



Press Release

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Training of Mine Detection Dogs in Bosnia-Herzegovina

The GICHD has published the very first study describing the training of mine detection dogs (MDD) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“The training of dogs to detect buried landmines is a complex process, often using different methods, and accompanied by an equally varied range of opinions and training techniques from one organisation to the other. Until now, detailed documentation on Mine Detection Dogs training has not been available to the general mine action community” says Ian Mansfield, Operations Director at the GICHD.

Since 1999, the GICHD has conducted applied research projects on various aspects of dogs, such as international mine action standards for MDD and training methodology. The report describes the MDD training programme used by *Norwegian People’s Aid* in its Global Training Centre in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“The study is not a training manual, but aims at promoting the dissemination of information about successful programmes to the larger MDD community.” says Havard Bach - Head of Operational Methods Section. “It is aimed at encouraging the evolution of methodologies by providing an example of one particularly successful method among the many MDD training programmes.”

The study has been requested by the *United Nations Mine Action Service* (UNMAS), but should be of interest to other UN agencies and programmes such as UNDP and UNOPS, as well as to non-governmental organisations, national mine action programmes and commercial companies, training and using MDD in demining programmes.

The study was made possible thanks to a grant from the *United Kingdom Department for International Development* (DfDI) and the kind support of *Norwegian People’s Aid*.

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