

## **Albania Surplus Ammunition Stockpile Disposal NATO Trust Fund Project**

### **Milestones**

- Apr 2008: US PMWRA and Albanian Mission to NATO request NAMSA develop a plan to destroy 85,000 tonnes of surplus munitions over a 4 year period.
- Dec 2009: Project Proposal published: 35 MEUR project at three Albanian facilities.
- Mar 2010: NATO PPC committee approves a NATO Trust Fund.
- Apr - Jul 2010: US PMWRA only donor forthcoming. Project reduced in scope to 10.2 MEUR.
- Apr-Nov 2010: Legal and other formal agreements drafted and implemented.
- 17 Jan 2011: Contract signed between NAMSA and ULP Mjebes for development and production on four munitions disposal lines. Full production by March 2011.
- 1 Aug 2011 : Second US grant received allowing second contract with ULP Mjebes.
- 4 Oct 2011 : Donors' Conference in Tirana to seek additional funds
- 25 Apr 2012: RASR Conference visit to ULP Mjebes

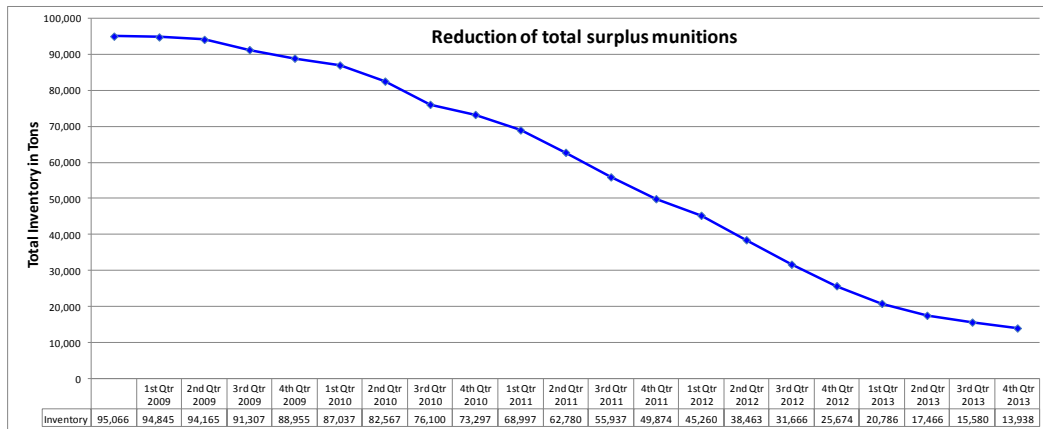
### **Background**

The risks associated with maintaining large surplus ammunition stockpiles were vividly illustrated by a series of fatal accidents in Albania associated with the civil unrest of 1997 and, in March 2008, by the tragedy at the ammunition depot at Gërdec, as a result of which 26 people were killed and more than 300 injured. Over the last decade Albania had been disposing of large quantities of surplus munitions. Even with international support, it had been estimated that it would take until around 2018 to dispose of the excess munitions. Some of the munitions had become unstable through age and there had been a series of incidents both in the storehouses and during the disposal operations.

To reduce these risks, significant quantities of surplus and obsolete ammunition have been destroyed over the past decade, often with support from international donors and international organizations, including NATO and its Member and Partner countries. The surplus stockpile in late 2009 was 85,000 tonnes. The Albanian Government is fully committed to the resolution of the surplus munitions issue no later than the end of 2013.

## MoD Coordination

The MoD established a Demilitarisation Board to coordinate activity and developed a National Action Plan. Munition demilitarisation activity is now underway at three industrial demilitarization facilities: ULP Mjekës, KM Poliçan and UM Gramsh. Combined with a significant Range Disposal programme, MoD aims to dispose of 26,000 tonnes during 2012 and is on target to complete all disposal by the end of 2013.



## NATO Trust Fund Project

The Ammunition Support Branch of NAMSA's General Services Programme is managing the project assisted by NAMSA's specialist procurement and finance staffs. An in-country project team has been established to monitor the day-to-day aspects of the project. Independent verification of all contracted activities and related expenditure are conducted. Safety and environmental aspects are strongly monitored. The project is focussed primarily at the existing ULP Mjekes facility.

### Achievements to date

- Development of a Large Caliber line. Enhancement of existing Mortar, Anti-Tank Mine and Small Arms Ammunition lines
- 5,500 tonnes demilitarized since the project started in January 2011
- EUR 440,000 spent on capacity building in essential site logistic and maintenance



120mm mortar prepared for demil



Cutting mortars by remote operation



Fuzes ready for incineration



Large calibre being cut in half



Large calibre after being cut in half



Large calibre autoclave



Large calibre being cut in half



Large calibre after being cut in half



Large calibre autoclave



14.5mm processing line



Preparing 14.5mm for the EWI



The EWI incinerator



Anti-Tank mine demil line



Removing mine handle



Cutting mine in half on bandsaw



Removal of combustible material



Driving band bldg before



Driving band bldg after refurbishment



New Admin Building



Utilisation of old wooden boxes for refurbishment



Explosive licensing compliance

## **Project Budget**

The customer (Albanian MoD) requires demilitarisation at the fastest rate commensurate with capacity, safety and the environment. The only donor requires the grant to be 'spread' throughout the year.

Despite the efforts of the Albanian Delegation to NATO and others, the only contributor to date remains the US, which has provided \$4M (3.03M EUR). It is anticipated that a further grant of \$2M will be made on 1st August 2012. US Department of State Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PMWRA) have indicated future annual grants would be provided but without guarantee. In total, the project anticipates around EUR 7M leaving it underfunded by EUR 3M.

As a consequence, from early 2012, the NATO project funded only two demilitarisation lines at ULP Mjebes with MoD directly supporting the other two lines. NAMSA (NATO) will increase the scope of demilitarisation from August 2012 once new funds are available.

## **Donations in kind**

Offers of donation in kind would be appreciated. Specifically these would include additional automated equipment for ammunition demilitarisation, automated bullet puller equipment (approx value EUR 500,000), and, in conjunction with the Albanian authorities, a Technical Environmental Survey of the Mjebes site (approx value EUR 50,000).

## **Summary**

The Trust Fund is seeking EUR 1.2M during Spring 2012 in order to continue to operate all four lines at Mjebes until the end of July 2012, and a total of an additional EUR 3M during 2012/13 to complete the minimum investment and production as envisaged by MoD.

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