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Mini MineWolf undergoes accreditation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with Norwegian People's Aid

After being unveiled at the CROMAC-organised humanitarian demining symposium held in Sibenik at the end of April, the Mini MineWolf arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 3rd of May. The machine underwent trials with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) on one of their demining sites located close to Brcko. Afterwards, the Mini MineWolf successfully completed the first stage of BHMAC accreditation testing procedures in mid-May 2006.

On its first tasks the Mini MineWolf exceeded expectations and showed performance rates of 5.000 - 10.000 m² per day depending on terrain and different degrees of vegetation. It was designed to meet the operational needs of humanitarian demining organizations that operate in a wide variety of terrain. When MineWolf Systems decided to create a small remote controlled machine the company first approached NPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss their operational requirements regarding mechanical assets.



Mini MineWolf – Clearance with tiller

The idea of the Mini MineWolf is therefore a direct response to field requirements aimed at providing a flexible mechanical asset that combines the high level of productivity expected from the MineWolf with increased accessibility for smaller, dispersed demining sites, which are becoming far more common in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The machine is based on the success of the MineWolf and incorporates many of the qualities and characteristics of the larger machine, including the principle of commercial-off-the-shelf components, but is designed to offer greater flexibility in terms of transportation. The Mini MineWolf is equipped with a new tiller unit aimed at further enhancing the blast deflection. MineWolf Systems have patented this design, which is an improvement to the current tiller unit. The aim is twofold: to increase the basket's effect of diffusing the blasts, whilst at the same time maintaining the integrity and resilience of the main frame.



Mini MineWolf with container

The whole machine can be transported in a standard 20" container with the tiller attached. The container itself comprises a mobile workshop that can transport the Mini MineWolf as a single unit. The container is fitted with electric supply, workbench and contains a compressor, welding equipment and other tools required to maintain and implement any necessary repairs on-site. This follows the MineWolf Systems principle of reducing downtime and increasing efficiency. The Mini MineWolf is designed to be operated by remote control. It has built-in safety features and requires the operator to use both hands to run the machine in order to ensure that the operator remains focused on running the machine. It also prevents the Mini MineWolf from being started involuntarily.

On the 15th of May a EUFOR delegation including Lt. Col Jonsson, Chief of Countermines, visited the NPA Brcko site to view the Mini MineWolf in the field. Their response was extremely positive and supportive of the original concept for the Mini MineWolf. EUFOR were particularly impressed with the power, productivity and general construction of the Mini MineWolf.

To date the Mini MineWolf has exceeded expectations regarding performance and no faults have been identified in the design. The depth control has been tested on both dry and wet terrain and is functioning perfectly to ensure a continuous ground penetration of 25cm.

MineWolf Systems at Eurosatory 2006

MineWolf Systems presented its range of mine clearance solutions to the military community at the Eurosatory, one of the largest defence exhibitions worldwide, from June 12th - 16th, 2006 in Paris.

Area clearance has become an increasingly important task for armed forces involved in peace keeping missions. New requirements emerge as the standard clearance tools commonly used by the military for "breaching" mine belts are not suitable for clearing larger areas. The "new" tasks comprise airfields, roads and camp sites, which need to be rendered mine-free in order to secure safe access for soldiers and the respective equipment. The MineWolf has cleared such tasks while operating in Southern Sudan and has shown remarkable results in clearing AT and AP mines under the tough conditions encountered in Eastern Africa.

Not only the MineWolf attracted a lot of attention but also the new Mini MineWolf (see article on page 1) and the MineWolf Bagger. Both are built on the same technology as the large machine.



MineWolf Systems at Eurosatory 2006

Especially the rapid response concept of the Mini MineWolf fitted into a 20" container which also serves as a workshop perfectly reflects the needs of modern armed forces anywhere in the world.

Overall, MineWolf Systems' appearance on the Eurosatory can be regarded as a great success, mine clearance is a highly relevant issue for all armed forces and effective solutions are in demand!

Humanitarian Demining Symposium 2006, Sibenik

As in previous years, MineWolf Systems was present again at the Humanitarian Demining Symposium, held in Sibenik, Croatia, from April 24th – 26th, 2006.

The company representatives took the opportunity to join the discussion with 150 demining experts and exchange ideas on the latest developments in Mine Action.

While the focus of the symposium was on “Mine and UXO detection”, several manufacturers presented their mine clearance machines. The disclosure of MineWolf Systems’ latest product, the Mini MineWolf, was followed with very positive comments and high expectations with regard to the effectiveness of the tiller application.



Mini MineWolf in operation

UNHCR emergency response tasks in Sudan

In May 2006 the MineWolf Team of Norwegian People’s Aid was called out by UNHCR for an emergency response task to Alero, Sudan. The area had been identified as a reception area for IDPs but just prior to their return an anti tank mine was found on the proposed camp site.

The fully self-sustainable MineWolf team was deployed within a day to the site and installed the necessary markings.

Within a few days the requested area of 23.000 m² was cleared and the MineWolf deployed back to its initial place of operation, Lanya on the Yei-Juba Road.

Another task at Lanya encompasses an area of 140,000 m². Located directly in the city left and right from the main road the task has a high impact but is also sensitive to clear. Sentries have to block the road and evacuate parts of Lanya during operations. The task includes work around housing compounds, agricultural land, swamp, forest and rocky areas. Until to day 120,000 m² have been processed.

On the first day of operations an M15 anti tank mine was detonated by the MineWolf. In total five M15 AT mines have been detonated and one AT mine belt has been identified during operations.



MineWolf camp in Lanya, Sudan

More than 560.000 m² cleared in one month

In May 2006 the MineWolf Team of MKA*Deming processed more than 560.000 m² in Croatia. With an average performance of 2.870 m² per hour the team



The MineWolf Flail

proved the continuous high efficiency and reliability of the MineWolf machine during day-to-day operations.

With a total of more than 2.5 mio. m² in less than 12 months of operation the MineWolf machine in Croatia is leading the national statistics in all categories. Over that period the machine has worked in different types of terrains all over the country. Thereby both technologies, the tiller and the flail, have shown good results and confirmed the MineWolf toolbox approach.

It is important to highlight, that the whole program is managed and run by Croatian personnel which operates, maintains and repairs the machine in a highly efficient way.

Coming up Next:

- Capacity build-up in Sudan
- MineWolf entering Jordan