VOP Nováky
Joint-Stock company

Main Activities
Industrial
Explosive
Ordnance
Disposal
- long time experiences
FACTORY MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Production of drill, blank and live ammo,
- Development and production of special equipment,
- Ammo repair activities,
- Dismantling and disposal of surplus conventional ammo performed with environmental responsibility,
- Other activities included foreign ammo disposal,

Big role of the factory in the process of demilitarization in the Slovakia and also in close European region,
Factory halls
Dislocation of Nováky

SLOVAKIA (Central Part)
Valley near the town NOVÁKY

Latitude: N 48° 45,000´
Longitude: 18°32,000´
Generally there were 7 explosions, 3 larger, observed from large distances – several tenth of km;

In the time of explosions, there were 49 people working on afternoon shift in VOP Nováky.
SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT

- 8 dead
- 1 persistent effect
- 30 injured
- Total damages on buildings in 100 m distance from the explosion site,
- Serious building and environment damages in 300 m
- Significant damages on buildings and infrastructure along the valley including military facilities in the neighborhood,
- Frag dispersion in 1 km distance,
- Blast overpressure destroying impact in the vicinity - approximately in 15 km distance from the explosive site,
Damages overview

- There were about 1200 t of ammunition in VOP Nováky before explosion.
- Escape of the harmful agents from the store of chemicals, placed in VOP was confirmed, but within serious impact on humane organism.
The rescue teams:
• Fire protection and rescue system,
• Medical Rescue System,
• Bomb disposal and forensic experts of Police,
• MOD and Army SR experts,
• Chemical laboratory of Civil Protection SR,
• Military Police,
• VOP Nováky employees.
In the rescue works there were participated:
- 152 firemen from 24 units
- 50 fireman vehicles
- 10 medical rescue system teams
- 2 400 000 liters of water was consumed during burning liquidation
Hall „A“ before incident
Place of former Hall „A“
The day after
Damages overview – The day after
Damages overview – The day after
Main directions of concrete parts from the hall „A“ ejection
Main crater – the largest detonation - No 3 - dimensions 34x21 m depth apr. 7 m
Residual parts of hall „A“
Damaged buildings in the neighborhood
Victims positions

Marking of room 26- flares
( acoustic and flash) disassembly
Place of the first initiation!!
Lokalizace a následná výběr:  
1 - T: 16.26:24  
2 - T: 16.26:55  
3 - T: 16.28:05
Cleared area procedures

• Clearance of civilian and military areas in the neighbourhood of VOP Nováky
• Investigation and collection of information about situation in VOP before the incident (production, storage of ammo, type of ammo...)
• Analyses
Clearence area procedures

• Creation of three separated areas in VOP according to the potential risk with some restriction (movement of persons and technics, guards, checking..):

1. Zone „A“- The most danger –only BDO experts movements allowed.
3. Zone „C“ free movement of VOP people and technics
Transport more dangerous flash powder from Nováky to Military area Záhorie

42 t flash powder per night 00.00 - 04.00

14 lorry (T815)

Cooperation with army, police, military police, police special force, fire and rescue system and international rescue system (medical support)
SUPPORT TEAMS
The biggest challenge for EOD Capabilities in SVK since the WW II,

EOD clearance difficulties because of ruins mixture with suspected explosive remnants of different types (UXO),

Status – large bulk of Explosives remnants waits for disposal by EOD
Affect on the EOD area and commitments

- Not significant, however some reasonable delays have been occurred due to the damages and EOD main assets used in CM process,

- TTPs used might be not perfect but validation brought desirable result – no injuries neither casualties

- This Lessons Learned has shown the EOD capabilities needs and its connection with CM, it also strengthen our effort in its development,
Accident site clearance after the most dangerous EOD jobs performed
„Last minutes“ of the clearing area
Work results

Manpower used:
- 25 ammunition, pyrotechnic and forensic experts
- 45 BDOs and EOD experts
- 60 people in staff and logistic support teams – MP, drivers, mechanics, medical support,…-
- 16 pieces special mechanics (earthmovers, water rams, special clam …….)
Work results

During the works was found and destroyed:
- more than 2,85 million pieces of ammo (different calibers and types, and ammo elements)
- more than 612 t of explosives (pyrotechnic mixtures, TNT,..)

Specialists worked more than 29 000 hours.
- Special works cost: 1,8 mil. Euro.

Total cost of revitalization and recovery include compensable death: approximately 8,5 mil. Euro.
2010

- Police closed investigates
- Office of public prosecution accused 5 former top managers of VOP Nováky

- VOP Nováky has certificate:
  - EN ISO 9001:2000
  - AQAP 2120 – for production of defence products
  - National certificates for work with explosives

- Government decided about complete revision national regular policy of explosives and ammunitions and compare with EU regulatory policy, United Nations regulatory policy and STANAGs

- Ministry of Defence has beginning national program MUNLIK – total revision military SOPs, RSP and destroyed procedures for ammunitions and explosives. Develop new procedures
QUESTIONS?