

tissue injury from mine blasts. It is anticipated that this technology will be installed, and preliminary testing of mine blast effects will be completed, by the end of next fiscal year.

- development of a series of surrogate mechanical mines which can be used to evaluate mechanical devices – such as flails – for preconditioning ground and destroying mines in older, overgrown minefields.
- development of plans for a trial of an instrumented mine prodder at the Cambodian Mine Action Centre.
- testing of a prototype foot protection system being developed by a Canadian company.
- development of plans to test a new explosive technique for neutralizing landmines. This new technique would increase safety in the transport of neutralizing materials, as it may be assembled in the field from two precursor substances which are non-explosive until combined.
- participation in a major international trial of hand-held detection systems. Over the course of the trial, approxi-

mately 25 metal detection systems are expected to be evaluated.

Adapting military equipment

Through its association with DRES, the Centre will investigate the possibility of transferring military mine clearance technology to civilian use. One example is an instrumented mine prodder that uses signal processing to distinguish between plastics, metals and rocks. The concept for the device originated at DRES and is now being developed commercially by Canadian industry.

Acquiring and disseminating technical information

This function will be carried out, in large part, through the Information Forum established by Canada and the European Commission. The Forum welcomes countries with an ongoing R & D program and will create an electronic journal of mine action technology. The Director of CCMAT will be a co-editor of the journal. Other avenues for information exchange include technical workshops and symposia.

To engage Canadian industry in the demining challenge and inform potential applicants of CCMAT's mandate and available resources, the Centre ran a workshop involving more than 70 industry, government and demining participants. This resulted in the submission of more than 30 proposals which are now being assessed.

CCMAT contributes to the field testing of technologies with the potential to improve current practices in demining. This new prodder underwent testing in Cambodia.

CCMAT is investigating technologies to make humanitarian mine action faster, safer, cheaper and more effective.

