

Database of International Experiences in support of the Test and Evaluation Community (DIETEC)

1 PURPOSE

The main aim is to collect and publish information derived from experiences in test and evaluation of humanitarian demining equipment. The collected “experiences” are intended to highlight key areas of consideration in the T&E process, as well as specific observations related to the evaluation of humanitarian demining equipment in operational use. The database is intended to provide useful information for a variety of T&E stakeholders, ranging from test engineers and entities involved in large-scale test and evaluation campaigns to the individual user at the field level interested in evaluating his/her specific piece of equipment.

2 DEFINITIONS AND DATABASE PROCESSING

The database, in its current version, provides a list of experiences. The experience may be positive or negative but should be:

- *Significant* in that it has real or assumed impact on operations;
- *Valid* in that it is factually and technically correct;
- *Applicable* in that it identifies a specific process, or decision that reduces or limits the potential for failures and mishaps, or reinforces a positive result and
- *Understandable* for a skilled person not necessarily intimately familiar with the subject matter (adapted from NASA’s Definition of Lessons Learned).

Any individual or organisation may submit an experience. However, a core set of experiences are planned to be extracted from publicly available resources (T&E reports on humanitarian demining equipment) and from T&E activities undertaken under the umbrella of the International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining Equipment (ITEP, <http://www.itep.ws/>).

The categories and subcategories distinguished in the database have been selected in order to provide the user with a structured overview of the main stages and factors that should be considered during T&E of humanitarian demining equipment. They expand on the structure given in the IMAS 03.40 on Test and Evaluation of Mine Action Equipment (first edition, 01.01.2003) and include the main technical categories used by ITEP (http://www.itep.ws/activities/itep_workplan/activities.html) and the GICHD Demining Equipment Catalogues (e.g. http://www.gichd.ch/pdf/MDE_Catalogue_2003/MDE_Cat_2003_Contents.pdf).

All experiences entered in the database will be periodically reviewed by a panel of experts from the ITEP network. An entry could be:

- Added directly to an ITEP T&E methodology: if the entry is seen as an important new way of carrying out tests. A spin off of this could be a request for further research to be carried out to back up new test methodology. This

further research could ultimately be executed in the form of a collaborative project under the ITEP umbrella,

- Added to a Lessons Learned database: if the entry reports an unexpected event during testing and outlines a strategy for dealing with it. When the entry is seen as having a significant impact on the testing method and is preferably backed up by at least two other experiences then the testing methodology shall be changed or updated to take into account this lesson.
- Circulated to the User Community: if the experience has an impact on the operational use of demining equipment/systems then it should be passed on to the User Community possibly through a Technical Note on Mine Action issued by the GICHD.
- Dismissed: if an entry does not fall into one of the above categories then it may be dismissed with reasons stated.

At its initial stage the database will only include “experiences”. After review, the database will be expanded with “lessons learned”, referenced to a set of experiences.

3 INSTRUCTIONS

The database consists of two main categories: *Generic Considerations* and *Equipment Specific Considerations*. Each main category has subcategories to explore the experiences in detail and to guide the user to add relevant experiences. Each subcategory can be browsed by clicking on the corresponding individual cell or by executing a detailed search. You can add an experience to a subcategory by clicking on the corresponding individual cell or on add experience.