Improved Weapons Record Keeping and Safe Storage in the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

European Union Program (EU ASAC October 2005)
At the request of the Cambodian Government, this Project started in 2000.

The preliminary feasibility study provided evidence as to poor storage conditions and the lack of any appropriate registration.
Weapons were careless stored everywhere in unsafe warehouses.
A 3 month study was necessary

To get a first inventory and decide a strategy:

The implementation of a 6 month Pilot Project dependent upon the existing chain of command.

A General from the Ministry of National Defence was appointed to collaborate with the EU ASAC Project Officer.
Subsequently, each EU ASAC Project was signed by the Secretary of State in the Ministry, showing a strong political commitment in tackling the small arms problem in CAMBODIA.
The existing chain of command

Ministry of National Defence

High Command

Army
Air Force
Navy
Royal Gendarmerie
This hierarchic chain is sometimes complicated

Ministry of National Defence

High Command

Army

Air Force

Navy

Royal Gendarmerie

Weapons & ammunition depots

Brigades & Divisions

6 Military Regions

3 Intervention Brigades

24 Provincial Gendarmeries
6 Military Regions constitute the main regional level in the territorial organization.

Military Region 1: Steung Treng
Military Region 2: Kompong Cham
Military Region 3: Kompong Speu
Military Region 4: Siem Reap
Military Region 5: Battambang
Military Region 6: Kandal

The Project will be built on...
The Military Region 2 in Kompong Cham was the first to benefit with a Pilot Project.

This Military Region covers the provinces of:
- Kompong Cham
- Kratié
- Prey Veng
- Svay Rieng
Easy access and proximity to Phnom Penh led to the selection of Military Region 2.

EU ASAC and the Ministry of National Defence agreed on this decision.
The Pilot Project was successful

In October 2001
the European Union
decided to extend the Project.
Each agreement signed with the Ministry of National Defence requires several thorough visits in the provinces where the need for storage is evaluated and decided.
Determine the number of weapons to be stored

Adjust the budget to the real need

All visits in provinces help to:

Estimate the number of weapons to be destroyed

Decide the number and the size of buildings to be constructed
The Improved Weapons Record Keeping and Safe Storage Project consists of three components:

1. The staff training;

2. The registration systems;

3. The storage.
1. The staff training:

Training staff is an important part of the Project and constitutes a good investment for the future improvement of the management of weapons.

From 2001 to 2005 more than 2000 Officers were trained.
3 Information days for all Commanding Officers, and Units Commanders in the Military Region at the beginning of each Project.

EU ASAC and the Ministry of National Defence present the Project to be implemented in the Military Region.
10 training days in Phnom Penh for High Level Officers from various headquarters.

Officers from Military Region join officers of previous projects.
10 training days are organized in the Military Region for all Logistical Officers in charge of weapons and ammunition management, all technical and legal issues are treated.

5 extra training days focus on the manual registration of weapons to be implemented in the Military Region.
All computer teams from each computerized level attend a training on a special data base.

The results will be duplicated to the upper levels.

10 Computer training days

These teams will load the manual registration into the data base.
2. The registration systems:

The result of the manual registration is computerized into a special data base developed by a private firm.
A special field for marked weapons will permit a better tracing of weapons.

Each weapon is registered by type, caliber, country of origin, serial number and exact location in the unit.
A total of 61 computers and 43 photocopy machines have been provided to the teams in charge of the management of weapons and ammunition,

The following have been equipped:

- The Ministry of National Defence,
- The High Command,
- The Army HQ,
- The Royal Gendarmerie HQ,
- The 6 Military Regions,
- The 24 Provincial Gendarmerie & the Royal Gendarmerie School.

To be equipped in 2006:

- The Navy HQ,
- The Air Force HQ.
3. The storage:

From 2000 to 2005 EU ASAC constructed or renovated 48 buildings
Weapons are stored according rules fixed by the High Command

- Short term storage;
- Medium term storage;
- Long term storage.
Duty weapons used to be taken back home by soldiers and often caused problems in the villages.

More than 50,000 small arms are now stored on racks (6, 12 or 24 weapons) in the units for a short term period.
Medium term storage

All weapons not immediately necessary are stored in new buildings constructed by EU ASAC in Military Regions, Divisions or Brigades.
700 to 8000 small arms can be stored in these buildings
Long term storage

In boxes or on racks in the national depots.
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Each Project requires 1 to 2 months preparation and usually last 6 months.
252 training days for 2,233 Officers

61 computer sets, 43 photocopy machines, 8 generators

48 buildings representing a storage capacity of several tens of thousands of weapons

Tens of thousands of weapons on racks
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