

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 09/01/2008	Accident number: 465
Accident time: Not made available	Accident Date: 27/02/2003
Where it occurred: Not made available	Country: Iraq
Primary cause: Inadequate survey (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Survey accident	Date of main report: Not made available
ID original source: [Name removed]	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: Valmara 69 AP Bfrag	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created: 09/01/2008	Date last modified: 09/01/2008
No of victims: 5	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: Not made available	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

inadequate survey (?)

inadequate training (?)

safety distances ignored (?)

Accident report

Details of this accident have been withheld by the demining NGO that employed the Victim. A spreadsheet including the Victim's name and very brief details of the accident was made available in 2007. Some details can be inferred from the information released. For example, the limited spread of injury implies that the victims may have been wearing PPE.

This entry will be expanded if access to the report of the investigation is made available in future.

The spreadsheet data is reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

“Date and country. [Name removed] – supervisor - deep wound on right leg
[Name removed] - Guideman - traumatic amputation of left leg below
knee and right leg above knee
[Name removed] - Deminer - multiple superficial injuries to left leg
[Name removed] - Guideman - superficial injuries
[Name removed] – Deminer - superficial injuries
[Demining group] staff part of recce team walking round minefield perimeter
to demarcate, guideman initiated V69 mine.”

Victim Report

Victim number: 617	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

severe Leg

COMMENT: "Deep wound on right leg." No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 618	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: surveyor	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Above knee

Leg Below knee

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 619	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status:	Fit for work:
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

minor Leg

COMMENT: "Multiple superficial injuries to left leg." No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 620	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: surveyor	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Minor "superficial injuries". No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 621	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Minor "superficial injuries". No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "Inadequate training" because the same demining group had several survey accidents in this country at around the same time. In each the area under demarcation was smaller than it should have been. Apparently, they did not learn from the previous accidents, or the lessons were not carried over into training.

The secondary cause is listed as a “Management control inadequacy” because the management of the demining group declined to make the accident details available. Although this is sometimes done to protect the Victims, in this case the Victims’ names were among the limited detail made available. It is possible that the managers have chosen to avoid transparency because they are afraid that the circumstances of the accident would reflect badly on their organisation.

The fact that five people were injured by the same device is evidence that safety distances were not being imposed at the time. This may have been deliberate because the demarcation should always be in a safe area outside the suspect area. If this was the case, the victims may not have been wearing PPE. The man who tripped the mine lost both legs and may have prevented the mine bounding to its full height, so reducing the spread of fragments.