

Currently in the Republic of Croatia, there is a large MSA of 796 km², with 12 affected counties (out of 21) and 101 municipalities. We are estimating that there is still around 90.000 mines and approximately same amount of UXO's including cluster bombs that remain to be cleared.

In 2010, with changes in Croatian legislation, Croatian Mine Action Centre was appointed as an organization responsible for cluster bomb clearance. Aside from mine problem Republic of Croatia is facing the significant problem with cluster bombs. Cluster bombs were used during the war as a tool for retaliation on civilian objects. The most serious attack with cluster bombs happened in May 1995, when the City of Zagreb was for 2 days randomly bombed and when 7 people were killed and 175 wounded. On this slide you can see the area that are affected with cluster bombs in red color and area that were cleared in green color before and after the Convention on Cluster Munitions was ratified in Croatian Parliament. The cluster munitions affected area is marked with 409 warning signs.

All areas with cluster bombs are mapped and maintained in a CROMAC database. An example of the area moping can be seen on this slide, together with the positions of the warning signs (small red flags).

Through our research and survey activities we came to the following data:

- In 15 affected municipalities 4,6 km² cluster munitions remnants were detected inside of Mine suspected area mixed with landmines and other UXOs. This will be cleared and recorded in the Ottawa Convention Article 7 reports. This area will also be mentioned in the CCM Article 7 report.
- In 21 municipalities cluster problem was detected in the area of 5,3 km² outside of Mine suspected area. After clearance activities of 0,6 km² current size of problem is 4,7 km². This area is contaminated solely by CM remnants and this will be reported in Form F of the CCM Article 7 report. In the CCM report we will also mention the cluster presence in the MSA and will report on the clearance activities and destruction of submunitions found.
- Total area in the Republic of Croatia contaminated by cluster munitions remnants is 9,2 km²
- Estimated number of sub munitions is around 5.000 pieces.

After the CCM came into force, during the clearance process 1590 pieces of submunition on surface of 0,6 km² was found and destroyed. There are two types of submunition found; KB-1 and Mk-1 (BL755).

From the beginning of the war in Croatia we had 32 incidents with 52 casualties from unexploded cluster bomb remnants.

We would like to emphasize the fact that these casualties occurred after the bombing raids from the unexploded cluster submunition on the ground. There were other casualties reported during the bombing raids and are not included in these numbers.

Mr. Ambassador, friend of the president, since I am a person directly responsible for the compilation of the CCM and the Ottawa Convention Annual Article 7 reports, I would like to make a couple of additional comments. To do that, I would like to back to the 2 slide of the CROMAC presentation which can help us understand the complexity of the problem in Croatia.

This is clearly the case where the landmine suspected area overlaps with cluster munitions remnants suspected area. This is also the case where the 2 Conventions overlap, meaning the Ottawa and Convention on cluster munitions.

In our initial CCM report we only reported the area of 5,3 km contaminated solely by cluster munitions remnants. Since then we have reduced it by 0,6 km. Since our initial report we have identified an additional area within the Mine suspected area of 4,7 km where the cluster remnants are mixed with landmines and other unexploded ordnance.

This will bring us to the conclusion that once we clear the areas contaminated solely by cluster remnants, Croatia will not be in a position to declare its territory free of cluster remnants. We will be in a position to do so only after the clearance activities within the Landmine suspect area.

In our Article 7 reports IAW the Ottawa convention we are also reporting several military facilities contaminated by landmines and UXO's. That area totals at approximately 2,6 km. Our military Air Base in Zadar with a contaminated area of about 200 000 m or 0,2 km is one of those facilities. This is an area that we know is contaminated by cluster munitions remnants since our military demining unit has done some partial work there and actually cleared and destroyed some CM remnants in the past. Croatia has reported this activity in the previous reports as a finding and destruction of unexploded ordnance.

We realize that our initial Article 7 CCM report was not the most comprehensive report that Republic of Croatia has ever filed. If you look back a couple of years you will certainly find that our Ottawa Convention reports along with several CCW reports are quite comprehensive and good quality reports. But we are planning to build on our initial CCM report, we are going to keep you updated with the more precise information and once again deliver good quality reports that everyone expects from Croatia.

Thank you very much for your attention.