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CALL FOR PAPERS

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The Journal invites government bodies, nongovernment organizations, military personnel, researchers, academics and industry experts to contribute their articles or case studies. We are actively looking for theoretical and practice-based contributions.

Smoke billows skyward as homes and buildings are shelled in the city of Homs, Syria.
Photo courtesy of UN Photo/David Manyua.

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Middle East

With a long list of modern conflicts, the Middle East continues to experience insecurity as well as numerous explosive hazards. The Iraq War; civil wars in Libya, Syria, and Yemen; the rise and fall of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and multiple insurgencies all contributed to regional instability and extensive explosive contamination. How are organizations adapting to the challenge of working in such complex and dangerous environments? How have clearance operations adapted to the unique urban environments in the Middle East? Is clearance by 2025 an achievable objective in this region? What lessons that have worked in this region can be shared with the wider community? Contributions on Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and the following are encouraged:

Mosul

It will take more than a decade to clear the unexploded ordnance contaminating the Iraqi city that was controlled by Daesh for three years. What have been the unique challenges and lessons learned from Mosul? In the future, how can these be applied to other areas of urban clearance, such as in Syria? Discussion of the challenges encountered as well as successes in clearing critical infrastructure (hospitals, schools, bridges), risk education for the local population, and training of local law enforcement and the military is encouraged.

Yemen

Although the ongoing civil war between Houthi and Sunni tribes currently occurring in Yemen is producing new suspected hazardous areas, landmines have existed in the region for years. Insurgent activities and civil conflicts between the north and south have resulted in widespread contamination from landmines and cluster munitions. How are organizations mitigating the risks these explosives pose to civilians and what kind of clearance activities are being conducted? Are mine risk education programs effective at limiting casualties? What types of explosive hazards are organizations encountering and what techniques are being used to defeat improvised landmines created in domestic workshops?

Afghanistan

As one of the most mined countries in the world, how are organizations working in Afghanistan countering legacy landmines and the removal of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), while incorporating community awareness and risk education into clearance operations? How are organizations adapting to clearance requirements in urban environments? What lessons can be learned from this region and applied to current conflict zones such as Syria? Discussion of current clearance programs is encouraged.

Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition

Unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS) worldwide, as well as the ongoing illicit proliferation of ammunition due to poor physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) practices at arms depots, highlight the need for increased international cooperation to combat these threats. Is more widespread application of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) the solution? What can be done to make the IATG more user-friendly and applicable for States with limited resources and training? And how can organizations that conduct safe and secure management of ammunition translate their experiences into lessons learned that serve the broader community? What efforts are organizations making in places like Eastern Europe and elsewhere in the world to prevent UEMS and monitor potential risks?

Distinguishing Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments

Ambiguously referred to as "the gray zone," the existential differences between conflict and post-conflict are becoming increasingly blurred. The situation in Mosul has demonstrated the need for international clearance teams to begin operations despite ongoing operations by international armed forces. In areas where humanitarian access is possible, how do organizations determine whether explosive hazards are active or not? To what degree are humanitarian organizations responding to clearance requests normally reserved for military units?

Research and Development

The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction seeks research and development (R&D) articles. All technical articles on **current equipment, technology, trends, and developments** in the field of mine action and CWD will be considered. Commercial companies, NGO's, and researchers are encouraged to submit. R&D articles are submitted to three experts for anonymous peer review. Two of the three reviewers must approve the article for publication. Reviewers approve articles for publication, suggest revisions or reject articles for publication.