

7-11-2007

DDASaccident472

Database of Demining Accidents
DDAS

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 14/01/2008	Accident number: 472
Accident time: 11:07	Accident Date: 11/07/2007
Where it occurred: MF ID - S 40: South Sector, North Marina, Aqaba	Country: Jordan
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: 25/07/2007
ID original source: S-40:18/07/07	Name of source: JES
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PRB M35 AP blast	Ground condition: dry/dusty hard sandy
Date record created: 14/01/2008	Date last modified: 14/01/2008
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by: GPS
Map east: E 29.573281	Map north: N 34.978161
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)
visor not worn or worn raised (?)
inconsistent statements (?)
metal-detector not used (?)
no independent investigation available (?)

Accident report

The report of this accident was made available in August 2007 as a PDF file. Its conversion to a text file for editing means that some of the formatting has been lost. The substance of the report is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original PDF file is held on record.

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FOR NPA – MINE ACTION TEAM - JORDAN

ISRAELI MINEFIELD NO. (69270030), WADI ARABA, SOUTH SECTOR, AQABA

GRID REF: N 34.978161: E 29.573281

INCIDENT REPORT

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY – [Operations manager]

SECTION COMMANDER and TEAM LEADER [Names removed]

TEAM: MANUAL TEAM ONE

TIME OF ACCIDENT: 11:07 AM

DATE OF ACCIDENT: 18 JULY 2007

NATURE OF INJURY: Face, Fingers, legs small scratches

TYPE OF MINE: M35 Belgium Anti Personnel Mine

Narrative

A mine blast incident occurred at approximately 11:07hrs on Wednesday 18/07/2007 in the minefield No-69270030(Marina). Deminer [the Victim] detonated one M-35 anti personnel blast mine due to pulling the anchor wire. At the time of the incident the deminer was wearing the PPE (Body vest and Goggles). The deminer working in the cross lane located one mine and he tried to locate other mine by pulling the anchor wire, which resulted in a mine blast. The deminer sustained minor injuries as recorded in the injuries. Immediately after the mine blast, the section commander rushed to the lane and helped the injured deminer to come out of minefield. The deminer was then given initial first aid treatment by the section medic. After the first aid the casualty was sent to Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba.

Injury: Right side face near lips small scratches: Right side fingers (large & middle) little scratches; Both legs under knee and before the elbow some scratches

There was no damage to equipment.

The detonation left a crater with a depth of approx. 15cm and a width of approx. 30cm.

Mine blast location is shown below



Site conditions

The ground at the site was described as “Medium, flat”. The weather was clear and hot. The vegetation was described as “Light, bush”. [There was no vegetation at the site.]

Team and task details

The last QA monitoring inspection of the team had taken place on 17th July 2007 (Internal QA Officer).

The victim had been a deminer for three months. The team had been at the site for seven working days. They had been working on the day for three hours. The Victim was wearing his vest and goggles at the time of the accident.

Medical & First Aid

It took three minutes for the Victim to be transferred to the Site Medical Point. He was treated for seven minutes. He was transferred to hospital in Aqaba in 12 minutes. The total evacuation time was 22 minutes. He was treated in Aqaba hospital for two days.

Reporting procedures

Copied to:

This investigation was conducted by [Operations Manager]. This report was compiled/translated by [Name removed].

Printed date: 25/07/2007

Attachments:

Statements by Injured Members

Statements by Witnesses

Operations Manager’s Observations and Recommendations

OBSERVATIONS:

This accident may be avoided by taking more care and patience.

- (a) The deminer is not followed the laid down drills.
- (b) The deminer is not waited for his section commander to come and cut the wire and remove the first mine from the lane.
- (c) Before that the deminer tried to locate the second mine by pulling the anchor wire.
- (d) The Incident happened due to pulling the wire by hand and resulted in a mine blast.
- (e) The deminer has to be blamed for this incident...

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this kind of violation of the safety rules and drills should not be tolerated. Those who are failing to adhere to the rules should be given severe punishments. The deminer should get a written warning.

Victim Report

Victim number: 632	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 28	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: 38 minutes
Protection issued: Frontal apron Goggles	Protection used: Frontal apron

Summary of injuries:

minor Face

minor Hand

minor Legs

minor Shoulder

COMMENT: See Medical report

Medical report

No formal Medical report was made available. The field Medic noted:

Medical Sheet & Papers

DOB: 01/01/1979

At 11:15 the Victims BP was 110/80, his Pulse was 80 and his breathing rate 20.

At 11:30 the Victims BP was 110/80, his Pulse was 80 and his breathing rate 20.

“Shocked, confusion, minor injury and dust in the eyes.”

[Superficial wounds shown on shoulder, hand and both lower legs in a sketch.]

“Very small fragmentation injury on the Rt side of the nose. Pain in the bladder site.”

“Treatment: Eyes washed by water for irrigation. Clean all wounds and apply bandages.”



[The Victim's injuries were very light. In the photographs his eyes were clear and bright, confirming that it was only a post-blast dust problem. However, the deminer could not have got dust in his eyes if he were wearing his Goggles at the time (their mask seals against the face).]

STATEMENTS

Statement No.1: the Victim

Date: 18 July 2007

I was working in minefield number 69270030; I started from the third belt towards the second belt to locate it. I found one mine in front of me in the second belt and I asked section commander to come, he was busy with another deminer so I continued to the left of that mine that I found, using the heavy rake, and then a blast. I was not hacking with the rake and I was working correctly.

Statement No.2: Section Commander

Date: 18 July 2007

I am [Name removed], was making my rounds in minefield number 30. I reached the deminer [Name removed] to check on his work, when I finished I moved towards the deminer [the Victim], and then the blast. I went quickly to check on him and then he was moved outside the minefield to the ambulance.

Question 1: Did Salem tell you there was a mine in front of him?

Answer1: No

Question 2: Did you see how he was working?

Answer 2: Yes, he was working with the heavy rake.

Question 3: What do you think is the cause of the accident?

Answer 3: I do not know.

Statement No.3: Team Leader

Date: 18 July 2007

I, [Name removed], was working in minefield number 28 and while I was there I heard the blast from the northern side of the field, so I moved quickly towards the sound. The ambulance was moving to that location. I told all sections to stop the work and told section 5 where the accident occurred to do what is necessary, while other sections to leave the minefield. Within minutes the injured was at the ambulance and after first aid he was transported to Haya hospital.

Question: What do you think is the cause of the accident?

Answer: There are many possibilities.

Statement No.4: Site Medic

Date: 18 July 2007

One mine blast happened on Wednesday July 18, 2007 with the deminer [the Victim] who was working in fourth section. I was standing next to the ambulance at 11:05 I heard a blast and I saw the dust coming out of the field. We moved towards the accident, and we were not informed because the section commander did not have a radio. And I asked the team leader for the name of the injured and he told me and then I told him his blood type. At 11:07 the injured arrived to the ambulance, so I took his vest off and immediately checked him. He was talking to me. I took his clothes and shoes off and wrapped his wounds. He had a cut in his right leg and some small cuts in his left thigh, a cut to the right of his mouth, and right shoulder, right finger and scratches on his nose. And he was complaining of pain in the groin area. But no injuries were found. I washed and cleaned his eyes from sand. We moved towards the hospital at 11:25. We arrived at 11:45.

Statement No.5: Sector Coordinator

Position: Sector Coordinator Date: 01 July 2007

I, [Name removed], was on my way out of minefield number 30, when I heard the blast at 11.07am. I looked behind me and saw the dust. The deminer was sitting on the ground. I went to him immediately to check on him, and told everybody about the accident. With the help of section commander, team leader and another deminer we got him out of the minefield to the ambulance, where he was given first aid by the medic [Name removed], and within minutes he was on the way to the hospital. In my opinion, the cause of the accident is the deminer's mistake for not being careful in his lane since he was close to the second belt, and he should have been working slow and careful.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "Unavoidable" because it is possible that the Victim was working as directed when the accident occurred. The Victim claims he was using his Heavy rake and the other witness confirm that he was working as directed. Without

explanation, the investigator concludes that he was pulling the wire linking mines (a feature of this minefield) and the resultant pressure on the buried mine set it off. The secondary cause is listed as a "Field control inadequacy" because, if the deminer was breaching the rules in this manner, the field supervisors should have corrected him. Also, the failure to give honest statements by supervisors, Victim and deminers should have been addressed.

It is possible that the Victim was not wearing his goggles correctly. The goggles seal against the face and it is not credible that dust from a blast at some distance would get into his eyes without damaging the goggles. (Unlike visors, goggles are not torn away in a blast event.)

The investigation is recorded as "inadequate" under "Notes" because the conclusion of the main investigator is not justified by the content.