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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 15/05/2006	Accident number: 201
Accident time: 14:05	Accident Date: 28/09/1993
Where it occurred: Slor Kram Village, Banteay Meanchey Province	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: 28/09/1993
ID original source: GF [preliminary report date]	Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMN-2 AP blast	Ground condition: route/path wet
Date record created: 15/02/2004	Date last modified: 15/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: MF No.M1120	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)
inadequate investigation (?)
inadequate equipment (?)
mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)
inadequate metal-detector (?)

Accident report

No official report of an investigation was found among the country MAC's records in January 1999, but there was a preliminary report in the form of a message dated 28th September 1993. The following summarises its content.

On the day of the accident demining was stopped at 13:45 because of heavy rain. At 14:05 the victim's platoon walked back to the vehicles in single file. The victim was the last of a group of four people and he stepped on a mine.

The accident occurred in a lane that had been cleared several weeks previously and had been used by the platoon every day since. The victim was carried 30m and treated by the medic. A doctor arrived with the ambulance and he was taken to "SSP" due to the heavy rain before being evacuated by helicopter to the Dutch field hospital at Phum Ninith.

The report describes the victim's injuries as "the right feet cut, the left one is wounded, he has also several fragments in the legs".

Victim Report

Victim number: 257	Name: Name removed
Age: 39	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: no
Compensation: US\$4,500	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Above knee

Leg Above knee

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

No formal medical report was made available.

A case summary which was presented to the Compensation Board was on record. It recorded that the victim "lost his right foot, and his left foot was wounded. He got fragments in the legs as well"

A compensation document recorded that US\$4,500 (30 x \$150) was awarded on 10th December 1993, [which implies that the victim was considered 100% disabled].

A note attached to the compensation document stated that on leaving hospital the victim had lost both legs above the knee.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the victim appears to have stepped on a missed mine. Adequate field controls should have ensured that no mine was missed. The detector in use (Schiebel) was replaced years later when it was

finally determined to be inadequate, hence the secondary cause is listed as *"Inadequate equipment"*.

The severity of the injuries imply that the mine was relatively large. The PMN-2 is the most common mine in Cambodia (according to the country MAC in 1999) and also has a relatively large HE content, so it is assumed that the device involved was a PMN-2 AP.

The fact that the mine detonated in a frequently traversed area may be explained by the heavy rain having softened the ground.

Note that the level of compensation for full disability in this theatre was higher in 1993 than in later years.