

6-10-1995

# DDASaccident184

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database  
*AID*

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# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 18/05/2006	<b>Accident number:</b> 185
<b>Accident time:</b> 11:27	<b>Accident Date:</b> 04/04/1995
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Kham Puet, Banang District, Battambang Province	<b>Country:</b> Cambodia
<b>Primary cause:</b> Unavoidable (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Inadequate equipment (?)
<b>Class:</b> Excavation accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> 18/04/1995
<b>ID original source:</b> none [date inferred]	<b>Name of source:</b> CMAC
<b>Organisation:</b> Name removed	
<b>Mine/device:</b> Type 72 AP blast	<b>Ground condition:</b> electromagnetic hard
<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> 1

## 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

no independent investigation available (?)  
handtool may have increased injury (?)  
victim working prone (?)

## Accident report

At the time of the accident the demining group operated in three-man teams with a two-man drill. In this, one deminer used the detector and marked any signals while another looked for tripwires, cut undergrowth and excavated any detector readings. A third deminer was resting. The three rotated at fixed intervals.

A country MAC internal accident report was located in January 1999 and translated from the original Khmer. The following summarises its content.

The victim was investigating the source of a detector reading in an area where the ground had a high level of natural soil contamination. The victim was reported to have been lying down to work. He used his prodder, but because the ground was very hard he also used a trowel to break up the surface.

At 11:27 he initiated a Type 72A mine. After first aid the victim was taken by ambulance to Battambang Provincial Hospital, arriving at 12:40.

The victim lost the tip of a finger on the right hand, received small fragment wounds to the face, causing massive swelling, and his arm was also very swollen. The victim's vision and hearing were intact. The victim's safety spectacles were broken, as was his "trowel".

An investigation of the accident site revealed fragments from a Type 72a and a crater that was taken to indicate that the mine was probably buried to a depth of 6cm. [Note that the mine itself is about 3.8cm deep.] They found evidence that the victim was prodding to a depth of 5cm.

### **Conclusion**

The investigators concluded that the victim was wearing his safety spectacles correctly, he was prodding correctly and the ground conditions warranted the use of a trowel.

### **Victim Report**

<b>Victim number:</b> 235	<b>Name:</b> Name removed
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> yes
<b>Compensation:</b> US\$150	<b>Time to hospital:</b> 1 hour ten minutes
<b>Protection issued:</b> Safety spectacles	<b>Protection used:</b> Safety spectacles

### **Summary of injuries:**

INJURIES

minor Face

severe Arm

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Finger

COMMENT

See medical report.

### **Medical report**

The victim left hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1995.

An application for compensation dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995 was written by a doctor at the hospital. It stated that he lost a finger on his right hand, was left with multiple scarring on the face and also suffered permanent damage to the tendons in the right arm, causing 40% disability.

The compensation board decided that the victim could continue to work and he was offered US\$150 in compensation, which he disputed at first but later accepted.

## **Analysis**

The accident is classed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim was working properly (to widely approved SOPs) when the device detonated.

The damage to the victim's right arm is unusual. The mine was small and the hand not destroyed. It seems likely that the victim's handtool (or part of it) struck his arm. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*".

This is the only accident involving this demining group when it has been claimed that the victim was lying down to work. The demining group involved penalised victims who were breaking SOPs by reducing compensation, and the SOP required deminers to lie down to excavate.

The compensation offered for a 40% disability (US\$150) appears to have been derisory.

The picture shows the way the UN controlled MAC's deminers were supposed to work (it is reproduced from the cover of their SOPs).

