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### **DoD Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Program Information Paper**

The Department of Defense (DoD) Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) program assists selected countries in relieving human suffering and developing an indigenous mine action capability while promoting U.S. interests. The program provides assistance to countries affected by the presence of persistent landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), which maim and kill innocents, obstruct emergency assistance activities, hamper economic development, and impede the safe movement of citizenry.

The Department of State (DOS), Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM-WRA) serves as the lead organization in coordinating U.S. HMA activities worldwide. The office develops and implements country specific HMA programs and oversees the interagency development of processes supporting U.S. global demining activities. DOS HMA activities are funded through Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, and Demining Related (NADR) funding, authorized by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA).

Pursuant to 10 USC Section 407, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary or military department may carry out humanitarian demining assistance in a country if the Secretary determines the assistance will promote either the security interests of both the U.S. and the country in which the activities are to be carried out, or the specific operational skills of the members of the armed forces who participate in the activities. Demining assistance activities are activities related to furnishing demining "training and education," not to exceed \$10 million per fiscal year. The DoD funding stream used to conduct DoD HMA activities is the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) two-year appropriation. U.S. military forces are prohibited from physically detecting, moving, or destroying landmines and other ERW when performing HMA missions, unless the member does so for the concurrent purpose of supporting a U.S. military operation, or provides such assistance as part of a military operation that does not involve the armed forces.

Significant benefits accrue to U.S. military forces performing HMA missions. The HMA program provides U.S. forces access to geographical areas not easily accessible by other means, and contributes to unit and individual readiness by providing unique in-country training opportunities that cannot be duplicated in the United States. In addition, DoD health services professionals conduct victim assistance programs enabling U.S. military medical personnel to interact with foreign medical providers and provide direct humanitarian assistance.

#### **DoD HMA Training**

The DoD Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC), located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, trains and prepares U.S. military forces to conduct HMA missions in landmine and other ERW clearance and disposal operations, and provides HMA mission interagency coordination for USG HMA stakeholders including the DOS, DoD, and nongovernmental organizations. Training and education provided by HDTC spans the HMA spectrum of mine action activities including landmine and other ERW clearance and disposal, mine risk

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education, victim assistance, and HMA infrastructure development.

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HMA training is tailored to accommodate partner nation HMA assistance requests as communicated by the combatant commands tasked with executing the DoD HMA program. Graduates of the HDTC courses will deploy to nations participating in the U.S. Government HMA program to train partner nation military personnel performing HMA clearance and ERW disposal operations. The center partner§. with the Threat Defense Reduction Agency (DTRA) and James Madison University (JMU) to incorporate new authority regarding physical security and stockpile management (PSSM), as well as executive and senior level manager HMA training, respectively.

HDTC is managed by the Deputy for Programs, Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), Programs Directorate (PGM), Office of Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, and Mine Action (HDM). Further details may be found at our website at [www.wood.army.mil/HDTC](http://www.wood.army.mil/HDTC).

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