Bulgarian Experience and Challenges in Demilitarization of Ammunitions

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THE BULGARIAN LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Law on control over explosive substances, fire arms and ammunitions
- Law on waste management
- Law on the export control over arms and double use articles and technologies
- Regulations on the conditions and order of conducting activities related to explosive substances, fire arms and ammunitions, and the control over them in the Ministry of Defense
- National Program for the utilization and destruction of the excessive ammunitions on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted in 2004,
- In 2006 was build utilization plan-programe and
- In 2007 Utilization Conception was build without full result. (we have to upgrade next year)
Bulgarian MoD Strategic Documents (2009-2011)

• Force Structure View, 2009-2010

• Bulgarian MoD White Paper, 2010

• Development Plan for Bulgarian Armed Forces, 2010

• Defense Investment Plan-Programme 2020

• National Defense Strategy, 2011

• Currently, the Demilitarization is not included in priority investment projects for the modernization of the Armed Forces
UTILIZATION OF AMMUNITIONS

Between 2001 and 2005 more than 7000 tons of ammunitions was destroyed in ammunition depot around Sofia – Chelopechene:
- In 2001 – 1500 tons of ammunitions were utilized;
- In 2002 – 1400 tons of ammunitions were utilized and around 950 tons were sold in addition 18 tons was utilized at TEREM-Kostenetz and 4 tons next two years;
- In 2003 – 1200 tons of ammunitions were utilized;
- In 2004 – 1400 tons of ammunitions were utilized;
- In 2005 – 900 tons of ammunitions were utilized;
- In 2006 – 450 tons of ammunition were utilized.

The main method applied for the utilization of excessive ammunitions – decomposition in laboratories, separation of the individual elements and subsequently achieve commercial realization of products.

In 2003, more than 165 000 tons of ammunitions were concentrated in the warehouses of the MoD, more than 7 000 tons of them were kept under the open sky; Around 60 000 tons of ammunitions were declared excessive, and after the restructuring of the Bulgarian army,
- at the beginning of 2005, their amount increased and reached 67 000 tons of excessive ammunitions.
Ministry of Defense Republic of Bulgaria

SURPLUS AMMUNITIONS

• In 2006 – 82 000 tons of surplus ammunitions

• In 2006 government state trade company “Acquisition and Commerce” more than 20 000 tons of excessive ammunitions was sell

• In 2007 - 57 000 tons of ammunitions were declared as excessive

• In 2007 - 11 000 tons of excessive ammunitions was sell.

• 03.07.2008 a big incident in ammunition depot Chelopechene was happened (no one kill or injured)

• In August 2008 - more than 40 000 tons of ammunitions were declared as excessive

• In 2008 we have delegated the demilitarization of 15 000 tons of ammunitions to the three private company. The tender was around 13,5 Mln euro. Up to now 90% of the ammunition have been demilitarized
SURPLUS AMMUNITIONS

• 2009-2011 more than 15,000 tons of ammunition was sold by “Procurement and Trade” company.

• Join Command Staff in Spring Operations 2011 destroyed 500 missile rounds “Strela 2M” (SA-7Grail) and 500 launchers 9K32M.

• In the last years a lot of tons of ammunitions were utilized, financed by external donors such as the State Department of USA and the United Nations Program of Development.

• Currently, the Integrated Program Team was established with goal to change the policy and to find a right solution with excessive ammunitions.
CURRENT SITUATION IN BULGARIA

• At present, there are more than 15,000 tons of excessive ammunitions including:
  - Small arms ammunitions;
  - Aviation means of destruction;
  - Ammunitions for the Air Force (aviation bombs);
  - Antiaircraft missiles and elements for them;
  - Maritime ammunitions;
  - Engineering ammunitions.

A details information are not available because of the variety of their caliber, type, purpose, etc. The information is classified.

It is expected that in the process of modernization of the Bulgarian armed forces more than 30,000 tons of ammunitions will be declared excessive up to 2015.
Ministry of Defense Republic of Bulgaria

UTILIZATION FACILITY IN BULGARIA

• TEREM Ltd, FACTORY “TZAR SAMUIL” – located around Kostenetz

• DUNARIT, Russe

• MAXAM Bulgaria,, EXPALL Group, Demilitarization activity around Gabrovo

VIDEX JSC, Sofia, Midzhur Plant, around Gorni Lom

VMZ – Sopot

BERETA TRAIDING, utilization activity around Straldza
THE TRAGEDY AROUND SOFIA - Chelopechene

On 03 July 2008 the warehouses for ammunitions near Sofia airport exploded.
THE TRAGEDY AROUND SOFIA
On 03 July 2008 - CONSEQUENCIES

BEFORE

Incident place

AFTER
THE TRAGEDY AROUND SOFIA - Chelopechene

On 03 July 2008 the warehouses for ammunitions near Sofia airport exploded.
CONSEQUENCES

Eliminating the consequences of the incident will take at least two more years, and will involve spending a great amount of financial means, engaging a great number of experts.
RECONSTRUCTION

The activities in the reconstruction of the area after the incident are organized in accordance with the requirements of the ecological legislation, good interaction with the bodies of the Ministry of the Environment and Waters, and the local authorities.
The process of cleaning the region, which includes land and water spaces that are a part of the National Ecological Network “NATURA 2000” is organized in accordance to the limitations that are in force in the protected zone with a view not to disturb the process of nest-making of the wild birds.
DESTROYING 500 MISSILE ROUNDS “STRELA 2M” (SA-7GRAIL) AND 500 LAUNCHERS 9K32M

February 2011
DESTROYING 500 MISSILE ROUNDS “STRELA 2M” (SA-7GRAIL) AND 500 LAUNCHERS 9K32M

February 2011
SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THE REGION

• 03.2007 - explosion in ammunition factory in Slovakia;
• 15.03.2008 - explosion in a warehouse for ammunitions of the Albanian Army in the village of Gerdech, 14 kilometers to north of Tirana;
• 10.07.2008 - explosions near the town of Kagan, Uzbekistan, in the missile-artillery warehouses, that remained there from the time of the military operations of the USSR in Afghanistan;
• 04.09.2009 - incident in the factory “Parvi Partizxan” in the town of Uzjice, situated approximately 150 kilometers from Belgrade;
• 13.11.2009 - incident in the warehouses near the town of Ulianovsk, in the military compound in the base “Arsenal-31”
• 03.02.2010 - ammunition utilization plant “Midzhur”, near the city of Montana, was on fire;
• 20.04.2011 – incident in Check Republik, Pardubitze.
The utilization is particularly topical, and it solves one of the basic problems of the reform in the Bulgarian army and in the defense industry in general.

It is an activity of great volume and technical complexity.

Modern technologies, technological equipment, technically prepared staff and considerable financial means are necessary in order to fulfill the process of utilization of excessive ammunitions successfully.
Thank you very much for your attention

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