

8-14-2003

# DDASaccident517

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database  
*AID*

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# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 27/01/2008	<b>Accident number:</b> 517
<b>Accident time:</b> Not made available	<b>Accident Date:</b> 14/08/2003
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Not made available	<b>Country:</b> Iraq
<b>Primary cause:</b> Field control inadequacy (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Management/control inadequacy (?)
<b>Class:</b> Handling accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> Not made available
<b>ID original source:</b> none	<b>Name of source:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Organisation:</b> [Name removed]	<b>Ground condition:</b> not recorded
<b>Mine/device:</b> PMN AP blast	<b>Date last modified:</b> 27/01/2008
<b>Date record created:</b>	<b>No of documents:</b> 1
<b>No of victims:</b> 1	

## Map details

<b>Longitude:</b>	<b>Latitude:</b>
<b>Alt. coord. system:</b> Not made available	<b>Coordinates fixed by:</b>
<b>Map east:</b>	<b>Map north:</b>
<b>Map scale:</b>	<b>Map series:</b>
<b>Map edition:</b>	<b>Map sheet:</b>
<b>Map name:</b>	

## Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

protective equipment not worn (?)

## Accident report

Details of this accident have been withheld by the demining NGO that employed the Victim. A spreadsheet including the Victim's name and very brief details of the accident was made available in 2007. Some details can be inferred from the information released. For example, the groin injury implies that the victim's PPE was not being worn, or inadequate for the purpose.

This entry will be expanded if access to the report of the investigation is made available in future.

The spreadsheet data is reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

“Date and country. [Name removed], deminer: Traumatic amputation of both hands, injuries to groin and leg.

Uncontrolled detonation of a PMN mine whilst mine being neutralised.”

## Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 679	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> no
<b>Compensation:</b> Not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> Not made available
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> Not made available

### Summary of injuries:

severe Abdomen

severe Genitals

severe Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS: Hands

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

### Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a “Field control inadequacy” because it seems that the Victim was disarming a mine designated “no-touch” by the demining group, and may have been doing so without wearing appropriate PPE. The secondary cause is listed as a “Management control inadequacy” because the management of the demining group declined to make the accident details available. Although this is sometimes done to protect the Victims, in this case the Victim’s name was among the limited detail made available. It is possible that the managers have chosen to avoid transparency because they are afraid that the circumstances of the accident would reflect badly on their organisation.

The demining group have a “No touch” policy on the PMN (documented), so it is reasonable to presume that the Victim was in breach of SOPs while disarming the mine. The mine is routinely disarmed by other demining groups, and it is possible that the “no-touch” policy meant that the Victim was not appropriately trained in the render-safe procedure for the mine. If the disarming was approved without appropriate training, that would be a further significant Management failing.