GENERIC SOPs

CHAPTER 4: TASK SITE PREPARATION

Date:

CHAPTER 4: TASK SITE PREPARATION

Contents

1. Before deployment

The Task Release Plan should be included in the Task Folder for the SHA. The Task Supervisor should have been part of the Task Assessment Team and should know the plan well. The Task Supervisor must ensure that all field Supervisors understand the Task Release Plan and have studied the detailed maps included in the Task Folder.

The Task Supervisor must ensure that all logistical needs for the deployment are met before the Platoon leaves for the site.

The Programme Manager must do everything to ensure that the needs of the Task Supervisor are met so that the deployment can take place efficiently.

When necessary an advance contingent should be sent to prepare the safe-areas. The advance contingent must include either a Platoon Commander or a Platoon Supervisor and should include the Platoon MRE officer who will explain to local people what is happening.

The local authorities must be told that a deployment is planned.

2. Preparing the site for the assets that will be deployed

Every Task must be laid out and marked to achieve safety and efficient site management.

All demining requires the use of manual deminers. They are either used on their own for demining using approved manual procedures, used to follow-up mechanical demining, or used to investigate areas identified by Mine Detecting Dogs (MDDs), vehicle-mounted metal-detector arrays or REST.

To ensure that the manual deminers are safe, every Task must have prepared safe-areas as described in Part 3 of this Chapter. Some variations and additions are necessary when MDD or mechanical assets will also be used at the Task. These are described in Parts 3.4 and 3.5 of this Chapter.

The type of Task affects the marking and site preparation that can be used. Demining Tasks can be separated into three general types:

1. Most tasks are conducted at a recorded SHA/CHA that is marked as a polygon on a map.
2. Tasks may also be conducted over linear tasks along a feature such as a road or railway.
3. Tasks may also be conducted over linear tasks in cross-country areas following the proposed route for a new road, railway, pipe-line or cable, etc.

EOD spot tasks do not require the same degree of site preparation.

2.1 CASEVAC exercise

After the safe-areas have been prepared and before any demining work can take place inside the SHA/CHA, a CASEVAC exercise must be conducted. The CASEVAC exercise tests the Paramedic's Evacuation plan and ensures that the necessary communication system works as required.

The requirements for a CASEVAC plan are described in Chapter 11 of these SOPs.

3. Preparing the safe-areas

The Task Supervisor should instruct all members of the Platoon(s) to prepare the safe-areas as soon as they arrive at the site. Suitable marking materials should be taken with the Platoon(s) to prevent delays.

NOTE: *When there is uncertainty about the safety of safe-areas, they must be Cleared before they are used.*

The following general rules apply:

1. Each designated area at the site must be marked with signs.
2. Undergrowth removed during site preparation must be collected and burned in a controlled manner.
3. PPE need not be worn while preparing the safe-areas.
4. For safety and site discipline, all staff including supervisors must keep to the marked safe-areas and safe access routes.

No staff should go into the unmarked areas until the Task is ready to be released. This is because the Task Release Plan may be revised as work progresses and new information is discovered. It may become known that an area presumed safe is not safe.

3.1 Safe-area features for polygon sites

The Task Release Plan for a conventional Task covering a defined area of land in a polygon shape should include a sketch map showing the following safe-area features:

1. Landmark, with co-ordinates;
2. Bench-mark, with co-ordinates;
3. Perimeter marking;
4. Turning points;
5. Start-line;
6. Base-line;
7. Administration area;
8. Parking area;
9. Access-lanes;
10. Equipment storage area;
11. Temporary explosive storage area (when required);
12. Rest areas;
13. Control points;
14. Paramedic post;
15. Metal detector test and calibration areas (when required);
16. Scrap-metal collection pits;
17. Rubbish pit;
18. Latrine(s);
19. Helicopter Landing Site (when required);
20. Demolition site; and
21. Fuel storage area (when required).

These are described in detail below.

3.1.1 Landmark

The features required for a Landmark are described in Chapter 5 of these SOPs.

The Landmark should have been identified and may have been marked by the Task Assessment Team. On arrival at the Task, the Task Supervisor must ensure that it is located and should check the recorded co-ordinates.

The Landmark is intended to assist the easy identification of the Task. When a single feature does not achieve this, two of more Landmarks should be used.

3.1.2 Bench-mark

The detailed features required for a bench-mark are described in Chapter 5 of these SOPs.

The position for the bench-mark should have been marked on the Task map by the Task Assessment Team. The Task Supervisor must ensure that the correct position is identified and a permanent bench-mark is placed. It is essential to have a bench-mark in place before any work in the SHA/CHA is conducted because all detailed planning and progress maps must be measured from the bench-mark.

3.1.3 Perimeter marking

Perimeter markings must be placed around the SHA/CHA wherever there is a possibility of people entering the Task area.

Perimeter marking must be used when the SHA/CHA borders:

1. roads or footpaths;
2. land that has been used in recent years; or
3. houses and settlements.

Ideally, the entire SHA/CHA perimeter must be marked with pickets and mined area warning signs. When the extent of the SHA/CHA is uncertain and safe access to the entire perimeter is not possible before work begins, perimeter marking may be reduced.

The following rules should be applied:

1. Hazardous Area pickets should be placed at 15 metre intervals on the perimeter;
2. Mine warning signs should be attached to the pickets at least every 30 metres;
3. The Platoon MRE Officer must ensure that local people know what the signs mean and keep away; and
4. When the Task has been completed, all perimeter marking must be removed. When the NMAA will undertake the formal release of the area, the marking may be left until the formal release takes place.

3.1.4 Turning Points

The detailed features required for a Turning Point are described in Chapter 5, Parts 7.4 and 7.5 of these SOPs.

Turning Points mark a place where there is a change in direction of the perimeter of the SHA/CHA. Their position should be accurately mapped and their GPS coordinates recorded.

In many cases, the original SHA/CHA polygon does not show the area that was Cleared after the Reduction, Verification or Cancellation of some of the SHA. Before leaving a Task, Turning Points around the perimeter of the original area and around the perimeter of all Cleared areas inside the SHA/CHA must be permanently marked on the ground.

3.1.5 Administration area

The Administration area is the place where the Task Supervisor, Platoon Supervisor and Platoon Commander are based during demining operations.

An Administration area should have the following features:

1. The Administration area should be far enough from the base-line for people in the area not to wear PPE. The necessary safety-distance will have been determined during the Task Assessment (described in Chapter 3 of these SOPs).
2. The Administration area should include a shelter with a table to allow the study of Task Folder documentation.
3. The Administration area should be positioned so that all Task visitors arrive at the Administration Area before entering Access Lanes.
4. Radio and cellular telephone communication should be available at the Administration area. When cellular telephone coverage is not assured, a satellite telephone should be used as the secondary communication system.
5. The Administration area should include a display board with a Task map that is updated daily to show the positions of site features and the progress in the working area(s).
6. When the base-line on any part of the Task is a kilometre or more away from the Administration-area, the Administration-area must be moved closer to the base-line. On large or linear tasks, this may place it forward from the start-line. This does not matter as long as it is always far enough behind the working area to allow administration tasks to be conducted without wearing PPE.

3.1.6 Parking area

The Task must have at least one designated Parking area.

The Parking area should have the following features:

1. The Parking area or areas should have marked bays large enough to accommodate all vehicles that will be deployed at the Task.
2. At least two spare bays should be prepared for visitors.
3. Generally the Parking area should be close to the Administration area but when that is not possible, the Parking area should be close to the access-road and be at (or beyond) the safety-distance from the base-line.
4. Parking areas should be marked with white pickets or stones at one metre intervals.
5. All Parking areas should be marked with a large and obvious sign so that visitors know where to park.
6. Parking areas must not be used as demining machine Maintenance or Inspection areas. When demining machines are used at a Task, separate safe-areas must be prepared for these.

3.1.7 Access-lanes

Access-lanes should connect the Administration Area with all other site features. They allow rapid access to the base-line in an emergency.

The following rules should be applied:

1. To make site control easier, Access-lanes should be straight whenever possible and must be at least two metres wide.
2. If demining machines will use the Access-lanes, they should be made at least two metres wider than the width of the machines.

3. Any obstructions that are discovered in these lanes as they are prepared should be removed.
4. Access-lanes must never be blocked by parked vehicles or equipment.
5. Access-lanes should be marked with white topped pickets a maximum of three metres apart.
6. When painted stones are used as marking, they are less visible than pickets so they should be linked with marking tape held down by the stones. In windy conditions, stones spaced at one metre intervals should be used.

3.1.8 Equipment storage area

The Equipment storage area is used to store all demining equipment that is not being used in the SHA.

The following rules should be applied:

1. The Equipment area should be near to the Administration area to ensure that unauthorised access is prevented.
2. Equipment racks that hold the equipment off the ground should be erected.
3. Equipment may be stored in the back of transport vehicles as long as the vehicles will not be moved during working hours.

3.1.9 Temporary Explosives storage area

The temporary Explosives storage area is for a small amount of demolition equipment. It should be well ventilated with an overhead shade. The shade should cover a strong raised platform and the pits that are necessary to meet the requirements below.

The Explosives storage area must be used for any of the following that are at the site:

1. High-Explosive charges;
2. Detonators;
3. Detonating cord;
4. Safety-fuze;
5. Chemical demolition power;
6. Chemical demolition initiators;
7. Electrical detonation equipment;
8. Target-mines for the metal-detector test area(s); and
9. Target mines for MDD training.

The following rules should be applied:

1. High Explosives should be stored in the secure container in which it is transported. The container must be stored in pits at least as deep as the height of the container.

NOTE: *No more than 20kg of High Explosive should be stored at a site at any time.*

2. Detonators, Detonating cord and Chemical demolition initiators should be stored in a secure container in a pit that is at least a metre away from the High Explosive. The pit should be at least as deep as the height of the container.
3. Safety fuze, Electrical detonation equipment and Chemical demolition powder can be sensitive to moisture. They should be stored on the raised platform in separate sealed containers that are at least a metre away from the pits containing detonators and High Explosive.

NOTE: *Chemical demolition power is not a High Explosive and there is no limit to how much may be at a Task at any time.*

4. Target-mines for the metal-detector test area(s) must not contain any HE, but should contain the original detonators used in the mine. The firing train should be blocked, but the mine casings should still contain detonators. The mines should be painted red and stored in a secure container beneath the shade in the Explosives storage area.
5. Detonators, and initiators must always be transported separately from High Explosives.
6. Vegetation should be removed over at least 20 metres of land around the Explosives storage area. The vegetation in this area should be cut frequently. There must never be vegetation in the immediate area of the explosives. The cut vegetation should be removed to a distance of at least 30 metres before burning it.
7. A sign must be erected on the access-lane leading to the explosive storage area reminding those approaching that no one may smoke within 20 metres of the Explosive storage area. Smoking materials should be left beside the sign and collected when leaving the area.
8. A fire extinguisher must be positioned outside the store in a place that is easily visible.

When mines and ERW are not destroyed in-situ, they must not be stored in the Explosives Storage Area. They should be stored in pits at the Demolition area.

3.1.10 Rest-areas

Rest-areas are areas where the deminers working at a site take their rest-breaks. Generally, each Section should have its own Rest-area so that rest breaks are not spent walking a long distance.

A comfortable Rest area ensures that deminers can relax and prepare for their next period inside the SHA/CHA. It can increase team spirit and efficiency.

The following rules should be applied:

1. Rest areas may be close to the base-line as long as all deminers rest at the same time. When this is not the case, they should be far enough from the base-line to allow the resting deminers not to wear PPE.
2. Rest areas may be combined with Control-points.
3. Rest-areas should be shaded and have plenty of drinking water available.
4. Rest areas should have simple seating and, when possible, racks to hold PPE and tools above the ground.

3.1.11 Control-points

The Control-point is the base from which the Section Leader controls his/her deminers. His/her working documentation should be stored there. The Platoon Commander should move between Control-Points as he/she oversees work.

The following rules should be applied:

1. Control-points may be combined with Rest-areas.
2. Control-points should be shaded and have a table and chair at which the Section Leader can complete his/her working documentation.
3. Control-points should be far enough from the working areas to allow staff not to wear PPE. This distance will be determined by reference to the threats identified in the Task Assessment.

NOTE: *The safety-distance will not normally be the same as the working-distance.*

4. When Control-points must be nearer to the base-line than the required safety-distance, PPE must be worn at the Control-point whenever deminers are working closer than the safety-distance.

NOTE: *Supervisors must set a good example by always wearing PPE while they work forward of Control-points.*

3.1.12 Paramedic post

Each demining site must have at least one Paramedic post. When a site is large, it may have two or more. The Paramedic post should move as work progresses and the base-line is moved forward.

The following rules should be applied:

1. The Paramedic Post should not be further than five minutes walk away from any working deminer. When it is, the Paramedic Post must move, or a second Paramedic Post should be established.
2. All Paramedic posts must be equipped with appropriate first aid and medical supplies and equipment.
3. All Paramedic posts must be attended by the Paramedic whenever work is being conducted.
4. All Paramedic posts should allow easy access to the working areas.
5. The Paramedic post should be shaded and a chair may be provided but Paramedics must remain alert during the entire time that work is being conducted in the SHA.

The equipment that must be held at each Paramedic post is listed in Chapter 11 of these SOPs.

3.1.13 Start-line

The Start-line is a lane inside the safe-area that is at least two metres wide and is marked on the ground with reference to the bench-mark. It should be made up of straight lines and started at a measured bearing from the bench-mark. When the Start-line turns a corner, the bearing should be recorded along with GPS coordinates. Its measurements and bearings are a critical part of Task mapping. The Start-line marks the line from which work inside the SHA will be conducted.

The following rules should be applied:

1. The side of the Start-line facing the SHA/CHA should be marked at one metre intervals with pickets or painted stones and tape.
2. The side of the Start-line facing the safe-area should be marked with white painted pickets or stones at three metre intervals or closer.
3. Existing linear features such as roads, paths or the border of cultivated land may be used as a Start-line.
4. When there is any concern about the safety of the area, the Start-line and all access routes and features inside the safe-areas must be Cleared using manual or MDD procedures.

At the start of a Task, the side of the start-line(s) facing the SHA is also the base-line. As the task progresses, the base-line may move forward but the start-line remains throughout the Task.

3.1.14 Base-line

The base-line marks the division between Cleared areas and uncleared areas. It is critical that it is always well marked.

When lanes spur into the SHA, the base-line may take on a very irregular shape.

At the start of the Task, the base-line is the side of the start-line that faces the SHA. As work progresses, the base-line will move forward in places as areas are Cleared and QA on them is completed.

The following rules must be applied:

1. The base-line should be marked using Hazardous-area pickets every metre, or red/white painted Hazardous area stones.
2. When painted stones are used, they should be linked by marking tape along the ground surface.
3. Marking of the base-line must always be easy to see.
4. Turning points on the base-line should be marked with three pickets or stones, one at the corner, and one 30cm on both sides of the corner.

Site safety-distances are usually measured from the nearest part of the base-line. Task working-distances are measured between people working inside the SHA/CHA.

When the base-line on any part of the Task is a kilometre or more away from the Administration-area, the Administration-area must be moved closer to the base-line, or the working areas changed.

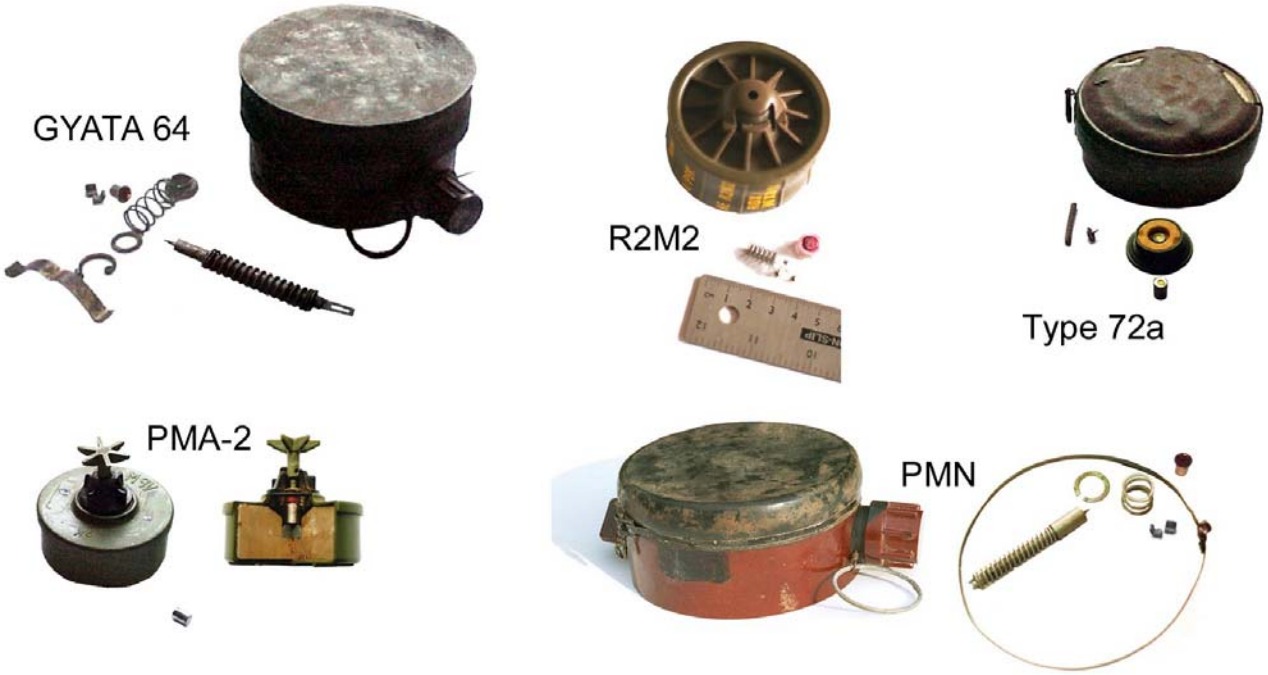
3.1.15 Metal-detector Test and Calibration areas

Metal-detector Test and Calibration areas must be established whenever metal-detectors will be used at a Task.

The following rules should be applied:

1. Metal-detector Test and Calibration areas should be positioned between each Rest-area and the base-line.
2. The areas must be carefully cleared of all metal to a depth of 25 cm or greater. When the depth is reached and a deeper metal-signal is still present, the position of the area should be changed.
3. The areas must be positioned away from metallic items such as the scrap-metal pit or metal hazardous area markers.
4. The areas should be approximately one metre square and marked at each corner with a white picket or painted stone.
5. The metal-detector Calibration area must be a metal-free area.
6. The metal-detector Test area must be a metal-free area in which a target mine is buried with the top of the mine at the required Clearance depth for the Task. The hole must be filled with earth after the mine is placed and water applied so that the earth settles.
7. The target mines should be an example of the most difficult to detect mine that may be present at the Task. When several types of mine are anticipated in the hazardous area, the mine with the smallest metal-content should be selected to be the target mine.
8. Every deminer and every detector must be used to detect the target mine before being used for work. This gives confidence that all the mines can be detected at the required depth.
9. Target mines should be prepared by the Platoon EOD Operative and painted red. The High Explosive content should be removed but they should contain all of the metal in a live mine, and the metal must be in the correct position. The firing train should be blocked with plastic or epoxy glue so that the detonator cannot be fired. They must not be marked FFE because they will still contain a detonator.
10. When the mines in an area are not known, a typical minimum metal AP mine should be used. The Platoon EOD Operative should prepare and paint some of these ready for use.

The photograph below shows the metal inside some common AP mines



Target mines that are not being used must be stored in a secure container in the Explosives storage area.

3.1.16 Scrap-metal pits

All metal collected from the working area should be placed in scrap-metal pits. When large metal items are collected, they should be taken directly to the site rubbish pit.

The following rules should be applied:

1. Each scrap metal pit should be at least 15cm deep and measure at least 50 x 50 cm. The picture below shows a scrap-metal pit in an area where fragmentation mines were used.
2. Scrap metal pits should be marked with a white topped picket or a white painted stone at each corner.
3. Scrap metal pits should be positioned conveniently for the deminers to place metal as they move from the SHA to the Rest-area.
4. Even when metal-detector procedures are not used, all visible battle debris must be collected and placed in these pits.
5. When work at the Task has been completed, all the metal collected must either be buried in a pit a metre deep or used in concrete to make permanent post-Clearance marking.

3.1.17 Rubbish pit

Every Task site must have a rubbish pit in which all rubbish generated by the site staff must be placed. This is essential for health and hygiene, and also to promote site discipline and professional attention to detail.

The following rules should be applied:

1. Items thrown into the pit should stay inside the pit, so it must be deep enough to prevent the wind blowing rubbish out.
2. When a pit is half full, it should be filled with earth and another pit prepared close by.
3. The size of the Rubbish pit will depend on the length of time that the Task is expected to take to complete. The minimum size should be 60cm deep with sides measuring 1.5 metres x 1 metre. When an excavation machine is available to assist, the pit should be deeper.

NOTE: *Demining flail machines must not be used to excavate pits. They were not designed for this purpose and may be damaged.*

3.1.18 Latrine

A latrine is not only necessary to promote personal health and hygiene, it can also prevent accidents occurring when staff go into unknown areas for privacy.

The following rules must be applied:

1. When field staff include women, or women visitors are anticipated, the Task site must have at least one screened pit latrine designated for female use.
2. At all Tasks, at least one pipe-urinal and a pit latrine must be constructed and surrounded with simple screens.
3. On large sites, pipe-urinals should be installed close to Rest-areas.
4. When there is only one latrine area, it should be positioned between the Administration area and the Rest-area(s).

3.1.19 Helicopter Landing Site (HLS)

When a helicopter CASEVAC is available, a landing site should be established in a safe-area.

The organisation supplying the helicopter service should define the size of the HLS and the approach conditions that they need. They should also explain how the HLS must be marked on the ground. The Task identification number, HLS grid reference and description must be provided to the organisation providing the helicopter service.

The photograph shows a Helicopter Landing Site marked on a road.

3.1.20 Demolition site

The demolition site is the place where discovered mines and ordnance are destroyed by explosive demolition, chemical burning or in fires.

The following rules must be applied:

1. The demolition site should be at least 20 metres square with all vegetation removed.
2. The demolition site should be a place where it is easy to prevent people or livestock approaching during demolitions.
3. The demolition site should be as far as possible from any houses, roads or footpaths in the area.
4. Because demolitions will not be conducted while demining is taking place, the demolition area can be close to the Start-line when this is convenient.

5. The perimeter of the demolition site should be marked with Hazardous Area pickets at least every five metres and with mine warning signs at least every 20 metres.
6. If the demolition procedure will use high-explosives, the demolition area should not be within 250 metres of a place where people live. If it must be positioned within 250 metres of place where people live, a deep pit and extensive protective works should be prepared.
7. When demolition will be by chemical burning or in fires, the protective works that are necessary depend on whether the device is fuzed. If it does not have a fuze or detonator, the hazard it represents is very low. The requirements of the burning demolition area are covered in detail in Chapter 10 of these SOPs.
8. Shallow pits should be prepared in the Demolition area for the collected mines and ERW to be placed. The pits must be 15cm deep and large enough to allow all mines and ERW to be placed without touching each other.
9. When the ground is wet and pits would be flooded, a rack above ground should be constructed and the mines and ERW stored on top of it. The rack must be constructed so that devices cannot fall through it or roll off the sides.
10. A temporary shade should be erected over the area where stored mines and ERW are placed pending destruction.
11. When mines and ERW are to be destroyed by burning, burning pits should be prepared as detailed in Chapter 10 of these SOPs. Burning pits need not be prepared until after mines and ERW have been found.

When the demolition site is being used, a security cordon must be established outside the perimeter at (or beyond) the demolition safety-distance for the items being destroyed.

3.1.21 Fuel storage

When fuel is stored at the Task, a Fuel storage area must be prepared and marked.

The following rules should be applied:

1. The Fuel storage area should be at least 20 metres from any other site feature.
2. The Fuel storage area must be at least 30 metres away from the Explosive storage area.
3. Vegetation should be removed over an area of at least 10 metres around the Fuel storage area. The vegetation in this area should be cut frequently. The cut vegetation must be removed to a distance of at least 30 metres before burning it.
4. A sign must be erected on the access-lane leading to the Fuel storage area reminding those approaching that no one may smoke within 20 metres of the Fuel storage area. Smoking materials should be left beside the sign and collected when leaving the area.
5. A fire extinguisher should be positioned outside the Fuel storage area in a place that is easily visible.

3.2 Site variations for a linear Task

A linear Task is a Task that follows a line on the map. It may be a road or railway, or the proposed route for a power line, telephone cable or pipeline, etc.

The Site preparation for these areas varies from that for a Task that covers an area in a single location defined with a polygon on a map. The safe-area features required for manual demining should be established at the start of the Task. When the Platoon must establish a base-camp in the area, the safe-area features may be a part of the base-camp when the Task begins.

The Landmark, bench-mark and Turning points on the Start-line must be established and recorded as described in Part 3.1. Other features may be adjusted as described below.

1. Perimeter marking;

2. Turning points;
3. Start-line;
4. Base-line;
5. Administration area;
6. Parking area;
7. Access-lanes;
8. Equipment storage area;
9. Temporary explosive storage area (when required);
10. Rest areas;
11. Control points;
12. Paramedic post;
13. Metal detector test and calibration areas (when required);
14. Scrap-metal collection pits;
15. Rubbish pit;
16. Latrine(s);
17. Helicopter Landing Site (when required);
18. Demolition site; and
19. Fuel storage area (when required).

3.2.1 Perimeter marking

The perimeter of a linear task need not be marked before the Task is started except at the Start-line. As work progresses, perimeter marking should be used to mark the extent of the area processed. This is not marking the border to a hazardous area, it is marking the border to an area with No Known Threat, so Hazardous area signs should not be used.

NOTE: *When the processing of the SHA/CHA leads to mines being found and there is suspicion that the mined area continues outside the area being processed, Hazardous area signs should be placed and a Hazardous Area report submitted to the NMAA.*

When the extent of the processed area is obvious because the procedures have removed all vegetation and/or processed the ground, perimeter marking may be reduced to a picket at every 25 metres.

3.2.2 Start-line

When a linear Task is being conducted, the Start-line should be marked by hazardous area pickets placed every five metres to the extent of the area being Cleared. When a road or railway that is being used is part of the Start-line, markers should be placed on both sides of the road or railway.

3.2.3 Base-line

The base-line marking that is used during demining procedures on a linear task must always make it entirely obvious which areas have been processed and which have not. Whatever demining procedures are used, the marking that is detailed in the relevant SOPs should be used. Any variation must be an increase in marking, never a reduction.

3.2.4 Administration-areas

At a linear Task, a fixed Administration area will quickly become distanced from the advancing base-line. The Administration area at any Task must always have easy access to the base-line. When the base-line on any part of the Task is a kilometre or more away, the Administration-area should be moved closer to the base-line.

At a road Task, the road surface itself is usually processed first and when that has been Reduced or Cleared, work on the verges is conducted using the edges of the road as the base-line.

The Administration area must always be close to the advancing base-line, but the base-line on the road may be kilometres in advance of the base-line on the verges. Similar situations may occur at any linear task where machines are being used in one area and manual or MDD procedures in another. When this may occur, a Platoon Supervisor and a Platoon Commander should work separately in two separate Administration areas covering the same Task. The Task Supervisor retains responsibility for ensuring that the control and documentation of the entire Task is conducted correctly.

The Administration area(s) must move rapidly and frequently, so can be established in vehicles. Administration can be conducted from any vehicle of a suitable size that has appropriate communication facilities. When communication by other means is not assured, a satellite telephone may be used as a secondary communication system.

A mobile Administration Area should be parked in one of the turning/passing areas that are established at intervals along the Task.

3.2.5 Parking area

Parking areas at a Linear Task must be established wherever demining machines or vehicles may be left unattended. Vehicles and demining machines must not park in passing areas if the vehicle will be left unattended because vehicles may need to pass in an emergency so passing areas should never be obstructed.

3.2.6 Access-lanes

Access lanes connecting the Administration area with all other site features cannot be used when the Administration area is mobile. All linear Tasks should either have an access lane along the middle or an access lane prepared to one side. When the task is a road, the demining of the road often creates an access lane for the demining of the verges. The Linear-Task access lane must be two metres wider than any vehicle or demining machine that will be used at the Task.

Linear task access-lanes should be marked with Hazardous area pickets or red painted stones on both sides. When the access lane runs along one side of the Task, the outer area marking should be treated as perimeter marking.

3.2.7 Access-lane Turning/passing areas

Turning/passing areas should be made at least twice the width of the largest vehicle using the access lanes every 250 metres or closer. When long vehicles are used, the passing area must be wide enough to allow the vehicle to turn safely. The Turning areas may be used as mobile Administration Areas as long as the driver always remains with the Administration vehicle.

Turning areas should be well marked and must not be used for parking unattended vehicles.

3.2.8 Traffic control

If possible, the road or railway should be closed to all traffic. When that is not possible, traffic control measures must ensure that traffic is halted while demining procedures are taking place. This may require the use of traffic cones and barriers.

Vehicles and demining machines should move to parking areas to allow traffic to pass in a coordinated way.

NOTE: *No demining procedures may be conducted when vehicles or trains are passing within the Task safety-distance.*

3.2.9 Equipment storage area

The equipment storage area in a linear task should be in a vehicle kept in a parking area a maximum of 250 metres from the deminers it serves. When this is not possible, Equipment storage areas should be prepared as described in Part 3.1.8 within 250 metres of the deminers they serve.

3.2.10 Temporary Explosive storage area

The Explosive storage area should be established at the Platoon base-camp as described in Part 3.1.9 of this Chapter. When a linear Task continues for more than ten kilometres, that Base camp should be advanced onto a Cleared area closer to the area being worked.

High Explosive that is moved along a linear Task is not generally moving on a public road but must be moved in a secure container separately from the detonators and initiators.

3.2.11 Rest areas

Rest areas as described in Part 3.1.10 of this Chapter should be established by the Section Leader or MDD Team Leader at a suitable distance from the working deminers. The rest areas may be established in a parking area where it will not impede emergency access to positions further along the Task, or in an area to the side of the Task that has been prepared for the purpose. If a transport vehicle is available, it may be used as a Rest area.

3.2.12 Control points

Control points as described in Part 3.1.11 of this Chapter must be established by the Section Leader or MDD Team Leader at a suitable distance from the working deminers. The Control point may be established in a parking area where it will not impede emergency access to positions further along the Task. If a transport vehicle is available, it may be kept in a Parking area and used as a Control point and/or Rest area.

3.2.13 Paramedic posts

Paramedic posts should always be not more than five minutes away from the furthest person working in the SHA. At linear tasks where the deminers are inside machines, the Paramedic may be positioned inside an MPV not more than five minutes drive away from the furthest working person.

When machines are not being used, the Paramedic post should be positioned at the side of a Passing place at the Task safety-distance (or more) from the working deminers.

3.2.14 Metal-detector Test and Calibration areas

Even on linear tasks, metal-detector Test and Calibration areas as described in Part 3.1.15 of this Chapter must be established whenever Clearance with metal-detectors is conducted. They should be between the Rest-area and the area where the deminers are working.

3.2.15 Scrap-metal collection pits

Scrap metal pits as described in Part 3.1.16 of this Chapter should be established at the sides of parking areas along the Task. Whatever procedures are being used, all battle debris should be collected and placed in these pits. At the end of the Task, the debris should be collected and taken outside the bench-mark and Start-line for burial.

NOTE: *If harmless battle debris is left, confidence in the demining may be diminished when people find it later.*

3.2.16 Rubbish pits

Rubbish pits as described in Part 3.1.17 of this Chapter should be established along the task at convenient intervals. Rubbish must always be collected and burned or buried.

3.2.17 Latrine(s)

Latrine areas as described in Part 3.1.18 of this Chapter should be placed conveniently for need along the Task area. As a minimum, pipe urinals should be erected at the side of passing areas.

3.2.18 Helicopter Landing Site

When a helicopter CASEVAC is available, the HLS should be established at the base-camp. When the base-camp must be at a significant distance from the working deminers, a temporary HLS may be established closer to the base-line. The HLS should be established as described in Part 3.1.19 of this Chapter.

3.2.19 Demolition site

At linear tasks, temporary demolition sites should be established in safe areas behind the working deminers. Each demolition site must have the features described in Part 3.1.20 of this Chapter.

3.2.20 Fuel storage area

The Fuel storage area should be established at the base camp. Machines and vehicles should return to the base camp for refuelling except in an emergency.

3.3 Site variations for EOD spot Tasks

EOD spots tasks are conducted on mines or ERW that are in a single place that has been identified with a grid reference.

Several Tasks may be conducted in less than a day. The EOD Operative and the Spot Task team will be based at a Platoon and most of the safe-area features, including the Administration area will be shared with the Platoon, so may be some distance away.

The spot task will be identified from a bench-mark and GPS co-ordinates. Its position should also be confirmed by local residents whenever possible. It need not be marked with any permanent marking. Marking used during the task will depend on the nature of the Task. The work of EOD Spot Task Teams is described in Chapter 6 of these SOPs.

All battle debris and any remains of devices destroyed must be removed when the spot task is completed. Metal items should be placed in a metal collection area at the base-camp.

3.4 Site variations for MDD deployment

The following adjustments to safe-area requirements should be made when MDDs will be used at the site. Other site features are the same as described in Part 3.1 or 3.2 of this Chapter.

3.4.1 Start-line and Base-line

The Start-line and base-line should be replaced with MDD marking system where the dogs are working. The MDD marking system varies according to the search patterns being used. MDD marking systems are detailed in Chapter 8 of these SOPs.

3.4.2 MDD rest area(s)

The MDD rest area(s) must be established at least 50 metres from the Explosive storage and the Demolition areas. When planning where to site MDD rest areas, those responsible should ensure that the wind direction will not carry explosive scent from the Explosive storage and Demolition

areas to the MDD. The MDD Rest area should be shaded, quiet and designed so that the MDDs cannot see other activity at the Task. Plentiful clean water should be provided for the dogs.

The MDD Team is responsible for selecting the best position(s) for MDD Rest Areas and preparing the areas as described in Chapter 8 of these SOPs.

3.4.3 MDD training area

An MDD training area close to the Task must be prepared in accordance with the MDD SOPs in Chapter 8 of these SOPs. The MDD Co-ordinator is responsible for selecting the best position for the MDD Training Area and giving instructions for its preparation in accordance with the MDD SOPs.

The Platoon EOD Operator is responsible for providing target mines and ERW to the MDD Team. The target mines and ERW must be safe, but must contain their High Explosive charge. They should not include their detonator. They must be examples of the types of mine and ERW that are expected at the Task. Ideally, they should be devices recovered from the same Task.

3.5 Site variations for demining machines

When demining machines are used at a Task, the following adjustments to safe-area requirements should be made. Other site features are the same as described in Part 3.1 or 3.2 of this Chapter.

3.5.1 Lane widening

Access lanes to the base-line and the base-line itself must me wide enough to allow the machine to gain access without destroying lane marking. Generally, straight sections of access lanes must be at least two metres wider than the machine. Corners must be widened to allow the machine to be manoeuvred and turned without destroying marking.

3.5.2 Base-line marking

When base-line marking is removed to allow a machine to enter the SHA, that marking must be replaced as soon as the machine has been withdrawn.

The principle that the line between safe-areas and Threat areas must always be obviously marked must be respected at all times. The Mechanical Team is responsible for ensuring that marking is moved and replaced with no delay. Section picket flags may be used as marking where machines are being used because they can be easier to see in dusty conditions.

3.5.3 Parking and maintenance

Suitable areas for parking and maintaining the machine(s) must be prepared and marked as safe areas. When the machine is provided with a support workshop, the workshop must be sited outside the Parking area in a prepared and marked safe area. Generally the Workshop should be sited within sight of the Administration area for security.

3.5.4 Machine Inspection areas

One or more Inspection areas must be prepared for all machines that will be used inside the SHA. The Inspection area is used to check that no mines or ERW have become attached to the machine or its tool whenever the machine leaves the SHA.

Machine Inspection areas must be:

1. Positioned in a safe-area conveniently close to the base-line;
2. Cleared of all vegetation;
3. Marked with safe-area pickets; and

4. Large enough to allow the machine to be parked with access for inspection on all sides.

As the base-line moves forward, machine Inspection areas should be moved into safe areas conveniently close to the new base-line.