

Report for DDG Southern Sudan

Central Disposal Site (CDS) 18th July 2009 Technical Advisor (TA) Justin Green,

On the 18th of July 2009, in Magwi County, DDG conducted one of the largest controlled demolitions in Southern Sudan mine action history. The total explosive quantity of the items destroyed was over 1900Kg. The whole operation was the result of lengthy planning and included several concurrent but smaller operations. The operation involved cooperation and facilitation with SSDC, the SPLA, local authorities and the assistance of DDG MRE and CL teams.

The operation began in January 2009 when 2x 500kg Air Dropped Weapons (ADW) were discovered close to Magwi town centre. Unable to destroy one of the unexploded ADW in situ, DDG was left with no option but to carry out a Render Safe Procedure (RSP). A successful fuze removal was carried out on both ADW using improvised methods by TA Bazz Jolly and Operations Manager (OM) Phil Sullivan, with one ADW successfully disposed of the other was now safe to move and outside the town area, left in situ until such time it could be safely disposed of.



Murjan James EOD Team 3

(Excavation of ADW 500kg superbraked for RSP)

At about the same time, a large buried ammunition stockpile was discovered in Magwi town centre by teams working in the area. The suspect area was reported to the teams who had to partially excavate the stockpile to discover the quantities of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) involved. At this stage of the operation negotiations began with the SPLA to grant us permission to destroy the stockpile. The SPLA retains the right to inspect all stockpiles and authorize the destruction. This started a long administrative process; the problem has thankfully now eased considerably. None of the stakeholders appreciated the delay in obtaining permission to destroy the ERW but eventually this was received. This pre-authorisation inspection was carried out in May by the Commander of the Corps of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Malek Ruben and TA Justin Green DDG. The agreement was immediate; although as normal any weapons were to be taken by the local SPLA commander.



Excavation in progress of ERW Magwi Town Centre.

The process was stalled by a change in policy whereas the SPLA, due to security reasons, had issued a new policy concerning the procurement and importation of explosives by mine action organizations. This was eventually resolved in June with DDG receiving explosives through the SPLA supply system.

Early in July, the 500kg Superbraked was moved to Magwi CDS, using manpower, and the crane on the DDG truck. The stockpile was excavated and also moved to the CDS. By the 15th of July, the ordnance was stacked and ready for demolition. This would involve all DDG staff, with MRE providing community liaison and the outer cordon at 2km distance. EOD teams would be carrying out the demolition and close down one of the three main roads between Sudan and Uganda for the duration of the operation.

The final piece to be put in place was the mandatory Notice to Air Movement required by the National Technical Standards and Guidelines for Sudan. The notice has to be handed to UN Air Operations Control 48 hours before planned demolitions. For some reason without notice the lead time had been extended to 5 days, but this was successfully re-negotiated with assistance from UNMAO, as the planning and

coordination for the evacuation of a 2 km radius and the closure of one of the main routes into Uganda had been arranged. The Operation went ahead after some hot planning in the field 2 days after the original D Day with Un Air Operations consent. The road was closed, communities moved to safety, or prevented from moving out of it.



The crater from the demolition

(L/R Victor Yugu SSDC Murjan James DDG Team3 Justin Green Technical Advisor DDG, Wani Chaplin National Supervisor DDG)

The demolition was an unqualified success, conducted by the National EOD Supervisor, Wani Chaplain overseen by Phil Sullivan (OM) and Justin Green (TA). SSDC representatives were in attendance and the operation went off without any major hitches. Again DDG have had the opportunity to capacity build within the organization and this task provided a platform for national staff at supervisor level to be heavily involved in the planning coordination and final delivery of a large scale EOD operation in a challenging environment that is Sudan.