

12-10-1997

DDASaccident136

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 15/05/2006	Accident number: 136
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 10/12/1997
Where it occurred: Manzil Bagh, Kandahar city	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)
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: not recorded
Date record created: 13/02/2004	Date last modified: 13/02/2004
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

inadequate investigation (?)

no independent investigation available (?)

visor not worn or worn raised (?)

Accident report

At the time of the accident the UN MAC in Afghanistan favoured the use of two-man teams (usually operating a one-man drill). The two would take it in turns for one to work on vegetation cutting, detecting and excavation, while the other both rested and supposedly "controlled" his partner.

No investigation on behalf of the UN MAC was made available. An initial letter informing the UN MAC of the accident was found. The following summarises its content.

The victim had last attended a revision course three months before, and last been on leave 23 days before the accident with a mine, believed to be a PMN.

The accident classification is inferred from the injuries.

Victim Report

Victim number: 173	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: 400,000 Rs	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Helmet	Protection used: not recorded
Thin, short visor	

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Chest

minor Face

minor Hand

severe Eyes

severe Hearing

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

An initial letter to the UN MAC summarised the victim's injuries as foreign bodies to both eyes, multiple lacerations to his right hand, face and chest, and both eardrums perforated.

The insurers were informed on 11th December 1997 that the victim suffered "foreign bodies to both eyes, multiple lacerations to right hand, face and chest: both timpanic membranes perforated.

The demining group forwarded a claim on 11th March 1998 in which the victim's injuries were described as multiple injuries and loss of hearing to both ears.

A compensation payment was made in May 1998 of 400,000 Rs [which is 80% disability, from which it is inferred that the eye injury was serious].

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the injuries indicate that the victim was not wearing his protection appropriately and his error went uncorrected.

It is possible that the thin visor failed, in which case the accident would represent a management failing because the provision of adequate protection is their responsibility. It is possible that the visor was raised because it was too damaged to see through properly (as

was seen frequently during 1998), in which case the failure to provide useable equipment may represent a serious management failing.

The victim's chest injury implies that he was not lying prone. The use of a squatting position to "excavate" is a breach of UN requirements, but not a breach of the demining group's unauthorised variations to those requirements. The failure of the UN MAC to either listen to field feedback and adapt SOPs for local conditions, or enforce their own standards may be seen as a further management failing.

The agency that was used to make investigations for the UN MAC (based in Pakistan) at this time was frequently constrained by lack of funds, staff and transport. At times their movement was constrained by safety concerns. As a result, investigations were frequently delayed by weeks, meaning that an assessment of the site at the time of the accident was impossible.

Gathering of further accident and medical treatment detail was prevented by the UN programme manager who denied all access to records in September 1999. Access has continued to be denied up to the date of completion of this version of the database.