Conflict Resolution in the Twenty-first Century: Principles, Methods, and Approaches

Book Review

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HMA coordination role, though existing ERWCC structure and operations are threatened due to lack of funding. ERWCC has largely halted operations, with the exception of an emergency follow-up clearance operation in Mskheta. The organization hopes to resume clearance activities with technical assistance from the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action and funding from the Georgian Ministry of Defence and NATO.

IMAS and QA/QC training courses were conducted for ERWCC staff (mainly the QA/QC section), the Joint Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces and DELTA, with funding and assistance from PM/WRA. The aim of this effort was to increase the level of knowledge regarding HMA and to prepare for handover to Georgian ownership. The final handover of ERWCC to DELTA occurred in the beginning of 2011.

Note: This article covers operational activities in Georgia until March 2011. See endnotes page 82.

Emil M. Hasanov, L.L.M. is Transition Manager/Legal Advisor at the ERWCC in Georgia. He has worked for the Azerbaijan Ministry of Justice in different positions related to forensic ballistic expertise and law before retiring as Captain of Justice. Hasanov joined the Humanitarian Mine Action Program in 2001 as Operations Manager of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action, a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Azerbaijan. He has also worked for the Landmine and Cluster Munitions Monitor as an editor and researcher and in a variety of positions at other international organizations.

Emil M. Hasanov
Transition Manager/Legal Advisor
IMMAP/ERWCC – Georgia
55 Paliashvili Street
Tbilisi/Georgia
Tel: +995 5 91 60 74 04
Email: ehasanov@immap.org
Website: http://immap.org, http://erwcc.org.ge

Petri Nevalainen
Program Manager at the ERWCC and Information Management and Mine Action Program Caucasian Program Coordination. He has worked in mine action, as well as with humanitarian relief and development, for about 20 years in various places stretching from Africa throughout the Middle East to Southeast Asia. He has been with IMAP for eight years and has a professional and academic background in technical geography with a master’s degree in geography.

Petri Nevalainen
Manager/Technical Advisor
IMMAP – Georgia
55 Paliashvili Street
Tbilisi/Georgia
Tel: +995 5 91 60 74 04
Email: petri@immap.org
Website: http://immap.org, http://erwcc.org.ge

In Conflict Resolution in the Twenty-first Century: Principles, Methods, and Approaches, Bercovitch and Jackson create an accessible and well-organized analysis of the best approaches to resolving conflicts in the world today. Emphasizing fundamental changes in the nature of conflict following the Cold War, the authors present the argument that conflict resolution must also change. They analyze traditional methods—international negotiation, conflict mediation, arbitration and adjudication, U.N. conflict resolution, and peacekeeping—and explain how these methods must evolve to meet the needs of the modern world. They analyze new methods—preventive diplomacy, humanitarian intervention, regional task-sharing, nonofficial justice, and reconciliation—as approaches arising from a philosophy of participatory social interaction, which views peace as the result of positive cultural transformation rather than a state imposed by a paternalistic superstructure. Additionally, they view nongovernmental organizations as crucial actors in implementing new methodology because of their moral credibility and independence from power politics. Concise, well-referenced and eloquent, this book outdistances other weightier tomes in defining a peace-building agenda for the future.

Reviewed by Cameron Macauley, CISR staff.