

ARTICLE 7: RECORDING

ISSUE: This article specifies the parameters for recording and use of information on minefields, mined areas, mines, booby traps and other devices. It is to be read in conjunction with the technical Annex which contains specific details.

BACKGROUND:

In the current convention, all minefields are to be recorded to enable the party which laid them, or others, to remove them, either during or after hostilities. The Technical Annex specifies details for the recording methods, snaps, diagrams or other records to be used. All of these details are consistent with NATO and CF military doctrine and nothing is controversial from a military standpoint. There is nothing notable about any of the bracketed text in the Technical Annex itself -- most of the bracketed text appears to be alternative text, any version of which would be acceptable. The bracketed text in paragraph 2 of Article 7 offers two alternatives for the point when parties must commence active measures to protect civilians from mines in the area in question, and commence information sharing with other parties regarding the locations of those mines. The phrase "and the meaningful withdrawal of forces from the combat zone" in the second bracket could allow parties to abrogate their responsibilities under this article until their forces have left the combat zone, thus exposing civilians to hazards until that time.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada should accept Article 7 as drafted, with the proviso that the first of the two bracketed texts in paragraph 2 be the chosen wording.

POSITION OF OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS/GROUPS:

It is unlikely that this article will cause any controversy. The US DoD viewpoint is that the article is acceptable as written.

LIKELY AREAS OF COMPROMISE:

Unknown/not applicable.