



JMU Center Works with Jordanian Officials to Increase Services for Landmine Victims

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Amman, Jordan—On November 3, 2009, representatives from James Madison University met with Jordanian Prince Raad Ben Zaid, president of the [Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities](#), and his son, Prince Mired R. Z. Al-Hussein, vice president of the same organization and Chairman of the [National Committee for Demining & Rehabilitation](#).

John Noftsinger, vice provost for Research and Public Service, Col. (Ret.) Dennis Barlow, director of the [Mine Action Information Center](#) (MAIC), and members of Barlow's staff participated in discussions with the princes regarding issues of awareness and services for victims of exploding landmines. The discussions included leaders of organizations from countries where landmine recovery and victim services are needed.

While victim services such as rehabilitation and prosthetics workshops have increased, landmine victims are still not seeing the extent of services they had expected, said Prince Mired. Although Jordan has been a leader in mine action, Mired said Jordan and other mine-affected countries are still challenged with providing meaningful and comprehensive services to victims.

The process of clearing landmines and providing services is long and it requires hard work, said Prince Mired. "Step by step, you reach the goal," he said.

From October 11 through November 6, 2009, the JMU [MAIC](#), in conjunction with the [National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation](#) (NCDR), planned and conducted a [course](#) for managers of landmine remediation programs from 20 countries. The course was funded by the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) in the U.S. Department of State. As part of the course, [JMU College of Business](#) faculty led strategic management and leadership principles workshops as well as application exercises. In addition, participants heard from NCDR-sponsored speakers and toured some of Jordan's victim services locations.

Barlow also met with Jordanian officials and representatives from the U.S. State Department to discuss plans for 2010 programs in Jordan that will indeed increase services for landmine victims. Plans include more management and leadership training for leaders of organizations in countries that are mine affected, performances of a play to raise awareness of the dangers of landmines and other unexploded ordnance, and a therapy program for war victims. Noftsinger and Barlow toured some of the locations identified for next year's planned therapy program.

Tucked in James Madison University's satellite campus of the industrial park on the north end of Harrisonburg is [JMU's Mine Action Information Center](#). The MAIC's mission deals with research, education and training surrounding the issue of landmine remediation. It began in 1996 and continues this mission today. The MAIC is the objective information source regarding international efforts to combat the effects of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). For more information, visit <http://maic.jmu.edu> or contact Dennis Barlow, Director, at +1.540.568.2756.