



Dedicated to implementing drone-deployed sensor technology to locate hidden objects in complex environments

The Vietnam war made US citizens very aware of the military use of cluster bombs which has had impact on both the combatants and the civilian inhabitants of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Hence EFH is focusing first on those countries of Southeast Asia.



Southeast Asia map from google earth pro

VIETNAM The picture shows a cluster bomb which did not go off, but upon hitting the ground split open, exposing a load of so-called 'bombies', the baseball-sized bomblets that were designed to kill and maim local human life.



Portside.org

LAOS The pastoral setting (right) of the Laotian countryside shows the mountains and forests that sheltered the Ho Chi Minh trail, target of US cluster bomb attacks. This range of hills is badly contaminated with cluster bombs. Much of the flat areas have been demined.



google earth picture

CAMBODIA The problem with cluster bombs is not the exploded ones - they have done their damage. It is the 20% of all cluster bombs and bombies that didn't go off and that now lie hidden in the underbrush or buried in the surface dirt and are potentially very dangerous now.



Cambianexpats.org



The map at left, taken from a PBS News Hour clip on 10 September 2019, (*google cambodia landmines to see the video*) shows the southeast (yellow) areas in Cambodia that were cluster bombed during the Vietnam War, while the red areas in the northwest of Cambodia show the areas that were bombed by the US and landmined by the Cambodian army during the struggle with the communist Khmer Rouge in the middle '70s. In that PBS report, Thuch Ly, who is in charge of the Cambodian landmine removal program, revealed that there remained an estimated 4-6 million landmines in that area to the northwest. Only about 10% of the total contaminated land has been cleared.

EFH is focusing its initial efforts on Cambodia as the target area in Southeast Asia most amenable to geophysical exploration with existing systems and procedures.

Plans for Fall 2019: Field trials of a new 5-magnetometer drone system will be carried out in Germany. We will meet with the three major demining trusts, Halo and MAG in UK, and Danish Demining in Denmark. Dr. Jepsen will present a paper to the Mine Action Technology meeting in Basel, Switzerland in November. Research site visits to Cambodia and Laos are planned. Funding for purchase of the DroneMag2 system will continue to be sought. Potential team interviews.

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