ELIMINATING WEAPONS OF INDIVIDUAL DESTRUCTION:
LANDMINES
CLUSTERBOMBS
EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS of WAR
Medics treating the wounded, Iraq & Viet Nam.
Millions of unexploded **cluster bomblets, landmines, and other unexploded remnants of war** litter the globe. This garbage of war claims 15,000-20,000 victims each year.
- A landmine is designed to explode by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person and to injure or kill one or more persons.
- The majority of victims of landmines are civilians.
- The actual number of landmines currently in place globally is unknown, but estimates run as high as 60 million.
There are approximately 340 types of landmines available globally from arms dealers. Besides the landmines already in place, many countries have large stockpiles.
Landmines cost as little as $3 to produce. It costs between $300 to $1,000 to locate and destroy a landmine.
Tripwire & pressure release type landmine mechanisms.
What happens to a leg when someone steps on a landmine.
Results of stepping on a landmine.
Rehabilitation for landmine victims includes prosthetics, wheelchairs & crutches & physiotherapy. Prosthetics range from very simple to technologically advanced.
Landmine detection/clearance

- Landmine detection & clearance operations mainly make use of 3 methods:
  - Manual
  - Mechanical
  - Animals
Cluster Bombs

- Cluster bombs are dropped from the air and are designed to disperse bomblets over areas as large as several football fields, with a wide radius of death and destruction.
- Cluster bombs are useful to the military as they saturate an area with explosives and tiny flying shards of steel.
- Cluster bombs have a high initial failure rate which results in numerous explosive "duds" that pose the same problems as landmines. When the bomblets contained inside cluster bombs fail to explode on contact as intended, they become in effect landmines - volatile, deadly explosive remnants of war.
Cluster Bombs

- Cluster bombs have killed and injured thousands of civilians & military personnel during the last 40 years and continue to do so today. 34 countries are known to have produced over 210 different types of cluster bombs.
- More than two dozen countries have been affected by the use of cluster bombs. Between nine and 27 million unexploded cluster bombs remain in Laos from U.S. bombing campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s.
- The detection and clearance procedures for cluster bombs are similar to those used for landmines.
Like landmines, cluster bombs kill and injure long after a war ends—the injuries and treatment of cluster bomb victims are similar to that from landmines. Multiple injuries raise the level of pain and suffering, resulting in prolonged and difficult medical treatment which in developing countries is limited at best.
The Mine Ban Treaty obligates its participants to completely and permanently discontinue the use, production, stockpile, and transfer of antipersonnel landmines; to destroy stockpiles, and to provide continuing assistance to mine survivors.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of Cluster Munitions, clearance, destruction of stockpiles, and victim support.

The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection restricts the use and transfer of cluster munitions with higher than a 1 percent failure rate and limits the use of cluster munitions to clearly defined military targets not in the vicinity of civilians.
What we can do to eliminate these weapons of individual destruction:

• Educate ourselves and others about the deadly consequences of landmines, clusterbombs, and other unexploded remnants of war.

• Support local, national, and international organizations which work to reduce the number of landmines and clusterbombs and which provide support to the victims of unexploded remnants of war.

• Demand that our members of Congress and our Administration have the US join the Mine Ban Treaty and the Cluster Bomb Treaty and support The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act.
It is imperative that our government join the more than 150 countries that have agreed to end the production, use, stockpiling and trade in land mines, putting civilians and our own troops at risk of being maimed or killed. We must join the Land Mine Ban Treaty.

All weapons of war are evil, but land mines particularly so. They stay buried for years, wreaking carnage long after hostilities have ended. With land mines there is no warning just a sudden explosion and destruction, tissue, bones, and muscles are destroyed, nerves severed. With horrific force the concussion thrusts fragments of the weapon, debris, dirt, and bone splinters into the body.

As a medic with an infantry unit of US Marines in Vietnam in 1970, I administered first aid to Americans and Vietnamese wounded by land mines. I am deeply saddened that nearly four decades after I tried to save the victims of land mines, this horrific weapon is still taking its toll.

We must join the rest of the civilized world and sign the Land Mine Ban Treaty. We must do all we can to end this manmade epidemic of destruction.

When we use our resources to remove land mines, we are working to remove suffering, fear and impoverishment. We are working against the horrors of war and towards building a safer world for all citizens. We are working towards peace.

Sincerely,

Mike Felker
US Navy hospital corpsman 8/68-8/72
Medic, 1st Marine Division, Viet Nam 12/69-12/70
Philadelphia, PA 19130
The US Campaign to Ban Landmines (USCBL) is a coalition of thousands of organizations and people working to:

- Ban further US use, production, and export of anti-personnel landmines and cluster bombs.
- Encourage the US to join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and the cluster bomb treaty being negotiated in 2008.
- Get high levels of US government support for demining and assistance programs for victims of landmines, cluster bombs, and other unexploded remnants of war.

Resources

banminesusa.org/
Libya: new mine use by government forces
Amnesty International (AI) has reported discovering newly laid antipersonnel mines last week in a residential area of the city of Misrata. The mines are Brazilian produced plastic T-AB-1. This is the same type that was used by the government forces in March on the outskirts of the town of Ajdabiya, as reported by Human Rights Watch.
More than three decades after the Vietnam War, explosive remnants of war (ERW) still pose a deadly threat to the daily lives of the people of Vietnam.

Since 1975, more than 100,000 Vietnamese nation-wide have been killed or injured by landmines, old bombs, artillery shells, grenades, and a variety of other ERW.

A partnership between the government and international organizations, Project RENEW is working to end that deadly legacy.
Mine Action Information Center
www.hdic.jmu.edu

Is a public policy center at James Madison University that manages information, conducts training, holds conferences and workshops, and performs research relevant to humanitarian mine clearance, victim assistance, mine risk reduction and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). The goal is a world where people can build peaceful and prosperous futures free from the repercussions of conflict and disaster.
Despite mounting evidence of humanitarian harm, many governments are reluctant to give up cluster bombs. Governments must place the protection of civilians at the core of their approach to the treaty, not the protection of unacceptable weapons.

The Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) is a global network of more than 350 organizations working to end the harm caused by cluster bombs.
Veterans for Peace Landmine & Clusterbomb Resource Page

www.vets4peacephila.org/landmines.html

U.N. Stop Landmines  www.stoplandmines.org/slm/index.html

No Clusterbombs  www.clusterbombs.us/

A mother talks about her Marine son’s death due to a clusterbomb
http://wn.com/Cluster_Bombs_Kill_Lynn_Bradach%27s_Story
We must do all we can to eradicate this man-made epidemic of landmines, clusterbombs, and other explosive remnants of war.

When we use our resources to lessen the number of weapons globally, we are working to remove death, suffering, and fear.

We are working against the horrors of war and violence. We are working to building a safer world for all citizens. We are working for peace.