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MineWolf enters the field in Yei, Sudan

On 31st of October, only four weeks after leaving Mombassa harbor, the MineWolf supporting Norwegians People's Aid (NPA) Mine Action program in Sudan started operations. The first task is within the Ronyi community on the Yei - Kaya Road.

As former location for forces of the Government of Sudan (GOS), Ronyi was protected by mines against the Sudan People Liberations Army (SPLA) operations and is heavily contaminated with anti-personnel mines. The centre of the Ronyi Danger Area is covering the perimeters of the abandoned St. Augustine Seminary School complex. Due to heavy fighting in this area the school had to move into northern Ugandian exile and hopes to return after the clearance is completed by NPA.

Before starting right off, MineWolf Systems had to prepare the setup and conduct training with NPA's new mechanical section. The training consisted of a general introduction, profound lectures on the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) and specialized case study modules for field

coordinators, section leaders, operators, medics and deminers.

Finally the team had to prepare a training area as if it was a real mine field.



The MineWolf in clearing action

During the first week of operations the MineWolf cleared 70.000 m² and activated two fragmentation mines along the main road.

On 7th of November the Executive Director of Yei River County, Aggrey Cyrus Kanyika, and the Yei Community Development Officer, Matata Khamis Charles, inspected the task and confirmed the high social economic impact of the area stating that the return of the school will contribute to the community's development.

Furthermore Aggrey Cyrus Kanyika thanked NPA for its effort to deploy the MineWolf in Yei County since "it certainly speeds up the demining process and gives high confidence that the mine problem of Yei will be solved soon".



Christoph Frehsee during training with the NPA team

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Demonstration at Nairobi Demining School

On Tuesday 4th of October MineWolf Systems held a demonstration at the International Mine Action Training Centre (IMATC) in Nairobi. The equipment, dedicated to support Norwegians People's Aid Mine Action Program in South Sudan, was exposed to an interested community of industry experts and was passing Nairobi on its way to its final destination Yei.



MineWolf transport through Kenya

The demonstration was kindly hosted by IMATC, a joint British and Kenyan venture aimed at alleviating the suffering caused by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) by providing high quality Mine Action training in the horn of Africa.

The intention of the event was to present the mechanical demining machine MineWolf to relevant mine action stakeholders in the region. Representatives from various NGOs, donors and militaries could witness how the

MineWolf tiller working tool excelled in penetrating the hard and dry African soil at a constant clearing depth of 30cm. "I have seen the whole range of earth moving equipment in my career, but a machine as powerful in ground penetration as the MineWolf has never been on African grounds before", Ben N'dungu, Managing Director of Prime Equipment East Africa Ltd of Nairobi, stated during the presentation.

Spectators could also witness simulated mine detonations, impressively demonstrating the system's ability to destroy both AP and AT mines.

After the demonstration, the machine and the MineWolf team went on to South Sudan for its next mission: After all, it's in the real minefields where these kinds of machines are most needed.



Spectators witnessing the MineWolf

Review on MineWolf operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina

In September MineWolf Systems successfully completed the operations in Ulice, Bosnia-Herzegovina. From August 2004 to September 2005, MineWolf Systems and NPA cleared over 1,5 Mio m² mined land in the region, 20 km off the city of Brcko.



MineWolf in Ulice

Due to the bad weather conditions the MineWolf faced a difficult start but with combined forces of NPA and MineWolf Systems the machine could catch up quickly and cleared 250.000 m² per month from May to July.

The cooperation and good team work between NPA and MineWolf Systems of the last year was deepened in 2005. Two more operators were trained in July 2005

which contributed to a more professional and safety oriented organisation in the field. "We had very few failures because of the permanent high service level at the machine," states Frank Erb, Project Manager Balkans at MineWolf Systems.

The social impact for the area is immense as the street between the two villages Ulice and Vitanovici can now be completed and extensively contributes to the refinement of the infrastructure in that region. Due to the fast and reliable work of NPA and MineWolf Systems, the local population can already use formerly mine contaminated acres for agriculture.



Street between Ulice and Vitanovici can be completed

Welcome Paul Collinson as new Director Operations

Paul Collinson will be supporting the MineWolf Systems Team as the new Director of Operations. Born in Yorkshire, UK in 1960, Collinson was an instructor at the Royal School of Military Engineering and received a diploma in Health and Safety Management. With an additional background in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management and after several years in the civil service in the Engineer Regiment and the Battlefield Engineering Wing, Collinson joined Norwegian People's Aid in 2000.

As NPA's Programme Manager for Mine Action in South-East Europe, Collinson was responsible for strategic and operational planning for all of NPA's mine

action related activities in South-East Europe. Besides managing programmes in Croatia and Bosnia, his activities included fundraising, increasing donor support, and promoting NPA mine action activities in the region. In 2005 Collinson left NPA to become the UN's Chief Technical Advisor for mine action in Eritrea, running UNDP's capacity building program and advising the national Eritrean Demining Program.

His first contact with MineWolf Systems was in 2004 at the International Symposium of Humanitarian Demining in Sibenik, where he was surprised of the unprecedented results the MineWolf machine achieved.



Paul Collinson

After 5 years working in the non profit sector Collinson thought "it was time to get to know a commercial company". And he is very enthusiastic, "MineWolf Systems is a very professional working

company", Collinson states his first impression after a few days in the Munich office. "With his operational experience in project and programme management and his extensive technical knowledge and qualifications related to explosive ordnance disposal and mine clearance, Collinson is a great enrichment for our company", states Tobias Schmidt, Managing Director. Collinson will build up and enlarge the demining service operations worldwide.

Coming up Next:

- MineWolf Systems to develop 6-ton "Mini - MineWolf"
- Ongoing Sudan operations

