

10-13-1995

DDASaccident182

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

| | |
|---|--|
| Report date: 18/05/2006 | Accident number: 182 |
| Accident time: 10:30 | Accident Date: 13/10/1995 |
| Where it occurred: La Ang, National Road 3, Kampot Province | Country: Cambodia |
| Primary cause: Unavoidable (?) | Secondary cause: Victim inattention (?) |
| Class: Victim inattention | Date of main report: [No date recorded] |
| ID original source: none | Name of source: CMAC |
| Organisation: Name removed | |
| Mine/device: PMN-2 AP blast | Ground condition: ditch/channel/trench route (verge) |
| Date record created: 14/02/2004 | Date last modified: 14/02/2004 |
| 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

no independent investigation available (?)
inadequate investigation (?)
inadequate medical provision (?)
inadequate area marking (?)

Accident report

The country MAC Accident summary sheet (seen in January 1999) ascribed this accident to the wrong demining group.

A country MAC report in Khmer was located and the following summarises its translated content.

The site of the accident was a ditch that ran alongside a road. The ditch was 1.5m deep and the cleared area ran along its length, spanning across it to the edge of the road.

The victim was a Team Leader and had noticed that a length of marking tape was broken. He put in a new post and was trying to connect up the tape when he slipped and fell over at approximately 10:30. His body landed in the cleared area but his left foot initiated a PMN-2 mine 36cm into the uncleared area.

The victim made a statement saying that he had a nightmare the previous night, in which someone was trying to kill him. He came to work on the day of the accident as usual but his right leg was twitching [it is not clear why he mentioned the twitchy leg: he may have been expressing regret at not having heeding an omen, rather than explaining why he slipped].

Conclusions

The investigators concluded that the victim was working correctly and the accident only occurred because he was on a slope at the time.

Recommendations

The investigators recommended that when operating on a slope deminers should stand at least 1m behind the tape[?]. They added that the victim should receive full compensation and work should be found for him after he had recovered.

Victim Report

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Victim number: 232 | Name: Name removed |
| Age: | Gender: Male |
| Status: supervisory | Fit for work: not known |
| Compensation: US\$3,200 | Time to hospital: 30 minutes |
| Protection issued: Safety spectacles | Protection used: not recorded |

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Arm

severe Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

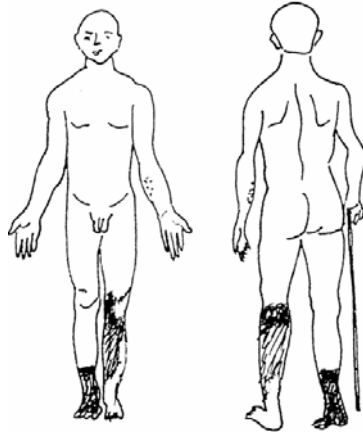
COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

A medical report recorded that the victim arrived at Kampot Hospital at 11:00 with his left leg amputated just above the ankle, a lot of flesh missing from his right calf and his left shin was broken. He had also lost flesh from his left forearm.

The medic's sketch reproduced below indicates some left and right confusion.



A letter dated 21st December 1995 stated that the victim contracted malaria while he was in hospital, possibly due to contaminated blood being used in blood transfusions, or caused by mosquitoes in the hospital.

A bill for medical expenses dated 11th May 1996 showed that he spent three periods in hospital and a final visit on 18th February 1996. The total cost was \$930.05.

The minutes of a Compensation Board meeting held on 17th May 1996 stated that the victim received \$3,200 (being 80% of \$4,000) for losing both feet [the country MAC Accident summary only mentions one foot, as elsewhere].

The victim received payment on 6th June 1996. On the payment voucher it mentioned that his salary was \$200 per month.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim was working properly and simply slipped. Human error is unavoidable and the accident could not have been avoided by improved control measures. The secondary cause is listed as "*Victim inattention*".

It is not clear whether he eventually lost both legs below the knee.