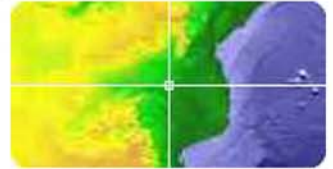


Rabbit 1.0 - Field Test Report

2km outside Vila Eduardo-Mondlane, Gaza Province, Mozambique

Date 24th October 2006

Weather Conditions: Fair/ Clear 73 degrees Fahrenheit



My friends at the British De-Mining Organisation invited Alex and myself to trial my latest creation, after struggling to detect several improvised explosive devices. They are still in the process of acquiring the latest Aardvark Mk 4, and their mine clearance expert has been taken ill.

Dr Zhu and I parked up by a mine field, next to the signs that read Perigo Minas! A group of village women were grieving for their dead; two men and a young girl were fatally wounded by land mines whilst seeking provisions and water.

I surveyed the terrain, a plot of fertile farmland tainted with bunkers and ditches, now hidden by rich vegetation; beneath it lurked the memories of a painful civil war.

My colleague, Dr Alex Zhu, videoed the exercise. We chose a section of about 100 square metres for our test, an area that would take a trained mine clearer over a week to declare safe.

I deployed Rabbit at the periphery of the field. At first I thought that Rabbit had malfunctioned; he nervously hopped from his cage, sniffing the air. I think it might be a reaction to the strong magnetic fields emitted from his internal hardware, that or he was as nervous as I was.

I'd mapped out a 3D grid of the area, relaying this information to Rabbit's inbuilt computer, before initialising the test sequence. I then started the stopwatch. Rabbit disappeared into the minefield. He moved so fast that both myself and Alex struggled to track him with our own eyes - we were chasing dust clouds. I had to rely on my computer screen to track his movements as he swept the entire area with a new type of sonar device that Zhu and I had patented.

Several minutes passed before my grid readings were complete. 32 devices had been detected just in that one area; my monitor resembled a game board of battleships with blue icons flaring diagonally and horizontally across. I told Zhu to zoom out with his camera before I initialised Rabbit's high intensity magnetic field generator. During this time the village women had gathered around us, watching as I instructed Rabbit to detonate the mines.

Explosions sent fountains of black earth peppering across the horizon as Rabbit detonated each device. Some of the villagers screamed, thinking that they were about to be carpet bombed like they had several years before. I watched the blue signals disappear one by one.

The last mine exploded only metres away from our position. The wind blew dust across our faces and we all turned away to shield our eyes. When I turned back I saw Rabbit cross back over the boundary and into his cage, perfectly intact. The women surrounded Rabbit, giving us all blessings. Zhu and I were deeply moved by their acts of kindness. Sadly, what we achieved was not enough to bring back their dead.

I stopped my watch: 18 minutes and 37 seconds - truly remarkable achievements. It is my intention to manufacture this technology on a grander scale with the help of Zhu, creating a whole colony of Rabbits that can be deployed across larger regions. With the support of the GICHD, we hope to bring greater peace to regions across East Africa and around the world.

Dr Albert Windar