

# T · R · U · S · T

Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance

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## Study Report on Landmine Victims Assistance in SEE

The Final Study Report on Landmine Victims Assistance in South East Europe presented by Sheree Bailey, Handicap International Belgium, in collaboration with the Landmine Monitor research network in SEE and sponsored by ITF with the donations of Canada and the US Department of State, is available at the ITF website under News-Publications.

The Study was conducted in the following countries of SE Europe :

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Macedonia
- Serbia and Montenegro
  - Province of Kosovo
- Slovenia.

### The objectives of the Study were as follows:

- Present a clearer picture of the number of surviving landmine victims in the region.
- Identify services/facilities for surviving landmine victims in the region.
- Determine the capacity of existing services/facilities to address the needs of surviving landmine victims.
- Identify challenges/gaps in providing Landmine Victim Assistance in the region.

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- Identify opportunities for regional cooperation in Victim Assistance.
- Provide an analysis and data to governments, donors, and Victim Assistance providers in order to improve the effectiveness and reach of Victim Assistance programs.

The Study reported a total of 6,081 known landmine survivors in the region of SEE. The figures for individual countries are shown in the table below:

According to a survey by Landmine Survivors Network, only 18 percent of surviving mine victims are psychologically and physically recovered and self sustainable; 82 percent need continuous follow-up and support.

The Study focused on different fields of MVA in each country and each of the issues was addressed for each country studied (i.e. Landmine Casualties and Data Collection; Emergency and Ongoing Medical Care; Physical Rehabilitation including prosthetics/orthotics; Psycho-social Support; Vocational Training and Economic Reintegration; Capacity Building; Disability Policy and Practice; Coordination and Planning). As the Study is too comprehensive to be summarized without the risk of compromising its contents, one is strongly encouraged to read the entire Study on the ITF website.

The conclusion of the Study (by Mrs. Sheree Bailey) is that while some progress is being made, there is still much work to be done. Most countries in the region are experiencing similar problems, though to varying degrees, and there are several key issues/challenges that need to be addressed so as to ensure that the growing number of mine survivors receive adequate and appropriate assistance. Those issues/challenges include:



- Facilitating access to appropriate health care and rehabilitation facilities.
- Affordability of appropriate health care and rehabilitation.
- Improving and upgrading facilities for rehabilitation and psycho-social support.
- Creating opportunities for employment and income generation.
- Capacity building and ongoing training of health care practitioners, including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and orthopedic technicians.
- Raising of awareness on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.
- Establishing an effective social welfare system and legislation to protect the rights of all persons with disabilities, including mine victims.
- Obtaining sufficient funding to support programs and coordination of donor support.
- Supporting local NGOs and agencies to ensure sustainability of programs.

The Study also examined the potential for regional cooperation in relation to Mine Victim Assistance. The Study concluded the responses to be positive almost without exception. Surgeons, doctors, prosthetic technicians, local NGOs providing psycho-social support, and mine survivors all saw benefits in meeting with

their peers in their own country and across the region to share experiences and exchange best practice methods, skills, and ideas to improve assistance to surviving mine victims. Interest in cooperation and exchange of experience was also expressed at the government level. ●

### Reported Mine/UXO Casualties<sup>1</sup>

|                              | Total        | Killed       | Survivors    | Unknown    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Albania</b>               | <b>241</b>   | <b>20</b>    | <b>221</b>   |            |
| <b>Bosna and Herzegovina</b> | <b>4,801</b> | <b>928</b>   | <b>3,873</b> |            |
| <b>Croatia</b>               | <b>1,848</b> | <b>414</b>   | <b>1,373</b> | <b>61</b>  |
| <b>FYR Macedonia</b>         | <b>220</b>   | <b>35</b>    | <b>185</b>   |            |
| <b>Serbia and Montenegro</b> | <b>142</b>   | <b>30</b>    | <b>57</b>    | <b>55</b>  |
| <b>Province of Kosovo</b>    | <b>472</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>372</b>   |            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>7,724</b> | <b>1,527</b> | <b>6,081</b> | <b>116</b> |

<sup>1</sup> A report on each of these countries is presented under a separate country heading in the Final Study Report.

## MLI Awarded the Contract for the Third Set of Armenian Dogs

On June 19, 2003 officials gathered at the State Department to acknowledge a \$100,000 donation of the Children of Armenia Fund for the third set of mine detection dogs to be used in Armenia. Several organizations including the Humpty Dumpty Institute, the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, and the U.S. State Department, as well as the Children of Armenia Fund, jointly supported the contract, which is being executed by the Marshall Legacy Institute. This is the second set of dogs that the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) has helped provide for Armenia in the last six months. MLI's first set of dogs graduated from in-country training and began field operations in May 2003.

Six mine detecting dogs (MDD) were bought in Europe, trained at the Global Academy in Antonio, Texas and then transported to Armenia after three months of specialized training. On October 13, 2003 the six MDDs were officially handed over to Armenian Humanitarian Demining

Center where the last phase of the training began. MLI trainers will train local dog handlers together with dogs so they get

used to new handlers. At the end of the training the handlers will receive certificates and commence work in the field. ●



At the ceremony speeches were given by Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State; Dr. Arman Kirakossian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United States; HDI Co-Founder Michael Sonnenfeldt; James Lawrence, Director of the State Department's Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships; and Jernej Cimperšek, Director of ITF.

### ITF'S COMPUTER FOR FLLANXA

ITF Deputy Director Mr. Goran Gačnik presented a laptop to Fllanxa Murra, a 14-year old girl and mine victim from Albania in Ljubljana on September 26, 2003. ITF had already raised more than SIT 2 million for Fllanxa's rehabilitation through the voluntary contributions at the "Night of a Thousand Dinners" humanitarian event on November 30, 2002. The rehabilitation at the Institute has enabled Fllanxa, who lost both of her legs and also received a wound to her hand, to substantially improve her mobility. The computer is of vital importance for her to continue her education and reintegrate herself into society.

Good luck, Fllanxa!



### THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE AND ITF SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Republic of France represented by H.E. Mr. Olivier de La Baume, French Ambassador to Slovenia, and ITF, represented by its Director Jernej Cimperšek. This is already the fifth donation of the Republic of France to ITF, bringing the total amount of donations made to ITF by France to more than € 290,000. The present donation (€ 83,800) will be spent on supervision and training of the Kosovo Protection Corps in the province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro).



### VISIT OF MR. ROGER TOMLINSON (THE FATHER OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS)

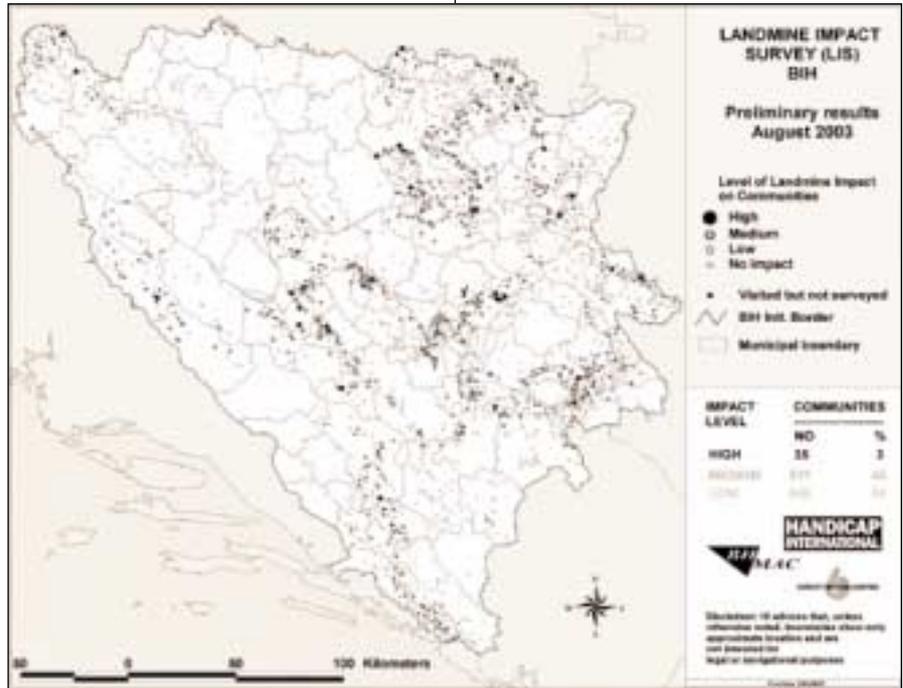
Mr. Roger Tomlinson (also known as "the father of Geographic Information Systems) visited ITF on October 1, 2001. Mr Tomlison, the president of Tomlinson Associates Ltd., Consulting Geographers in Canada, is a visionary geographer who conceived and developed the world's first geographic information system (GIS) for the Canada Land Inventory. He pioneered the use of GIS worldwide to collect, manage and manipulate geographical data, changing the face of geography as a discipline.



## Landmine Impact Survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the end of 2002 the preparation phase of the Landmine Impact Survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina started financed by the donations of the United States Department of State and European Commission. In year 2003 the funds were also received from the Canada (CIDA).

The Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) should serve as assistance in planning of a strategy for minimizing the impact of mines on communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is very important due to the fact that there is over 2,000 square kilometers of mine suspected area in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and limited (often scarce) resources. The LIS will enable the categorization of the suspected area into the low, medium and high priority areas (based on the socio-economic impact these areas have on the adjacent communities) and as such enable Bosnia and Herzegovina and donors to earmark



the funds towards the high priority areas and thus enable the best use of scarce resources.

The implementing agency for the operation Bosnia and Herzegovina Landmine Impact Survey is Survey Action Center (SAC), Washington, USA. Their subcontractor in Bosnia and Herzegovina is Handicap International (HI), Lyon - Branch Office Sarajevo.

Initially 830 communities were estimated to

be mine affected and thus estimated for the survey, but during the advance survey mission phase of LIS, the Expert Opinion Collection identified 2641 Affected and Possibly Affected populated places.

The Data Collection started in April 2003 and was concluded by October 2003. The final report is now being prepared by SAC and HI and is expected to be published by 15 March 2003.

## ITF Plaques of Appreciation Presented to US Officials

ITF Plaques of Appreciation were presented to US officials at the ceremony at the Capitol Hill on 01 October 2003. The plaques were awarded to senators Voinovich and Harkin, congressmen Oberstar and Kirk, and to Assistant Secretary of State Lincoln Bloomfield Jr. by H.E. Dr. Davorin Kračun, Ambassador of Republic of Slovenia in USA.

The United States has supported ITF ever since its foundation. Without the financial contributions of the United States, provided in the form of matching funds, the Fund could certainly not attract so

many donors and such a large sum of money. So far USA have donated more than US\$ 62.7 million to ITF, which has enabled clear-

ing more than 23 million square meters of mine-contaminated land in the region of South-East Europe.



Only personal attachment and devotion of Senator Voinovich, Senator Harkin, Congressman Oberstar, Congressman Kirk and Assistant Secretary of State Bloomfield, who have taken the lead both in the legislative and the executive branch branches to spread the idea and the knowledge about the ITF, have enabled year after year the most valuable US contribution to the fund.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council

The tenth meeting of the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) was hosted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center (BH MAC) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on October 16, 2003. The meeting was held on the occasion of the official opening of the Regional Mine Detection Dog Center in Borci-Konjic.

The meeting was attended by all SEEMACC members: Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE), Azerbaijan National Agency For Mine Action (ANAMA), Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC), Mine Action Center in Belgrade (MAC Belgrade), Regional Center for Underwater Demining (RCUD), and ITF. Observers were also present at the meeting: the UNMIK representative in the province of Kosovo (SCG), and representatives of the Regional MDD Center.

The meeting was a continuation of the previous meeting held at Ig, Slovenia.

The minutes of the meeting are available at the SEEMACC website at <http://www.see-demining.org> under "Meetings". The summary of the conclusions is as follows:

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the reformulation of one of the conclusions i.e. MAC Belgrade should start with the development of Standard Operating Procedures for the clearance of mines/UXOs in the rivers, which would later be distributed to national MACs in the region and to RCUD, for adoption by SEEMACC.
- CROMAC and BH MAC, as the most experienced in the region, have expressed their willingness to work together with AMAE to help in the development and implementation of Quality Assurance.
- All regional centers in SE Europe will attend the meetings of SEEMACC as observers.
- The questionnaire on the review of the accreditation of different Mine Action



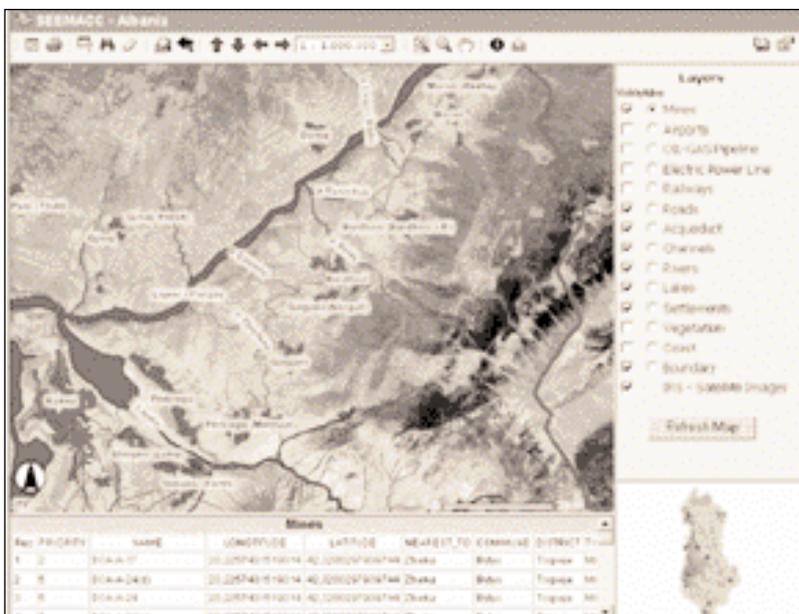
organizations should be developed and distributed to all SEEMACC members by BH MAC (currently enjoying chairmanship of SEEMACC).

- Underwater EOD training will be held at RCUD in November 2003 with two (2) participants from each of the following countries: Albania, BiH, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Russia.
- The next SEEMACC meeting will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in January 2004. ●

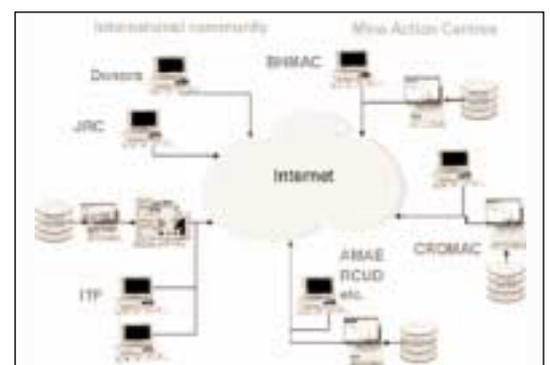
## ITF Wins the 2003 ESRI Special Achievement Award in GIS

ITF won a "Special Achievement in GIS" award at ESRI's 23rd Annual User Conference, which is awarded to user sites around the world in recognition of their outstanding work in the field of GIS.

ITF was chosen from over 100,000 user sites worldwide. The award was presented at a special ceremony on Thursday, July 10, 2003 in San Diego, California, USA. ●



GIS web server - Albania, middle resolution



Distributed information system in SE Europe

# 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the ITF Board of Advisors

The 11th Session of the Board of Advisors (BoA) of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) was held on November 11, 2003 at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief at Ig, Slovenia.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 10th Session of the Board of Advisors.
2. Presentation of the ITF Intermediate Report for 2003.
3. Presentation of plans and needs of Mine Action Centers in the region of SEE for 2004, by respective Mine Action Centers.
4. Presentation of GICHD activities, by GICHD.
5. Presentation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Landmine Impact Survey results, by Handicap International.
6. Presentation and demonstration of the

SWEDEC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Information System, by SWEDEC.

7. Presentation of a Mine Risk Education Programme the "Spirit of Soccer", by the "Spirit of Soccer".
8. Any other business.

### The Board of Advisors received the ITF Intermediate Report for 2003.

An important part of the BoA meeting was the presentation of plans and needs of Mine Action Centers in SE Europe for 2004. The purpose of the presentations was to give the donors an idea of the funds needed for Mine Action related operations in 2004. Emmanuelle Sauvage, Director of the Handicap International-Landmine Impact Survey, presented the preliminary results of the Survey, which will enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to deal with the mine problem

in a more efficient manner. Scotty Lee of the Spirit of Soccer Mine Risk Education Programme presented their work with children through the game of football, which proved to be one of the most successful MRE programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. ●

### PROTOCOL ON CAPACITY BUILDING IN RELATION TO DEMINING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ITF and the Commission for Demining of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a Protocol on the development of national capacities in relation to Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 10 October 2003. The Protocol aims to define avenues and timelines for establishing national capacities for the tendering process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the broader subject of maintaining and raising the level of donations for demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to plan, by the beginning of 2005 Bosnia and Herzegovina would have established procedures for the execution of tendering procedures for the awarding of demining works.

The Protocol provides for cooperation in relation to fundraising, presentation of the mine situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and personnel training in integrated communication in Mine Action, all with the aim of improving the current state of affairs in the field of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The capacity building and training activities will also receive UNDP funding.

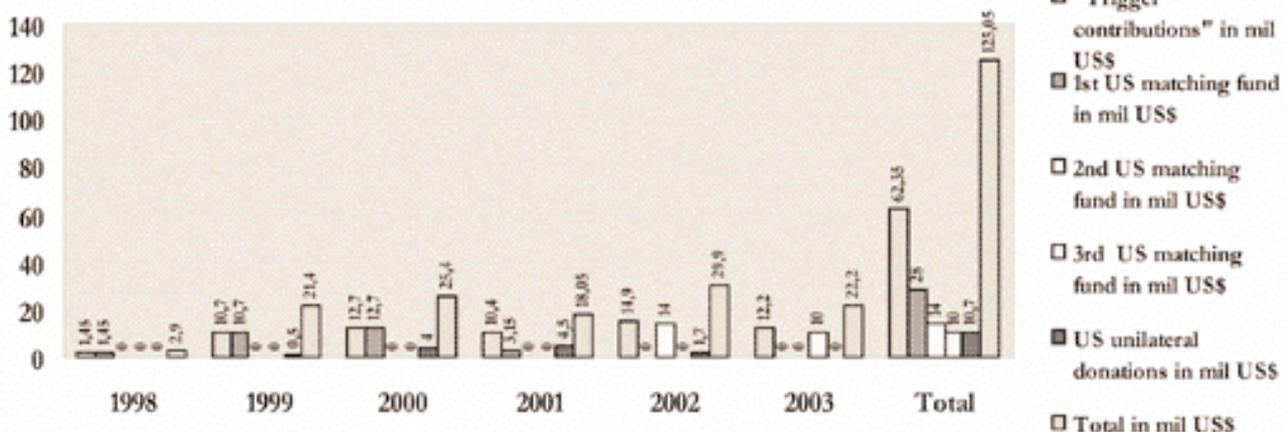
### HANDOVER OF MINE-CLEARED LAND IN NORTHERN ALBANIA

Handover of mine-cleared land to local communities took place at a special ceremony held in Stoberda, Northern Albania on Thursday, September 25, 2003. Albanian Mine Action Executive handed over the land cleared by two demining NGOs in 2003, DanChurchAid and Swiss Foundation for Demining, for safe use to the local population. Representatives of the donor community, Albanian authorities, UNDP, KFOR and ITF also attended the ceremony.

The ceremony also included the presentation of the ML-1 demining machine donated by the United States of America through ITF to the Albanian Mine Action program and the Danminar MDD team, whose work has been funded from the Czech donation made through ITF. Given sufficient donor support in 2004 and 2005, Albania could be free from the impact of mines by the end of 2005.



### OVERVIEW OF RECEIVED DONATIONS 1998-2003



# Regional MDD Center in Konjic Officially Opened



The Regional Mine Detection Dog Center was officially opened on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 in Borci-Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Mine Detection Dog Training Center for South-East Europe by the Council of Ministers, US Department of State, and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), on October 22, 2002, signaled the start of the implementation of the project. The Memorandum of Understanding defines the obligations of the signatories for the period of eight years.

For the first three years the MDD Center will be financed by the Office for Humanitarian Demining Programs, United States Department of State, after which the responsibility for the Center will transfer to the BiH Council of Ministers.

The regional MDD Center will hold training courses for:

- personnel to work with dogs, and
- dogs to detect all types of mines and UXOs.



Subject to additional donor support, the regional MDD Center will also provide dog training in the following areas:

- drug detection,
- training for the purposes of the State Border Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs,
- assistance to handicapped and disabled persons,
- search and rescue.

## VISIT BY A BIH DELEGATION

Members of the BiH Presiding Council visited the Center for Mine Victims at the Institute for Rehabilitation of the Republic of Slovenia (IRRS) in Ljubljana on September 9, 2003. ITF Director Mr. Jernej Cimperšek invited the BiH delegation to present the activities of ITF and the IRRS mine victims rehabilitation program in BiH. So far ITF has funded the rehabilitation of 646 mine victims from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the rehabilitation centers in BiH and at IRRS. Another 16 patients – mine victims are presently undergoing rehabilitation at IRRS.



## NEW DONATION OF IRELAND TO ITF

Ireland and ITF signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the new Irish donation in the amount of € 115,450. The Memorandum was signed by the Irish Ambassador to Slovenia, H.E. Mr Gary Ansbro, and by the ITF Director. The donation will be used in support of mine clearance operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina i.e. for preliminary mechanical ground works for demining to be carried out by Entity Armed Forces (EAF). The EAF demining is coordinated by SFOR.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most mine-affected countries in the region of SE Europe with more than one million mines and UXOs still contaminating the land. The donation will help restoring people's life back to normal.



## TRAINING IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AT GICHD

An ITF representative attended the GICHD course Incorporation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) into Peace Support Operations held between September 22 and October 3, 2003.

This was the first course aiming to train personnel involved in force protection and/or CIMIC activities, in the framework of EOD/Mine Action tasks of Peace Support Operations (PSOs), on how to integrate IMSMA into PSOs. The course was jointly organized and funded by the Swiss Ministry of Defense and GICHD as part of the Partnership

for Peace initiative. The objective of the course was to inform players involved in PSO, who also have to deal with humanitarian demining and EOD, about the usefulness of the IMSMA as a strategic tool for planning and information management. If most players in the IMSMA, not just Mine Action centers, it would help prevent overlapping of data and tasks, and identify true priorities for other players e.g. reconstruction agencies, MVA programs, development agencies... As the pick of the course Bluetooth Technology (laser binoculars,

GPS and handheld) was presented as the essential set of tools to be used in technical surveys in the near future.



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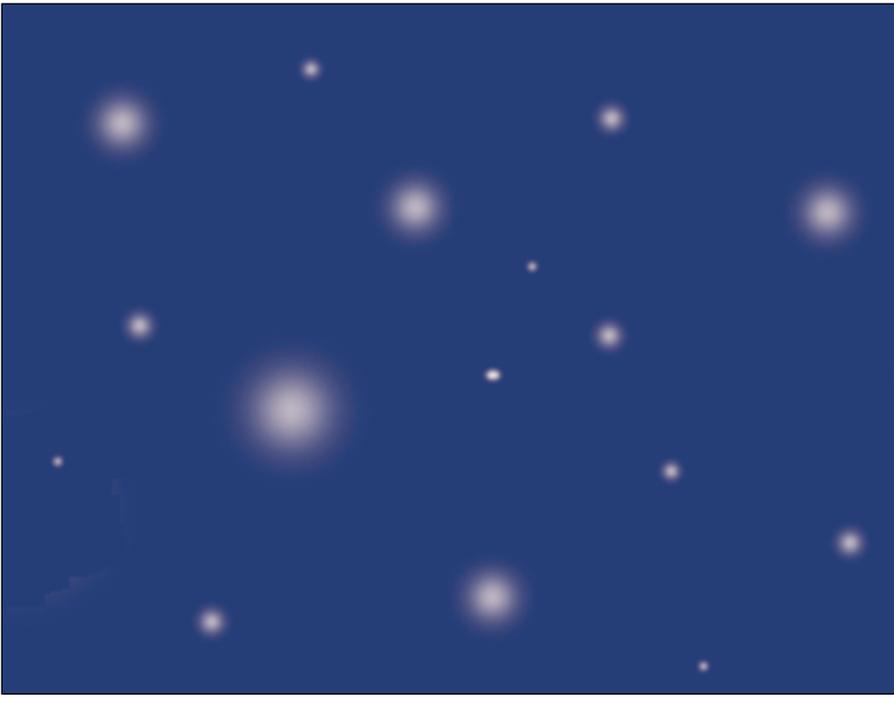
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