

5-20-1992

# DDASaccident293

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database  
*AID*

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# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 06/04/2006	<b>Accident number:</b> 293
<b>Accident time:</b> not recorded	<b>Accident Date:</b> 20/05/1992
<b>Where it occurred:</b> not made available	<b>Country:</b> Kuwait
<b>Primary cause:</b> Field control inadequacy (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Inadequate training (?)
<b>Class:</b> Handling accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> [No date recorded]
<b>ID original source:</b> KMOD 65/SER 51	<b>Name of source:</b> Various/AVS 2001:K16
<b>Organisation:</b> [Name removed]	
<b>Mine/device:</b> Ordnance	<b>Ground condition:</b> not applicable
<b>Date record created:</b> 19/02/2004	<b>Date last modified:</b> 19/02/2004
<b>No of victims:</b> 5	<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 (?)

inadequate investigation (?)

inadequate training (?)

## Accident report

The details of Kuwait Boards of Inquiry are considered 'Commercial in Confidence'. The following summary is gathered from various documentary and anecdotal evidence made available during the research. All anecdotal evidence is drawn from sources who were in Kuwait at the time of the accident.

Victim No.1 (the supervisor) had arrived in Kuwait on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1991, so had been working there for eleven months.

The commercial company for which he worked had been given an extensive contract to clear many areas in Kuwait. A BAC (Battle Area Clearance) team left items at the roadside the day

before the accident. Under the supervision of Victim No.1, an experienced "Ammo-tech" British ex-pat, TCNs (Third Country Nationals) were loading the unserviceable ammunition onto flat-bed, sand-lined trucks to move a short distance to a demolition pit.

During loading, it is believed that a 120mm PEPA mortar was dropped and detonated. The resulting explosion spread to similar items already loaded and a massive explosion killed four of the loaders nearest to the truck and the ex-pat supervisor. The supervisor may have been walking away from the truck or been in its cab at the time. He was killed when a small fragment hit him in the back of the head and penetrated his brain. He died at the scene.

The ammunition being loaded had been projected from an explosion in a bunker many months before. It is likely that some safety mechanisms had been removed during the initial explosion and that some of the devices had been armed by being thrown out in the blast. This was predictable and the demining company's management should have put appropriate systems in place to deal with it.

After the accident there "were bits of body strewn around".

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 369	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> supervisory	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded

#### Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Head

FATAL

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 370	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded

#### Summary of injuries:

FATAL

COMMENT

Severe multiple injuries causing instant death.

No medical report was made available.

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 371	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded

#### Summary of injuries:

FATAL

COMMENT

Severe multiple injuries causing instant death.

No medical report was made available.

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 372	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded

#### Summary of injuries:

FATAL

COMMENT

Severe multiple injuries causing instant death.

No medical report was made available.

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 373	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> not recorded

**Summary of injuries:**

FATAL

COMMENT

Severe multiple injuries causing instant death.

No medical report was made available.

**Analysis**

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the supervisor had his back to the workers when a serious mistake occurred.

The TCNs were apparently inadequately trained, which may have been a contributory factor. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate training*".

There is a paucity of reliable data for many of the accidents that occurred in Kuwait. If any reader has additional detail, please send it for inclusion.