

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 185
Accident time: 11:27	Accident Date: 04/04/1995
Where it occurred: Kham Puet, Banang District, Battambang Province	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: 18/04/1995
ID original source: none [date inferred]	Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: Type 72 AP blast	Ground condition: electromagnetic hard
Date record created: 14/02/2004	Date last modified: 14/02/2004
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

no independent investigation available (?)
handtool may have increased injury (?)
victim working prone (?)

Accident report

At the time of the accident the demining group operated in three-man teams with a two-man drill. In this, one deminer used the detector and marked any signals while another looked for tripwires, cut undergrowth and excavated any detector readings. A third deminer was resting. The three rotated at fixed intervals.

A country MAC internal accident report was located in January 1999 and translated from the original Khmer. The following summarises its content.

The victim was investigating the source of a detector reading in an area where the ground had a high level of natural soil contamination. The victim was reported to have been lying down to work. He used his prodder, but because the ground was very hard he also used a trowel to break up the surface.

At 11:27 he initiated a Type 72A mine. After first aid the victim was taken by ambulance to Battambang Provincial Hospital, arriving at 12:40.

The victim lost the tip of a finger on the right hand, received small fragment wounds to the face, causing massive swelling, and his arm was also very swollen. The victim's vision and hearing were intact. The victim's safety spectacles were broken, as was his "trowel".

An investigation of the accident site revealed fragments from a Type 72a and a crater that was taken to indicate that the mine was probably buried to a depth of 6cm. [Note that the mine itself is about 3.8cm deep.] They found evidence that the victim was prodding to a depth of 5cm.

Conclusion

The investigators concluded that the victim was wearing his safety spectacles correctly, he was prodding correctly and the ground conditions warranted the use of a trowel.

Victim Report

Victim number: 235	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: US\$150	Time to hospital: 1 hour ten minutes
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: Safety spectacles

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Face

severe Arm

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Finger

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

The victim left hospital on 12th May 1995.

An application for compensation dated 15th August 1995 was written by a doctor at the hospital. It stated that he lost a finger on his right hand, was left with multiple scarring on the face and also suffered permanent damage to the tendons in the right arm, causing 40% disability.

The compensation board decided that the victim could continue to work and he was offered US\$150 in compensation, which he disputed at first but later accepted.

Analysis

The accident is classed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim was working properly (to widely approved SOPs) when the device detonated.

The damage to the victim's right arm is unusual. The mine was small and the hand not destroyed. It seems likely that the victim's handtool (or part of it) struck his arm. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*".

This is the only accident involving this demining group when it has been claimed that the victim was lying down to work. The demining group involved penalised victims who were breaking SOPs by reducing compensation, and the SOP required deminers to lie down to excavate.

The compensation offered for a 40% disability (US\$150) appears to have been derisory.

The picture shows the way the UN controlled MAC's deminers were supposed to work (it is reproduced from the cover of their SOPs).

