



Emerging Threats - Briefing

U.N. demining agency to review procedures

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SIBENIK, Croatia, April 18 (UPI) – Top officials from the U.N. Mine Action Service said in Croatia the agency plans to review its mine clearance procedures to expedite the process.

John Flanagan, the officer -in-charge of UNMAS, said in a mine clearance conference in Sibenik that his agency is considering new and more efficient methods of checking land for mines. Flanagan called the current process slow, which negatively affects countries working on demining their land, the United Nations reported.

The possible change is in response to a recent report by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, which found that "general assessments and landmine impact surveys often overestimate the extent of land actually affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war," the release said.

The potential new procedures would re-evaluate the threats in certain regions that could drastically speed up the mine clearance by allowing demining experts to focus on actual regions where there is credible evidence of landmines.

"We're looking for ways to confirm that land is safe without necessarily going over every inch of it with a mine detector," Flanagan said in a statement. "Where there is a genuine threat, however, we will make sure all landmines and explosive remnants of war are removed before we tell a community that land is safe for their use."

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