Celebrating 25 years
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The Journal *invites government/nongovernment organizations, field/research practitioners, policy advisors, and technical experts working in humanitarian mine action/conventional weapons destruction to contribute their challenges, experiences, and lessons learned in the form of practice-based article submissions.*

A roving response team in Laos prepares to destroy UXO.
Photo courtesy of MAG (Mines Advisory Group).

Inquire or submit materials to cisr-journal@jmu.edu

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Opportunities for Synergy in HMA: Forensics
For our 25th edition, *The Journal* features articles on multi-disciplinary approaches to mine action. For this issue, we focus on the application of forensic science to HMA. Humanitarian forensic action is the application of forensic science to humanitarian action. What can HMA operators learn from forensic practitioners regarding the recovery, identification, and management of human remains found in contaminated urban areas to ensure that international legal and ethical standards are met? Alternatively, what can forensic specialists learn from EOD operators who must consider the risk of explosive hazards in post-conflict environments?

Addressing Legacy War Contamination: Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia
The Indochina Wars left Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam with some of the highest levels of explosive contamination in the world, including landmines, cluster munition remnants, and other ERW. What role has EORE taken in primary and secondary schools? How are organizations expanding these countries' capacities to develop their mine action programs? What are the latest advances in survey techniques that can better identify cluster munition strike footprints?

Afghanistan and Tajikistan
Challenging mountainous terrain and ongoing security concerns complicate mine clearance efforts in Afghanistan and neighboring Tajikistan. Decades of internal strife as well as border conflicts have left extensive mine contamination in Afghanistan and, to a lesser extent, Tajikistan. How are organizations conducting survey and clearance navigating the remote terrain? What measures do operators take to ensure security and appropriate casevac in remote areas, and how do organizations provide sufficient RE to communities with improvised mines?

Nagorno Karabakh
In late 2020, Azerbaijan and Armenia went to war over the Nagorno Karabakh region. A few mined areas existed prior to this most recent conflict, with reportedly new contamination ranging from cluster munitions to missiles, shells, and anti-tank mines. What measures have taken place since November 2020 to begin clearance efforts and limit the impact these weapons have on civilians?

Implementing Modern Risk Management Systems (or Strategies) for National Stockpiles
Unplanned explosions at munitions sites have devastating consequences. How can the community ensure low-capacity countries follow safe practices and maintain acceptable risk levels for their munitions stockpiles? What opportunities do organizations have to help countries make better decisions about balancing the costs of investing in appropriate infrastructure (risk reduction) with taking the responsibility for casualties and damages incurred by dangerous hazards (risk acceptance)?

Long-Term, Sustainable Training and Capacity-Building Programs in HMA and CWD
Training-the-trainer programs allow organizations to engage with countries in sustainable ways, providing long-term solutions. How do organizations use this training model to foster local capacity-building and what advantages do these approaches offer? Can organizations implement training in a way that mitigates turnover rates by incentivizing trainers to stay in-program? How can current methods be improved and expanded? We are seeking articles on various HMA and CWD programs, including those specifically applying to physical security and stockpile management of arms and ammunition.

Environmental Impact of Explosives in Urban Areas
As demonstrated in Syria and Ukraine, the impact of explosives on the environment and environmental health is immense and far-reaching. From infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihoods to pollution and toxicity of the air, soil, and groundwater, how are HMA programs working to be more inclusive of the broad and far-reaching issues created by ERW in urban areas, and how can they focus more on long-term sustainable solutions?

Impact Assessments and Resource Prioritization
To maximize the effectiveness of their programs, organizations must understand how explosive contamination affects communities on an individual level. How do operators obtain the data they need to assess perceived level of safety and socioeconomic well-being? And how do organizations leverage this information to create comprehensive and efficient programs that ensure resources go to those who need them most?