

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 24/01/2008	Accident number: 508
Accident time: 10:00	Accident Date: 15/05/2006
Where it occurred: MF 0018, Benigah Village, Jalalabad District, Nangarhar Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)	Secondary cause: Victim inattention (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: 23/05/2006
ID original source: Ops103/01-04	Name of source: UNMACA
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: dry/dusty grass/grazing area rocks/stones
Date record created:	Date last modified: 24/01/2008
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by: GPS
Map east: E 070.32 31.2	Map north: N 34. 29 15.0
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate area marking (?)
inadequate equipment (?)
inadequate metal-detector (?)
mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)
partner's failure to "control" (?)
protective equipment not worn (?)
victim ill (?)
visor not worn or worn raised (?)

Accident report

The report of this accident was made available in August 2007 as a PDF file. Its conversion to a text file for editing means that some of the formatting has been lost. The substance of the report is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original PDF file is held on record. Text in [] is editorial.

IMSMA Demining Investigation Report

Date of incident/accident: 15/05/2006: Time: 10:00

Location: E 070.32 31.2: N 34. 29 15.0: GPS

Device that caused the incident/accident: PMN AP blast

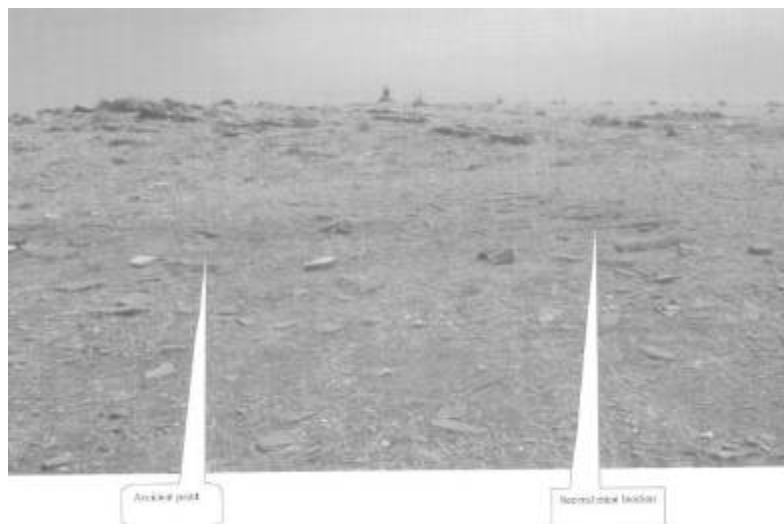
Device was detonated while he was marking the cleared lane while he stepped on a discovered mine.

Description of the incident/accident

Deminer [Name removed] starts his work after the guidance of his section leader. As the working was going on and he got a signal on his detector he marked the signal and start the prodding/excavation after the prodding/excavation he discovered a PMN/AP mine and marked it then informed his section leader and subsequently the team leader. Then injured deminer [the Victim] start to [do] the detecting. After a while he got tired and went to drink the water. After coming starts the work again and he was returning back in the working line to mark the cleared/working line, during this stage he stepped on discovered mine and the accident occurred and he got injured. [Deminer suffered] injuries on his body, right hand, abdomen, right foot and thigh.

Equipment/property damage: The PPE and helmet got damaged due to accident.

[The accident site is shown below.]



Site conditions: The terrain was recorded as uneven hillside. The soil was hard and dry. The weather was clear, calm and hot. The vegetation was “rocky”.

Team and task details: The last QA inspection was on 7/05/2006. The team had been at the site for 56 working days. Working hours are 5:30 to 11:30 with a break after every 30 minutes.

The metal detector was the CEIA- MIL-D1. The hand tool was a bayonet. The last leave was from 20/03/2006 to 31/03/2006. PPE was not used correctly.

Medical reaction time: The paramedic was at the accident site within five minutes. The Victim was treated for 70 minutes before being driven 15km to hospital. The drive took 35 minutes. Total CASEVAC time 1 hour 50 minutes.

Conclusion

The following facts contributed to the accident:

1. The carelessness of himself of the injured deminer that marking of the discovered mine and working further then leads him to the occurrence of the accident.
2. Not marking of the cleared lines is the other fact of the accident which deminer didn't distinguish between clear and unclear area.
3. Poor command and control of the command group whom postponed the explosion of the discovered mine and left the injured deminer to work further which breach the safety measures and contributes in the happening of accident.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for this accident:

1. All discovered mines/UXO would be destroyed immediately according to the proper procedure.
2. All signals, discovered mines and UXO and cleared/ unclear lines would [be] marked properly.
3. Command group would be punished due to their poor command and control during the day of accident.

Attachments: [Held on file]

Follow-up letter

File: Ops103/01-04

Date: May 28, 2006

To: See distribution List

From: Chief of Operations/Deputy Program Manager MAPA/UNMACA, Kabul

Subject: Follow up action on demining accident happened to the deminer of OMAR MCT-5 in task # AF10801/09429/MF 0018, Benigah village, in centre of Nangarhar province.

Reference: Demining investigation report dates May 23, 2006, of UN-AMAC East.

A demining accident happened on May 15, 2006 in clearance lane of [the Victim] the deminer of MCT-5 of OMAR in task No. 0018, located in Benigah village, centre (Jalalabad) of Nangarhar Province, caused multiple right side injuries and right foot bellow knee amputation to him.

The investigation report concluded that, the accident occurred because of poor command and control and disregard of SOPs by command group and carelessness of injured deminer. The deminer partner of the breaching party [Name removed] has detected and discovered an AP (PMN) mine in their clearance lane and informed the command group, but the command group paid no attention to discovered mine, so he marked the mine and [the Victim] started operation in his clearance lane. After a while when he wanted to mark his cleared lane, he stepped on the uncovered mine and sustained the injuries.

Recommendations:

- I. All the manual teams are to destroy the mines immediately after discovering, unless they have a permission to detonate the mines/UXO at the end of daily operation (as MOD supporting team).
- II. All the cleared lanes and discovered mine/UXO within a minefield are to be marked properly according to the SOPs under close supervision of command group.
- III. A revision course to be held to the team.
- IV. Severe Disciplinary actions to be taken against command group of mentioned team.

Distribution List: With attachment: AMACs (5), Sub AMAC Gardez and Director OMAR

Less attachment: [All demining groups in-country.]

Victim Report

Victim number: 667	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 28	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: no
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: One hour 50 minutes
Protection issued: Frontal apron Long visor	Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

minor Arms
minor Chest
minor Face
minor Head
minor Legs

AMPUTATION/LOSS: Eye; Leg Below knee

COMMENT: See Medical report.

Medical report

The Victim stated that he “got injures on my left eye, left ear, left leg amputated, hands and all over the body.”

The IMSMA sketch recorded loss of left eye and left leg below knee: injuries to buttocks, chest upper limbs and lower limbs.

Paramedic statement

It is worth to mention that the health condition of deminer [the Victim] was good prior to the accident and was quite suitable for work in the field.

I was located to the north side of the minefield across to TP3 about 50 away.

It was about 10 o'clock during the day that accident happened with deminer [the Victim]. I was supporting section no 1 and 2 after the hearing of voice of the explosion, and seeing the dust and smoke, I took my stretcher, blanket and first aid kit with me and walked quickly to the accident location and assistant team leader also informed me and he was coming to my location. He took the stretcher and stand 20 meters away in safe area, until the injured taken out to the cleared area. When the injured taken out to the safe area near to me, we gave him the first aid as follows:

1. Check the airways, that any foreign things haven't. Give the breathings.
2. Circulation of the blood checked,
3. The tourniquet bounded.
4. Give the position to the injured part.
5. Passed the IV Canola.
6. Give the Shock neoroginic/Analgsic.
7. Splinter give for amputation.
8. And then general checkup done, for other injuries and then transported to the medical tent [at] 10:15 and [at] 10:50 we arrived the injured to the medical tent. In tent, first of all we give IV fluid ringer, then dressed the injures with fresh boiled water then gently free the tourniquet. The died muscles take away, and dressed with hydrogen peroxide, and then pad gauzes wetted with piodin and put on injuries. And eyes dressed with normal slyness and give pomade poly fax, and the general observation done.

[The Victim being treated in the tent. The amputation was “traumatic”.]



On 11:10 we shift the injured towards the hospital, inside the ambulance we start the oxygen to the injured and his vital signs were checked time by time. And on 11:35 we arrived to hospital, there our FMU doctor was get the operation theatre and emergency doctors were get ready.

Demining group medical report

Date: Monday, May 15, 2006

Subject: Mine Accident Report.

1. Agency OMAR Site — 5 Team No-5
2. Location : Province-Nangarhar, District- Behsood, Village- Benigah.
3. Date and Time of accident: Monday, May 15, 2006 — 10:00am.
4. injured person DoB: 1978

Position: Deminer- File No-PER-600-1430.

5- Description of injuries:

- left leg Traumatic amputation below knee Joint.
- left eye corneal injury.
- superficial injuries of the face and left Ear.
- superficial injuries to both arm.
- superficial injuries to chest.
- superficial injuries to right leg.

Treatment given:

Injection - Sosegon 30 ml

IV: N- 1

Injection — Ampiclox 1 gram

IV

Serum — Ringer Lactate 1000 ml

N- 1

General condition = is good.

Casualty priorities: Priority one.

Signed: [Medical doctor]

STATEMENTS

Statement and Witness report 1: Team Leader

Q1. Please describe your daily activities?

A1. After recitation of the holly Quran in the morning I brief all personnel regarding the safety precautions. And provide the short brief about the SOP.

Q2. How and where the accident occurred?

A2. The accident happened in section 1, as this party was find the mine at 9:15 and we were informed our site office. and our site office was informed the AMAC. and then we destroyed the mine. Then deminer start the work and the weather were too hot in this time the mine detector was lost its sensitivity, and miss mine is happening and the accident happened.

Q3. Where and what were you doing while the accident happened?

A3. During the period of accident I was with section no. 4 and checking their works.

Q4. Please provide us information about the ability, experience and private life of the injured person?

A4. The injured person is deminer since last 2 years he was reliable person and has work experience. And he is the son of very poor man.

Q5. How much days you worked in the said minefield and how much mine and UXO did you find in this minefield?

A5. We have worked 56 working days in this mine field and found 7 mines and 25 UXO.

Q6. How much mines did you find?

A6. During the day of accident we found 1 mine on the second the accident happened.

Q7. Did you destroy the mines before or after the accident?

A7. The found mine was destroyed before the accident.

Q8. How do you think what would be the proper cause of this accident?

A8. The first cause is the hotness of the weather and the second cause is the carelessness of deminer.

Q9. What do you think, did this accident was preventable or not, if yes please provide your comments?

A9. It was preventable if the weather was not too hot or the deminer pay full attention.

Q10. Please provide the detail of injuries?

A10. The left foot of the injured was amputated and according to the doctors he lost 80% of his eye.

Q11. How do prevent such accident in the future, provide your comments please?

A11. Completely applying of the SOP could prevent the accidents.

Q12. This particular area where the accident happened was cleared by whom?

A12. Him self [the Victim] was cleared the area.

Q13. What was the injured person doing while the accident happened?

A13. According to the section leader he was detecting that the accident happened.

Q14. Which equipments of the demining damaged due to the accident, please provide the detail?

A14. The PPE and helmet is damaged due the accident.

Statement and Witness report 2: Deminer partner to the Victim

Accident Information

Q1. Please describe your daily activities?

A1. Since last two years and three months I am working as deminer.

Q2. How and where the accident occurred?

A2. When at 9:15 we found a mine and then [the Victim] inform the section leader, and then by order of section leader [the Victim] explode the mine.

Q3. Where and what were you doing while the accident happened?

A3. I was 25 meters away controlling that the accident happened.

Q4. Please provide us information about the ability, experience and private life of the injured person?

A4. About 2 years he has experience and his family condition was not good as his mother and son were sick. And his son is admitted in hospital and his mother is paralysis.

Q5. How much days you worked in the said minefield and how much mine and UXO did you find in this minefield?

A5. We worked 56 days on this minefield.

Q6. How much mines did you find during the day of accident and how much did you destroyed?

A6. We found 2 mines 1 exploded and the other is happened accident.

Q7. Did you destroy the mines before or after the accident?

A7. Before the accident we destroyed the found mine.

Q8. How do you think what would be the proper cause of this accident?

A8. The main cause of the accident is that he interred into unclear area that accident happened.

Q9. What do you think, did this accident was preventable or not, if yes please provide your comments?

A9. Yes, if he have worked with patiently and did not stepped on the mine the incident would not be happened.

Q10. Please provide the detail of injuries?

A10. The injured lost his left leg, and eye, got injuries on face hands and chest.

Q11. How do prevent such accident in the future, provide your comments please?

A11. Deminers should work patiently properly to prevent such accidents.

Q12. This particular area where the accident happened was cleared by whom?

A12. The particular area where [the Victim] got injured was cleared by him.

Q13. What was the injured person doing while the accident happened?

A13. [No answer]

Q14. Which equipments of the demining damaged due to the accident, please provide the detail?

A14. [No answer]

Statement and Witness report 3: Section Leader

Q1. Please describe your daily activities?

A1. I join OMAR on 1/4/2000 as deminer and in 2003/8/1 upgraded to the position of section leader.

Q2. How and where the accident occurred?

A2. The accident happened in minefield no. 018 at Binigah village on the top of mountain that the injured deminer partner found a mine on 9:15, and we destroyed it. Then the injured deminer check the said point and start the work. As the weather was too hot and the detector lost its sensitivity due the hot weather and deminer missing the mine.

Q3. Where and what were you doing while the accident happened?

A3. During the accident I went to my party no.1 as they called me, and they were found a mortar fuse I was controlling them that the accident happened.

Q4. Please provide us information about the ability, experience and private life of the injured person?

A4. The injured person has 2 years demining experience and had no economic problems.

Q5. How much days you worked in the said minefield and how much mine and UXO did you find in this minefield?

A5. We have worked 55 days on the said minefield. We found 7 mines and 13 UXO in my section.

Q6. How much mines did you find during the day of accident and how much did you destroyed?

A6. We found 1 PMN mine during the day of accident and we destroyed that one mine.

Q6. We found 1 PMN mine during the day of accident and we destroyed that one mine.

A7. We exploded the found mine before the accident.

Q8. How do you think what would be the proper cause of this accident?

A8. According to my own opinion the main cause of the accident is the hot weather and lost of the mine detector due to the hot weather.

Q9. What do you think, did this accident was preventable or not, if yes please provide your comments?

A9. Yes, this accident was preventable, and that is during the hot weather when the deminer have no dry spot on his clothes, and detector lost its sensitivity we will not worked.

Q10. Please provide the detail of injuries?

A10. Injured lost his left leg below the knee, and got injuries all over the body.

Q11. How do prevent such accident in the future, provide your comments please?

A11. First of all during the hot weather the work well be done in the flat areas, and then the detector should be revised.

Q12. This particular area where the accident happened was cleared by whom?

A12. That area was cleared by [the Victim].

Q13. What was the injured person doing while the accident happened?

A12. During the accident I saw the injured while prodding and then I went to my party no 1 that the accident happened and maybe did some other action after the prodding.

Q14. Which equipments of the demining damaged due to the accident, please provide the detail?

A14. Due the accident PPE and helmet damaged.

Statement and Witness report 4: Assistant Team Leader

General Information

Q1. Please describe your daily activities?

After recitation of the holy Quran in the morning at the store area the team leader brief the personnel regarding the safety precaution, mine conditions, finding the centre of the signal, prodding and site. After the brief personnel march towards the work site. As 018 task is located on highest location, it take 45 minutes to arrive there. Personnel start their works at 6:45 o'clock.

Q2. How and where the accident occurred?

A2. The accident happened in section 1 in party no 3 at 9:55. At 9:15 party no. 3 of section no.1 found a mine and then we report to our site office, and then according to the guidance of our site office we destroyed the mine and after the explosion its site checked again. Then deminer start his work, the weather was hot in such condition detectors lost its sensitivity, said deminer was missed the mine and himself got injured.

Q3. Where and what were you doing while the accident happened?

A3. During the period of accident I was controlling and observing section no.2.

Q4. Please provide us information about the ability, experience and private life of the injured person?

A4. The injured person has 2 years demining experience. and he was very active and experienced person. He was very virtue Muslim, have had a high aspiration and good characters.

Q5. How much days you worked in the said minefield and how much mine and UXO did you find in this minefield?

A5. We worked 56 days in minefield no. 018 and we found about 25 UXO and 7 mines.

Q6. How much mines did you find during the day of accident and how much did you destroyed?

A6. During the day of accident we found a mine at 9:15 and report to our site office and then destroyed the mine.

Q7. Did you destroy the mines before or after the accident?

A7. The found mine was destroyed before the accident.

Q8. How do you think this would be the proper cause of the accident?

A8. According to my thought, said deminer might did ignorance and did not applied the procedures.

Q9. What do you think, did this accident was preventable or not, if yes please provide your comments?

A9. In my thought, the deminer should take care.

Q10. Please provide the detail of injuries?

A10. The injured lost one feet, one eye got injured and one par of the body injured totally.

Q11. How do prevent such accident in the future, provide your comments please?

A11. My suggestion to prevent such accident is that: The demining rules and regulation should be applied properly, and as well application of SOP could prevent such accidents.

Q12. This particular area where the accident happened was cleared by whom?

A12. [No answer]

Q13. What was the injured person doing while the acceding happened?

A13. [No answer]

Q14. Which equipments of the demining damaged due to the accident, please provide the detail?

A14. [No answer]

Statement and Witness report 5: the Victim

General Information

Q1. Please describe your daily activities?

A1. First of all my friend start his turn in this day, then I took my turn and after each 30 minutes the turn was changing over. And every one was doing his work by turn.

Q2. How and where the accident occurred?

A2. After the detection I opened/take away my PPE lower part and went to drink the water, after that came and want to put the markers further, in this stage I don't understand and the mine went up.

Q3. Please provide us information about the ability, experience and private life of the injured person?

A3. My private life is too indigent and has economical problems for the time being I borrowed 30000 thirty thousand Pakistani rupees for my treatment. And I have two years demining experience.

Q3. How much mines did you find during the day of accident and how much did you destroyed?

A4. During the day of accident we found one mine which was found by my partner. And were marked it, and then we were took other two meter line adjacent to that line. Then I got thirsty and went for drinking then came and fasten my PPE lower part. And want to change the marks/put the marks further. In this stage I don't understand that I stepped into unclear area or what.

Q5. Did you destroy the mines before or after the accident?

A5. We didn't destroyed the discovered mine before the accident.

Q6. How do you think what would be the main cause of this accident?

A6. My mother is too much sick, and my all thoughts and sensuous were behind she, in this time. I don't understand I might be missed the mine, or stepped into the unclear area.

Q7. What do you think, did this accident was preventable or not, if yes please provide your comments?

A7. No if it preventable I would do it.

Q8. Please provide the detail of injuries?

A8. I got injures on my left eye, left ear, left leg amputated, hands and all over the body.

Q9. How do prevent such accident in the future, provide your comments please?

A9. My suggestion to friends is that: They must wear/use the PPE, if they got some headache (turn of head) they would set and do care, and centralize all senses and thoughts to their works.

Q10. This particular area where the accident happened was cleared by whom?

A10. In that particular area where I got injured was cleared by me.

Q11. Which equipments of the demining damaged due to the accident, please provide the detail?

A11. Lower part of the PPE and some others.

Q12. Was the salary paid on time to you?

A12. The salary was given to us on time.

Q13. Have you the PPE on during the accident?

A13. Yes.

Q14. How was the contact of command group against you?

A14. They had a good relationship/contact with me.

Q15. Were you pressed during the day of accident by some one regarding to the work or other matters?

A15. No one pushed me nor put any pressure on me.

Analysis

The "Inadequate investigation" listed under notes refers to the fact that the investigator's conclusion contradicts all of the evidence in the report. There is some minor contradiction in the statements (as is usual) but all the witnesses and the Victim tell a story of stepping on a missed mine, or a mine outside the cleared area (inadequate marking), rather than stepping on a previously exposed mine. The investigators may well be correct, but should have presented some evidence for their view. It is implied that the Victim might have deliberately injured himself for the compensation but the only evidence presented supports the contention that this was a "Missed mine" accident.

The primary cause is listed as "Inadequate equipment" because the deminers claimed that their detectors were not working properly in the heat. The on-site temperature was not recorded, but ground temperatures in the area can reach 60C (causing over-inflated ICRC truck tyres to explode when I was there in 1998). All detectors have a maximum temperature

for reliable performance, and all need to be regularly retuned as the temperature rises during the day. The investigators should have checked the detectors on site because other mines might have been missed.

The secondary cause is listed as "Victim inattention" because the Victim had removed his PPE and gone into the site when so hot that he could not remember whether he had strayed outside the cleared area.

The Victim may have been carrying his PPE at the time but the spread of injury proves that he was not wearing it properly.