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From the Director

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FROM THE DIRECTOR


This June, the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) partnered with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to facilitate the Southeast Asia Cluster Munition Remnants Survey (CMRS) Workshop in Washington, D.C. This two-day event, hosted by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA), brought together a number of organizations working in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to discuss best practices in CMRS in the region.

In this issue of *The Journal*, we also turn our focus to Southeast Asia and the evolving nature of survey. Greg Crowther discusses MAG's (Mines Advisory Group) work in Burma: building relationships, taking baseline assessments, delivering mine risk education, and conducting community safety mapping. LTC Shawn Kadlec and 1 LT Richard Calvin of the U.S. Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) illustrate the benefits of establishing an effective NGO-military partnership in humanitarian mine action through their work in providing military trainers to assist the Vietnam People's Army in training International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) certified instructors at the Vietnam National Mine Action Center (VNMAC). In addition, Julien Zwang and Simon Pascal from Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group (DRC/DDG) reveal their findings from an epidemiological study of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) accidents and survivors in Burma, while Tina Kalamar from the Gender Mine Action Programme (GMAP) explores the inclusion of diversity in mine action in Laos.

Turning to the evolving nature of survey, Roly Evans from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) analyzes different fragmentation patterns in his article on cluster munition strikes. By analyzing different impact patterns on hard surfaces, Evans explains how this information can support survey operations looking to determine whether cluster munitions were used. Also from GICHD, Dionysia Kontotasiou and Olivier Cottray argue the importance of project documentation by reviewing the various elements of MediaWiki, a wiki that supports the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).

Looking toward the Middle East, Essam Ghareeb Barzangy examines iMMAP's range of information management and capacity-building services to address ERW and improvised explosive device (IED) contamination in Iraq. Additionally, Louise Skilling and Marysia Zapasnik from DanishChurchAid (DCA) note the threat of explosive hazards in northern Syria and how DCA is using risk education material to target adult returnees in Syria.

Our special report comes from The HALO Trust. Nicholas Torbet and Patrick Thompson examine HALO's work in eastern Ukraine and highlight how mobile technology including tablets, applications, and geographic information systems (GIS) can enhance the capacity of humanitarian organizations to identify hazardous areas in insecure environments. And finally, Andy Smith describes the various functionalities of the axiomatic Area Preparation Tractor in this issue's Research and Development section.

We have an exciting new set of upcoming topics for our 2018 *Journal* issues, including Spotlights on Europe, South and Central Asia, and Colombia and we will be soliciting for articles on battle area clearance (BAC) in urban areas, personal protection equipment and new detection technologies, as well as GIS, safe and secure management of ammunition, and HMA's continual transition to IEDs. We encourage NGOs, government agencies, and independent researchers to submit. We look forward to hearing from you. 



Ken Rutherford
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