

methodology. This test methodology was used in US trials of five ensembles produced by different companies, including Med-Eng, and will be an important part of a joint US/Canada contribution to UN standards for personal protective equipment.

The Spider Boot, the Humanitarian Demining Ensemble and FIXOR are now available for sale and were exhibited at the *Ban Landmines 99* public mine action exhibition.

Investigating alternatives to anti-personnel mine capabilities

Objections by some states to accepting the Ottawa Convention on the grounds that they perceive anti-personnel mines to be a useful and cost-effective military option remains one of the most serious obstacles to universalizing the Convention. It is hoped that the CCMAT's work on investigating alternatives to anti-personnel mines will help Canada make progress in overcoming this argument. In fiscal year 1999, a study was undertaken by the Directorate Land Strategic Concepts in DND, reviewing the historical use of anti-personnel landmines and their impact on land force operations. The report was completed in January 2000. CCMAT is assessing the results of other countries' studies on alternative capabilities and the results should be available in early 2001.

Dissemination of information to the user and to industry

The CCMAT maintains a web site at www.ccmat.gc.ca and has produced a series of brochures and news briefs which it distributes to a wide audience in Canada and abroad. The Centre also supports DFAIT outreach initiatives, such as the *Ban Landmines 99* exhibition and the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program.



Commercialization

Canadian companies that want to contribute to the mine action effort, particularly those that have relevant technology, can do so through the CCMAT. To help Canadian companies identify and take advantage of opportunities in mine clearance, Industry Canada maintains a web site, www.ic.gc.ca, which provides the necessary information. Industry Canada also assists companies that wish to attend trade shows where they can display their demining equipment or services.

After the detonation of an AP mine, equivalent to 97 grams of TNT, the protective Spider Boot's two front legs are broken but the rest of its parts remain undamaged.

