



Government Office
National Regulatory Authority
for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

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No:...../NRA.OF.CL
06 JUN 2016

Vientiane Capital, date.....

**Record of Clearance TWG, Quarter I Meeting
24th March 2016**

I. Overview:

The Clearance TWG meeting for Quartet I, 2016 was held on March 24th, 2016 at 09:00 am, In the NRA meeting room, as per the approval of Director General of the NRA No: 87/NRA.OF.CL, dated 17 March 2016.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, Deputy Director, Operations. Participants attended this meeting were: Chief of Technical Advisors of UNDP to NRA Office, concerned Officers and Technicians from NRA Office, representatives from UXO Operators and companies, representatives from UNDP and doner, totally 28 people, as:

1. Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, Deputy Director, Operations, NRA Office.
2. Mr. Phommachanh Khammanichanh, Head of Clearance Unit, NRA office.
3. Mr. Khammounkhong Visouthivong, Head of IM Unit, NRA Office.
4. Mr. Olivier Bauduin, Sterling International Manager, Doner representative.
5. Mr. Nigel Orr, Advisor, Sterling International.
6. Mr. Nils Christensen, UNDP (not registered).
7. Ms. Souphalack, UNDP (not registerd).
8. Mr. Allan Poston, CTA of UNDP, NRA Office.
9. Ms. Asa, Gilbert, Operation Manager, NPA.
10. Mr. Nick Torbet, Country Director, HALO Trust Lao.
11. Mr. Sam Fricker, Operation Officer, HALO Trust Lao.
12. Mr. Neil Arnold, Opeartion Manager, MAG Lao.
13. Ms. Kim Warren, UXO Head of Mission, HI Lao.
14. Mr. Michael Laneville, Technical Advisor, MMG.
15. Mr. Phalivath Inthavong, Chief of UXO Clearance Operation, MMG.
16. Mr. Bouabay Rattana, Clearance Team Leader, MMG.
17. Mr. Bounmy Khounnavong, Clearance Team Leader, MMG.
18. Mr. Robby Dehonock.
19. Mr. Thoviengher, JMAS Lao.
20. Ms. Khamlar, Sibounheuang UXO Clearance Company Limited.
21. Mr. Kongkeo, Deputy Chief of Operation Section, UXO Lao.
22. Mr. Bounthavy, JICS Project Assistant, UXO Lao.
23. Mrs. Malavanh, Head of QM Unit, UXO Lao.

24. Mr. Bounsack, Milsearch UXO Learance Company.
25. Mr. Keoviengxay, BAC TEC Company.
26. Mr. Khouanthon Phommahaxay.
27. Mr. Phonsavanh, BHL UXO Clearance Company.
28. Mr. Bouaphanh Phanthasone, Technician for Clearance Unkt, NRA.

II. Details of the discussion.

After the opening speech of the meeting Chairman, Mr. Phommachanh Khammanichanh had revised record of last TWG meeting, Quarter III 2015. He focused on the tasks that the NRA announced to operators to implement since last year such as:

- The use of the NRA survey report fomats, which after 1 year olf the NRA announcement it has been noticed that there have been some organizations were not able to use them, they still have used the report formats that deleoped by their own organization.
- The move of Cluster Munition (CM), due to the National Standard do not formulate clearly, there for, some organizations conducted moving CM. It was required to further discuss on this issue.
- The template for collecting information for developing annual work plan that NRA sent to operators, so far there are some organizations have not yet sent back to NRA. Some already sent but not follow the NRA format.
- NRA also asked for operators to send their survey SOP to NRA again.

III. Detailed issues had been discussed in the meeting.

1. Non-Technical Survey Report (NTS Report):

NRA had amended more on some information in the NTS report format. This amended version has brought to discuss and shared with all the meeting participants. The changing points are: cut the English word "**Conclusion**" out due to this word is not so appropriate when compare with the meaning in Lao language, people might understand in other different meaning, such as: it might mean that the survey is already complete and would not any more survey activity occurred or the survey was finished.

For the information in section 7 is necessary to keep it as usual to facilitate when conducting clearance activities, the evacuation plan, and also for responding this information to the social economic development and poverty eradication plan of the local in terms of the economic changes. It was considered as a lowest requirement for the NTS.

For section 9.1 and 9.2 needed to dicsuss again.

Section 11, all details or explanations under the confirmation of the village head person was cut out, keep only "signature" of the village head person.

The meeting chairman, finally proposad all operators to use this amending Non-Technical Report format, NRA would announce to use the formal versions once all survey report fomats have been finalized. The survey report fomats are comprised of: NTS, TS, Roving Task Report, and Clearance Completion Report.

2. The moving of Cluster Munitions.

Section 8 of National Standard has not detailed clearly, only mentioned that when moving CM must ensure that it is safe to move and also depends on the SOP of the operator. In practice, the majority of operators had moved CM, except HALO TRUST which he had confirmed that their staff were not allowed to move bombie, it must be destroyed at situe.

MAG Lao also agreed that “**no move bombies**”, this issue must be formulated in the the SOP of each operator.

Mr. Allen Poston, CTA of UNDP and Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, chairman of the meeting commented that the moving of bombie is risky, for what reason that we have to move bombie: if accident occurred who will be responsible fo it, there has not been any rule to respond to this issue, and at the same time if we conduct moving bombie it would go against the MRE principal.

Some representatives from operators commented that: one reason of the moving bombie because they did not have enough explosive, there were very limited amount of explosive for operators.

To this issue, the meeting chairman informed the meeting that he would coordinate with the Army Coordinator for more details on explosive and the supply of the explosive.

The discussion on the moving of bombie not yet finalized, we would have further discuss again within next 2 weeks.

3. The amendment of the National Standard.

Chief of QM unit of the NRA was not able to attend this meeting, he sent document for Sharing with the meeting as below:

The new adjustment fee for issue new accreditation and the renewal of the accreditation, NRA will follow the law concerned of the government and will inform operators later.

In the future, the training requirement, if there is a national training center, every training course must be held at the nationa ltraining center only.

The trial of new technologies, NRA must be involved, certified and reported to the Government.

The Lao UXO Survey Procedures would be adopted to the National Standard.

The Quality Control and Management Procedures of UXO/Mine Action Sector would be adopted to the National Standard.

The field medic training course, and what standards and qualifications of the medic must be formulated in the national standard.

The ambulance: in case therewas no specific ambulance, operators can use the vehicle of the team that working in the site, but all equipment in the vehicle must be loaded out and replced by the medic equipment only.

Each operational vehicle must be equipped with fire extinguisher all the time, especially the UXO Clearance Companies.

4. The Site Permanent Markings.

Mr. Phommachanh proposed that the starting point should be marked by concrete post with GPS, and take bearing between start point to reference point.

UXO Lao proposed not to use concrete post for permanent marking, but it should mark the reference point close to the start point, turning point, and mark GPS and decree points in sketch map.

The permanent marking issue discussion has not unanimously agreed, therefore it was needed to discuss again.

5. The presentation of UXO Lao about the amendment of the National Standard.

Mr. Kongkeo briefed that the current permanent marking for UXO Lao, especially since early 2016 up to now has been improved, by cutting out the concrete posts for the DP, SP, TP and other symbols. They were replaced by marking reference point close to the SP, TP, GPS, metre measurement, and decree in the sketch map instead.

The extension of fade out, UXO Lao search out for 50 metres from each CM found during technical survey and land clearance for establishing Fade out.

There was no agreement on the topics that UXO Lao presented. Therefore, those topics would be discussed again sometimes after this meeting, especially the permanent markings, the definition of fadeout of CHA, the definition of report regulation of the temporary unaccess areas for conducting TS and etc.

6. The Trial Project for using machine cutting vegetation of UXO Lao.

Representative from JICS/UXO Lao, Mr. Bounthavy Phanthalay briefly presented about the implementation of the said project. This project was aimed for accelerating the UXO clearance, responding to the requirement of the rural development and poverty eradication plan of the local. The project implemented in 3 provinces as; Xekong, Salavan and Champasack. The duration period of the project is 3 years, 2014-2017. Fund was provided by Japanese Government, there are 4 heavy machinery trucks, 2 were tested in UXO Lao areas, Salavan Province, 1 was in Champasack and another 1 was in Sekong province. Previously these heavy trucks had tried to cut vegetation in the areas where there is no UXO contaminated, it could cut vegetation in the area of 2,400 m²/truck/day. Within 1 hectare, one truck takes 4 days to finish cutting. Fuel consumption is 15-17 litres/truck.hour, and can work longest for 6 hours per day.

- **The limitations of the machine:**

- If the area less than 1 hectare the machine can not be used.
- It is difficult to use this machine in the 15 degree slope areas.
- Based on the procedures after 2 hours of using this machine, it must be waited for 2 hours for staff to go in to check the site.

7. The success of the EDD Project of NPA.

Presented by Mr. Jan Erik Stoa, Project Manager of NPA Cambodia, Expert on EDD and Mrs. Asa, Operation Manager of NPA Lao. They briefed that NPA has used dogs as a part of the operation, detecting UXOs in around the world. In Lao PDR, the EDD project has tested since in 2015 up to now. In 2015 the Dog Pilot Project could clear 76,797 m² of land, 7 CM found and 100% of QA/QC, there was no item missed.

- **Compare the productivity between dog and human labourer:**

- Dog: can clear 2,500 m²/day or 50,000 m²/month.
- Human Labourer: 1,100 m²/day or 22,000 m²/month

- **Compare expenditure/month:**

- Dog: spent US\$6,250/month
- Human Labourer spent US\$7,300/month.

- **Compare the of clearance/m²:**

- Dog: US\$ 0.13 /m²
- Human Labourer: US\$ 0.33 /m²

8. Mr. Michael Landville from MMG presented on Standardized BLU-26 Test Pieces. His presenting document, if any one is interested for more, everyone can contact Clearance Unit of NRA.

9. Mr. Allen Poston, CTA of UNDP to NRA presented on Estimation of National TS requirements based on current concluded NTS and TS villages.

He suggested to have a specific meeting for discussion about survey report formats which should be composed of representative from operators and donor to seek for final solution. This specific meeting would be held as early as possible after this TWG.

IV. Conclusion.

The meeting closed about 16:00 pm.

Chairman of the Meeting



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Mr. Bounphamith SOMVICHITH

Meeting Recorders

- Bouaphanh Phanthasone
- Bouaphet Phommavong