



Final Report
UXO Response Team Action



Houayyen Village
Xe Ban Fai District Khammouane Province Lao PDR
for
MIVAC

Phoenix Clearance (Lao) Limited

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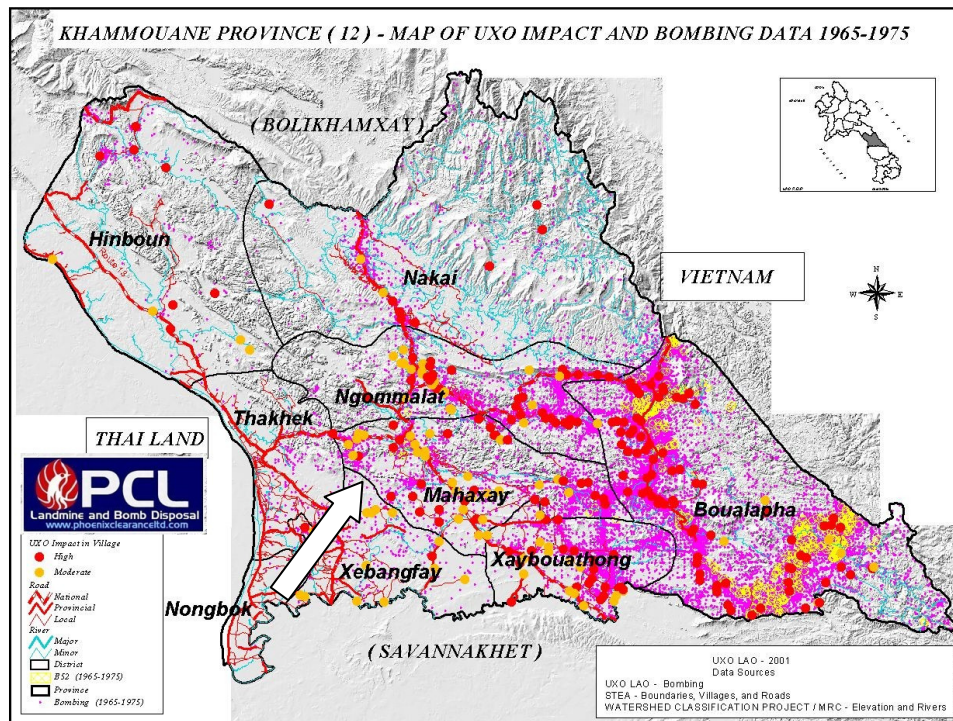
16 July 2008

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1. Project Outline

Over past 3 years PCL has had UXO clearance teams working in the Ngommulat and Nakai Areas performing UXO Clearance on a Hydro Power project. During this period it has become evident to PCL that no clearance work has been performed BY THE National authorities or NGO's in the lesser contaminated¹ villages, despite the villagers asking² UXO Lao³ and MAG⁴ many times to no avail. Based on this information and of PCL's local experience in the area, a proposal was drafted and accepted MIVAC for a PCL UXO Response Team to deploy for 7 days to the area of Kuase and Nong Bong Villages in the Xa Ban Fai District and focus disposal activities on reported UXO posing a threat to the local population.



Objective:

1. Locate and destroy maximum number of UXO posing an immediate threat to life in the village.
2. Educate the local population of the purpose of the MIVAC/PCL action and of the danger UXO poses.
3. Gather information for possible future intervention by MIVAC.

2. Resources

MIVAC generously provided \$2000usd of funding for the activity which covered the salaries of the team for the period. Phoenix Clearance Limited provided \$1000usd in kind through the provision of equipment, transport accommodation, rations and explosives for the task.

¹ All villages in the area contain UXO however some contain considerably more than others.

² Statement from the village headman

³ UXO Lao is a Lao Government clearance organisation

⁴ MAG is the NGO Mines Advisory Group

3. Conduct of Action

On the 30th June 2008 PCL UXO Survey team visited the area to ensure the villagers were prepared and to gather UXO location information. Physically gaining Access to Kuase and Nong Bong Villages was a problem brought about by heavy rains and as a result the neighbouring village of Houayyen was chosen.



On the 01 July – 07 July 2008 PCL UXO Response Team deployed to the area of of Houayyen Village in the Xe Ban Fai District and commenced disposal activities on reported UXO posing a threat to the local population.

The following UXO was dealt with by the team.

- 1 x 250lbs GP Bomb
- 1 x 100mm HE Artillery projectile
- 21 x 76mm HE Artillery projectile
- 1 x 57mm HE Artillery projectile
- 1 x 60mm HE Mortar projectile
- 27 x BLU 26 Cluster munitions
- 7 x BLU 24 Cluster munitions
- 1 x BLU 3b Cluster munitions
- 5 x M83 Cluster munitions

Total UXO = 65

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 was informed of the location of 2 x Large bombs and a cache of munitions in proximity to the village but high water prevented the team from taking action.

4. Village Reaction

The villagers were highly appreciative of the MIVAC/PCL effort that has considerably reduced the potential for UXO accident in the village by removing some of the surface UXO. 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).

5. Summary and Recommendations

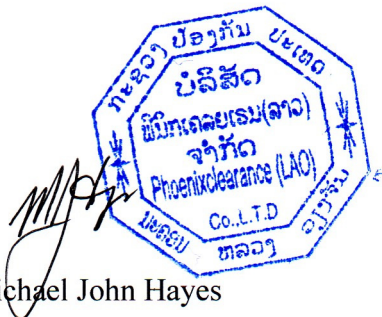
Phoenix Clearance Limited, (PCL), at the request and with the generosity of MIVAC conducted a short UXO Response Team action project to remove potentially life threatening UXO from Houayyen Village Ngommulat District Khammouane Province Lao PDR.

The PCL team which consisted of 1 x Expat EOD Technical Field Manager and 5 x UXO Disposal Technicians and 1 x Trauma medic and a driver conducted 7 days of disposal activity resulting in the destruction of 65 potentially life threatening UXO.

The 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.

It is known to the village and now to the Team that the rice fields of the village contain UXO and the village have formally requested assistance therefore it is recommended that if MIVAC have the resources that MIVAC seriously look at returning in the dry season to clear the rice fields of UXO.

All in all, the project went very well and the cooperation between MIVAC and Phoenix Clearance Limited is a working formula for good in the future.



Michael John Hayes
Managing Director

17 July 2008

Attachments:

1. Photos of Team and UXO encountered
2. Village request for assistance