



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION  
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**FY 2007 Budget Memo: Humanitarian Demining**

February 2006

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines estimates that 15,000-20,000 people are maimed or killed by landmines each year and that millions more suffer from the economic and psychological impact of the weapon. Unlike other humanitarian tragedies such as natural disasters and disease, the global landmine threat is human-made and can be rectified by human actions. Many countries, including the United States, are working diligently to relieve the human suffering caused these indiscriminate weapons. While there has been tremendous progress over the past decade, millions of people worldwide remain under threat. Landmines still lay underground waiting for someone or something to detonate the weapon in 84 countries.

On February 27, 2004, the Bush administration announced a new United States policy on landmines that significantly departed from past approaches to the landmine scourge. In unveiling the policy, the administration abandoned the decade-long objective to eventually eliminate all antipersonnel mines and retained the right to use landmines equipped with features that allow the weapon to self-destruct undefinedly. However, the policy did contain one notable positive humanitarian element which Congress should support – a significant increase in the funding level for demining.

The United States leads the world in donations to efforts to clear mines, provide assistance to victims, and educate communities on the risks of landmines; its contributions represent close to half the worldwide total for such initiatives. Since 1993, the U.S. has donated over \$1 billion, funding research and development on new demining technologies. When announcing its new policy in 2004, the Bush administration pledged to increase the funds available to support the State Department's portion of the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program by an additional 50% over fiscal year (FY) 2003 baseline levels. This would raise the level to about \$70 million per year. At \$64.3 million, the State Department's portion of the FY 2007 budget falls short of the \$70 million target. When the president fails to live up to his pledge, the Congress should step in and act.

**Humanitarian Mine Action\***

	Administration Request	House Version	Senate Version	Final
FY 2004	\$75,600,000	\$75,600,000	\$75,600,000	\$75,600,000
FY 2005	\$89,800,000	\$85,300,000	\$89,800,000	\$89,800,000
FY 2006	\$106,300,000	\$90,300,000	\$106,300,000	\$90,300,000**
FY 2007	\$98,800,000			

\* Additional funds were contributed through supplemental appropriation bills for reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan (\$35.8 million in FY 04 and \$9 million in FY 05)

\*\* While cutting the annual appropriation, the FY 06 conference report funds the entire demining request through unobligated prior year balances.

While other U.S. government agencies do support specific mine action initiatives, funding support come primarily from the Departments of State and Defense. The State Department manages two programs: 1) the Humanitarian Demining

Program which provides assistance to mine-affected countries through corporations, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations, and 2) the Slovenian International Trust Fund (ITF) assisting mine-affected countries in the Balkan region. Both programs are funded through the Nonproliferation , Antiterrorism, Demining, and Relation Programs (NADR) in the foreign operations appropriations bill.

Through the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid account (OHDACA), the Defense Department provides training by U.S. Special Forces on the procedures of landmine clearance, mine awareness, and victims' assistance, as well as the development of leadership and organizational skills necessary to sustain the programs after U.S. military trainers are no longer present. The Department of Defense also supports research and development of technologies that may help detect and remove mines from the ground.

#### **Breakdown of Budget Request**

	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>
<b>State Department (NADR)</b>	\$50,000,000	\$59,900,000	\$72,000,000	\$64,300,000
<b>International Trust Fund</b>	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
<b>Defense Department (training)</b>	\$2,800,000	\$6,500,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
<b>Defense Department (R&amp;D)</b>	\$12,800,000	\$13,400,000	\$14,300,000	\$14,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,600,000</b>	<b>\$89,800,000</b>	<b>\$106,300,000</b>	<b>\$98,800,000</b>

The United States should continue to support essential humanitarian mine action programs in order to create the conditions for political, social, and economic stability and to encourage human security. Removing mines from the ground is an essential part of post-conflict recovery. By blocking access to essential land and infrastructures, landmines prevent post-war reconstruction and development programs from achieving their goals. International aid organizations and corporate investors are deterred from sending employees into regions where they are threatened by these indiscriminate weapons. Without adequate development, many former combatants often turn to crime or violence as their only means of survival. Thus, half of post conflict situations slip back into conflict partially due to inadequate post-conflict development and reintegration programs. The U.S. can help save lives and assist countries in their effort to break vicious cycle of conflict and underdevelopment by adequately funding mine action programs.

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*This memo was produced by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). FCNL is a Quaker lobby in the public interest and is the largest peace lobby in Washington, DC. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people from many different races, religions, and cultures to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government. For more information, see FCNL's website at <http://www.fcnl.org>.*