

# Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction

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Volume 16  
Issue 2 *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action*

Article 7

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July 2012

## The Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University

CISR JOURNAL

*Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU (CISR)*

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### Recommended Citation

JOURNAL, CISR (2012) "The Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University," *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action* : Vol. 16 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol16/iss2/7>

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The Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia helps communities affected by violence and trauma through education, programs and transformative services. CISR offers on-the-ground management and mine-awareness training and victim-assistance programs and services; facilitates innovative post-conflict recovery workshops and conferences; researches a variety of post-conflict issues; and offers resource materials through its information-exchange services including online and print media and content-rich websites, all focusing on post-conflict topics related to mine action and victim assistance.

CISR collaborates with many international partner organizations, including the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, the United Nations and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, among others. In 2011, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recognized CISR as a leader in post-conflict issues, and in 2008 the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations recognized JMU as one of 10 U.S. universities uniquely qualified to support State Department and United States Agency for International Development tasks.

#### Information Exchange

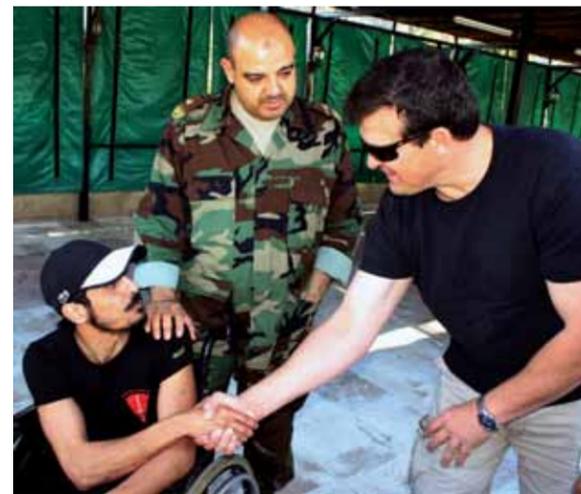
CISR functions as an information clearinghouse, gathering, managing and distributing information about global mine action through an interactive website, publications and related research. CISR's website includes the CISR Sphere Blog, mine-action forums, an international job announcement board, publications and the Global Mine Action Registry—connecting people and organizations with resources throughout the world. CISR's staff regularly updates the website with new developments in the field and is available to assist in researching questions related to clearance and recovery efforts.

Published three times a year, the CISR publication, *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, is sponsored by the Office of Weapon's Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department

of State's Bureau of Political Military Affairs (PM/WRA). *The Journal* was first published in 1997 and is the longest continuous source of explosive-remnants-of-war and mine-action information in the world. It reaches more than 1,800 readers in print and 170,000 online readers in 180 countries. Each themed issue contains editorials; articles on current clearance and recovery projects; reports on topics such as victim assistance, mine-risk education and field studies; book reviews; organization and/or country profiles; mine-related news; and the latest in research and development in the industry. The R&D section, supported by the U.S. Department of Defense's Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program, contains peer-reviewed articles describing new technology for clearance efforts and study results of equipment and technology tests.

CISR also publishes *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, the U.S. Department of State's annual report on its global work in landmine removal and conventional weapons destruction. In addition, CISR publishes other useful resources, including, for example, the *Landmine Action Smart Book*, detailing background information and the key components of the mine-action pillars; the *Adaptive Technology Catalog*, providing in-depth listings of practical products to meet the needs of resource-limited persons with disabilities; and *Landmine Casualty Data: Best Practice Guidelines*, a reference for documenting and using mine/ERW victim information.

CISR conducts mine-action and victim-assistance research and publishes reports about the findings. In May 2011, CISR concluded a two-year study of the effects of aging on landmines for the U.S. Department of State. The results and findings of the study are available on CISR's website. In



CISR Director, Ken Rutherford (right), greets a participant of the Pathways to Resilience Workshop in Lebanon. The workshop was held in May 2011.

partnership with GICHD, CISR is currently conducting a four-country analysis and study of the use of landmine victim-assistance information as part of comprehensive mine-action national programming.

#### International Training

CISR continues to serve as the global leader for senior management training programs. Since 2004, CISR annually conducts a five-week ERW and Mine Action Senior Managers' Course, providing high-level management training for officials and experts conducting clearance, demilitarization and conventional weapons destruction efforts throughout the world. Sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme from 2005 through 2009 and by PM/WRA since 2010, the course combines the expertise of CISR staff members and JMU College of Business faculty with that of demining and post-conflict recovery experts. The courses are hosted by CISR at JMU, and the most recent course was held 16 May–13 June 2012 for 17 participants from 14 countries.

From 2009 to 2011, CISR and the JMU College of Business faculty facilitated a sister course to the SMC in Amman, Jordan, working with Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation to deliver the ERW Senior Managers Training Course.

Between the SMC courses at JMU and the ERWTC in Jordan, more than 200 managers from 47 countries have been trained to date.

Recognizing the need to address the emotional as well as the physical trauma faced by landmine and other conflict survivors, CISR held its first Pathways to Resilience seminar in Hammana, Lebanon in May 2011. The program provided psychosocial assistance to 29 landmine/ERW survivors from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen through resilience activities empowering participants to manage emotions, gain self-confidence and find social support. Participants were also trained to establish and manage peer-to-peer support programs, in which a trained survivor provides encouragement and assistance for other survivors. This pilot program is a model that CISR will deliver globally.

In 2010, the international nonprofit Survivor Corps dissolved, and with the support of the Survivor Corps board, CISR absorbed its wealth of information and files, and hired its peer-to-peer support specialist, Cameron Macauley. Since then, CISR has provided train-the-trainer projects, enabling survivors to help other survivors of war-related trauma in communities in Burundi, Colombia, Lebanon and Rwanda. In January 2012, in cooperation with the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, CISR held a

four-day workshop on peer support for survivors of torture for 21 mental health professionals in Entebbe, Uganda. In March 2012, CISR worked with its local implementing partner the Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to develop and lead a three-day peer-support training program for 35 persons with disabilities in Dong Hoi, Vietnam.

#### Other Services

Supported by PM/WRA and working with Jordan's NCDR, CISR and a Jordanian NGO, Life Line Consultancy and Rehabilitation, jointly developed the "We Love Life" play, a psycho-educational drama and creative arts performance. This play, in Arabic, provides MRE to children and young adults, teaching mine-warning signs, safe behaviors and social sensitivity to survivors. The play was performed by disabled actors for more than 25,000 people in Jordan in 2008 and 2009. It has also been performed in Lebanon, and the team plans to use this MRE program in other neighboring countries.

Additionally, CISR administers the annual Frasure-Kruzel-Drew Humanitarian Mine Action Fellowship with PM/WRA, funding one JMU graduate to work at PM/WRA in Washington, D.C. for a year. The fellowship is named after three former U.S. officials who lost their lives in an automobile accident in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995, while working to help end the concurrent conflict.

Each April CISR hosts a Post-Conflict Recovery Week at JMU that includes a range of humanitarian UXO and mine-clearance activities. Past activities include demonstrations using mock minefields, lectures with keynote speakers, including landmine survivors and international clearance experts, movies and a variety of other activities that highlight the continuing global humanitarian impact of landmines and ERW. Post-Conflict Recovery Week 2012 was held 2-5 April at James Madison University.

"As a landmine survivor myself, I understand how challenging recovery is," says CISR Director Dr. Ken Rutherford. "Whether it's through our victim-assistance workshops, training programs for trauma counselors in low-resource environments, or our studies and publications, CISR is committed to standing with communities until peace is achieved."🌍

~Rachael Weber and  
Eric Wuestewald, CISR Staff

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