

Mine Awareness

Types of mines

- Anti-personnel – AP, Anti-tank/Anti-vehicle – AT
- Pressure mines (blast type), Bounding with/without fragmentation mines & directional mines – claymore
- Sub-munitions, Smart mines, Tripwire

Preparation & Planning

- Obtain mine information – info@unmaca.org
- Use local knowledge – don't be first or last down routes on foot or in vehicles
- Use hard/tarmac roads – approved routes
- Do not handle or touch anything

Where to expect mines

- Any area that has been fought over
- Confrontation lines, Routes, derelict or vacated buildings
- Woods and orchards
- Military establishments, Strategic areas, old defensive positions, Former airfields
- River crossing points
- Road blocks / checkpoints
- Disused private property

Mine signs

- Conventional signs used by Military or mine clearance groups – MAG
- Unconventional signs used by locals Rough markers - cross sticks / tape / written marks etc.

- 'Presence of the abnormal, absence of the normal'

Minefield clues

- Packing materials, Partly buried, entangled wire
- Uncultivated areas, Disturbed ground
- Various safety clips & pins
- Trip wire spools and posts
- Unusual colours & shapes
- Human & Animal carcasses
- Remnants of footwear
- Unattended fields, Empty buildings
- Unusually straight lines
- Ammunition boxes, Plastic caps / covers
- Minefield marker / warning signs
- Blast signatures - Mine craters

Minefield Precautions & Actions

- Stop – immediately
- Warn - all others
- Report - by using radio (if available)
- Assess - the situation - what support may be needed? Casualty, under fire, vehicle mobile - safe route
- Above all - think before you act!

Extracting from a minefield

- Look around you for mines
- Feel - for mines
- Prod - for mines
- Mark - but not on top
- Avoid - lie prone or crawl
- Move - patiently & slowly to safe area

“Always a little further”

Mine casualties

- Look - feel - prod to reach casualty
- Reassure casualty
- Minimum first aid to casualty –
CAT
- Extract casualty (or wait for help)