companies from 13 countries took part in the event, exhibiting a broad range of military engineering hardware including mine detection, clearance and EOD disposal systems. MineWolf Systems participated with both an indoor stand and outdoor exhibition area where the MineWolf and Mini MineWolf were displayed. The remote-controlled Mini MineWolf, equipped with a new wireless video camera system, also took part in a dynamic demonstration.



MineWolf stand at Entec

About ENTEC

ENTEC stands for Euro NATO Training Engineer Centre. Its foundation goes back to 1977. Its mission is to promote and improve interoperability between military engineers. To accomplish this mission ENTEC is structured in a very flexible way under the guidance of the ENTEC Working Group (EWG). The ENTEC Crest refers to the location of ENTEC, NATO and Military Engineers.

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