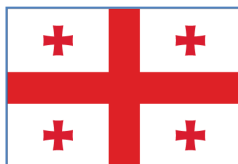


NATO Trust Fund Georgia IV EOD Clearance at Skra



Lead Nations



Milestones

August 2008	The munitions depot at Skra, near Gori is partially destroyed.
2010-2012	Georgia III Equip and Train 66 strong Military EOD Coy for humanitarian demining
5 Sep 12	MoD request to NATO to clear Skra and additional training to EOD Company.
27 Mar 13	Project Proposal published.
16 May 13	Project Launch NATO PPC/EAPC.
12-14 Mar 14	On Site potential donor and International technical support meetings.
29 May 2014	Georgian Parliament ratifies legal agreement to allow the project to start. Sufficient funds (Eur 0.68M) raised to allow project to start
2 Sep 14	NSPA contract signed with Delta (Georgian Govt contractor) to clear Skra in phases with support from Military EOD Company.
30 Sep 14	Swedish military training team arrive to provide three weeks mentoring for EOD Company EOD Operations. US EUCOM training postponed until early 2015.
31 Oct 14	Official Opening Ceremony at CZE Embassy in Tbilisi.

The Project

The fourth NATO/PfP Trust Fund project in Georgia follows a request for assistance from Georgia to NATO to clear mines and unexploded munitions (Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)) from the partially exploded Georgian Military Ammunition Depot at SKRA and to provide additional, higher level, EOD training. The project aims are:

- Clearance of all hazards at the partially exploded Military Ammunition Depot at SKRA and return of the land to the local authority.
- Provision of specialist EOD training to an EOD Company of 66 personnel from the Georgian Army Engineer Brigade. In addition to the humanitarian demining and battle area clearance capability provided under the Georgia III Trust Fund, this will enable the Engineer Brigade to conduct more advanced ordnance disposal in conjunction with NATO allies.

The cost of the project was originally estimated to be MEUR 1.6 over 24 months. This is likely to be reduced through donations in-kind. Current total cash requirements are now likely be around MEUR 1.2.

Donors



Azerbaijan



Bulgaria



Denmark



Estonia



Germany



Ireland



Japan



Spain



Sweden



Turkey



United States

Future Plans

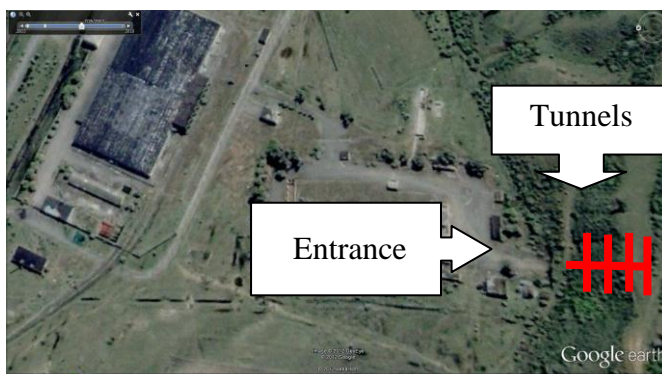
Delta started the 4 month preparation phase in early September and are making good progress in procuring specialist equipment and finalising plans. Clearance work on site will start in early 2015. By April 2014, sufficient funds (MEUR 0.688) had been donated or pledged, allowing the initial phase to be funded. Current donations are Eur 826,000. Additional donations are required to ensure the project can complete without delay.

The Skra Depot

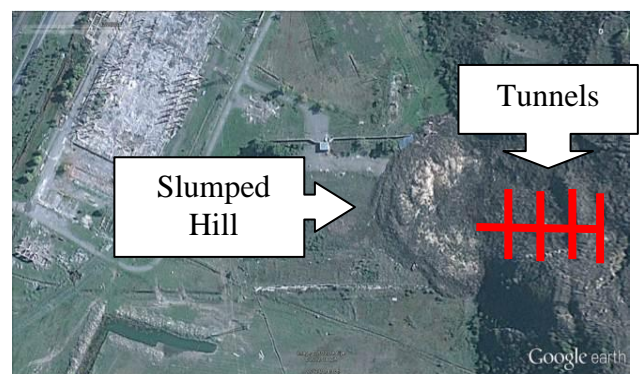
The military ammunition depot consisted of eight side tunnels dug into a mountainside with a main access tunnel. All the tunnels were filled military ammunition and explosives. It is estimated that the two front tunnels detonated throwing out many munitions and causing the hillside to slump down and seal off the tunnel entrance. It is anticipated that the remaining tunnels will now be filled with debris, some partially destroyed munitions and the rear tunnels, relatively undamaged munitions. No one has been able to access the tunnels as they are buried under some 250,000 cubic meters of rock and earth, mixed with UXO.

Reasons for the Clearance Project

- Make the area safe for the local population and usable for the local authority;
- Remove and make safe the estimated 500 tonnes of military ammunition from the collapsed underground bunkers, which present a proliferation threat;
- Reduce the risk of an explosion of the damaged munitions which would threaten the international rail line (260m), major highway (2.4Km) and nearest village (1.6Km),



Skra site before



Skra site after



Ammunition collected from the surface 2009



Threat to the main railway line 260m away

Additional EOD Training

The Georgia III Trust Fund provided training and equipment to a 66 strong Military EOD Company within the Georgian Military Engineering Brigade. The soldiers were trained to carry out demining and UXO clearance to international humanitarian standards. This project will provide additional training and experience to the EOD Company through mentored employment at Skra and elsewhere, and further EOD training to selected soldiers. The advanced training will be provided through a combination of military training teams missions to Georgia, participation in joint military exercises and attendance at existing EOD training schools.



Practical EOD Training



Theoretical EOD Training



Opening Ceremony for Swedish Military Training, Tbilisi 13 October 2014

Further information:

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Czech or Lithuania Delegations to NATO

Fact Sheet as at 22 October 2014