

## STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT

In January this year, in its initial report the Republic of Croatia reported holdings of 7380 Cluster bombs and 190 868 pieces of submunitions. The largest portion of our stocks contains a Croatian product; 7 129 pieces of the mortar cluster bomb 120 mm M93. For the transparency reasons, in our initial report we also included the Arial incendiary bomb RBK-250 ZAB-2,5M. Although by definition an incendiary weapon, in the Croatian Armed Forces this bomb has the same status as the other cluster munitions. It has been out of the operational use for quite some time and it is scheduled for destruction process along with the other cluster munitions.

In accordance with Article 3 Paragraph 6, the Croatian Armed Forces are planning to retain a total of 14 bombs for training and educational purposes, including some for the static displays at the military museums. All munitions will be disassembled and disarmed, with all explosive components removed and destroyed during the stockpile destruction process.

All cluster munitions in possession of the Croatian Armed Forces were declared non-perspective for future use by a Decision of the Defense Minister on August 16, 2010. They are stored on several locations with other non-perspective munitions and are separated only administratively.

During this year, the Croatian Defense Ministry has taken some concrete steps in order to fulfill its obligations under Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, relating to storage and stockpile destruction. On the basis of several meetings with Norwegian Peoples Aid officials and consequent visits to our storage sites, a feasibility study was developed with a recommendation from the NPA assessment team that a SHADOW program liaising with NPA via UNDP in Croatia would be both possible and desirable. The NPA SHADOW program was successfully launched and implemented in Moldova, running from concept to full implementation within a year. This program fully considers the environmental consequences and represents the alternative to industrial demilitarization. The Norwegian Peoples Aid has been present and active in the Republic of Croatia for over ten years. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to NPA and UNDP as well for their efforts and accomplishments in Croatia thus far. We believe that the NPA's SHADOW program offers many advantages to the Croatia's Armed Forces and our country in general. I would like to emphasize some advantages in particular: rapid implementation, practical solutions tailored to our needs and capacity building towards other demilitarization projects.

Currently, this step by step program is in the research and development phase, just before the implementation planning and the actual destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles. NPA and Croatian disposal experts are at the Zagreb Air base today as we speak, implementing this phase of the destruction program. This activity is scheduled to be conducted in a period of 10 days. The main objective is to establish a small workshop and disassemble 2 pieces of each type of cluster bombs and 24 pieces of 120 mm M93 shells. This will be a great opportunity for all personnel to develop most efficient techniques of disassembly and to develop Standard operating procedures and other documentation for the stockpile destruction on large scale. The extracted submunitions will be transported to the Training grounds of Slunj and are scheduled to be destroyed by detonation. Large metal casings and other materials will be saved for the recycling and reprocessing.

On 27 April 2011, Croatian Defense Minister signed a Decision on decommissioning and disposal of all cluster munitions in possession of Croatian Armed Forces. Disposal will be conducted in 3 groups, the first one during the Research and development phase of the NPA program.

The second group of 14 pieces will be destroyed for the purposes of the training and static displays at the military museums. And finally, the last and the largest group will be destroyed for the remaining stocks on a large scale. In total, 171 tons of cluster munitions could be destroyed in a relatively short amount of time. We hope that through the NPA's SHADOW program we can finish the overall destruction process by the end of next year if not earlier, providing that the financial resources could be located.

Before I finish my presentation I would like to mention some of the financial aspects of the stockpile destruction in Croatia. Our personnel at the Material resources directorate have roughly estimated the average amount of 2000 euros per tone for the destruction of cluster munitions in our stocks. Considering the amount of 171 tons, we can say that approximately 340 000 euros need to be secured for this project. Again, this is a rough estimate and it is not an official figure. We will have a more precise amount after the first phase of the destruction program.

Thank you for your attention.