National report on activities undertaken during 2017 with the aim of implementing the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/36 "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices"

Montenegro addresses special attention to threats which improvised explosive devices (IEDs) represent. The training and implementation of all techniques, tactics and procedures in countering IEDs contribute primarily to the quality and comprehensive protection and security of members of the Armed Forces of MNE in international peacekeeping missions and operations. With the aim of high-quality implementation of the requirements from the mentioned resolution, our activities include the following:

• Application of International law on armed conflicts,

• Measures and procedures for preservation, storing and destroying of lethal means, mine explosive devices and military equipment,

• International and regional cooperation,

• Technical, financial and material support from foreign donors,

• Training, and

• Exchange of information.

1. Implementation of International law on armed conflicts

Within the area of implementation of International law on armed conflicts - the rights in armed conflicts, during 2017, all measures that have been implemented and which represented countering threats posed by IEDs referred to the modules of means and methods of warfare in the legal framework of definitions and rules (protocols, prohibitions and restrictions) which regulate the use of mines, mine-surprises and other similar mines that include IEDs.

During the training process, members of the Armed Forces of MNE have been trained on the awareness of IEDs presence, their components, and the consequences they can cause. Through the implementation of training on the topic of "The Law on the Armed Conflict", AF MNE members were introduced to the protocols of the Hague and Geneva Conventions.

2. Measures and procedures for preservation and storage of lethal means, mine-explosive devices and military equipment
All measures, procedures and provisions which refer to the organization of warehouse activities, placement and storage of lethal means, pyrotechnic safety calculation, methods of loading of lethal means, separation by groups of compatibility, monitoring of microclimate conditions and ventilation of facilities, etc., are regulated and specified by the MoD’s Manual for working with lethal means in warehouses, and all persons dealing with these kind of issues are obligated to follow those rules.

During 2017, MoD/AF MNE made significant efforts to ensure that the conditions and standards for preservation and storage of lethal means, mine-explosive devices, military equipment and unexploded ordnance are lifted to the highest possible level in order to ensure a more secure and proper storage. Existing storage capacities do not provide conditions good enough to protect against moisture and low temperatures, which negatively affects the state and usability of stored weapons and military equipment, especially the operational life of sensitive IEDs equipment for combat (robots, drones, etc.).

All procedures for destruction of lethal means, from preparation phase till the destruction phase, are carried out in accordance with the MoD’s Manual for Lethal Means Destruction, which specifies the procedures for the preparation of assets, polygons and all stages of destruction and destruction control.

AF of MNE did not destroy any of the lethal means last year, because it was done by authorized companies, through a Program for the destruction of surplus weapons. The destruction was carried out through the MONDEM (Montenegro Demilitarization Programme) project and NATO Trust Fund. In total, 130.25 tons of surplus weapons were destroyed in 2017. Through the MONDEM programme, 94.65 tons were destroyed in 2017. Through the NATO Trust Fund, 35.60 tons of surplus weapons were destroyed in 2017.

3. Technical and material foreign donors support

In terms of technical and material assistance from foreign donors, in 2017, certain measures were implemented with the aim of maintaining and strengthening mutual cooperation. The United States donated a special boat and equipment for the destruction of unexploded ordinance in the sea to the Navy of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, as a continuation of perennial cooperation in this field, in June 2017.

4. International and regional cooperation

Within the framework of international and regional cooperation, the most intensive cooperation is with the Center for Mine Action in Rajlovac, near Sarajevo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provided training for the destruction of unexploded
ordinance on the 1st and 2nd level for the AF MNE members. Implementation of the 3rd level training, fight and neutralization of the danger against IEDs, is planned for 2018.

5. Technical, financial and material support

The procurement of the countering IEDs equipment and equipment for the destruction of unexploded ordinance is financed from the MoD budget, as the primary source of funding whilst the equipment manufacturer is performing technical assistance.

6. Training

The training of the members of the Armed Forces in countering IED threats was conducted in 2017 with a limitation regarding the 3rd level training which has not been completed yet, so the majority of the training was focused on taking measures against the destruction of conventional ammunition.

Topics regarding IED threats where practical training is provided with the equipment that is also used for the destruction of conventional and IEDs is regularly conducted within the training program.

Training in the country was carried out on the following professional-specialized topics: knowledge of NATO standards and publications, hand grenades, thunderbolt, anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, mortars, artillery projectiles, guided missiles, missiles, air bombs, cassette ammunition, lighters, scouting and identification ammunition, destruction of conventional ammunition and practical work with EOD tools and tools.

In the Navy of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, the most important training is the anti-mine divers training, which was carried out in September 2017 in cooperation with members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Furthermore, AF MNE members participated in the workshop "EOD Workshop 2017" in Trenčín, Slovakia, in November 2017, as well as in the course "Combating Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED)", which was held in July 2017, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the assessment of the declared units of the AF MNE, the EOD squad was rated with the highest grade, in 2017.

7. Exchange of information

In terms of information exchange, the measures undertaken included the realization of courses and workshops mentioned above, which help monitor the novelties in tactics, techniques and procedures in countering the threats posed by IEDs,
whose contents are further transferred through training, complementing the knowledge of members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro.