

2-17-1997

## DDASaccident172

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database  
*AID*

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Database, Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident, "DDASaccident172" (1997). *Global CWD Repository*. 372.  
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# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 17/05/2006	<b>Accident number:</b> 172
<b>Accident time:</b> not recorded	<b>Accident Date:</b> 17/02/1997
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Battambang Province	<b>Country:</b> Cambodia
<b>Primary cause:</b> Field control inadequacy (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Management/control inadequacy (?)
<b>Class:</b> Victim inattention	<b>Date of main report:</b> [No date recorded]
<b>ID original source:</b> none	<b>Name of source:</b> CMAC
<b>Organisation:</b> Name removed	
<b>Mine/device:</b> AP blast (unrecorded)	<b>Ground condition:</b> not recorded
<b>Date record created:</b> 14/02/2004	<b>Date last modified:</b> 14/02/2004
<b>No of victims:</b> 1	<b>No of documents:</b> 2

## Map details

<b>Longitude:</b>	<b>Latitude:</b>
<b>Alt. coord. system:</b>	<b>Coordinates fixed by:</b>
<b>Map east:</b>	<b>Map north:</b>
<b>Map scale:</b> not recorded	<b>Map series:</b>
<b>Map edition:</b>	<b>Map sheet:</b>
<b>Map name:</b>	

## Accident Notes

disciplinary action against victim (?)  
inadequate investigation (?)  
no independent investigation available (?)

## Accident report

No accident report was found at the country MAC in January 1999.

There must have been a report at one time in order for the UN controlled demining group's Compensation Board to decide not to pay compensation because of the victim's culpability.

## Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 219	<b>Name:</b> Name removed
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> not known
<b>Compensation:</b> none	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Safety spectacles	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded

### Summary of injuries:

#### INJURIES

severe Eye

#### AMPUTATION/LOSS

Arm

Fingers

#### COMMENT

No medical report was made available. See "Related papers".

### Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the victim was apparently in breach of SOPs (habitually) but had not been disciplined or appropriately corrected.

The failure of senior management to accept responsibility for the victim's injury and allow payment from the compensation fund (into which the victim had paid monthly from his salary) indicates a lack of concern that is astonishing and unique to this demining group. The secondary cause is listed as a "*Management/control inadequacy*" because the management methods invite inadequate investigations.

The "punishment" of the victim for the failings of his supervisors occurs in other accidents involving this demining group.

### Related papers

A document, dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 1997, was found on file at the country MAC. It made recommendations put to a Compensation Board meeting which was to convene on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1997. The victim was mentioned as one of three cases under discussion. The board members were listed in English and all had apparently Khmer names.

The minutes of the meeting briefly summarised the injuries then went on:-

"While it was recognised that the deminer could not be permitted to continue work as a deminer, he should not be compensated for his injuries and should not receive a salary as from August 1997. The reason for this is that he had a long history of breaching SOPs, did not respect the principles of [the demining group] and disobeyed commands."

The decision was unanimously agreed. There was a handwritten note on the bottom of the letter saying "Approved as recommended 01 Aug 97", signed by the CMAC Director.