



ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

The Indiscriminate Killer

Overcoming challenges to accede to the *Ottawa Convention*

“The Road to Cartagena”

John MacBride, DFAIT Canada
Dushanbe 8 July, 2009



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Universalization Contact Group



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All States Parties have undertaken the obligation to promote universalization of the Convention through:

- the Convention;
- the Nairobi Declaration; and
- the Nairobi Action Plan 2005 to 2009



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Status of Universalization

156 states have ratified or acceded to the Convention

2 signed almost 12 years ago but have not ratified

37 other States remain outside the Convention

195* = Success!

* Total number of States as of April 2009



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What's the delay?

Why has the state not joined?

- Is it because of national security concerns?
- Is the state currently in conflict?
- Are there border issues, resource issues, political issues?
- Is it insufficient capacity to action accession or ratification?



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The Greatest Challenge!

**Perception of a
National Security
Need**



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Historical Perspective



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Some thoughts from retired military leaders

“I know of no situation in the Korean War, nor in the five years I served in Southeast Asia, nor in Panama, nor in Desert Storm where our use of mine warfare truly channelized an enemy and brought them into a destructive pattern” - Gen Alfred Grey, USMC

“There is no case known where AP mines as such have influenced a campaign, a battle or even a skirmish in a decisive way. They marginally increase the usefulness of the AT minefields as instruments of delay and marginally raise the human cost of breaching them. These effects while not negligible are nevertheless simply not worth the candle when measured against the scale of human suffering they cause - Gen Sir Hugh Beach, British Army



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Some concerns often expressed

- Is this really a humanitarian problem, just how many civilians have been injured or killed?
- Why take away a weapon that protects our soldiers?
- Responsible armies mark their minefields - why won't that work?

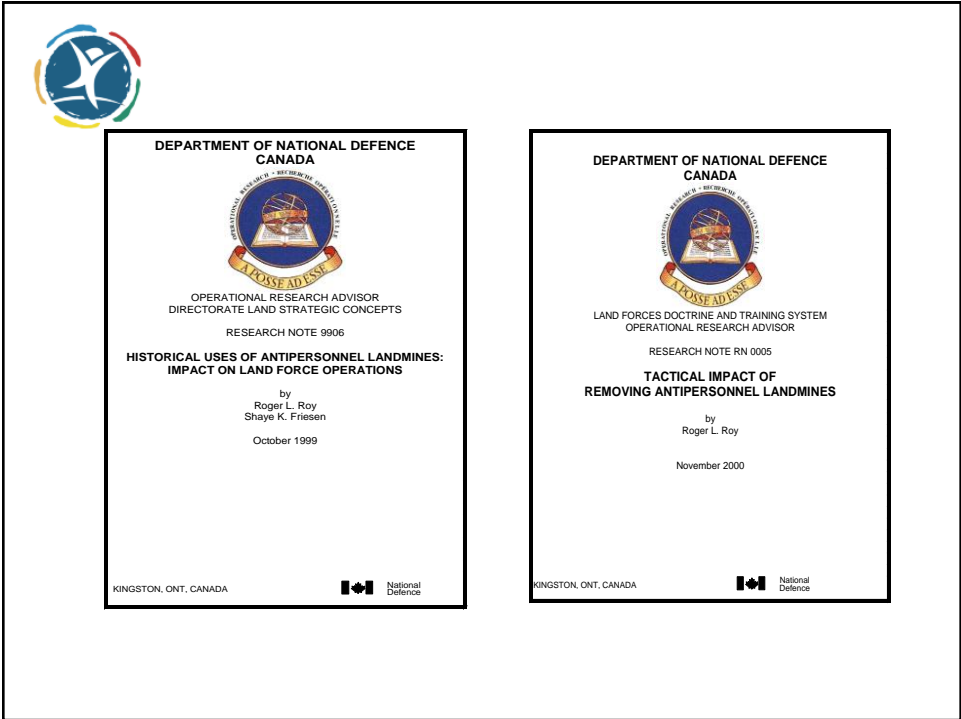


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Some concerns often expressed

- I need them because my neighbour has them.
- My national security depends on these mines.
- I need them to protect my border.
- I cannot afford to replace them.





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Seeking A Solution

What Others are Doing



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Conclusion

