



Ammunitions and Weapons Surplus Treatment in the Croatian Armed Forces

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Introduction



Ammunition & Weapons disposal process was covering by ministerial decisions which included types and quantity of A&W intended for disposal at three ways: sale, donation and destruction/disabled,

Procedures of ammunitions destroying based on the open burning/open detonation and industrial demilitarization techniques,

Procedures for weapons destruction based on the disable of armaments (SALW and heavy weapon) and partly selling scrap materials,

Processes are conducts through activity of MoD an General Staff inside Army Repair Facility facility according to prescribed regulations and commands.



Weapons Surplus - survey



Weapons surplus:

- Tanks and combat vehicles – battle tanks type T-55 quantity of 185 pieces and combat infantry vehicles type BOV-3 quantity of 3 pieces,
- Guns, howitzer and mortars: 130 different pieces (20 mm, 40 mm, 105 mm, 120 mm, 122 mm, 130 mm, 152 mm, 203 mm),
- SALW – 2.028 pieces of pistols,
- Battleship: submarine class “Velebit”,
- Combat helicopter: type MI-24V quantity of 7 pieces,

Surplus of weapons warehousing at 5 locations.



Ammunition Surplus - survey



The surplus, non perspective and obsolete ammunition intended to disposal, in quantity of 18 000 tons are roughly structured as follow:

- infantry ammunition (14,5 mm and below): 15 %**
- mortar bombs (60 –120 mm): 5 %**
- cannon, tank and cluster ammunition (20–203 mm): 42%**
- missiles – MLRS and Air Forces missiles: 15 %**
- anti tank mines: 10 %**
- torpedoes: 1%**
- aircraft bombs: 2%**
- bulk explosives and propellants, fuses, warheads: 10 %**

Surplus of ammunitions stored at 10 locations.



Disposal of Surplus Weapons



- The surpluses of small arms and heavy weapons are disabled and destroyed with cutting technique in the Army Repair Facility in Zagreb and sold as secondary raw materials.
- The destruction capacity of small arms and light weapons is approximately 500 pieces/day.
- The various types of heavy weapons in quantity of 1062 pieces (tanks, guns, planes, helicopters) and 26.000 pieces of small arms disabled and destroyed in the period from 1996.–2011.
- The quantity of 1.000 pieces of AK47 rifles with 300.000 rounds donated to the Afghan army in 2007.
- The quantity of 500 pieces of AK47 rifles donated to the Iraq army in 2010.



Disposal of Surplus Ammunition



- In the period 2001-2012 around 6 035 tons of various types of ammunition sold. Income from sale was 15 around million €.
- Between 2001. to 2012, about 6.800 tons of various ammunition destroyed with OB/OD technique in capacity of the CAF.
- The current capacity of destruction by OB/OD technique in the Armed Forces is about 500 tons/year.
- Industrial demilitarization, in the civilian company ISL "Sprewerk" in Gospić, have destroyed different types of ammunition, in quantity of 600 tons (2011./2013.). The facility demil capacity is around 3000 tons/year.



Disposal of Surplus Ammunition - continue



Certain quantities of ammunition has destroyed by the financial support (donation) of the US Government through MANPADS program:

- In the 2009., late 2011. and early 2012. were destroyed 1,000 pieces of surplus MANPADS (LPRS Strela-2M), 1,000 pieces RPG 22, 1,000 pieces RPG 7 and 34 pieces of gripstocks for Strela-2M (2 mil \$),**
- Financial support of 2 mil \$ used for upgrading physical security of ammunition storages.**



Disposal of Surplus Ammunition - continue



- **Currently we are in process of preparing new Implementing Arrangement between MoD and US Government for financial assistance of surplus MANPADS destruction.**
- **Croatia ratified (2009.) the Oslo Convention on the destruction of cluster munitions stockpile, which came into force on August 2010. CAF has obligation to destroy all types of cluster munitions (about 110 tons) to August 2018.**



Ammunition storage incident



In Septemebr 2011. we had incident (fire and explosion) in the ammunition storage site “Pađene”:

- Quantity of 1700 tons of obsolete and surplus ammunicions destroyed in fire and explosion.**
- The area of 5 km radius contaminated by UXO.**
- CAF was engaged significant number of personnel for UXO cleaning: Support Command, EOD units and Engineering Battalion – high costs of area cleaning.**
- The explosion site cleaning would be completed at the end of 2013.**
- No casualties due to the incident.**





Cooperation with International Trust Fund



In august 2012. ITF and MoD Croatia signed Memorandum of Understanding for surplus ammunitions destroying by industrial demilitarization technique.

For this activity, the ITF planed financial fund in the amount of 1.5 mil \$.

The company selection for perform ammunition demilitarization will be carry through the process of international bidding.



Advantages of Surplus Weapons and Ammunition Disposal



The advantages of surplus weapons and ammunition disposal in the CAF:

- **reducing the risk (external and internal threats) of ammunitions and weapons storage,**
- **reducing the number of military storage locations,**
- **reducing the cost of storage, preservation and maintenance of weapons and ammunition,**
- **reducing the cost of in-service-surveillance of weapons ammunitions.**



The way ahead - National Level



- **According new Long Term Development Plan, the surplus of ammunitions and weapons, by types and quantity, will be defined and probably increased.**
- **The MoD will contract in 2013., after public bidding, destruction of surplus ammunition by industrial demilitarization (ID) technique, in the civilian facility (company “Spreewerk” Gospić).**
- **Combining OB/OD and ID techniques capacity for destroying surplus of ammunition will rise to more than 3000 tons/year.**



The way ahead - Regional Level



- **Cooperation between Croatia and the countries of Southeast Europe at the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition are not currently active.**
- **Possible forms of cooperation are in the field of sharing capacity for demilitarization of weapons and ammunition, the exchange knowledges and standard operating procedures etc.**
- **The financial support of international community, or organizations, would be welcome in direction to improved and accelerate the process of surplus weapons and ammunitions destroying across the region.**



Import – Export control of Weapons & Ammunitions and dual used goods

National legislation:

Laws:

- 1. Act on Export and Import of Military and Non-Military Lethal Goods (OG 86/08)**
- 2. Trade Act (OG 87/08,116/08,76/09,114/11)**

Subordinate legislation:

- 1. Regulation on the list of Military Use Goods and List of non-military Lethal Goods (OG 89/12)**
- 2. Regulation Specifying Goods Subject to Export and Import Licences (OG 77/10, 146/11, 25/12 and 89/12)**
 - and 7 others ordinance and application forms**

Procedures for import – export licences:

- The Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship is responsible for issuing licences on export and import of weapons and ammunitions, on proposal of Joint Committee (MoD, MoI, MoFA, MoE).**
- Export of dual-use goods is subject to a licence issued by State Office for Trade Policy.**



Thank you !