



On the Retention and Acquisition of Cluster Munitions

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Mines vs. bomblets

<p>Mines</p> 	<p>Bomblets</p> 
<p>Mines are left in an intended and intact state</p>	<p>Bomblets are left by accident in an unintended and failed state</p>
<p>Mines are triggered by a defined force or interaction</p>	<p>Bomblets are triggered by an unpredictable force</p>
<p>Mines are mainly buried</p>	<p>Bomblets are mainly found at the surface</p>
<p>Mines are made to avoid detection</p>	<p>Bomblets are not made in order to avoid detection</p>
<p>Mines may contain a minute amount of metal</p>	<p>Bomblets contain a considerable amount of metal</p>

Detection methods

Mechanical: prodders, flails, ploughs, tillers, sifters

Metal detection: conv. metal detectors, magnetometers

Electromagnetic radiation: radar

Chemical detection: artificial nose, olfactory organ

Nuclear: neutron backscattering, quadropole resonance

Surrogates

Surrogates can be made at various level of complexity

They can cover many of the needs for live munition



Photos: Colin King

Operational munition

May be required for demilitarization, but munitions to be destroyed cover the need

Development of countermeasures

Evolution of detection methods or countermeasures may create a need

Retention can be made without operational value

Conclusion

It is impossible to quantify the operational value of a stock of cluster munition

There are some areas where live munitions are needed, but their importance is a subject for discussion

A small number should be saved for historical reasons