In Remembrance: Mark Fitzpatrick

Mark Fitzpatrick—“Fitzy” to his friends—was killed during a weapons-destruction operation in Afghanistan’s Panjwai province on 20 October 2010. Fitzy, a 34-year-old British deminer, worked with DynCorp International, a global peace-building and security provider, as part of its weapons removal and abatement team.

“Mark gave his life working to support a safer and more secure Afghanistan,” said DynCorp International Chairman and CEO Steve Gaffney. “Thousands of brave men and women put their lives on the line each day to support our operations in remote and hostile areas around the world—their courage and sacrifices cannot be measured. We are deeply saddened by this loss and our hearts go out to all of Mark’s family, friends and colleagues.”

But the story of Mark’s legacy—the man, the deminer—doesn’t end there.

O b jects of his compassion and dedication can be found in the almost 16 years he spent working to make the world a safer place. His life, as seen through the eyes of his family and friends, rests on the page below.

Evidence of Fitzy’s worldwide impact is clear from the messages on his facebook wall, which is blanketed with condolences from places like Afghanistan, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Comments note his “camaraderie” and “dry humor.”

Fitzy spent about 11 years in the Royal Air Force before leaving it to join DynCorp, where he continued with explosive ordnance disposal in the field. He spent time in Cambodia, Guinea Bissau, Lebanon and Vietnam before his final tour of almost two years in Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents and three older sisters. Mark Fitzpatrick’s funeral was held on 6 December 2010 at St John’s Church in Bishops Wood, Staffordshire, UK.

In Remembrance: Mehdi Mohammad Haraz

On 26 October 2010, fragments of a cluster bomb killed Mehdi Mohammad Haraz, a Lebanese national working for Peace Generation Organization for Demining, while attempting to clear a cluster-bomb-infested tobacco field in Yater, Southern Lebanon. Haraz, 20, was working with a 200,000-pound cluster bomb in an area heavily contaminated by UXO. He had fully withdrawn from Lebanon.

In spring 2011, Inquiries & Comments published an article on the humanitarian demining work of Mehdi Haraz titled “The Memory of Mehdi Haraz: The Demining Volatile Israeli-Lebanese Frontier.”

Outside of Lebanon, Mehdi was a leader in the local demining community and had been involved with a number of local organizations. He also worked with UMEX, the UN Mine Action Coordination Center in Beirut, and the UN Mine Action Program in Beirut. Mehdi was a member of the International Mine Action Foundation, which he joined in 2006.

Mehdi was a devoted family man and an accomplished musician. He had been working with PGOD for three months in an area heavily contaminated by explosives and explosive ordnance. The explosion also injured four others: Abdell Karim Ali, Hussein Hassan Mansour, Nabil BaBeiki and Kamel Ghandour. Funded by the Iranian company Ay Kamel Saazan, the operation was operating 10 kilometers (six miles) outside of Tyre where the Lebanese Army reports that most of the UXO victims are farmers, farmers or children.

The incident contributes to the 50 casualties and 350 injuries that have occurred from local UXO in the past three years.
Cambodia Mine Action Authority and Cambodia Mine Action Centre, officials from Th

ERW and Mine Action
formance of Metal Detectors: Magnetic Properties of Tropical Soils.” An- 

ERW and Mine Action
formance of Metal Detectors: Magnetic Properties of Tropical Soils.” An- 

ERW and Mine Action
formance of Metal Detectors: Magnetic Properties of Tropical Soils.” An- 

humanitarian de-mining operations.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian design solutions.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian design solutions.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian de-mining operations.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian de-mining operations.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian design solutions.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian de-mining operations.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian design solutions.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian de-mining operations.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian design solutions.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian de-mining operations.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1

humanitarian design solutions.” Humanitarian Design Solutions. UNGA
MAS 09.43: Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST), Second Edition, UMAS (1