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DESERET TEST CENTER

REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSED PROGRAM

FOR FY 73 (U)

OCTOBER 1971

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DTC OPERATIONAL TEST 73-12 (U)  
FLAME WEAPONS FOR MINE/BOOBYTRAP CLEARANCE (U)

1. RATIONALE (U)

The neutralization of mines and boobytraps has been one of the (COMUSMACV) most critical research and development problem areas for the past several years. Although much work has been done, no effective solution has been found. As a result, CINCPAC has requested Deseret Test Center to conduct a controlled test to determine the effectiveness of available flame munitions and delivery techniques in clearing mines and boobytraps. CINCPAC has also recommended that the fuel-air explosive bomb be included in the evaluation. Although flame munitions have regularly been used in Southeast Asia in areas known to be wired or boobytrapped, analysis of after-action reports of lessons learned has failed to yield a clear measure of effectiveness. Such an estimate is desired by CINCPAC, an estimate in which identifiable variables would include delivery technique, type of mine and boobytrap neutralized, and the area over which the neutralization occurred. A tabular presentation of the number of munitions required to neutralize 90 percent of the mines and boobytraps within a helicopter-sized landing area is also included in the CINCPAC request.

2. PURPOSE (U)

To determine the effectiveness of flame munitions in mine and boobytrap clearance.

3. SCOPE (U)

DTC Test 73-12 will consist of a two-phase effort. Phase I will include the study and coordination of the appropriate test matrix. Specific unknown include identification of typical deployment techniques and materials, and heat activation properties of the chemical compounds used to activate enemy devices with consideration given to the thermal sensitivity of the family of explosives of concern to U.S. troops operating in the Southeast Asia theatre. An a priori assessment of environmental variables (such as soil type, moisture, flammability of indigenous vegetation, etc.) will also be required. The second phase will include preparation and coordination of the detailed plan of test, conduct of the tests, and preparation of the test report.

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