

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Humanitarian Demining Training Center

**T**he Department of Defense Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC), at Fort Lee, Virginia, is a component of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). HDTC trains and prepares U.S. military forces, other U.S. government stakeholders, and international partners to build partner-nation capacity in land-based and underwater UXO disposal and PSSM of conventional stockpiled munitions. HDTC's responsibilities include validating HMA project plans and budgets, and monitoring and evaluating global Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA)-funded HMA activities.

HDTC curricula include courses on demining and stockpiled conventional munitions assistance (SCMA). Demining subjects cover demining and BAC, EOD, and underwater UXO disposal. SCMA subjects include PSSM of conventional stockpiled munitions. Training is conducted in accordance with U.S. law and policy, and international guidelines governing mine action, UXO disposal, and PSSM. The center uses a three-phase approach to provide program management support to the U.S.'s geographic combatant commands. When a partner nation is accepted into the Department of Defense mine action program, HDTC deploys program analysts to assess the state of a partner nation's capability to conduct demining and PSSM. The assessment provides a viable plan with established objectives and outcomes and is a tool used by combatant commands to request OHDACA-funded resources to execute mine action and PSSM projects. DSCA, in consultation with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Stability, and Humanitarian Affairs, and PM/WRA approves mine action projects.

In addition, the center provides program management support, capacity-building training, or technical assistance, for the mine action programs and PSSM administered by the U.S. military's geographic combatant commands: African Command, Central Command, European Command, Indo-Pacific Command, and Southern Command. HDTC personnel provide a suite of tools and expertise to perform PSSM, landmine clearance, EOD, and underwater UXO disposal in partnership with other public organizations or private industry. The beneficiaries of capacity building are junior military officers, non-commissioned officers, and civil servants tasked with conducting mine action operations. In order to sustain the capabilities of partner nation HMA programs, HDTC, in coordination with PM/WRA, executes mine action projects to enhance the skills of mine action managers and ministerial or executive level personnel. These projects include seminars and workshops on legal, policy, and programmatic topics at the operational and strategic level.

In FY2020, HDTC spent \$15.5 million dollars to execute its global mission.

<https://home.army.mil/lee/index.php/units-tenants/humanitarian-demining-training-center>



Photo caption: At the request of the Kingdom of Morocco, U.S. Marine Corps Africa Command facilitated EOD Level 1 training for the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces.

HDTC oversees mine action programs administered by the U.S. military's combatant commands.

Photo courtesy of USARPACOM.

