

# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 19/04/2006	<b>Accident number:</b> 82
<b>Accident time:</b> not recorded	<b>Accident Date:</b> 19/07/1997
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Kariz Mir Village, Shakar Dara District, Kabul	<b>Country:</b> Afghanistan
<b>Primary cause:</b> Field control inadequacy (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Inadequate equipment (?)
<b>Class:</b> Vegetation removal accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> [No date recorded]
<b>ID original source:</b> none	<b>Name of source:</b> MAPA/UNOCHA
<b>Organisation:</b> [Name removed]	
<b>Mine/device:</b> PMN AP blast	<b>Ground condition:</b> bushes/scrub hard residential/urban
<b>Date record created:</b> 23/01/2004	<b>Date last modified:</b> 23/01/2004
<b>No of victims:</b> 1	<b>No of documents:</b> 1

## Map details

<b>Longitude:</b>	<b>Latitude:</b>
<b>Alt. coord. system:</b>	<b>Coordinates fixed by:</b>
<b>Map east:</b>	<b>Map north:</b>
<b>Map scale:</b> not recorded	<b>Map series:</b>
<b>Map edition:</b>	<b>Map sheet:</b>
<b>Map name:</b>	

## Accident Notes

inadequate metal-detector (?)  
inappropriate vegetation cutting tool (?)  
partner's failure to "control" (?)  
inadequate investigation (?)  
vegetation clearance problem (?)  
victim squatting and stepped on mine (?)  
inadequate area marking (?)

inadequate equipment (?)

## Accident report

At the time of the accident the UN MAC in Afghanistan favoured the use of two-man teams (usually operating a one-man drill). The two would take it in turns for one to work on vegetation cutting, detecting and excavation, while the other both rested and supposedly "controlled" his partner.

An investigation on behalf of the UN MAC was carried out and its report made briefly available. The following summarises its content.

The victim had been a deminer for two years. He had last attended a revision course two months before and last been on leave 35 days before. The ground where the accident occurred was described as a residential area that was "bushy" and medium hard.

The investigators determined that the victim had checked the area with a detector then started to cut the grass and bush with a sickle. He stepped on a mine that he has missed at the end of his work on the previous day. The investigation was limited by bad security in the area and the investigators were unable to validate a claim that the Schiebel detector signalled constantly and so was unreliable.

**The Section Leader** said the victim was careless because he was squatting to cut bushes when the accident occurred. Previously he had found a continuous reading and should have cleared the area from one side, then checked that the reading had gone before moving forward.

**The victim's partner** stated that the accident occurred when the victim was squatting to cut bushes and stepped on a mine he had missed the day before. He suggested an alternative to cutting bushes by sickle would make the job safer.

## Conclusion

The investigators concluded that the victim worked too quickly at the end of the previous day and missed the mine, also that he had marked an area greater than that actually cleared.

## Recommendations

The investigators recommended that all deminers should avoid working too quickly and carry out proper prodding and marking procedures. They added that deminers should "ensure 50cm safety margin" when marking the end of a cleared lane, that the command group should pay extra attention to deminers removing obstacles and should also make quality control checks in each lane daily to ensure that no detector readings are left. Finally, they recommended that, Section Leaders should check their men closely, especially those who "may be weak or careless in their duties".

## Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 113	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> 500,000 Rs (100%)	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Helmet	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded
Thin, short visor	

## Summary of injuries:

severe Genitals

severe Hands

severe Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

FATAL

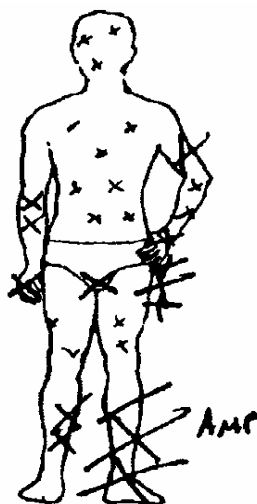
COMMENT

Victim died five days after the accident. See medical report.

### Medical report

The victim's injuries were summarised as: "left leg amputated and received fatal injuries on his thigh;" traumatic amputation of left leg under knee, serious injury to left thigh, serious injury to testes; injuries to both hands: died on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

A sketch showing extensive injury is reproduced below.



The demining group reported that the victim had suffered a below knee amputation of his left leg, a fracture of his left femur, lacerated wounds to his left gluteal region, left thigh, groin and multiple superficial injuries on both arms. The victim died five days later in Kabul hospital.

The cause of death was given as "respiratory arrest due to septicaemia and renal failure".

Compensation of 500,000 Rs was forwarded on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1997.

### Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the victim had either been working inadequately on the previous day and his error was not corrected, or he was working inadequately when the accident occurred.

The provision of a "sickle" to cut all vegetation including the tough, fibrous Afghan bush may be seen as a management failing because the selection of tools issued was determined by senior programme managers. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*".

The agency that was used to make investigations for the UN MAC (based in Pakistan) at this time was frequently constrained by lack of funds, staff and transport. At times their movement

was constrained by safety concerns. As a result, investigations were frequently delayed by weeks, meaning that an assessment of the site at the time of the accident was impossible.