



Final Report
Landmine and UXO clearance
of
Minefield “Khanpunghor 1”



Ban Sai Village Phoukoud District
Xieng Khouang Province Lao PDR
A
MIVAC and PCL Partnership

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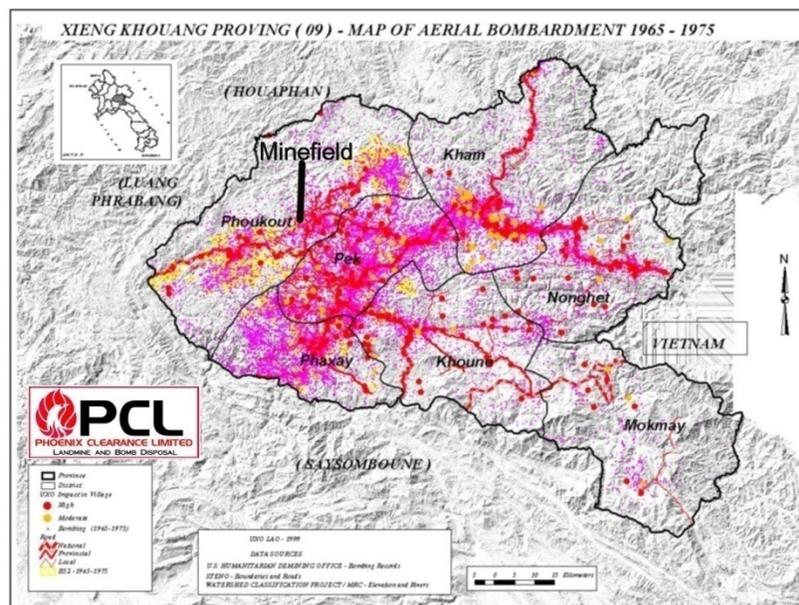
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1. Project Outline

Based on Phoenix Clearance Limited's (PCL's) local experience in the area, a proposal was drafted for a MIVAC - PCL Minefield/UXO clearance Teams to deploy for 28 days to the area of Ban Sai village of Phoukoud District of Xieng Khouang Province to clear Khanpunghor 1 Minefield an old Mortar position occupied by the Royal Lao Army during the conflict 1965 – 1975.

Despite the villagers' requests¹ to UXO Lao² and to MAG³, it became evident to PCL that no clearance work has been performed by the National Clearance Organisation or NGO's. Although about 10 years ago these groups did perform a mined area survey in Xieng Khouang and some minor fencing⁴ as a temporary action until clearance could be performed, the clearance never was.

Unfortunately there have been Landmine accidents in the last 10 years because local people need the land. The latest accident occurred December 2008 when an 11 year old boy on Khangpunghor 2 tending his cattle lost his lower leg to an M14 Anti-personnel blast mine.



Project Objective:

1. Locate and destroy all Landmines and UXO on Khanpunghor 1 Minefield.
2. Educate the local population of the purpose and the limit of the MIVAC/PCL action and of the residual danger UXO poses in the surrounding area.
3. Gather information for possible future intervention by MIVAC.

¹ Statement from the village headman

² UXO Lao is a Lao Government clearance organisation

³ MAG is the NGO Mines Advisory Group

⁴ 2 out of 30 minefield fenced

2. Resources

MIVAC generously provided \$10,000.00usd of funding for the activity which covered the salaries and operating costs for approximately 3,968m² of the 7,777m² minefield. Phoenix Clearance Limited provided the financial and human resources for the remaining, 3,809m² of the minefield + 133,640m² of UXO clearance on the area in proximity of the minefield including a local school yard and the garden of the closest house to the minefield as much UXO was reported there. The dollar value of PCL's in kind contribution equated to \$29,644 usd. The total financial effort by the MIVAC and PCL partnership was \$39,644usd.

3. Conduct of Action

On the 30th March 2009 PCL Landmine and UXO clearance teams deployed to the area to establish the task perimeter and admin areas, Minefield clearance activities starting on the 2nd April 2009.



UXO clearance Ban Sai School,



PCL Team Khangphunghor 1 Minefield.

Between the dates of 02 April – 12 April 2009 PCL Minefield/UXO Teams conducted Landmine and UXO Clearance in an area of Ban Sai Village in the Phoukoud District on a hill named Khangphunghor reported as a landmine and UXO threat area. Work was suspended on the 13th April 2009 for the Lao New Year National Holiday and commenced again on the 21st April 2009. Between the 21st and the 6th of May cleared both the nearby garden finding and destroying 68 UXO. The team also performed UXO clearance of the local Ban Sai school (see photo above left) finding and destroying 2 x UXO in the school yard and a large area of agricultural surrounding the old minefield site locating a further 22 UXO. On 7th May the site was concluded with the site being handed over to the village in an official ceremony.

4. Outcomes and Achievements

The project was very successful with the following outcomes and achievements;

1. Locate and destroy all Landmines and UXO on Khangunghor 1 Minefield.
 - Minefield area cleared 7,777m² 90 mines located and destroyed comprising 30 x M16 Bounding Fragmentation Anti-personnel mines and 60 x Improvised mines made of 60mm mortars with the fuses armed and buried vertically to function by pressure.
 - School yard cleared 2500m² 6 x 60mm² Mortars located and destroyed.

- Garden old Vietnamese and Pathet Lao attacking force position 5000m² 65 x 57mm HE recoilless rifle rounds and 34 x 57mm WP recoilless rifle rounds and 3 x 2.75in FFAR Rockets located and destroyed.
- Surrounding area of the minefield 126,140m² locating and destroying 18 x BLU 26 cluster munitions and 3 x 81mm White Phosphorous (WP) Mortars and 1 x 3.5in Rocket.
- **Totals = Landmines 90, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) 124.**

2. Educate the local population of the purpose and the limit of the MIVAC/PCL action and of the residual danger UXO poses in the surrounding area.

- PCL team members spoke to the villagers at formal and informal meetings on at least 3 occasions, Landmine and UXO information documentation was prepared by the team and circulated to the village.

3. Gather information for possible future intervention by MIVAC.

- Much information on the adjacent 2 minefields (within 400m) that are known to contain functioning M14 Anti-personnel Blast mines and have inflicted casualties recently this information will be used by PCL and MIVAC staff to prepare a strategy for future action.
- UXO Lao Xieng Khouang (*Lao Government Clearance Organisation*) were impressed with the project and took team staff to visit another minefield in another District that they say is a very high priority and they do not know how to do. The Provincial Coordinator asked if the Team could plan to clear.

All UXO Disposal demolitions will be performed by the PCL Team under the strictest safety conditions with no injury or damage to property.

The team was directed to many other UXO sub-surface locations, areas where the villagers had either buried or know UXO exist the Team also conducted demolition action on UXO items outside the project area, at the request of the Ban Sai Villagers.

5. Village Reaction

The villagers were highly appreciative of the MIVAC/PCL effort that has reduced the potential for Landmine or UXO accident in the village; they were amazed that someone actually came to help them because simply for as long as many can remember they have been asking for help but none ever came. They say that they now have a better understanding of the threat that the UXO poses and the action required personally to reduce the threat. They also have an understanding of what would be required to completely remove the UXO threat from their land and as such have requested that MIVAC/PCL return and assist them by removing sub-surface UXO from the rice fields and surrounds. (See attachment 2).

Finally the village gave a vote of thanks to the MIVAC/PCL team for employing 5 locals as site labourers during the action 2 of which showed promise and have now been trained as PCL UXO technicians and are working full time in another Province for PCL.

6. Summary and Recommendations

Phoenix Clearance Limited, (PCL), and MIVAC conducted a successful partnership designed to remove potentially life threatening Landmines and UXO from Ban Sai Village Phoukoud District Xieng Khouang Province Lao PDR.

The PCL team which consisted of 1 x Expat EOD Technical Field Manager and 6 x Land mine Disposal Technicians, 3x UXO Disposal Technicians and 1 x Trauma medic and a driver conducted 28 days of disposal activity resulting in the destruction of ;

- Minefield area cleared 7,777m² 90 mines located and destroyed comprising 30 x M16 Bounding Fragmentation Anti-personnel mines and 60 x Improvised mines made of 60mm mortars with the fuses armed and buried vertically to function by pressure.
- School yard cleared 2500m² 6 x 60mm² Mortars located and destroyed.
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Totals = Landmines 90, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) 124.

PCL gave UXO education to the local population and employment to a number of villagers during the project.

Ban Sai village was extremely appreciative of the effort and the fact that someone had finally come to remove the UXO after years of the village reporting the problem to the Lao Government agency UXO Lao and to the NGO Mines Advisory Group.

This Hmoung village does not get much assistance from anyone and they are desperate for continued action on the other minefields and known UXO areas. It is known to the village and now to the Team that the rice fields of the village contain UXO as does the village itself and have formally requested assistance therefore it is recommended that if MIVAC have the resources that MIVAC seriously consider returning in the 2009 – 2010 dry next season (Oct – May) to clear at least the rice fields of UXO. This is a much more affordable high impact option at \$1800 – \$2000usd/ha

This is the second successful partnership between MIVAC and PCL and all in all, the project went very well and the cooperation between MIVAC and Phoenix Clearance Limited is a working formula for good now and in the future.



Michael John Hayes
Managing Director

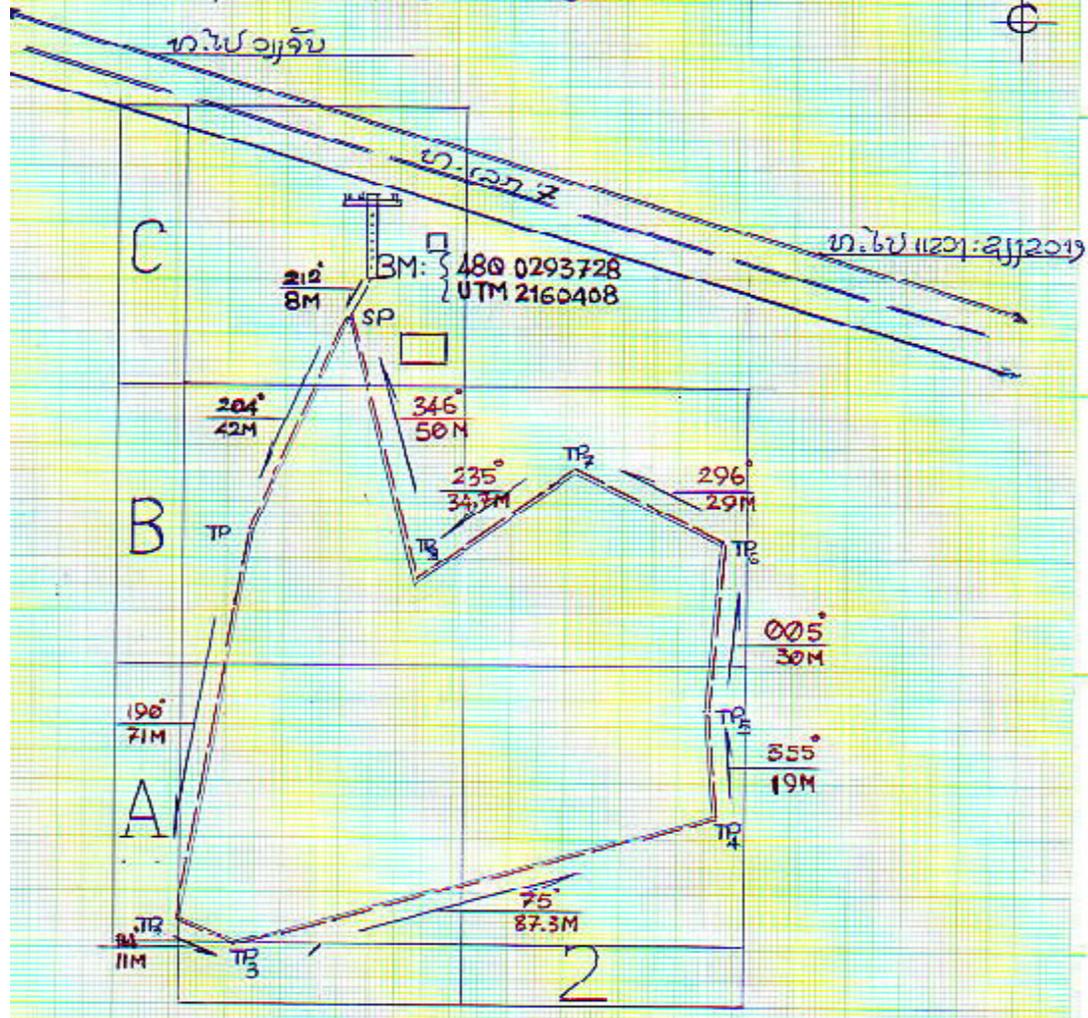
12 May 2009

Attachments:

Team and UXO Photos see CD

Maps Areas, A, B, & C

ແຜນວາດສະໜອງເກັບກູ້ຝັ່ງທີ່ AREA-B (ດິນສວນມາຍບ້ານ)
 ບ້ານ: ຊາຍເພີງ ພູຄູດ. ແຂວງ: ຊຽງຂວາງ
 ເນີ້ງທີ່ໜັດ = 0.68 Ha = 6800 M²

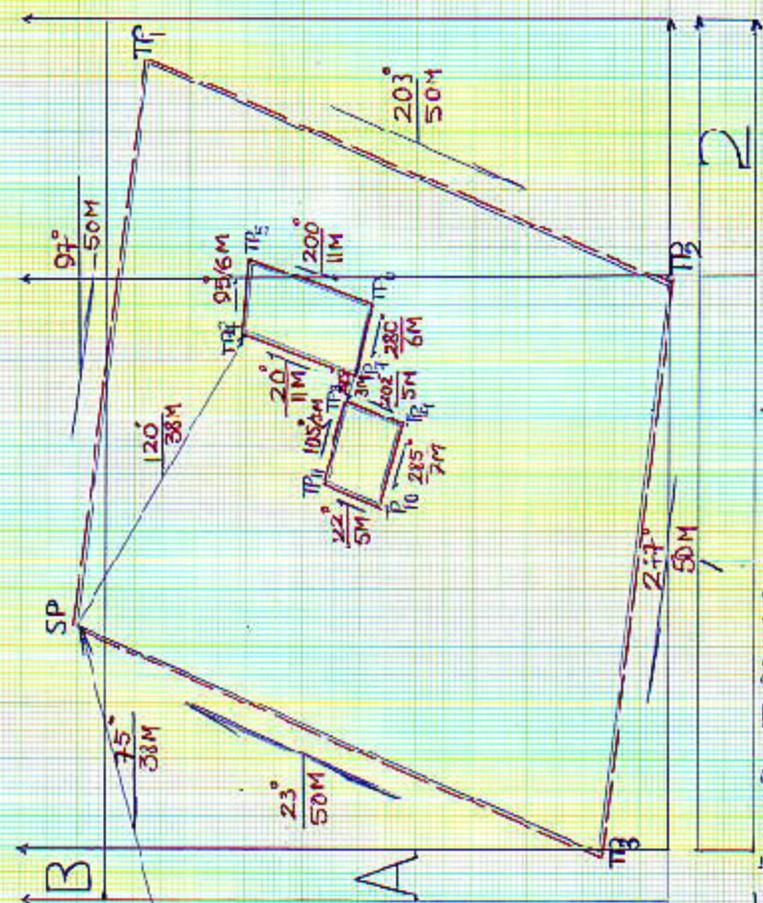
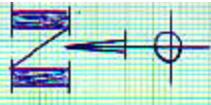


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ຄຳອະທິບາຍ
 - ໃບເລື່ອນທ່າມຕັ້ງການຈັດໃບສະໜາມ
 ປີ: ກຳລັງຈັດ ບ້ານ: ໂພນສິວມ. ສ. ຄຸບົກ
 ແຂວງ: ຊຽງຂວາງ ໄປທາງ ເມືອງ: ພູຄູດ (ເມືອງ: ຊາຍເພີງ)
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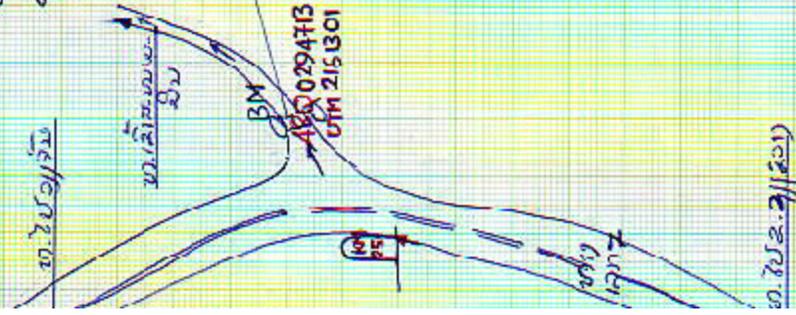
* ສັນຍາລັກ
 = ເສົາໄຟຟ້າ
 = ຜູ້ 20 ບັມ 2 ລາກທາດ-ເບີກ
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ແຜນວາດສະໜາພື້ນທີ່ພື້ນທີ່ AREA-C (ດົນເຮງຮຽນ)
 ບ. ຊາຍ; ສ. ພຸກດ; ຂ. ຊຽງຂອງ. (ເມັດທັງໝົດ = 0,239 Ha = 2390 M²)



* ສັນຍາບັນທຶກ:
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 BM = ກຸ່ມປະຈຸກວມ
 SP = ຈຸດປະຈຸກວມ
 TP = ຈຸດປະຈຸກວມ
 ∩ = ຫຼັກ KM
 ○ = ຕິດກວມ
 N = ກິດກວມ

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ຂໍ້ສັງເກດ:
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