

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 188
Accident time: 08:20	Accident Date: 01/03/1995
Where it occurred: Snam Ampil, Khompot Province	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Victim inattention (?)
Class: Victim inattention	Date of main report: 01/03/1995
ID original source: PRM [date inferred]	Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMN-2 AP blast	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created: 14/02/2004	Date last modified: 14/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 2

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 (?)

victim ill (?)

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.

The country MAC Accident summary sheet stated that the accident occurred on 3rd January 1995. All documents in the accident file located in January 1999 gave the date as 1st March 1995.

A n internal inquiry report was located and translated from the original Khmer. It was apparently derived from a statement made by an expatriate Technical Advisor. The following summarises its content.

At 08:20 the victim located a mine and bent down to place a marker. At that point he had a dizzy spell and fell towards the mine, initiating it with the side of his head. He suffered serious injuries to his head and eyes and a broken arm (photographs elsewhere in the file also showed small bandages applied to his abdomen and right knee).

The mine was identified as a PMN-2 by fragments found at the site. After first aid the victim was taken to Khampot Provincial Hospital, leaving at 8:30.

A Technical Advisor who was present at the operations site gave a statement dated 1st March 1995. He stated that he heard an explosion at 08:20 and arrived at the accident site after driving the ambulance to the start of the mined area. He noted that the victim had received injuries to "the face, hands, inside right leg, and numerous cuts to other parts of his body". No-one else was injured.

The Technical Advisor was of the opinion that the victim had got a signal from his detector and had squatted down to place the mine marker. He called to his partner and then lost his balance on the uneven ground. He ventured that the victim tried to avoid the mine as he fell but hit it with the left side of his face, which explained the nature of his main injuries.

He felt that the accident was not caused by neglect, and was the result of the victim losing his balance on uneven ground.

Other statements in the report only referred to events after the accident.

A brief statement by the victim was included in which he was asked why he fell over and he said he had suddenly felt dizzy.

Conclusion

The investigator concluded that the accident was not caused by poor technique, but by the poor health of the deminer.

Recommendations

The investigator recommended that all deminers should have a medical check-up every three months to assess their fitness for demining work. He advised that the victim should receive full compensation for his injuries as he did not breach SOPs.

Victim Report

Victim number: 238	Name: Name removed
Age: 25	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: US\$3,800	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: Safety spectacles

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Body

minor Hand

minor Leg

severe Eyes

severe Head

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

A medical examination was carried out on 26th April 1995 by an expatriate doctor. His report stated that the victim was found to have lost 100% vision in the left eye and 90% vision in the right. The doctor recommended compensation of between \$3,800 and \$4000.

A photograph showed upper right thigh and upper right arm fragmentation injuries. The victim's face was severely injured but the substructure seemed intact.

Compensation of \$3,800 was received by the victim on 3rd May 1995. The Accident summary sheet produced by the country MAC erroneously stated that compensation of US\$4,000 was paid.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the cause was the victim falling over. This kind of human error could have happened whatever control systems were in place and so are unavoidable. The secondary cause is listed as "*Victim inattention*" because it seems likely that he was not paying attention when he fell.

The victim's face was reported to be severely injured but the substructure intact. This implies that his face was hit by the blast but that it was not close enough to the epicentre to have initiated a mine as large as a PMN-2 (100g TNT).

Related papers

Photographs of the victim's injuries and a photograph of the victim's broken Schiebel detector, damaged hat and safety spectacles were on file. (These were poor photocopies that could not be reproduced usefully.)

A sketch of the accident site (showing the crater, victim's position and where his sun-hat, detector and safety spectacles were found) was also on file along with a pay document showing that the victim's pay was \$100 per month.