

make such a big stink about all those little kids who get blown to bits. There are 100 different companies in 55 countries that make land mines. Of the 55 countries who design and manufacture antipersonnel mines (about 75% of all land mines), 36 of the countries allow them to be exported. Keep in mind that many mines are bought through companies who import them into "nice" countries and then export them to "nasty" countries. Even Switzerland makes and sells five models, while Iran, Cuba, and Myanmar are able only to make one model of land mine. There are billions of mines stockpiled and ready for export should you need them. So, is anyone not using land mines?

Well, DP has been up on the lines and we watch the kids place mines as if they were planning for an Easter egg hunt. But Uncle Sam doesn't like us to watch them in use in places like Guantanamo Bay in Cuba or the oddly named DMZ in Korea. So don't believe all that hair-shirted talk about not using land mines. They are an integral part of military training for every armed force around the world (except maybe the British Guards). Here's a list of where you can shop for the more than 300 different models of land mines.

STUMPS 'R' US: WHO DESIGNS 'EM

Country	# of Models Sold
United States	37
Italy	36
Russia	31
Sweden	21
China	21
Germany	18
Vietnam	18
France	14
Bosnia-Herzegovina	16
Austria	16

Source: Jane's Intelligence Review

How Are They Used?

Mines are a defensive and psychological weapon. When you want Omar and his brigands disturbing your sleep, you string a perimeter with trip wires, and sleep tight. If you need to control a rebel city, you mine the waterholes, paths, garden patches, and storehouses. That way, rebels can eat, but only while hopping on one foot using their good hand. If you want to mess up an entire country, you just drop mines from planes, shoot them from shells, mine waterways, power sta-

IT'S A DIRTY JOB, BUT . . .

Queen Noor was one of the first celebrities to lend her time to publicizing the danger of land mines. Her death left a gap that has been filled by the widow of the former King of Jordan. American-born, 47-year-old Lisa Najeeb Halaby, Queen Noor, has taken up the cause. Queen Noor comes from a country that has been dramatically affected by land mines and she has proved to be a tireless advocate of a number of programs around the world designed to aid victims of land mines, and forever eliminate them. You can e-mail her at hmqoff@hmrc.gov.jo or visit her web site at www.noor.gov.jo/main/ip.htm.

highways, and whatever. This ensures the entire country is plunged back into the Stone Age.

Then, of course, your politicians get bored of whatever political manifesto you were protecting and you go home. During hostilities, your minefields were carefully marked with skull-and-crossbones "Beware of mine" signs and carefully fenced off. You backed up these dangerous places with accurate maps showing placement and layout.

Naturally, your land mines were all laid according to pre-agreed military patterns in a standard defensive area. One such NATO pattern is an A pattern, with one antitank mine surrounded by three antipersonnel mines: one above and one on each side like a triangle with the antitank in the middle—the polite way to kill advancing troops and blow up vehicles.

After the war, your nice troops cleaned up all the land mines and handed over the maps to local leaders. Uh-huh. If you come from a super-nice, super-PC country, you also cleaned up all the dud shells, mortars, chemicals, armories, and cap guns you left lying around. Sure, double uh-huh.

Now the war is over, allowing people to live their lives free from fear, safe in their newly created democracy.

That is wishful thinking, since the most effective way to sow land mines is to drop millions of small plastic mines by shell or from aircraft. Small bomblets, 247 to a pod, are dropped as part of cluster bombs. Most rebel groups will put mines in potholes, in detours, along walking paths, and in fields; they'll even booby trap intriguing items that villagers, soldiers, or children will pick up. Guerrillas don't follow patterns. Nobody knows how many mortar rounds, artillery shells, and discarded ordnance will be discovered by curious children or diligent farmers. No one bothers to keep notes of where mines are planted as booby traps or nightly security perimeters. After the war, whoever loses gets their butts