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:

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 2017.

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 contained in the Protocol regarding the use of mines, boobytraps, and other devices.

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 civilian population of the United States. In addition, the Department of State has produced nearly every year for almost two decades a public report titled "To Walk the Earth in Safety" (the most recent edition was published in December 2017). This series of reports describe in detail the steps taken by the U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program to address landmines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 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. The latest edition of "To Walk the Earth in Safety" may be found at the Department of State’s website: https://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2017/index.htm. The Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs and staff in the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) address foundations, corporations, and 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 expand further the reach of our efforts.
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 2017.

Mine clearance programs

The U.S. Department of State provided conventional weapons destruction (CWD) assistance that totaled $179,532 million in Fiscal Year 2016 and is projected to provide $266.5 million in Fiscal Year 2017 funds. CWD assistance includes funding for humanitarian mine action, and destruction and security of small arms, light weapons, and conventional munitions. The United States remains the leading donor to CWD, which includes humanitarian mine action, with U.S. contributions since Fiscal Year 1993 totaling more than $2.9 billion. These funds have provided assistance to more than 100 countries.

The U.S. CWD Program helps countries around the world to overcome threats from landmines, ERW, and at-risk weapons and munitions, regardless of whether the affected countries are party to either the Protocol or the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. A State may face challenges from one or more of these types of weapons and munitions, and the comprehensive CWD program increases effectiveness of U.S. assistance by creating a flexible approach to addressing the relevant threats. Relevant to Amended Protocol II, the U.S. CWD program has increasingly dealt with clearance of IEDs. Consistent with the U.S. philosophy of helping other countries to develop the indigenous capacity to address these threats, the U.S. CWD 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 and IED clearance remains a focus of our comprehensive program. In Fiscal Year 2017, projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Ukraine,
Yemen, Zimbabwe, and the Palestinian Territories (the West Bank) specifically addressed landmine and/or IED contamination.

Assistance is provided both bilaterally and multilaterally, through the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Organization of American States, as well as various non-governmental organizations and contractors.
Rehabilitation programs

The Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund, managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), serves as an important source of U.S. assistance to civilian victims of conflict in developing countries. Established in 1989, the Leahy War Victims Fund maintains a dedicated source of financial and technical support for people with disabilities, particularly those who sustain mobility-related injuries from anti-personnel landmines, unexploded ordnance, and other injuries resulting from armed conflict and civil disorder. To date, the Leahy War Victims Fund has provided $260 million in assistance to more than 50 countries.

Originally tasked with delivering immediate care, the Leahy War Victims Fund widened its scope of activities to include development programs that accommodate the changing needs of the populations they serve, and support for the establishment of a framework for sustainable services in developing countries. The fund also contributes to the development and enforcement of international standards to ensure that practitioners who provide care to survivors are qualified and experienced. In addition, the Leahy War Victims Fund ensures that treatment and equipment are used appropriately and effectively to increase the mobility of conflict-affected people with disabilities.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Leahy War Victims Fund initiated new activities in Laos and Georgia. The Fund continued support for regional activities in the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon, and West Bank/Gaza) and in Francophone West Africa (Mali, Niger, and Senegal), as well as in Burma, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Nepal, Ukraine, and Tajikistan. In partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization, initiatives spanning multiple countries provided direct assistance to individuals affected by conflict, trained service providers, supported the development of international standards related to rehabilitation and assistive technology, and increased access to appropriate assistive devices.
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 2017.

No change since the 2015 report.
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 2017.

Legislation

No change since the 2004 Report.
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 2017.

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 Fiscal Year 2017, 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 2017.

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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 2017.

### 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
- Countermine Training Support Center, U.S. Army Engineer School
- Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC), 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
National points of contact on mine clearance

- Stanley Brown, Director, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State
tel: 202-663-0088
fax: 202-663-0090

- Gerald Guilbert, Deputy Director, Programs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State
tel: 202-663-0109
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- Colonel Larry Cousins, Chief, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, U.S. Department of Defense
tel: 703-614-5824