

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 15/05/2006	Accident number: 105
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 26/03/1997
Where it occurred: Manzil Bagh District, Kandahar Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: none	Name of source: Other
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: hard
Date record created: 12/02/2004	Date last modified: 12/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

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

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
long handtool may have reduced injury (?)
squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)
use of pick (?)

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 apparently carried out but its report was not made available. The following summarises information gathered from other sources.

The victim had been a deminer for seven years. It was five months since his last revision course and 35 days since his last leave. The demining group reported that the victim was digging with a pick when suddenly a PMN mine exploded.

There were no other statements. The UN MAC programme manager sent a letter that indicated other notes must once have been on file but they were not made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 138	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: 8,215 Rs	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Hand

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

The victim's injuries were summarised as laceration and abrasion of little and ring fingers, laceration of left hand, and also "episdares". The report included no medic's report or photographs.

A disability claim that appears to relate to this accident was made on May 29th 1997 and described the injuries as lacerated wounds ring and little finger left hand. The victim was admitted to hospital on 7th April 1997 and given home rest until 17th April 1997.

Compensation of 8,215 Rs was paid on 11th July 1997

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the victim may have been working appropriately within the rules of his group. His lack of facial injury implies that he was wearing his visor correctly.

The victim's position at the time of the accident is inferred from the fact that the pick cannot be used in a prone position.

The use of a pick and a squatting position to "excavate" were both in breach of UN requirements, but not in breach of the demining group's unauthorised variations to those requirements. The failure of the UN MAC to either listen to field feedback and adapt the SOPs for local conditions, or enforce their own standards may be seen as a management failing.

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.