4-1-1996

DDASaccident177

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006  Accident number: 177
Accident time: 18:00  Accident Date: 01/04/1996
Where it occurred: Phnom Svay  Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)  Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident
ID original source: none  Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed  Ground condition: not recorded
Mine/device: Type 72 AP blast  Date last modified: 18/05/2006
Date record created: 14/02/2004  No of documents: 1
No of victims: 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 (?)
mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)

Accident report

No accident investigation was on file at the country MAC in January 1999.
The country MAC Accident summary sheet listed the injury as a right leg amputation and did not mention damage to the other leg. The summary sheet recorded the mine type.
The accident classification is inferred from the fact that the victim appears to have stepped on an AP blast mine.
The Medical report recorded the time of the accident as 18:00, which is long after work stops for the day. From this it is inferred that the victim stepped on a mine in an area believed safe. That area may or may not have been previously cleared.
Victim Report

Victim number: 226  Name: Name removed
Age:  Gender: Male
Status: deminer  Fit for work: not known
Compensation: not made available  Time to hospital: 1 hour
Protection issued: Safety spectacles  Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES
severe Leg
AMPUTATION/LOSS
Leg Above knee
COMMENT
See medical report.

Medical report

A medical report recorded that the accident occurred at 18:00 (out of working hours) and the victim was taken to Mongkul Borey Provincial Hospital arriving at 19:00.

A Medevac report contained a note that the journey was slowed by the fact that the accident occurred out of working hours and there was a lot of traffic on the road at the time.

On arrival the victim was noted to be exhausted, dehydrated, and breathing quickly with a fast pulse. His left leg had been traumatically amputated above the ankle and the front of his upper and lower right leg had received multiple fragment wounds. The prognosis was that the right leg might be permanently disabled. The victim was then subjected to surgical amputation just below the knee and later amputated again above the knee.

The victim left hospital on 13th May 1996 with the stump of his left leg well healed but unable to use his right leg as before.

The medical sketch reproduced below was taken from the compensation claim.
Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "Field control inadequacy" because it seems likely that the victim was either allowed to walk into an uncleared area, or a cleared area where a mine had been missed. It is possible that the area reduction and survey were poor and he entered a dangerous area unknowingly, which would be a higher management failing. The secondary cause is listed as a “Management/control inadequacy”.