

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 249
Accident time: 08:15	Accident Date: 22/09/1998
Where it occurred: Cadra village, Wazi Kwa, Paktia 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: MAPA/UNOCHA
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: agricultural (abandoned) ditch/channel/trench hard metal fragments
Date record created: 17/02/2004	Date last modified: 17/02/2004
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

request for clearance with explosive charge (?)
request for machine to assist (?)
squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)
visor not worn or worn raised (?)
inadequate training (?)

Accident report

An investigation on behalf of the UN MAC was carried out and its report made available in September 1999. The following summarises its content.

The victim had been a deminer for four years. It was one month since his last revision course and 17 days since his last leave. The accident occurred on agricultural land with a "hard ground surface". The device was identified as a PMN by fragments found at the site. The site included "drains" and the victim was working in one of these [a drainage ditch].

The investigators determined that he detected a reading and put his helmet on to prod. He could find nothing but the detector still signalled so he prodded again and found a fragment. The detector still signalled and he was prodding for the third time when the mine detonated at 08:15. He received "minor injuries", his visor was damaged and his bayonet lost. The victim walked unaided to the safe area.

The victim was treated at the site and then in hospital in Kabul.

The Team Leader stated that the deep buried mine could have had its position in the ground changed and that the deminer may have placed "excessive pressure" on his bayonet. He believed that such incidents could be avoided by clearing the ground with explosive charges and by using back-hoes.

The Section Leader pointed out that no one actually see what the victim was doing because he was down in the drain but he thought the mine was deeply buried and the ground was too hard for prodding. He thought that back-hoes or other "modern machines" should be used in those areas.

Conclusion

The investigators determined that the victim failed to centre the detector reading adequately and so prodded on top of the mine. The fact of having found fragments at the spot before may have made him careless. They also found that the mine was deeply buried by silt laid down in the rains and that the excavation made by the victim was too steep.

Recommendations

The investigators recommended that deminers should ensure that they mark readings accurately and prod at the correct angle, treating every reading as a mine. They also recommended that training include the excavation of simulated deep-mines. They also required that the demining groups make equipment damaged in an accident available for inspection by accident investigators.

Victim Report

Victim number: 323	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Helmet Thin, short visor	Protection used: Helmet, Thin, short visor

Summary of injuries:

minor Arm

minor Chest

minor Face

minor Hand

minor Legs

minor Shoulder

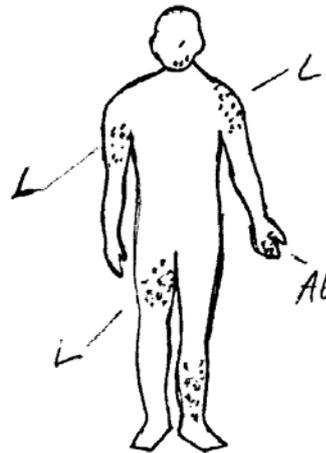
COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

An initial casualty report listed the victim's injuries as lacerations to "left hand fingers, left leg, left shoulder, right arm, right knee, chest and nose".

A medic's sketch in the casualty report (reproduced below) showed fragmentation on the upper right arm, chin, nose, left shoulder, left hand, right thigh and left shin. His pulse was recorded at 100/min, BP 130/85 and respiration at 20/min.



The field doctor described the injuries as: left leg abrasions and wounds; left shoulder and right side of the chest abrasive [sic]; Right arm has different deep wounds; Left hand fingers (pox, medius and thumb) have wounds; Right thigh has multiple wounds; Nose, chin, lips have abrasions".

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim may have been working properly (according to his SOPs) when the accident occurred.

The investigators did not mention the fact that the victim was squatting (in breach of the UN MAC's SOPs) but the spread of his injuries (including his legs) indicates that he was.

The victim was not interviewed because he was "on leave" when the investigation took place, so is presumed to have returned to work.

The victim's facial injury may indicate that his visor was partly raised.