

5-19-2004

DDASaccident545

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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Recommended Citation

Database, Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident, "DDASaccident545" (2004). *Global CWD Repository*. 744.
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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 01/02/2008	Accident number: 545
Accident time: 07:50	Accident Date: 19/05/2004
Where it occurred: Ward 07, Zalmo Restaurant, Darlaman, Nr Qala-e-muslim, Kabul	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: Not recorded
ID original source: None	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: grass/grazing area hard rocks/stones
Date record created:	Date last modified: 01/02/2008
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)

squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)

inadequate equipment (?)

Accident report

The report of this accident was made available in January 2008 by the demining group involved. Its conversion to a DDAS file has led to some of the original formatting being lost. The substance of the report is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original file is held on record. Text in [] is editorial.

ACCIDENT REPORT

[Demining group], KABUL May 2004

1. Objectives.

The objectives with the current report are:

To deliver the evidences to other staff within the organization.

To draw the attention of other staff to 100% implementation of standards.

2. General Information.

Team/Site description: The accident happened with a deminer of manual clearance team 1 (MCT) [Demining group] during clearance operation in minefield No 603.

Location of accident: Ward 07 behind Zalmo Restaurant Darlaman near to Qala-e-muslim, Kabul.

Date & Time: May 19, 2004 at 0750 hrs local time.

3. Particulars of injured person:

Name: [Removed]

Title: Deminer

Date of birth:1973

Place of birth: Paghman, Kabul

Blood group: AB Rh+

4. Cause of the accident:

As the minefield is located on the hill sides it is possible that the position of mines changed because of the rain and snow falls and also during the heavy fighting a lot of projectiles and artilleries are hit on the hill and they might have caused the mines to change their position. And based on the investigation and visit of support staff from the accident point there are some spots that shows the hit points of some artillery in the area and also a big amount of soil is collected during the explosion of the mine to one side of the deminer which again proves that the mine was turned side dawn.

5. Brief description of injuries:

The injured deminer has some small injuries on his right hand and left leg. His right foot below elbow joint at the lateral side has erosions. Fore finger of his right hand are injured laterally and some other superficial injuries at chin below left mandible (jaw).

6. Chronological Overview of the Accident.

Following describes the actions taken and the instructions given by the command staff directly after the accident:

Accident happened at 0750 .

Operation of MCT-I stopped. +10 sec.

Team leader, paramedic and one deminer got to the accident point. +1.10 min.

Radio room at main office got the report. +1.20 min

Paramedic started treating and doing the first aid to the injured. +2.00 min

A delegation left from Kabul toward minefield for initial investigation. +2.00 min

Paramedic supervisor and the ambulance arrived to the pick up point. +3.00 min

Operations were standing by for 15 minutes in Kabul. +5.00 min

First aid completed. +20.30 min

The injured Deminer was shifted to the ambulance after first aid and dressing. +22.30 min.

Arrival of injured from minefield to Emergency hospital in Kabul. +56 min.

The emergency hospital considered the injured as ODP patient and did not accept him because of minor injuries and were shifted back to office. +86 min.

The country director together with the delegation met the injured in office . +116 min

The accident was reported to UNMACA and [Demining group] Islamabad. +236 min

The injured was treated by MO in office and was sent home for rest. +356 min

7. Brief description of how the accident happened:

On May 19, 2004 all deminers were called back to restart clearance operations on the minefield 603 in Darlaman after the first 10 minutes break. [The Victim] also went to his lane and started operations. Using the mine detector he found a signal and marked the area by a red marker. He was setting in kneeling position in an up hill and sloppy [sloping] portion of the field and while he had his personal protective suit and visor on started to prod the area using a bayonet and during the prodding he touched the mine and it went off.

Hearing the explosion sound team leader, paramedic and one deminer rushed to the area and started to evacuate and do the first aid to the injured deminer.

General Condition of the injured person: The deminer is feeling well and after the short treatments in Emergency Hospital he was discharged because of minor injuries in his right hand and left leg. He was prescribed some medicines and was advised to rest at home for four days.

8. Damaged Equipment:

During the accident the following equipments are damaged:

One bayonet is lost.

The visor is broken into four pieces.

Some small pieces of fragments got into the personal protective suit and is a little damaged.

The lane stick is broken.

The gloves are damaged.

9. Technical Evidence

Based on the findings of investigation team from the accident point and shrapnel taken out from the wounds of the deminer, a PMN mine that had changed its position due to hit of some artillery in its closing went off during the excavation in un-cleared area.

Treatment:

Team leader, paramedic and one deminer immediately rushed to the accident point and started first aid to the injured deminer and took necessary action for evacuation and 5 minutes later paramedic supervisor got to the pick up point and evacuated the injured deminer. The injured deminer is classified as priority 4.

Summary:

Summarising all factors and result of investigations mentioned above and the rate of injuries of the deminer himself all procedures and regulations of [Demining group] SOP is followed tightly and also the deminer was putting and using the personal protective suit in according to its rules but, unfortunately because of some external causes the mine went off and the accident happened.

The minefield is located in a grazing area, which contains some big stones that makes the ground hard enough. The deminer might have applied big force during the prodding that caused the mine to goes off, therefore the deminers must be very careful during the prodding to not insert the prodder very hard in the ground.

[This file is an edited report of earlier accidents.]

Victim Report

Victim number: 719	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 31	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: 56 minutes
Protection issued: Frontal apron Long visor	Protection used: Frontal apron, Long visor

Summary of injuries:

minor Finger

minor Leg

minor Neck

COMMENT: "He was prescribed some medicines and was advised to rest at home for four days." No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The breaking of the visor into four pieces raises concern but, without photographs, informed comment cannot be made. The Victim's injury to his jaw/chin may imply that the Visor was raised a little.

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "Unavoidable because the investigator found that the deminer had been working properly to his SOPs when the accident occurred. The secondary cause is listed as "Inadequate equipment" because the bayonet prodder has proven to be dangerously inadequate in many accidents in Afghanistan, and because the Demining group had made it a policy to replace it after an accident in 2001.