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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 26/07/2005	Accident number: 421
Accident time: 09:00	Accident Date: 21/09/2003
Where it occurred: Cambondo road, 2k km from Cambaixe, Malanje Province	Country: Angola
Primary cause: Victim inattention (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate survey (?)
Class: Victim inattention	Date of main report: 21/07/2005
ID original source: JES/AVS	Name of source: JES
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: TM57 AT blast	Ground condition: route (verge)
Date record created: 22/07/2005	Date last modified: 26/07/2005
No of victims: 8	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: Not made available	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 (?)

Accident report

The investigator made available a verbal report and photographs from which the following was derived in 2005.

Background

The Cambaixe road is the main road that gives access to the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Moxico. This road had been well used with no incidents and few were aware of the mine contamination on its verges. There were military tank remnants on the sides, and superficial data that indicated that the road was contaminated with mines. On September 24th

2002 an accident took place resulting in the tragic death of twelve civilians. From this time on, all humanitarian aid activities relying on the use of the road were cancelled and emergency demining had to be started.

There was a need to open a safe route urgently. To accelerate the opening of a safe route, one half of the width of the road was being cleared for its entire length, then the other half would be cleared.

Impact

Private vehicles continued to use the road for different activities but all humanitarian aid was cancelled. This was a direct threat to the life of 38 thousand people in an emergency situation, according to OCHA /Malange.

[The demining group] started demining one section in November 2002 and finished at the end of July 2003. There was another mine accident involving four people in December 2002. This accident happened in an area that had not cleared at that stage of the task. The task took [the Demining group] nearly ten months and involved all its capacity before the end. It was first the survey capacity, then the mechanical capacity, then manual, then EOD and mine detection dogs capacity as verification. The area cleared was a total of 86 943 square metres.

MINES

There were found a total of seven (7) AT mines type TM 57 and T72, six (6) AP mines type (PMN, GYATA, MAI 75 and PPM 2) and 6 UXO type mortar 60mm/82 mm and B10 on both verges.

The accident

The accident happened 21 September 2003. The truck was carrying deminers to work along the cleared section of the road. At 09:00 in the morning, the truck crossed into the uncleared area by a short distance and its left side front wheel detonated a TM-57 AT mine.



The picture shows the front of the damaged truck.

25 People were in and on the truck involved in the accident, 8 had to be evacuated to hospital in Luanda for treatment. Injuries were: broken leg for driver, loss of hearing in one ear for 2 persons, blood in urine for 2 persons and several back injuries.

The injured were treated by demining group paramedics immediately and assistance was requested from the NGO office. Further vehicles and the investigator arrived at the scene 30 minutes after the detonation. Medical treatment began just after 09:00. Victims were transported to hospital in Malange, arriving about one hour after the incident. Some were flown on to a better equipped hospital in Luanda after stabilisation in Malange.

Eventually, 15 of the Victims claimed and received compensation and left work.

The investigator found that the driver had been travelling too fast and had veered onto the uncleared area, detonating the mine 8 cm from the edge of the safe track.



The picture shows the crater in the foreground and the damaged truck beyond. The detonation removed the wheel and damaged the wheel hub and track-rod. The front bumper, wheel-arch, cab door, steering wheel and internal fittings were damaged.

Previously gathered survey information had stated that there were no mines in that area. During the investigation the military commander changed his statement and reported that there were a lot of AT mines in the area. In later clearance, the demining group found three further TM-57 mines within 200 metres of the accident site.

The accident was investigated by the National Authorities (CHNIDA) on the following day. They recommended that the cleared half of the road be delineated from the uncleared half with marking. This would have involved 30 km of marking, which would have been expensive, time-consuming and difficult to maintain. Because only the demining group was meant to use the road, and the cleared half was easy to see at all times, the demining group decided not to divert efforts into marking but to press ahead with clearance as rapidly as possible (the need for emergency relief vehicles to use the road was still paramount).

Conclusion

The driver did not follow his SOP with regard to driving at an appropriate speed to ensure that the vehicle did not leave the cleared area. The pre-survey had yielded unreliable information, probably due to the relative inexperience of the base survey team.

Actions taken

The following actions were begun immediately following the accident.

Immediate revision of SOP procedures for road clearance tasks to stress the to drive only on cleared' areas.

Establishing a QA control for drivers to ensure that they keep to SOPs.

Disciplinary action against the driver, who was found another position with the demining group.

Refresher-training followed by closer follow up of the base survey team.

Victim Report

Victim number: 552	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: driver	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Leg

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 553

Name: Name removed

Age:

Gender: Male

Status: deminer

Fit for work: not known

Compensation: Not made available

Time to hospital: Not recorded

Protection issued: Not recorded

Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Hearing

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 554

Name: Name removed

Age:

Gender: Male

Status: deminer

Fit for work: not known

Compensation: Not made available

Time to hospital: Not recorded

Protection issued:
Not recorded

Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Hearing

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 555

Name: Name removed

Age:
Status: deminer
Compensation: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded

Gender: Male
Fit for work: not known
Time to hospital: Not recorded
Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Body

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. Internal injury: "blood in urine".

Victim Report

Victim number: 556
Age:
Status: deminer
Compensation: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded

Name: Name removed
Gender: Male
Fit for work: not known
Time to hospital: Not recorded
Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Body

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. Internal injury: "blood in urine".

Victim Report

Victim number: 557
Age:
Status: deminer
Compensation: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded

Name: Name removed
Gender: Male
Fit for work: not known
Time to hospital: Not recorded
Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Back

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. Hospital treatment required: not detailed, back injury.

Victim Report

Victim number: 558	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: None

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Back

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. Hospital treatment required: not detailed, back injury.

Victim Report

Victim number: 559	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Back

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. Hospital treatment required: not detailed, back injury.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Victim inattention*" because it seems that the driver lost concentration and veered off the road. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate survey*" because the area was not suspected of having been mined and this may have led to its having been processed less thoroughly than would otherwise have been the case.

Only eight victims are listed despite the fact that 15 people claimed compensation and left work with the Demining group as a result of the accident. This is because current information does not include any indication of the injuries they suffered and the fact that they did not need hospital treatment implies that the injuries were minor.

The accident report is listed as "*inadequate*" under Notes because it is the result of an interview with the investigator rather than taken from a formal report. The formal report made at the time has been requested and will be appended later.