



Organization of American States

***Perspectives concerning
humanitarian demining
in the Americas***



Humanitarian demining

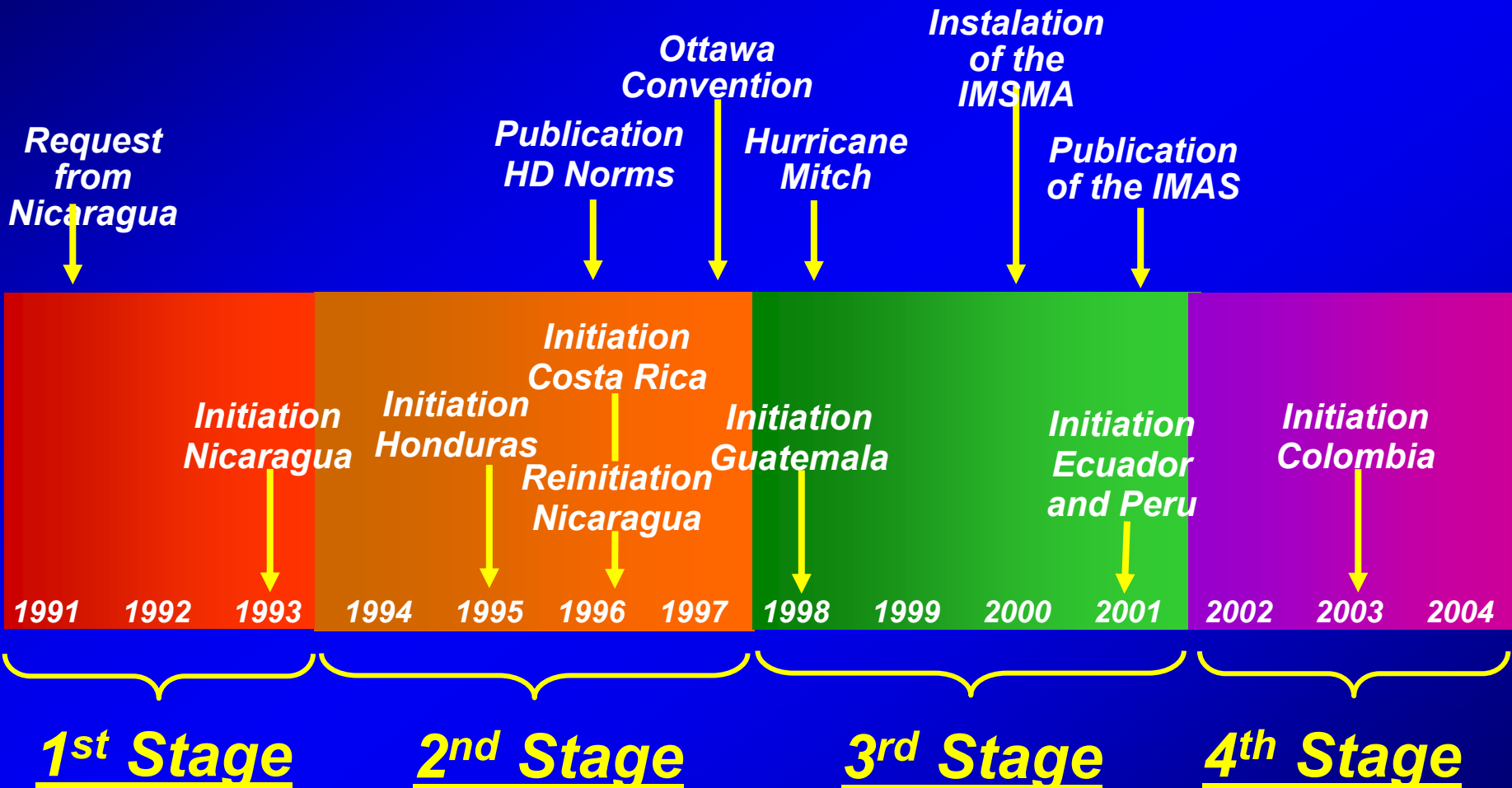
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The activities that result in the clearance of mines and UXO, include:

- ▶ ***Technical Surveys***
- ▶ ***Mapping***
- ▶ ***Clearance***
- ▶ ***Marking***
- ▶ ***Post clearance documentation***
- ▶ ***Liaison with affected community and***
- ▶ ***Returning of cleared land***

Evolution of OAS Program

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Program Concept

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Beneficiary Countries

Development of national police

OAS
(General
Direction)

IADB
(Technical
Advise
and
Supervision)

**Donor
Countries**
(Funds)

**Contributing
Countries**
(Personnel)

Civil-Military cooperation

International financing and supervision

Multilateral participation

Humanitarian effort

Topics Considered

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- ***Humanitarian demining norms***
- ***Administration and operative direction***
- ***Supervision and monitoring***
- ***Training for HD operations***
- ***Logistic aspects***
- ***Demining technique***
- ***Planning and prioritizing***
- ***Program conclusion***

Norms



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- ***Framework for orderly and logical process in HD operations***
 - ▶ ***IMAS (UN)***
 - ▶ ***Check list (OAS-IADB)***
 - ▶ ***PON (National entities)***
- ***Benefits***
 - ▶ ***Reduction in demining accidents***
 - ▶ ***Systematic quality assurance***

Administration and management

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- ***Integration of HD with other components***
- ***Cooperation between diverse governmental entities, civil as well as military***
- ***Mechanism for the incorporation of international organizations, non-governmental and civil society (i.e., National Demining Commission)***

Supervision and Monitoring

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- ***Function***

- ▶ ***Accreditation***
- ▶ ***Monitoring***
- ▶ ***Technical Advise***
- ▶ ***Security***
- ▶ ***Certification of procedures***

The credibility of the Program increases

- ***International vs. national***

Training

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- ***Individual training***
 - ▶ ***General***
 - ▶ ***Specialized***
 - ▶ ***For leaders***
 - ▶ ***Reinforcement and updating***
- ***Collective training***
 - ▶ ***Organizational***
 - ▶ ***Emphasis on integration of individuals***

For military organizations, a different training than that related to military operations is required.

Logistic aspects

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- ***Complement of national capacities with international support***
- ***Periodic replacement of equipment***
- ***Well-being of deminers***
 - ▶ ***Life conditions***
 - ▶ ***Evacuation and medical treatment system***
 - ▶ ***Life and disability insurance***

Techniques

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Manual



Mechanical



Canine

Planning and prioritizing

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- ***National priorities***
 - ▶ ***Concentration of victims and/or mines***
 - ▶ ***Development or recovery requirements***
- ***Identification of affected areas – need for an impact survey and database***
- ***Planning periods***
 - ▶ ***Short - 3 to 6 months***
 - ▶ ***Medium – 12 to 18 months***
 - ▶ ***Long – until operations are finalized***
- ***Integral planning of HD operations with training and other required activities***

Finalization of Programs

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- ***Indications***
 - ▶ ***Lack of accidents***
 - ▶ ***Significant decrease in the return of operations (located mines)***
- ***Employment of technical studies***
- ***Maintenance of a residual capacity for rapid response***
 - ▶ ***Established and well-known channels for reporting***
 - ▶ ***Mine risk education campaigns post-demining***

Role of the Military Forces

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Perceptions

- ***The military forces are trained for HD missions.***
- ***The military forces should only be employed in mine clearance activities.***
- ***The military forces can operated independently from other mine action components.***

Role of the Military Forces

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Realities

- ***Military units require specialized training before carrying out HD missions.***
- ***Military forces have the potential for employment in other components of mine action.***
 - ▶ ***Impact survey***
 - ▶ ***Destruction of stockpiled mines***
 - ▶ ***Mine risk education campaigns (within limits)***
- ***Military forces have participated integrally with other national entities in various aspects of mine action.***

Challenges



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- *The systematic collection of data about dangerous areas*
- *Integration of mine risk education campaigns with HD operations*
 - ▶ *Feedback channels from the inhabitants of affected areas to demining organizations*
- *More integrated planning of all requirements related to HD*
- *Bi-national collaboration in border areas*

Final considerations

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- ***The humanitarian demining programs in the Americas have evolved according to national necessities and situational requirements in parallel with the evolution of HD doctrine.***
- ***National and international contributions have been sustained due to the commitment and achievements of the program participants.***
- ***Future advances depend on the continuation of international efforts and the integration of national program lessons learned.***

Final considerations

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