

Reconnaissance missions on the ground are carried out by EOD experts using magnetic probes or other metal detectors. These instruments are capable of locating metal parts up to a depth of 6 meters. Those spots giving a positive detector response are marked with flags and safeguarded to prevent unauthorized access.

### 3.2 Unearthing and identification

In order to recover and identify the artifact hidden in the ground, EOD experts cautiously clear away the soil until the item or the number of items can be recognized visually. At a later stage mobile X-ray equipment is used to further evaluate the internal structure of the munition. Following the preliminary assessment of the item as to whether or not it relates to OCW, its state of preservation and possible leakage, a decision is made on its transportability. Some OCW munitions have to be disassembled and decontaminated on-site.

Unidentified items are transported to the nearest demilitarization facility and opened for sample-taking and chemical analysis of the contents.

During the whole process of unearthing and identification, appropriate safety areas around the discovery points must be established and standardized operational procedures (SOPs) of individual protection applied.

### 3.3 Removal and transportation

Since OCW items are often found in places quite distant from each other, they have to be collected and transported to an intermediate storage site. For transportation of OCW items rugged containers are needed which remain gas-tight under pressure and which are coated in a way as to allow the use of aggressive decontaminants. The transport containers must be approved by the federal authority for transportation of dangerous goods and explosives.

The planning of transportation comprises negotiations with federal state police departments and environmental agencies. Detailed agreement is required on the routes to be taken. In case of significant quantities, OCW transports must be secured by police and accompanied by trained personnel for detection, decontamination and medical support.

### 3.4 Intermediate storage

In order to facilitate further treatment and final destruction and for reasons of safety and clarity, the storage of OCW is organized in a way that identical munition items and heterogeneous ones are collocated. This, of course, results in a need for facilities for the safe intermediate storage of OCW, which have been removed from different areas of the region or other federal states.