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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 19/05/2006	Accident number: 311
Accident time: 08:50	Accident Date: 26/08/2001
Where it occurred: Erbil Sector	Country: Iraq
Primary cause: Other (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: 08/09/2001
ID original source: JJ	Name of source: UN/JJ/AVS 2001:KI08
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: M14 AP blast	Ground condition: rocks/stones wet
Date record created: 19/02/2004	Date last modified: 19/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale: not recorded	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

Accident report

A UNOPS MAP Board of Inquiry was instigated and the following BOI report provided. For unexplained "political" reasons, the original report was heavily edited before being provided. The following is further edited to allow it to be read smoothly.

The accident site was visited by the investigating team on Tuesday 4th September 2001.

The victim had been employed as a deminer since July 1998. His last refresher training had been three weeks before the accident. His last rest-break had been 45 minutes prior to the accident.

The work-area was un-vegetated, flat ground that had been very well watered. Small rocks were present in the working lane. The working method was manual "full-excavation". The Team Leader was at another site because it was a "split task". The Deputy Team Leader was

on site and “within visual distance” of the victim. The Section leader was 35m from the victim at the time of accident.

The victim was conducting a “full-excavation” drill wearing a protective vest (RBR), a full-face visor with headband, and gloves. He was using a gardening tool/hand trowel and as he worked, he activated an M14 mine with the trowel.

He suffered “injuries to his left forearm consisting of 1-2nd degree burns, fragment wounds to the same arm and very small wounds to his chin”.

Medical attention was immediate and the victim was in a local hospital within 35 minutes.

There was no damage to the victim’s PPE.

Conclusion

The BOI determined that the accident was caused by “human error”. The “ground was too wet” and the “Excavation not according to SOP”. The mine was within the top 10cm of the ground. The BOI reported a “Lack of close supervision by team leadership”.

Recommendations

The recommendations of the BOI report made available for this database is reproduced below verbatim:

“SOP change. Retraining for staff on their duties for command and control, re assess methods of using digging tool, all teams refresher training on excavation method. No demining in ground that is excessively wet or muddy.”

Victim Report

Victim number: 393	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: 35 minutes
Protection issued: Frag jacket Long visor	Protection used: Long visor; Frag jacket

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Face

severe Arm

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The Primary and Secondary causes of this accident are both listed as “Other” because there is not enough detail in the summarised report from the UNOPS MAP for an assessment of

events to be made. From the information given, the victim appears to have been working properly in an approved manner when the accident occurred.

The summary of the accident investigation provided on behalf of the MAC was so abbreviated that it contained no useful detail.

If any reader knows more about this accident, please share the details.