The framework of UXO clearance in Germany

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# Abstract

Due to intensive war activities including heavy air drop bombing and ground battles during WWI and WWII, as well as running a large number of military sites for training and testing, Germany is still facing around 250,000 remaining UXO in the ground. Divided into 16 states with a federalism system, varying rules and guidelines for searching and clearing UXO items throughout the country makes the removal of this legacy of war an enormous (organizational) challenge. In addition, huge land owners like the Government or the DB Deutsche Bahn set their individual standards for their properties and make compliance an immense hurdle for companies working across the country in this specific sector. Furthermore, with more than 1.6 million tons of leaking munition in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, Germany and the surrounding states are dealing with an even bigger maritime environmental nightmare. A first 100 million Euro funding enabled technology and methodically trials how to cope with such a large area and contamination.

Besides the nationwide responsibility and bureaucracy difficulties, various stakeholders, research groups, foundations and test centers also support the quality assurance and education in order to ensure safer clearance operations and to continuously improve it. For example, institutions as the GKD, a German association of commercial EOD companies, commit to higher quality standards and work on a quality seal for their work. The ITVA, a German association dealing with all kinds of contamination in the ground. Also, the AK KMD as a mixed scientific and commercial working group of the German Geophysical Society investigates and verifies research approaches for practical work. Last but not least, several EOD schools train technical clearance personal.

All of them pay in to further develop rules and guidelines for best practice methodology in the field

The abstract shall give an overview about those problems and challenges, but some approaches how to tackle those items, too. This will include an overview of guidelines, methods and technology used.