Chapter Twenty Five. BOOBY TRAP CLEARANCE METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

25. A number of Israeli laid booby traps have been located and cleared in south Lebanon. These booby traps have consisted of professionally made devices, which can incorporate pressure, tripwire, anti-lift or command activation. In some cases three means of activation have been incorporated into one booby trap device.

25.1 Generally Israeli laid booby traps have been found in access routes or valleys leading to former military positions. They have also been located in what is assessed to be former firing positions or mortar base plate positions that were used by resistance forces to attack their positions.

25.2 A clearance methodology has been developed for the "verification" of suspected booby trap sites or the "clearance" of known recorded booby traps. These methodologies are applied after an extensive review process and General Survey of the known or suspected booby trap area has been conducted.

25.3 The methodology used for the clearance of booby traps (BT) is dependent on whether or not the booby trap has been physically confirmed or not. All booby trap items have to be accounted for either through the actual location and clearance of the items or through the location and confirmation clearance of the area where the items have been detonated or been previously cleared by a third party.

25.4 Personnel involved with the clearance of booby traps must be appropriately qualified and experienced and will be subjected to the conditions outlined under Supervision in this chapter.

METHODOLOGY FOR BOOBY TRAP "VERIFICATION"

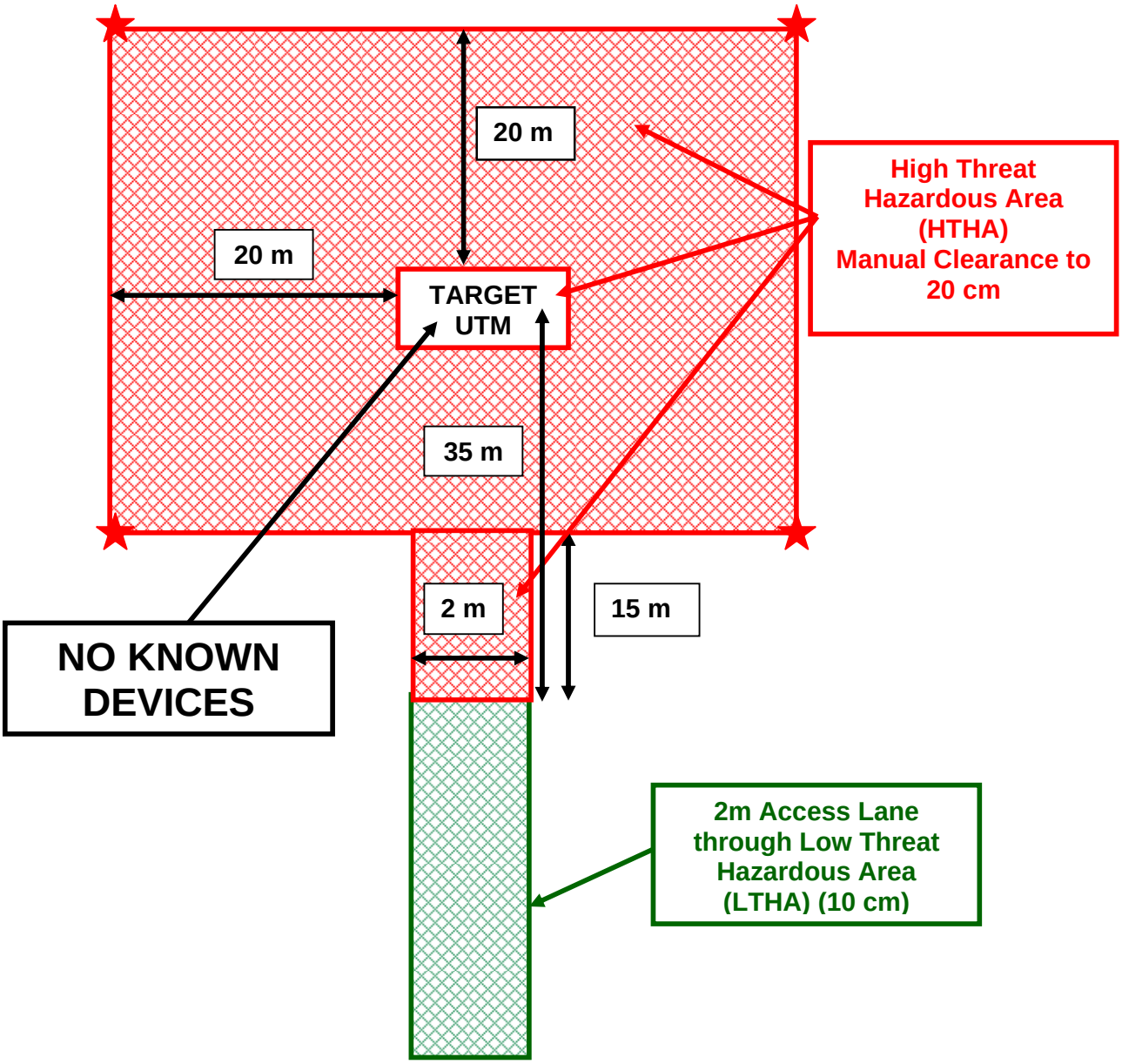
25.5 The verification methodology is applied when no known or confirmed presence of a device exists. The following general clearance methodology is applied:

a. From an agreed known safe start point a two (2) metre wide access lane is made to within 35 metres of the agreed BT location (UTM). This access lane is considered to be in a low threat hazardous area (LTHA) and can be cleared with manual, mechanical or MDD clearance assets (The 35m distance may be increased depending on the ground and threat assessment). The minimum clearance depth for this access lane is 10cm.

b. Manual clearance is then conducted for the remaining 35 metres up to the agreed BT location (UTM), and additionally a 20 metre by 20 metre box around the agreed BT UTM location is cleared. This access lane and the 20m x 20m box area is considered to be a HTHA and is always cleared by manual assets only to a depth of 20 cm from the natural ground. (See Figure 25.1. below)

c. If nothing is located within the 20m x 20m box then the NDO/MACC SL is consulted to either accept that there is no threat, or to extend the search area to other identified likely areas. This will require a formal amendment to the BT clearance plan.

d. If a BT or devices are located then the BT Clearance Methodology (below) is followed.



BOOBY-TRAP AGREED TARGET *"VERIFICATION"* METHODOLOGY

Figure: 25.1.

BOOBY TRAP "VERIFICATION" DISTANCES

METHODOLOGY FOR BOOBY TRAP "CLEARANCE" (KNOWN PRESENCE)

25.6 When a booby trap is known or there is a booby trap record and information for it; then the booby trap "Clearance" methodology will be applied as follows:

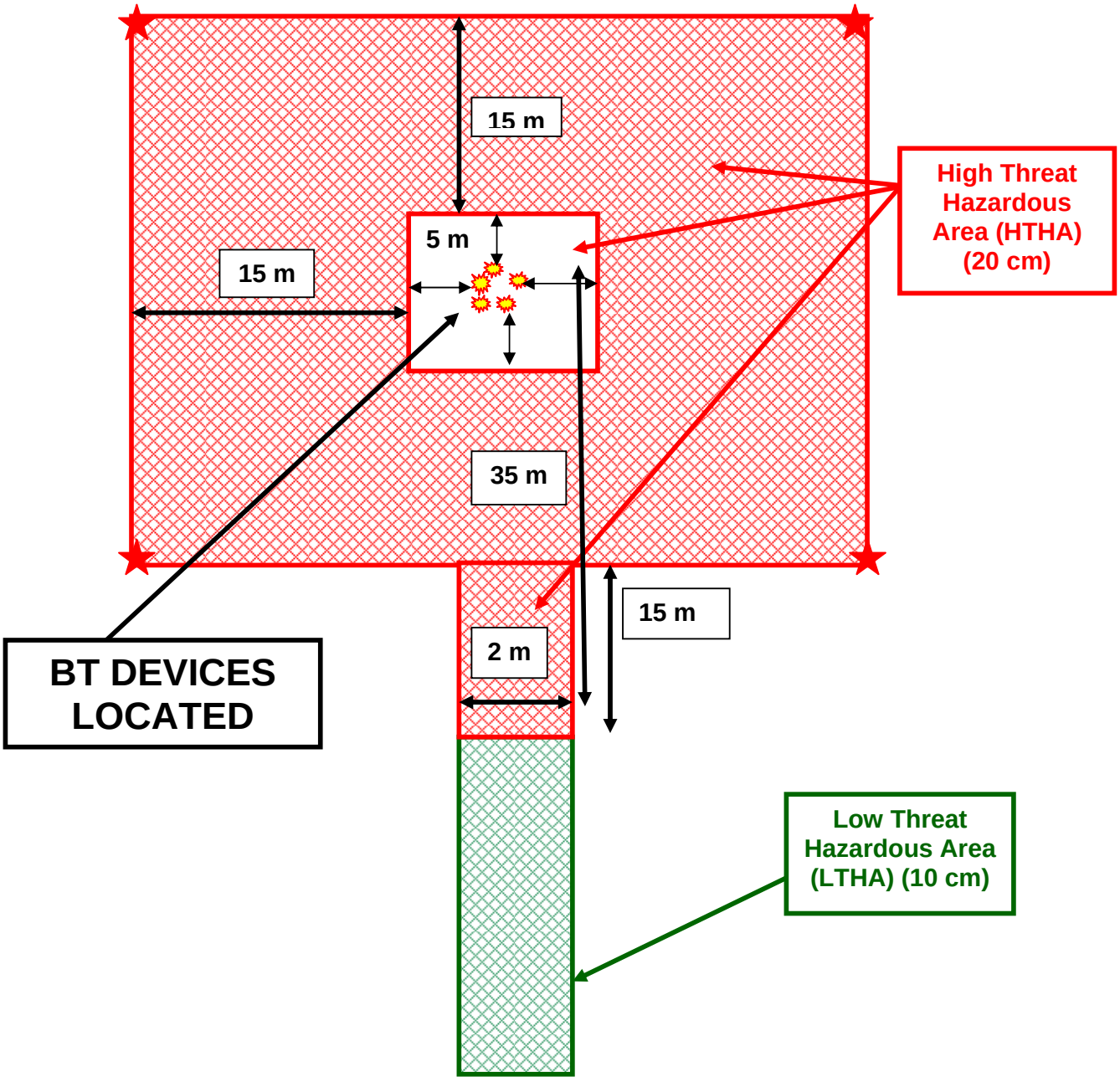
a. From an agreed known safe start point a two (2) metre wide access lane is made to within 35 metres of the agreed known BT location (UTM). This access lane is considered to be in a low threat hazardous area (LTHA) and can be cleared with manual, mechanical or MDD clearance assets (The 35m distance may be increased depending on the ground and threat assessment). The minimum clearance depth for this access lane is 10cm.

b. Manual clearance is then conducted for the remaining 35 metre distance to the agreed known BT location. This area is considered to be a HTHA and is always cleared by manual assets only to a depth of 20 cm from the natural ground. (See Figure 25.2. below)

c. From each BT explosive devices located; manually clear out to 5m on each side creating a 10m x 10m box (HTHA) centred over the explosive item. If the cleared items are in a random pattern then this area is normally "squared off" to make the handover completion sketches easier to compile. So long as the minimum cleared 5m rule is applied around all items.

d. If all explosive devices are located as per the recorded information provided on the BT record then the NDO/MACC SL may approve that the clearance of the additional 15m x 15m HTHA around the located items is not necessary. This will be authorised only on a site-by-site basis.

e. If all BT items are not located as per the BT record then a further 15 metres is then cleared around the above manually cleared box on all sides. This area is also considered HTHA and is cleared manually.



BOOBY-TRAP AGREED TARGET *"CLEARANCE"* METHODOLOGY

Figure: 25.2.

BOOBY TRAP "CLEARANCE" DISTANCES

CLEARANCE OF UNRECORDED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

25.7 Unrecorded explosive devices other than recorded Israeli booby traps have been located within Lebanon. These explosive devices can consist of the following types of systems:

a. HE Mortar shells or RPG rockets connected by detonating cord to a number of anti personnel mines as the initiation set.

b. Anti tank mines connected by detonating cord to a number of anti personnel mines as the initiation set.

c. Blast anti tank mines enhanced with fragmentation connected by detonating cord to a number of anti personnel mines as the initiation set and/or set up for command detonation.

d. Diesel fuel oil and fertilizer mix (ANFO) packed in metal containers and enhanced with metal scrap, connected by detonating cord to a number of anti personnel mines as the initiation set and/or set up for command detonation.

e. Omni directional fragmentation charges disguised under imitation fiberglass "rocks" connected by detonating cord to a number of anti personnel mines as the initiation set. Normally referred to as "Rock mines".

f. Tripwire activated HE grenades connected to a improvised main charge.

g. Any of the above may also be fitted with tripwire activation or anti-lift devices.

25.8 The clearance methodology for clearance of these explosive devices is as per the "clearance" methodology for known booby traps. The 5m rule around all items is to be applied and once all connected items have been cleared the remaining 15m HTHA is also to be cleared around this area. Unlike a recorded BT site the HTHA must be cleared to ensure no other devices exist in the immediate area.

25.9 If unrecorded explosive devices are located within the boundaries of the MFAC or HTHA of a minefield then these devices are cleared within the parameters of this minefield as described in TSG Chapter 24.

25.10 The NDO/MACC SL may adjust the clearance methodology for clearance around any explosive devices located during clearance operations as a result of a though threat assessment on site. Any

changes to the standard BT clearance methodology are to be approved in writing by the NDO/MACC SL and is to be annotated on the clearance plan.

25.11 In all cases the minimum clearance depth for explosive devices within Lebanon is 20cm. However this maybe increased depending on the type and nature of the explosive device located.

SUPERVISION

25.12 Due to the nature of the threat only suitably qualified Supervisors are to be responsible for the supervision of booby trap clearance teams.

25.13 Supervisors and booby trap clearance teams are to be operationally accredited and licensed by the NDO/MACC SL prior to deploying on booby trap clearance operations.

DEMOLITIONS OF BOOBY TRAPS

25.14 All booby traps or explosive devices located are to be destroyed in-situ by demolitions unless approved in writing by the NDO/MACC SL.

25.15 If booby traps or explosive devices are requested to be neutralized and recovered for training purposes. Then the NDO/MACC SL must approve this in writing. If approved then all devices attached to the BT or explosive devices are to be pulled as per mine clearance pulling drills described in TSG Chapter 4. A 30 minute minimum wait time is to be observed after pulling any explosive device attached to a booby trap.

SUMMARY

25.16 Due to the nature of the threat that maybe encountered or is yet to be encountered within Lebanon it is not possible to “template” all clearance methodologies within these TSG’s, therefore each new threat encountered will be assessed by the NDO/MACC SL in consultation with the clearance organisation and an applicable site specific clearance plan and methodology will be agreed upon.