



L. Col. Normand Leveay/DND

One of six blasts destroying a total of 10,000 anti-personnel mines at Condega, Nicaragua, February 2000.

in the destruction of their stockpiled mines. While Canada destroyed the last of its stockpiled mines even before the Convention opened for signature, it is committed to ensuring that other states also comply with their obligations.

As part of the Stockpile Destruction Program, Canada sent two military technical advisors and a civilian advisor to Nicaragua and Honduras in fiscal year 1999 to provide assistance in the open detonation of these countries' anti-personnel mine stocks. Canada also

provided approximately \$2,650 to support an experts conference on stockpile destruction in Minsk, Belarus. Discussions are ongoing with Ukraine regarding the provision of financial and technical assistance to destroy that country's estimated 10 million mines.

Ensuring the effective operation of the Convention

The Ottawa Convention requires that its member states meet annually in the lead-up to a Review Conference which will be held in 2004. The First Meeting of the States Parties (FMSP) to the Convention was held in Maputo, Mozambique, May 3 to 7, 1999. Canada supported the Maputo conference,