



**12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, 10 – 13 September 2024, Geneva / Switzerland**

## **„German request of deadline extension under Article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions“**

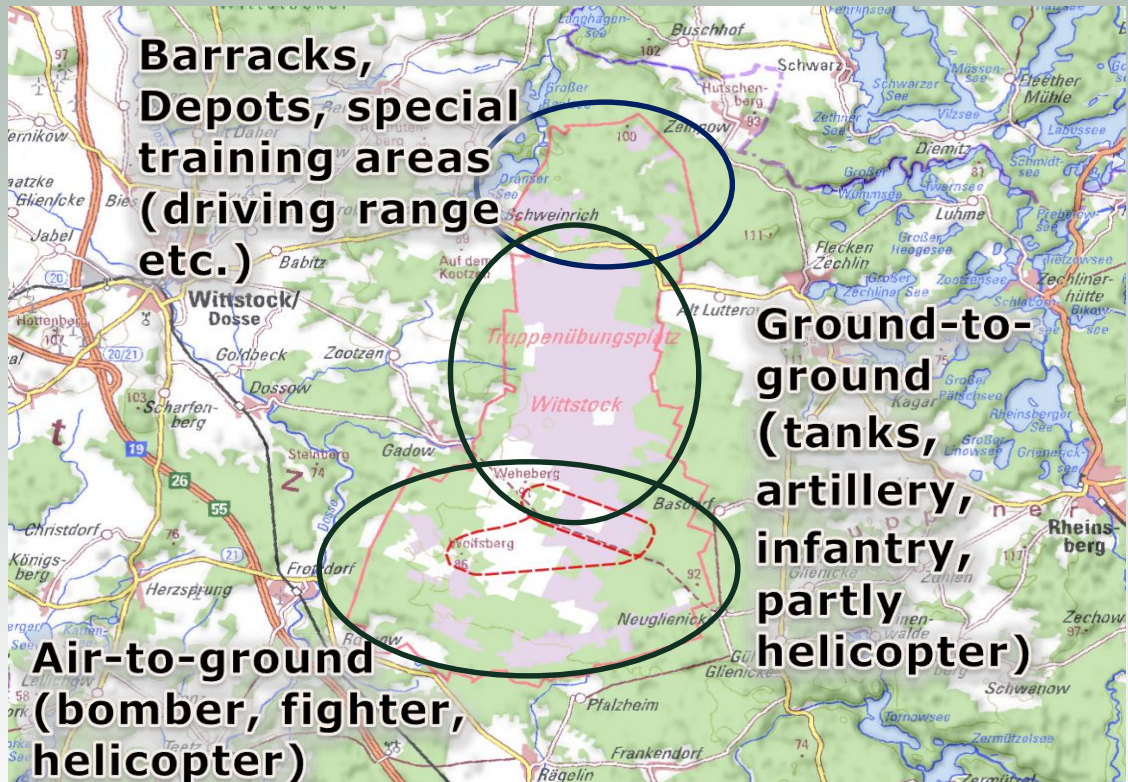
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**Mathias Muckel, Consulting Engineer, Hanover**

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# Wittstock Former Military Training Area

- ~ 80 km NW of Berlin
- Area ~ 120 km<sup>2</sup>
- Contaminated with Cluster Munitions: 11 km<sup>2</sup>
- 1945 – 1993: Ground-to-ground and air-to-ground training area of the former Soviet Forces



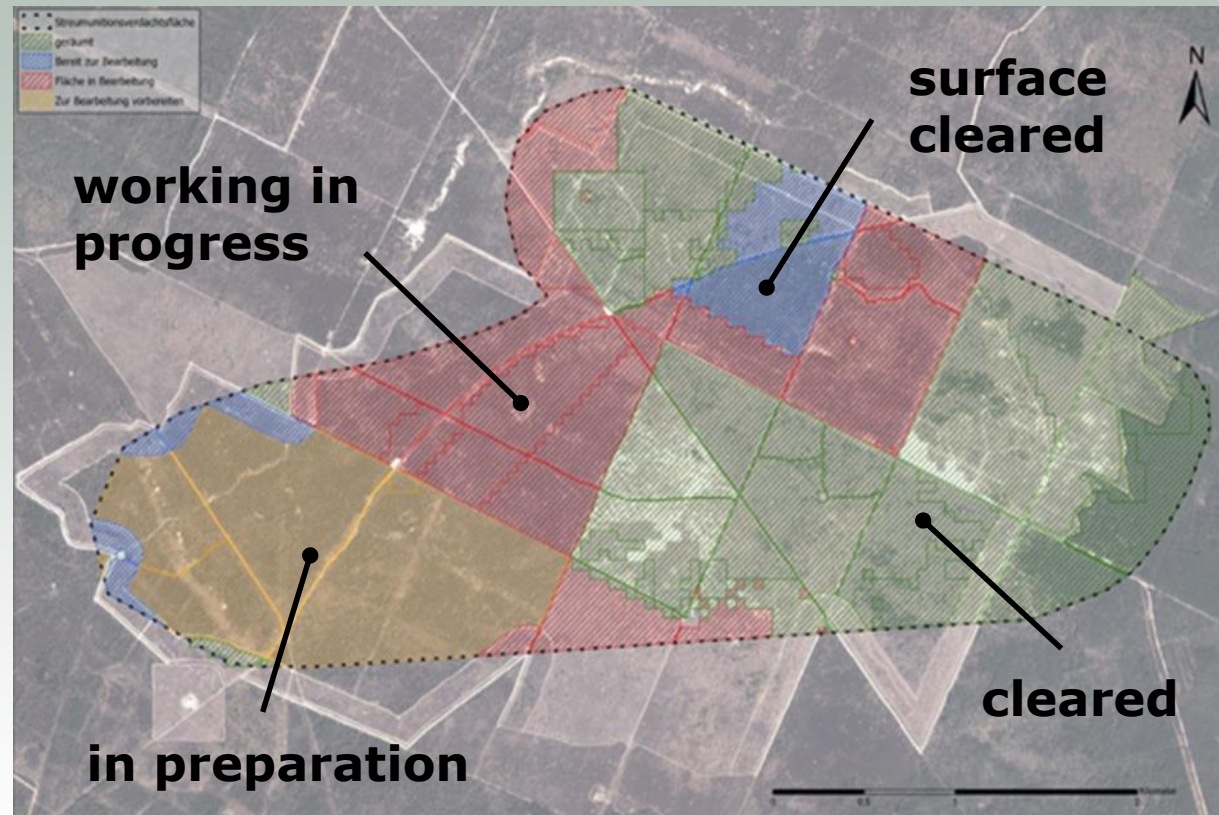
## Areas cleared by the end of June 2024

### cleared area

- ~ 724 ha within contaminated area
- ~ 92 ha outside contaminated area

### Personnel

- Average personnel numbers in 2024:  
145



## Finds 2017 – June 2024

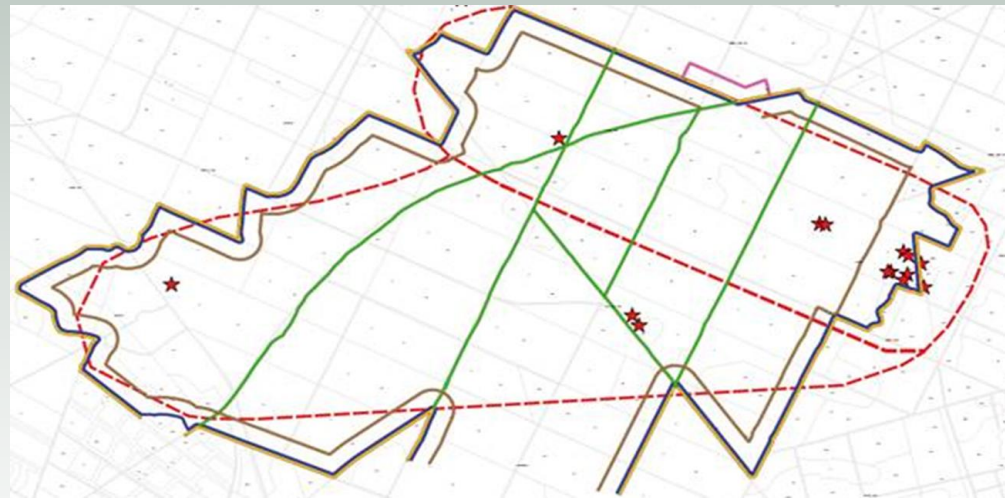
- **Cluster munitions:**  
**7,103 pieces**  
**(4,170 ShOAB-0.5)**
- **Other ordnance:**  
**155,278 pieces**
- **Munition fragments**  
**and scrap:**  
**2,608,000 kg**  
**(average weight of scrap fragment: 50 – 100 gr)**



**~5,000 pieces of scrap / 1 cluster munition**

## How we work:

### Fire protection and controlled burning



## How we work:

### Procedure in areas with ‚normal‘ contamination levels



## How we work:

### Procedure in areas with very high contamination levels



## How we work:

**The cluster munitions are destroyed on site by explosion**



## Quality control

- **UXO clearance contractor reports finished parcels**
- **Threshold level: accumulated length of edges ( $X + Y + Z$ ) = 25 cm (perimeter of a ShOAB-0,5)**
- **Independent supervisors check 10 – 20 % of each parcel**
- **If one or more objects larger than the threshold: the parcel is not accepted.**
- **The UXO clearance contractor is then required to re-do the parcel at his own expenses.**
- **Test objects in selected parcels.**
- **The UXO clearance contractor must re-locate all test objects.**



## Documentation

- All recovered material is precisely documented
  - Scrap metal as count and mass (tonnage)
  - UXO with count and identification individually
  - Cluster munition remnants with individual numbers, identification (type), location (survey +/- 0.1 m), depth, etc.



Fundkarte Räumung Streumunition Liegenschaft Wittstock Nr. 000746

Funddatum, Uhrzeit	12.07.2018	12:20 Uhr
Typ	S40AB-0.5	
Beschriftung	80-2-75 / TG-30 / 56-74	
Tiefe uGOK	0,10m	
Forstabl. / Teilfläche	Dünamünde	
R WGS84 UTM33N	342959,3	H WGS84 UTM33N 5885116,2
Detektiert mit	F3 UXO	
Dateiname Foto	Streumunition_0746.jpg	
Truppf. §20 SprengG	L. Fischer	
Unterschrift	Jan Fieser	
Bestätigung AG / öBÜ	B	

# Occupational safety

**Since 2017 (= approx. 1,5 Mio work hours):**

- **no accidents with personal injury**
- **a few internal emergencies (e.g. hypoglycemia, angina pectoris)**

**regular safety training**



## Risks and outlook

- **Limiting the controlled burning**
- **nature conservation requirements (EU FFH habitats)**
- **Unfavourable climatic conditions**
  - **for controlled burning**
  - **Frozen ground and snow in winter / no shade in summer**
- **Limited Personnel resources for UXO clearance**
- **Limitation of clearance personnel: safety distances**

**Based on experience gathered in the last years, annual clearance of approx. 80 hectares is realistic**

**Remaining area to be cleared by June 2024: 376 ha**

**Required duration: ~ 4,5 – 5 years**

**Expected end of clearing: Winter 2029 / Spring 2030**

# Thank you for your kind attention!

