

9-5-1998

# DDASaccident248

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> 248
<b>Accident time:</b> 11:20	<b>Accident Date:</b> 05/09/1998
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Amar Khail Village, Ashrow, Wardak Province	<b>Country:</b> Afghanistan
<b>Primary cause:</b> Unavoidable (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Inadequate training (?)
<b>Class:</b> Excavation accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> [No date recorded]
<b>ID original source:</b> none	<b>Name of source:</b> MAPA/UNOCHA
<b>Organisation:</b> Name removed	
<b>Mine/device:</b> grenade	<b>Ground condition:</b> hard rocks/stones
<b>Date record created:</b> 17/02/2004	<b>Date last modified:</b> 17/02/2004
<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

inadequate training (?)

## Accident report

An investigation on behalf of the UN MAC was carried out and its report made available. The following summarises its content.

At the time of the accident the demining team were using a one-man clearance drill in two-man teams. The victim had been a deminer for four years. He had returned from leave one day before the accident and had last attended a revision course five months previously. The accident occurred on a hillside described as "medium" with rocks and bushes but "suitable for prodding".

The investigators determined that the victim got a detector reading and marked it, then put on his helmet and started to prod. He struck the fuse of a grenade with his bayonet and

heard a "fuse detonation sound" [click of a delay mechanism arming] so was scared. He stood up.

The Section Leader shouted for the Victim to lie down but he did not. The grenade detonated at 11:20 and caused injuries to his "chest, abdomen, thighs, legs and face". The victim's visor and detector "received some slight damage".

The victim was taken to the Field Medical Unit and from there to the ICRC hospital in Kabul. From there he was taken to hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan.

**The Team Leader** stated that the victim was in the process of lying down when the grenade exploded. He thought that the victim moved the grenade and so inadvertently pulled out the pin with his bayonet. He described the injuries as minor, and included injury to his testes.

**The Section Leader** reported that he "heard a slight explosion of a fuse" and shouted to the victim to lie down.

**The victim's partner** said that the victim was lying prone when the accident occurred - and that it was 15 days to his wedding.

### **Conclusion**

The investigators decided that the grenade was "booby trapped" in some way so that it could be pressure initiated. They thought that the victim might have been psychologically "unsuitable" to carry out the task because he was excited by his wedding only two [sic] days away. The victim was not available to be interviewed.

### **Recommendations**

The investigators recommended that all deminers be briefed about the dangers of pressure released booby traps because "booby trapped grenades have been repeatedly found". A "proper pulling drill" should be used if a booby trap is suspected. They also recommended that survey teams make "all possible efforts" to collect information about booby traps during their survey.

## **Victim Report**

<b>Victim number:</b> 322	<b>Name:</b> Name removed
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> not known
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Helmet Thin, short visor	<b>Protection used:</b> Helmet, Thin, short visor

### **Summary of injuries:**

INJURIES

minor Arms

minor Face

severe Body

severe Chest

severe Genitals

severe Legs

#### COMMENT

See medical report.

### **Medical report**

An original casualty report listed the victim's injuries as:

"penetrated wounds in right chest and abdomen;

lacerated wounds and fragments in scrotum;

multiple injuries both thighs and legs;

simple wounds on face."

The field medic's report included a sketch that showed fragment wounds and lacerations on both legs, the stomach, both arms and the right chest. He rated the injuries as "severe". The victim's vital signs were recorded as pulse 130/min, BP 140/100, Respiration 29/min.

The field doctor described the injuries as:

"Three perforated wounds of abdomen. Two perforated wounds on the chest at right M.C.L. Perforated wounds of scrotum and poly injuries of both legs and arms and forearm."

A photograph of the victim showed multiple superficial leg wounds.

### **Analysis**

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the victim came across an unknown device that he had not been prepared to deal with. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate training*".

It may be that he should have been trained to expect it, or to react differently when something unexpected was encountered. The investigators recognised a training lack and suggested covering this issue.

The victim was wearing a helmet mounted visor that may have been raised. However, these short visors stand away from the face and it is possible for fragments to strike the lower face when the visor is down.