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In Remembrance: Dominique “Momo” Morin

by Allison Bartlett [Center for International Stabilization and Recovery]



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSELL WYPER

Dominique “Momo” Morin, a deminer, trainer and supervisor for *Fondation Suisse de Déminage*, was killed in an accidental mine blast on 10 May 2010. Morin, 54, was working in the northern town of Vavuniya, 254 kilometers (158 miles) north of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Formerly with the French military, Morin had been working in mine action for the past 10 years, training and supervising hundreds of national deminers. Morin dedicated his life to demining and was widely respected throughout the demining community.

A fellow deminer, Roger Hess, said, “He was an excellent EOD operator whose only complaint, even under the worst circumstances, was generally about the restrictions imposed on him by the national authorities that prevent-



Dominique Morin (second from the left) with FSD Mulativu team. Morin successfully defused the ODAB 500 (Fuel Air Explosive Bomb, 500 kg) in the Silawathai, Mulativu district, Sri Lanka.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M. FARINEAU, FSD OPERATION MANAGER

ed him from fully doing his job ... He could be described as a very selfless man and was always objective and team focused. He had a ton of patience and was just so easy to work with.”

In a statement made following his death, FSD recalled, “[Dominique] has trained hundreds of national deminers and protected them from accidents by his very professional training and supervision. It therefore is ... tragic that Dominique died from injuries sustained from the accidental detonation of an explosive device.” The French Embassy also made a statement: “We were deeply grieved to hear about the death of Dominique Morin ... We would like to pay tribute to the commitment and the courage of our compatriot for helping Sri Lankans to regain a normal life. In these difficult circumstances, we would like to express our deepest sympathy to his family, to his relatives and his colleagues.”