

HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION (HMA) PROGRAM

Mission: The US Government's humanitarian mine action program assists countries in relieving the suffering of the adverse effects of uncleared landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) while promoting US interests. To achieve these goals, the USG balances various political, military, economic and technological capabilities with available resources.

The DoD Program is directly supervised by the military combatant commanders and is a critical component of the overall USG program. DoD's program concentrates on training host nations in the procedures of landmine clearance, mine risk education, and victims' assistance, as well as the development of leadership and organizational skills necessary to sustain the programs after US military trainers have redeployed. This approach provides unique training and readiness-enhancing benefits to US Special Operations Forces while advancing geographical commanders' theater security cooperation strategies. The program is authorized by 10 U.S.C. section 401.

The HMA program also aids in the development of indigenous leadership and organizational skills to sustain the programs after US military trainers have redeployed. No member of the armed forces, while providing assistance for detection and clearance of landmines, shall engage in the physical detection, lifting, or destroying of landmines unless the member does so for the concurrent purpose of supporting a United States military operation; or provides such assistance as part of a military operation that does not involve the armed forces. Significant benefits accrue to the Department of Defense - the program provides access to geographical areas otherwise not easily available to US forces. It also contributes to unit and individual readiness by providing unique in-country training opportunities that cannot be duplicated in the United States. For example, US military forces hone critical wartime, civil-military, language, cultural, and foreign internal defense skills.

A nation desiring assistance must make a formal request through the American Embassy to the State Department. Selected members of the USG Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) Sub-group on HMA conduct assessment visits to determine the host nation's capabilities and needs. The PCC then approves/disapproves each nation to be a part of the assistance program and tasks the Sub-group members to formulate a program to help the country neutralize the landmine and ERW problem.

DSCA Responsibilities:

- Participates as a member of the USG Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) Sub-group on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA)
- Manages, coordinates, and monitors execution of DoD humanitarian mine action training operations and related program activities.
 - Directs and controls activities of the Humanitarian Demining Training Center at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.
 - Plans, programs, budgets for, and allocates budget authority from the Overseas Disaster, Humanitarian, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation to support the DoD humanitarian mine action program.
 - Assists OJCS, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), combatant commanders, host countries and other organizations in planning for, establishing, and executing mine action programs.
- Coordinates with DoS on security assistance policy, budget and execution issues for mine action activities.
- Manages host countries' FMF and specified NADR accounts.
- Sells defense articles and services, through the FMS program, to host countries for support of mine action programs.

HA/MA Responsibilities. HA/MA manages the DSCA responsibilities stated above, reviews budget proposals for all mine action related activities, and participates in assessments and program reviews when necessary. HA/MA also formulates, prepares, and provides a report to the Congress required by 10 USC 401 NLT March 1 of each year for the previous fiscal year's HMA activities.

Prepared by: Tom Smith, HAMA, 601-3657