



Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

UNMAS APPOINTS NEW MACCA DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF

3rd May 2011. Kabul, Afghanistan. UNMAS has appointed a new Programme Director and Chief of Staff to lead the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA). The MACCA is responsible for coordinating over 900 mine action teams and in excess of \$90m of activity each year. Dr Haider Reza, who has held the post of Programme Director for the past three years, has taken up the post of Director of the Mine Action Programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Alan Macdonald, the former MACCA Chief of Staff, has been working with the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan since late 2007. He began working in mine clearance in Afghanistan in 1995, and subsequently worked in Angola, Somalia, Mozambique, and Eritrea before returning to Afghanistan in 2003. He has also worked for Cranfield University in the Mine Action department and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Abigail Hartley, former Senior Programme Officer, has been selected as the new Chief of Staff. She has over a decade's experience in mine action, having worked for many years with the mine clearance organisation Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Sudan, Sri Lanka and at HQ level before joining the MACCA as Senior Programme Officer in October 2008.

Justin Brady, Officer in Charge, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), says:

"We are so grateful to Dr Haider Reza for the way in which he has led the MACCA over the last three years and feel privileged that he is willing to contribute his expertise to support the emerging mine action national authorities in DRC as well as further the mandate of MONUSCO. For the MACCA, we look forward to the fresh perspective and drive the new leadership will surely bring and are grateful that their previous experience in the programme will ensure stability and continuity as we support the Government of Afghanistan realise their vision for mine action in the country."



Press Contacts:

Flora Sutherland/ Malalai Muska

Email: Flora.sutherland@macca.org.af/ malalai.muska@macca.org.af

T: +93 (0) 705 966 371/ +93 (0) 705 966 372