8-5-2008

DDASaccident615

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 05/03/2011  Accident number: 615
Accident time: 07:30  Accident Date: 05/08/2008

Where it occurred: AF/1614/14547/MF001
1, Saighanchi village, Khulum district, Balkh Province

Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)
Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)

Class: Excavation accident

ID original source: DA25
Name of source: UNMACCA

Organisation: [Name removed]

Mine/device: AP blast (unrecorded)
Ground condition: not recorded

Date record created: Date last modified: 05/03/2011
No of victims: 1  No of documents: 1

Map details

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

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)
squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)
visor not worn or worn raised (?)
Inadequate detector pinpointing

Accident report

The only report of this accident that has been made available to date was in a UNMACA EXCEL spreadsheet. Text in square brackets [ ] is editorial. This record will be revised if more information is made available.

The EXCEL summary is reproduced below, edited for anonymity.
S. # 25, No.# Accident: DA25
Demining group: [Demining group]
Date of Accident: 5th August 2008  07:30
IMSMA ID: 16
Accident/Incident: Demining accident
Name: [The Victim]
Type of Casualty: Injured
Type of injury: some injuries on his face and has lost his eye as well
Title: Deminer
Team No: DT-02
Task No: AF/1614/14547/MF0011
Activity of Victim during accident: Excavating
Type Device: AP blast mine
Equipment Damaged: [None]
Village, District, Province: Saighanchi village, Khulum district, Balkh Province
Investigation  Completed Y/N: Y
Action Taken by NGOs (Y/N): Y
BOI Conclusions:
1. It is the conclusion of the investigation team that the carelessness of involved deminer, poor supervision and denying of mechanical asset by government authority are the main factors for the accident happened. The rule of supervision is vital in such a difficult task and can prevent the accidents.

Victim Report

Victim number: 798  Name: [Name removed]
Age:  Gender: Male
Status: deminer  Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available  Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded  Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:
INJURIES: severe Face
AMPUTATION/LOSS: Eye
COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.
Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a Field Control Inadequacy because the Victim was working with his visor raised and his error was not corrected. The secondary cause is listed as a Management Control Inadequacy because the demining group’s management is responsible for ensuring that field supervisors prevent deminers from breaching approved SOPs.

It is possible that the Victim failed to pinpoint the metal-detector reading adequately (as has been reported in other accidents around this time) and so started to excavate on top of the mine.

The “Inadequate investigation” listed under notes refers to the absence of a full accident report. The UN supported MACCA has failed to make these widely available for some years in contravention of the requirements of the IMAS. The failure of the UN to share the Afghan investigators’ work with others is regrettable.