

# News

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## Trump's foreign aid pause suspends removal of US-dropped bombs in Vietnam, Laos



The ongoing freeze of US foreign assistance is forcing the suspension of operations to clear unexploded ordnance in Vietnam, Laos and elsewhere. The US military dropped numerous bombs in those areas during the Vietnam War.

The US State Department and its affiliate USAID have temporarily halted nearly all of their overseas aid programs since President Donald Trump signed an executive order last month for a 90-day pause for reviews.

A British non-governmental organization, MAG, engages in large-scale projects to eliminate duds and nurture personnel in Vietnam and elsewhere. But it says it has suspended many of its operations as US funding has stalled.

A Laotian government agency also told NHK that it had paused all its operations to remove unexploded munitions.

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A Vietnamese foreign ministry spokesperson sought the resumption of US aid at a news conference on Thursday.

The official said freezing dud-clearing projects supported by USAID would strongly impact the safety of people, as well as the environment where work had been underway.



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