

IAN MANSFIELD

Ian Mansfield is the Operations Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) based in Geneva, Switzerland – a post he has held since July 2002. Prior to that he worked for the United Nations in New York, and on field assignments in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Laos. Before joining the UN, Ian served as an engineer officer in the Australian Army for 22 years.



The GICHD (www.gichd.org) assists countries who must deal with the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and also supports the various international treaties dealing with the issue. As Operations Director, Ian oversees all the operational, technical and research activities carried out by the Centre. Ian travels widely to war torn countries, and has published numerous articles on many aspects of mine action.

During his lengthy involvement, Ian has been a part of the increased strength and professionalisation of mine action as it evolved rapidly as a specific sector of expertise within broader relief and development efforts.

From 1998 to 2002, Ian was the Mine Action Team Leader with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York. He provided policy advice, resource mobilisation and program support to UN headquarters, and to the 20 UNDP country offices which supported national mine action programs. He also established a management training course with a British university, and initiated a comprehensive study into the socio-economic aspects of mine action.

Between 1991 and 1998, Ian gained extensive field experience managing large scale UN mine action programs, including Afghanistan, Laos and Bosnia. In Afghanistan, he managed a large humanitarian program, which spanned three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran) and employed over 3,500 people. In Laos he advised the government on establishing the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Program, better known as UXO LAO. In Bosnia, he oversaw the delicate transfer of a UN program to government control.

During his military career, Ian held a variety of command, field, training and headquarters jobs. His final posting was as Commanding Officer of the Australian Army Team in Pakistan where he had national command responsibilities, and doubled in a United Nations appointment. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 1993 Australia Day Honours list. Ian served in most states of Australia, as well as Papua New Guinea, the USA, Canada and Pakistan.

Ian's formal training reflects both his military and subsequent career. He holds both a Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College Duntroon, and the Army Command and Staff College. Ian is also pleased to serve as an honorary Ambassador for Austcare.

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