

# New Name, Focus For Land Mine Center

## Institution Now Looks At All 'Post-Conflict Issues'

By **HEATHER BOWSER**  
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**HARRISONBURG** — The Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University has changed its name and is expanding its focus beyond land-mine recovery to all "post-conflict issues."

According to officials, the institution's name is now The Center for International Stabilization and Recovery.

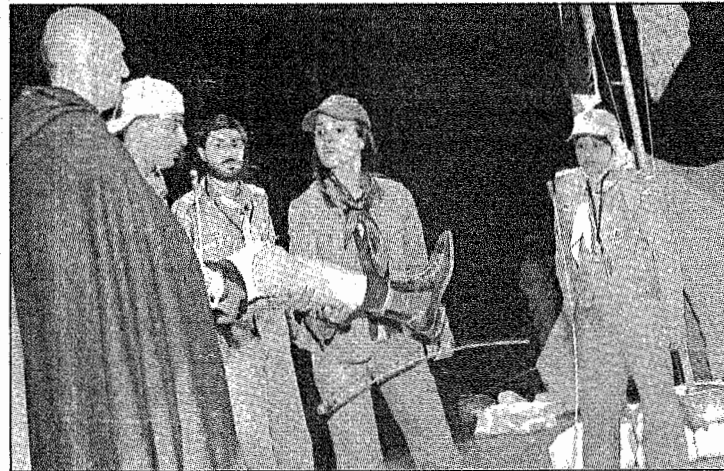
Now, in addition to its research on land-mine removal, the JMU crew will provide information about unexploded ordnance such as bombs, missiles, hand grenades and cluster munitions.

Although the center has

worked on the expanded focus for several months now, the announcement to the Daily News-Record came last week during a discussion about ongoing efforts in Jordan.

A number of center workers and a few JMU business professors have been in the Middle Eastern country to give a land-mine training course to 31 senior managers from 20 countries. The session is the sixth of its kind for the center but the first one taught outside JMU.

"The land mines are still there, but there's a light at the end of the tunnel," said Suzanne Fiederlein, senior research associate at the center, who returned from Jordan on Saturday.



Courtesy Photo

Jordanian actors perform a play about land mines earlier this year in Jordan. The play was written by James Madison University's Mine Action Information Center, which recently changed its name and expanded its focus.

### The Change

Formed in 1996, the center is a public policy institution

funded primarily by the U.S.

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## 'Weaponry Remains' After War Is Over

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Department of State. Until recently, its main focus was to "manage information and conduct training relevant to humanitarian mine clearance, victim assistance and other land mine-related issues."

To do this, the center makes education materials, provides training, operates a Web site, publishes a journal and conducts studies

and surveys.

During the last year, for example, JMU used a grant to write a play to educate children in Jordan about mines.

"The play was an enormous success," said Dennis Barlow, the center's director. "We've had literally thousands of parents, officials and students turn out for these performances."

JMU will continue to

develop materials and research land mines, officials said, but will now also study refugees, governance issues and other obstacles to rebuilding war-torn countries.

"Wars create this proliferation of weaponry and when the war is over, the weaponry remains," Fiederlein said. "It's dangerous."

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