

## Retention and Acquisition of Cluster Munitions

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This report has been written upon request from The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a contribution to the follow-up on the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This convention was signed by more than 90 nations in December 2008. The work connected to this report was sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Section for Humanitarian Affairs and has been finalized in cooperation between FFI and SWP.

In specific, the report deals with article 3, paragraph 6 in the Convention, which gives the signing parties the opportunity either to retain a part of their national inventory of cluster munitions or to acquire a limited number of those in order to conduct training and education of personnel for detection, clearance and destruction of such munitions. Development and qualification of equipment to be used in such processes may also justify retention. Development of armour, protection and other countermeasures may also require access to cluster munitions. The Convention does not limit the amount of retained munitions, but it is emphasized it should “*not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for these purposes*”.

A number of tasks connected to education and training of personnel can be covered by the use of demilitarized submunitions. This term includes surrogates, replicas, inert submunitions and dummies that, more or less completely, mimic the properties of a real submunition in terms of appearance, materials and other properties. Those demilitarized submunitions do not have any operational value.

However, there are applications where the use of explosive submunitions (bomblets) is a necessity. On the first hand, this applies to education. Handling of real munitions is prerequisite for creating the trust and confidence needed for the EOD-trainees. For development and qualification of tools and equipment for detection and destruction of cluster munitions, the access to live munitions will also be required. On the other hand the use of explosive submunitions is a necessity for the development of cluster munitions countermeasures especially the protection capabilities of armed forces.

An alternative to retention of operational cluster munitions, is to store them in a way that ensures that its operational value is absent. This is obtained by removal or destruction of essential parts of containers, propellants, pyrotechnics etc. In order to develop methods for destruction of cluster munitions, operational munitions are required. However, this requirement could be covered by the inventory that is subject to destruction. Another need may appear for the testing of equipment and material for cluster munitions countermeasures and protection purposes.

On the next page there is a qualified overview on basic capabilities and tasks regarding EOD and safety of armed forces for which retention or acquisition of operational cluster munitions, explosive submunitions or the use of demilitarized submunitions is needed.

## Retention or acquisition

Capabilities and tasks/ safety of armed forces	Categories for retention or acquisition		
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	Operational cluster munition	Explosive submunition (bomblet)	“Demilitarized” submunition (i.e. surrogate, inert submunition, dummy)
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<b>EOD capabilities</b>			
Education and training		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Reconnaissance and detection	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Awareness		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Recognition and identification		(x)	<b>X</b>
Evaluation of state, handling and removal		(x)	<b>X</b>
Destruction and disassembly		(x)	<b>X</b>
Demonstration		(x)	<b>X</b>

<b>Research, development, qualification on EOD tasks</b>			
Education and training		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Mechanical clearing			<b>X</b>
Manual clearing		(x)	<b>X</b>
Electromagnetic clearing		<b>X</b>	
Qualification of products		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Demilitarization	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	

<b>Development</b> of armor, protection and other countermeasures	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
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### Explanations

- **X**: “yes”
- (x): in principle “yes” but with more or less restrictions

*The full report was distributed at the conference*