

and navigation systems developed for military applications. The first technology demonstrator, the Articulated Robotic Scanner, has been built and is being evaluated in trials at the CCMAT.

Dissemination of information to the mine clearance community

Technical information is an important product of any research and development program. The CCMAT provided information to the mine clearance community in the following instances during fiscal year 2000:

- The CCMAT participated in an international trial of commercial metal detectors which produced a consumer report allowing deminers to select the equipment best suited to their particular operating conditions.
- Technical experts from the CCMAT participated in detector and other trials in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia and Thailand. These visits are an effective means of translating research and development products into practical help for the mine clearance community.
- Information on soil conditions will form part of a proposed World Soil Information Database which will help deminers select the best detector for their operating conditions.
- The CCMAT will contribute results and methodology for the evaluation of protective and mechanical assistance equipment to the development of international mine action standards.
- Fundamental research in blast physics has defined the threat from anti-personnel mines. The data will be collected by the CCMAT in a Mine Effects and Materials Database.

International collaboration

Canada is a founding member of the International Test and Evaluation Program (ITEP) and the Demining Technology Information Forum (DTIF). The mandate of the ITEP is to develop universally accepted methods for test and evaluation and to use

these to rigorously evaluate equipment for mine clearance before it is deployed to the field. Canadian experience in the development and deployment of products such as the PRO MAC Brushcutter/Deminer BDM 48 has shown that rigorous test and evaluation is an essential part of procuring effective mine clearance equipment. As an organization with facilities for test and evaluation that are among the best in the world, the CCMAT makes a significant contribution to the ITEP and to the development of accepted test methods and standards.

The DTIF serves as a means of communication between developers and users of mine action technology through workshops and an electronic journal. In June 2001, the CCMAT organized a successful DTIF workshop for the users and developers of mine action technology. The workshop was aimed at bridging the information gap between the two groups, a gap that is blamed for much of the inappropriate technology deployed to the field. Participants urged the DTIF to create a clearinghouse for technical information in the form of a web site. The CCMAT has experience that enables it to play a leading role in implementing these and other recommendations.

Impact on Canada's objectives in mine action

The success of the CCMAT has enabled the Government of Canada to take on a range of technology-related mine action initiatives. The Centre supports DFAIT's work with the Stability Pact for South East Europe Reay Group and its efforts to establish a regional capability for test and evaluation in the Balkans. Through the successful introduction of new equipment such as the PRO MAC Brushcutter/Deminer BDM 48 and the explosive FIXOR in Thailand, relationships between Canada and Thailand have been strengthened and there is opportunity for similar initiatives in other countries in the region.

By providing technology that meets the needs of the mine clearance community, the Canadian Landmine Fund's investment in technology through the CCMAT is a pivotal component of Canada's global mine action leadership.