

Explosive Remnants of War Risk Assessment

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Over the past 70 years there has been wide spread military activity in a significant number of countries. Coincidentally much of the area fought over has mineral, oil and LNG deposits. In order to access these deposits the threat posed by the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) needs to be addressed both on land and underwater. For example prior to any oil field development programme it necessary to carry out an exploration programme to identify the potential reserves or oil/LNG. North Africa was the scene of intense military activity involving British, Italian and German forces as a direct result of which large tracts of land remain contaminated with land service ammunition, including anti personnel and anti tank mines as well as air dropped bombs and sub munitions. Prior to any scouting or seismic survey activity it is incumbent upon the contractor to carry out a risk assessment and implement appropriate risk mitigation measures to eliminate the threat posed by ERW. Although the ordnance has been in or on the ground for many years it is still capable of functioning causing death or damage to personnel and/or equipment. Appropriate Risk Mitigation measure include General Impact Survey (Level 1) to identify as accurately as possible the location and nature of the ordnance threat this would normally be followed up by a technical survey (level 2) were there is positive indication of a threat. This may lead to a full clearance operation to provide the necessary access for survey and exploration purposes.

This presentation will address the threat, the risk and appropriate mitigation measures that can be applied to sure the safety of personnel and equipment on former battle areas or area subjected to military activity.