



MECHEM (PTY) LTD



FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP 4: THE USE OF DOGS IN DEMINING

presented by

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subsidiary of  DENEL

WORKSHOP REPORT



- No such thing as the “right dog”:
 - Depends on climate and other factors.
 - Dog suited for Europe not necessarily suited for Africa.
 - Scientific cross breeding.
- Observations from demonstration:
 - Marking of indication.
 - Rewarding in box.
 - Full visor vs safety glasses/short visor.
- Importance of accreditation:
 - Need greater international standardization.
 - Polygons not only TNT mines, how many targets, which targets?
 - Accreditation officer needs experience.
- Dog care:
 - Not a machine.
 - Regular health checks.
 - Importance of companionship/human interaction.

WORKSHOP REPORT



- Dog Handlers:
 - Basic veterinary care training.
 - Care in selection, possible psychometric testing.
- Breeding of MDDs:
 - Very few specific MDD breeders.
 - Mainly redundant dogs not fit for show or ring sport.
 - Observational learning.
 - Natural weaning.
 - Regular aptitude tests.
- Different search patterns all have a place and role. Should conform to approved SOPs.
- Further research needed on what dog is smelling; agreement on both vapour and particulates. Including REST/MEDDS.
- Statistics in Croatia; dogs lowest “failure rate”. Manual highest.

WORKSHOP REPORT



- Need greater trust in MDDs; educate our EOD operators and deminers.
- No single demining tools is best; always need a combination for best results (toolbox).