

No. 036-15

The Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Secretariat of the United Nations Office at Geneva and is pleased to transmit the Annual Reports of the United States for Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, and the Compliance Report.

The Permanent Mission of the United States avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the CCW Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure:

As stated.

The Permanent Mission of the
United States of America,
Geneva, March 26, 2015.



DIPLOMATIC NOTE

PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES
AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996
ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE
USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE
EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(PROTOCOL II, AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)

Annual Report in Accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4

Name of High Contracting Party:

United States of America

Date of Submission:

31 March 2015

National Point of Contact:

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*This report may be distributed to interested States,
organizations and the public.*

Form A

Dissemination of information

Article 13/4/a

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary . . . on:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;"

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

Information to the armed forces

The relevant doctrine, operational and training publications, and courses of instruction of the armed forces of the United States are routinely revised to incorporate the requirements regarding the use of mines, booby traps, and other devices contained in the Protocol.

Information to the civilian population

The U.S. Government has provided to the American Red Cross a copy of the Protocol and other relevant documents, and has asked that it incorporate information about the Protocol in its programs for the education of the American civilian population. In addition, the Department of State has produced a series of annual reports to the public entitled "To Walk the Earth in Safety" (the 13th edition was published in September 2014), which describe in detail the steps being taken by the U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program to address landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) which can affect the civilian population in countries recovering from conflict long after the conflict ends. Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) is a comprehensive approach that includes humanitarian mine action, battle area clearance, clearance of ERW, SA/LW (including at-risk munitions and man-portable air defense systems - MANPADS), stockpile and cache reduction, and physical security and stockpile management. This publication may be found at the Department of State's website:

<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2014/index.htm>

The Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs and his staff in the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) address foundations, corporations, religious and civic groups, as well as students ranging from secondary to university

level, to raise awareness of the landmine issue and encourage their participation in this comprehensive approach to CWD. Engagement takes place with domestic, foreign, and international entities. Over the years, PM/WRA has partnered with a number of civic groups and private organizations to further expand the reach of our efforts. More information about this initiative can be found at <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/partners>.

Form B

Mine clearance and rehabilitation programs

Article 13/4/b

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary . . . on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;"

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

Mine clearance programs

The U.S. Department of State provided conventional weapons destruction (CWD) assistance that totaled over \$140.3 million in Fiscal Year 2014 funding. CWD assistance includes funding for humanitarian mine action, and destruction and security of small arms, light weapons, and conventional munitions. The President has requested \$126 million for CWD assistance programs in Fiscal Year 2015. The United States remains the leading donor to humanitarian mine action around the world, with U.S. contributions since Fiscal Year 1993 totaling more than \$2.4 billion. These funds have provided assistance to more than 90 countries.

The U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program helps countries to overcome threats from landmines, ERW, and at-risk weapons and munitions around the world regardless of the affected countries' stances on either of the international landmine treaties. A state may face one or all of these challenges, and the comprehensive CWD program increases effectiveness of U.S. assistance by creating a flexible approach to addressing various threats. Consistent with the U.S. philosophy of helping other countries to develop the indigenous capacity to address these threats, the U.S. program also aids in the development of leadership and organizational skills of local personnel to sustain programs after U.S.-provided assistance is complete.

Landmine clearance remains a focus of our comprehensive program. In Fiscal Year 2014 projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Yemen, and Zimbabwe specifically addressed landmine contamination.

Assistance is provided both bilaterally and multilaterally, through the UN, NATO, the OSCE, and the OAS, as well as a multitude of non-governmental organizations and contractors.

(Form B, continued)

Rehabilitation programs

Established in 1989, The U.S. Agency for International Development's Leahy War Victims Fund (LWVF) works to increase the availability of and access to a wide variety of programs benefiting people with disabilities in conflict-affected countries. Initially the LWVF emphasized support for people injured by landmines and ERW; artificial limbs and physical rehabilitation were key areas of investment. However, over time LWVF has recognized that in order to effectively provide assistance to survivors of war and civil strife, a broader approach is needed that includes individuals with spinal cord injury, children born with club foot and individuals with cerebral palsy and a wide range of other conditions that affect mobility or physical function that result from war and civil strife. USAID is committed to continuing its investments in appropriate prosthetic, orthotic, and physical rehabilitation services. At the same time, it is expanding its approach, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Providing mobility devices meets a critical human need, but it is just one step in addressing the comprehensive needs of an individual. USAID supports programs that provide people with disabilities with peer support, sports and recreation activities, and meaningful employment that can offer an individual with the means to generate an income. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Fund contributed to programs in Cambodia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Vietnam, as well as numerous regional and international initiatives spanning multiple countries. To date, the Fund has provided more than \$200 million in more than 40 countries.

Moreover, through two other programs specifically focused on helping wheelchair users (some disabled as a result of ERW) as well as a broader cohort of people with disabilities, USAID provided an additional \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2014 in more than 30 countries, including Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe.

Form C

Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13/4/c

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary . . . on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;"

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

In 2014 the United States announced important changes to its landmine policy. In June 2014 at the 3rd Review Conference to the Ottawa Convention in Maputo, Mozambique, the U.S. Delegation announced that the United States will not produce or otherwise acquire any anti-personnel munitions that are not compliant with the Ottawa Convention. On September 23, 2014, the Administration further announced that the United States is aligning our APL policy outside the Korean Peninsula with the key requirements of the Ottawa Convention, the international treaty prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of APL, which more than 160 countries have joined, including all of our NATO Allies. This means that United States will:

- not use APL outside the Korean Peninsula;
- not assist, encourage, or induce anyone outside the Korean Peninsula to engage in activity prohibited by the Ottawa Convention;
- and undertake to destroy APL stockpiles not required for the defense of the Republic of Korea.

These policy changes are not required under Amended Protocol II and the stockpile maintained for the defense of the Republic of Korea remains compliant with the technical specifications required for remotely delivered anti-personnel landmines (APL) or APL used outside of marked areas under the protocol. The policy related to anti-vehicle mines reported in 2012 has not changed.

Form D

Legislation

Article 13/4/d

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary . . . on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;"

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

Legislation

No change since the 2004 Report.

Form E

International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

Article 13/4/e

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary . . . on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;"

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

International technical information exchange

No change since the 2005 report.

International cooperation on mine clearance

The U.S. Government aims to increase international cooperation and coordination among donor nations, recipient nations, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to accelerate humanitarian demining efforts worldwide.

In addition to working with the governments of mine-affected countries to provide mine clearance training, mine awareness, and survivor assistance programs (detailed in Form B), the United States works with other governments through regular meetings of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) and with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to share information and increase coordination toward our common goal of eliminating landmines that threaten civilians. In FY 2014, the United States also supported the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining's efforts to maintain and disseminate updated and new International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

Technical cooperation and assistance

No change since 2005 report.

Form F

Other relevant matters

Article 13/4/f

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary . . . on:

(f) other relevant matters."

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

Other relevant matters

None.

Form G

Information to the UN-database on mine-clearance

Article 11 para 2 "Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance."

United States reporting for time period through September 2014.

Means and technologies of mine clearance

- Deminer Personal Protection Equipment and Individual Tools
- Manual Mine Detection (with hand-held detectors)
- Mine Detection Dogs
- Mechanical Mine/Vegetation Clearance
- Mine Risk Education and Training
- Mine Action Center management and strategic planning (including information technology)
- Impact Surveys
- Technical survey (area reduction)

Lists of experts and expert agencies

- Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC), U.S. Department of Defense
- Humanitarian Demining Research and Development program, Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command, U.S. Army
- Countermine Training Support Center, U.S. Army Engineer School
- Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDMTC), U.S. Department of Defense

- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), U.S. Department of Defense
- Leahy War Victims Fund (LWVF); Wheelchair and Disability Funds, U.S. Agency for International Development
- National Center for Environmental Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(Form G, continued)

National points of contact on mine clearance

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