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From the Director

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Here at CISR, our team is busy planning the 13th Senior Managers' Course (SMC), which will take place in Biograd na Moru, Croatia, from 20 March to 7 April 2017. With the help of our local partner, the Croatian Mine Action Centre, CISR will implement a course designed specifically to address the needs of senior managers working in greater Southeast Europe as the region's mine action programs undergo planned transitions. The course in Croatia will be our third regional SMC (Tajikistan in 2014 and Vietnam in 2015) since we began implementing the regional format in 2014; we hope to facilitate many more over the coming years.

In this issue of the *Journal*, we turn our attention to Libya in our Spotlight section, where Damir Djakovic and Katarina Cvikel Balić from ITF Enhancing Human Security examine the explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination response in Libya. And Nikolaj Sondergaard from DanChurchAid discusses the organization's partnership with Lebanese authorities on facilitating explosive ordnance disposal training for Libyan authorities.

In our Feature section, we focus on small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) and conventional weapons destruction. In their article, "Gendered Vulnerabilities to Small Arms in South Central Somalia," Abigail Jones (Danish Demining Group), Nicola Sandhu, and Lucas Musetti (Gender and Mine Action Programme) assert that a better understanding of gender-related behaviors is needed to encourage positive behavior change with regard to SA/LW and argue that future analyses and activities should be designed and implemented with sensitivity to gender, tribe, clan, age, and wider community relations in South Central Somalia.

Furthermore, we have a fascinating article for this issue's special report from Mette Eliseussen and John Rodsted (Safeground) on the Solomon Islands. Through photography and interviews with Islanders, the authors report on the ERW contamination left over from World War II that still significantly affects Islanders' lives, vocations, and safety, as well as the islands' topography, specifically its endangered coral reefs.

Looking ahead, Brad Alford and Michael Kennedy from Janus Global Operations, LLC preview our upcoming issue on improvised explosive devices (IED) with their article "Adapting the ERW Community to Combat IED Threats." I am very excited for issue 21.1, which will be published in March 2017, and will feature IEDs and pressure plate IEDs. As the number one cause of military casualties for many nations, these weapons continue to pose an increasing threat to civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, and are now becoming an increasing threat in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Also in 21.1, our Spotlight section will focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the end of the Bosnian War in December 1995 and the Balkan floods of May 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to suffer from landmines and ERW contamination. Having toured the country with Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997, this country and its lingering effects from landmines and ERW is something very close to my heart. We encourage individuals, NGOs, and all those working in humanitarian mine action to submit articles on lessons learned and the ongoing challenges for programs in this region. ©



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