

AMAS 03

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Training & Qualifications

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Warning

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TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A high standard of training is essential to maintain good management, sound operational procedures and safety. As the Government of Afghanistan does not currently have a national mine/UXO clearance training facility, all organizations involved in mine and UXO clearance shall be responsible to achieve the minimum training standards as outlined in this chapter, prior to conducting any actual mine/UXO clearance operations.

3.1.2 All agencies participating in mine/UXO clearance operations in Afghanistan shall have SOPs approved by MACCA. Their policy will incorporate all details of this document and address any additional details. The SOPs shall specifically contain information relating to types and schedules of training, responsibilities and resources in the training, and methods of quality assurance designed to evaluate the suitability and effectiveness of the training.

3.1.23.1.3 Frequent refresher training and updating shall be provided with all above-mentioned details annotated in the clearance organizations SOP.

3.1.33.1.4 This chapter details the requirements for the training of all mine action staff. The AMAS has been written in the absence of a published International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) and will be reviewed when the relevant IMAS is issued.

3.2 Qualifications and Experience

3.2.1 Organizations employed in mine/UXO clearance operations in Afghanistan shall employ senior staff with qualifications and significant experience in mine/UXO clearance operations. Additionally, international staff shall be able to train national staff in their area of expertise.

3.2.2 It is essential that the mine action specialists are able to conduct the training and support functions to the standards detailed in AMAS. International staff must hold qualifications and experience adequate for their respective position, and be able to produce the relative documents and certificates also to MACCA.

3.2.3 All personnel completing the training should be able to perform at the level required by the AMAS for Demining and EOD Operations. All personnel successfully completing the prescribed training will be given a certificate of training. All organizations are required to maintain a copy of each individual certificate as long as the organization is working in Afghanistan. If the organization closes its operations in Afghanistan, it will transfer these records to MACCA prior departing the country.

3.2.4 This is pertinent to all agencies conducting demining related activities, including mine clearance, demolitions, EOD, and mechanical tasks in a mine/UXO clearance environment.

3.2.5 Due to the numerous types and levels of demining and EOD related courses conducted internationally and various existing qualifications, all personnel to be accredited within Afghanistan shall be assessed by MACCA to conduct the activity that he/she is being accredited for. All key personnel shall provide a detailed Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) detailing demining experience also in a humanitarian environment, and appropriate qualifications to MACCA, prior deployment in the country. Once MACCA has reviewed the C.V. and qualifications, approval will be given, if the individual is suitably qualified to conduct operations in Afghanistan. Personnel should not be deployed within the country, without prior approval.

3.3 Training Courses

3.3.1 The majority of courses for mine/UXO clearance, at the various practical and management levels are well-known and the syllabi are generally similar for most agencies. These requirements shall be based on the AMAS for Mine Clearance Operations. However, the generic syllabus may be modified to include specific training to each agency. All staff attending courses should be given certificates of achievement or qualification on successfully completing the course.

3.4 Survey Training Courses

3.4.1 Minimum requirements for survey training courses shall include basic and advanced mine/UXO clearance, map reading, land navigation and surveying techniques. Manual surveying equipment shall be taught even if automatic/computerized surveying equipment is used and taught. EOD Level 1 or 2 courses are recommended, but not required for surveyors.

3.5 Team Leader Training

3.5.1 All future instructors and designated Team Leaders and Supervisors shall receive at minimum instruction in Basic Leadership, Instruction techniques, and Supervisor roles and responsibilities. All personnel in a Team Leader or Supervisor role shall attend a Basic mine/UXO Clearance Course and a Basic First Aid Course.

3.6 Mine/UXO Clearance Training

3.6.1 There are several types of mine/UXO clearance courses and they include Basic, Advance and Supervisor level. The Basic mine/UXO clearance course shall be the minimum required for all demining operators undertaking mine/UXO clearance activities.

3.7 The Basic Mine/UXO Clearance Course

3.7.1 The Basic course shall involve sub-topics including: Mine Orientation and Identification, Using Mine Detectors, Probing and Trip Wire Detection, Vegetation Clearing, House clearance procedures, Battle Area Clearance (BAC), Mine Marking and basic First Aid.

3.8 The Advanced Mine/UXO Clearance Course

3.8.1 An Advanced course shall reinforce the Basic Mine/UXO clearance sub-topics and include Mine Render-Safe Procedures and Basic Demolitions.

3.9 The Supervisor Mine/UXO Clearance Course

3.9.1 A Supervisor's course shall reinforce Basic and Advanced Mine/UXO clearance topics and include Minefield Supervisory Techniques.

3.10 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Courses

3.10.1 There are four course levels for EOD, as well as a recommended refresher course. All personnel attending any of these courses shall (as a minimum) be able to read and write their native language. It is recommended that a language proficiency test (suitable to the level of the course) be given to each student prior to attending the courses.

3.10.2 The only authorized Level 1 through 4 training courses are the ones provided by MACCA. Use of these standardized courses will ensure that minimum requirements are met. Any extra training package or course an organization wishes to teach must (prior to being taught) first be approved in writing by MACCA.

3.11 Level 1 EOD Course

3.11.1 Level 1 EOD qualification enables a technician to locate, uncover, identify and, under supervision, destroy mines in-situ. The Level 1 EOD Technician is only authorized to destroy those mine types for which he has received specific disposal training.

3.11.2 This course should concentrate on basic ordnance identification for all types of ordnance and very specific identification for the most common types of mines encountered in Afghanistan. Also covered by the course is the basic demolition procedure for taught-mines destruction and general ordnance safety. It is preferred, but not required, that personnel attending the Level 1 EOD course already be deminers.

3.12 Level 2 EOD Course

3.12.1 Level 2 EOD qualifications enables a technician to undertake the in-situ disposal of single small UXO, such as sub-munitions, grenades and mortar ammunition up to 84 mm diameter. This includes High Explosive, Anti-Tank (HEAT) munitions, but excludes White Phosphorus (WP). A minimum of two years of EOD Level 1 experience (after graduating from an accredited EOD Level 1 course) is required before attending Level 2 EOD course.

3.12.2 The Level 2 EOD course is still considered a basic course, but delves into ordnance, other than mines, up to 84 mm, which are usually the most common encountered in BAC and demining tasks. Much of the information is as in Level 1, but more information will be given on munitions 84 mm and below, including the fuses likely to be encountered.

3.13 Level 3 EOD Course

3.13.1 Level 3 EOD qualification enables a technician to dispose of larger UXO, such as rocket, tank gun and artillery ammunition up to 240 mm diameter, including HEAT munitions. Under the direction of a Level 4 EOD technician, a Level 3 EOD Technician is authorized to render safe UXO for safe removal, pending their disposal. A minimum of three years experience of Level 2 EOD (after graduating from an accredited Level 2 EOD course) is required before attending a Level 3 EOD course.

3.13.2 This course will cover an even greater variety of ordnance and the specialized disposal of ordnance containing White Phosphorous (WP). Render safe, low order and bulk disposal procedures should also be covered here, since the Level 3 is authorized to perform these actions under the direction of a Level 4 EOD Technician. The Level 3 EOD technician should also attend a management course if he/she will be fulfilling a supervisory position. Management course may be included in the Level 3 training or it may be a separate course.

3.14 Level 4 EOD Course

3.14.1 Level 4 EOD qualifications is awarded to EOD Technicians that have been trained to destroy the remaining UXO hazards not covered in level 1 to 3 of the EOD courses and render safe or low order ordnance with specialist EOD techniques. This includes the bulk disposal of AXO, stockpile munitions and rendered safe UXO. Level 4 EOD Technicians are not authorized to destroy munitions containing Depleted Uranium (DU), liquid propellant, chemical agents and Fuel Air Explosive (FAE) unless they have received recognized training that specifically deals with these items. A minimum of four years of Level 3 EOD experience

(after graduating from an accredited Level 3 EOD course) is required before attending a Level 4 EOD course.

3.14.2 The Level 4 EOD course is a highly technical course, covering advanced render safe and low order techniques, as well as specialized tools and methods. The Level 4 course will also cover bulk disposal operations, aircraft weapon systems and specific instruction of fuse functioning for all types of ordnance. The Level 4 EOD Technician should also attend a management course; this course may be included in the Level 4 training or it may be a separate course.

3.15 EOD Refresher Course

3.15.1 Refresher courses are highly encouraged (but not required) to train EOD Technicians on new techniques based upon new material or equipment, as well as covering topics from the Level 4 training that may have changed or been forgotten from lack of use.

3.16 Medical Training Courses

3.16.1 Trained medical support shall be on site during operations, should a medical emergency occur. Two levels of training shall be used under qualifications and training standards. Specific details of medical training are covered in AMAS Chapter 30 Medical Support and Casualty Evacuation.

3.17 Basic First Aid Training

3.17.1 Basic First Aid Training is a requirement for all mine action field personnel. A first aid course should consist of a minimum of 20 hours of formal medical training. Regular (at a minimum - biannual) refresher courses should be included in the agency's mission schedule as well as forming a part of their routine activities. As a minimum, the course shall provide basic life and limb saving procedures including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), management of bleeding, splinting fractures, immediate patient assessment, and patient transport techniques.

3.18 Paramedic Training

3.18.1 After attending the Basic First Aid Training Course, personnel designated to be the First Line Medical Technician (one per site) will be required to attend Paramedical Training. Topics shall include advanced life and limb saving skills, triage, and long term patient management. Paramedics shall also be trained to provide trauma treatment, to run a clinic, provide basic medical attention and provide medical advice on sanitation, hygiene and the prevention of diseases.

3.19 Refresher Training

3.19.1 It is essential that paramedics maintain their qualifications and skill level through refresher training: all organizations shall plan to conduct annual refresher training for their medical staff.