

In an effort to minimize the risk to Canadian troops and affected populations, and to speed up the normalization of social and economic activities in mined areas, DND has taken steps to strengthen its demining capabilities by:

- improving mine detection capabilities, DND's highest research and development priority;
- establishing a capability to coordinate, collect, collate, assess and distribute mine-related information;
- increasing information sharing and coordination with American, British and UN centres of excellence in demining; and
- developing and improving training programs in AP mine awareness and dismantling. Recent Federal Awards Presentations honoured this aspect of CF efforts when they awarded Sergeant Rod MacDougall a gold medal for his interactive CD-ROM on landmine information, which allows the user to identify and disarm any known mine.

It is estimated that the current AP mine proliferation to removal ratio is 30 to 1. Coupled with the 110 million AP mines already deployed internationally, there is an urgent need to deal with this threat in a comprehensive manner. DND's demining efforts are already making an invaluable international contribution.

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