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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 07/03/2011	Accident number: 696
Accident time: 10:25	Accident Date: 27 th December 2008
Where it occurred: AF/0809/09388/0129, SurkhdeWall village, Rodat District, Ningarhar Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Inadequate training	Secondary cause: Field Control Inadequacy
Class: Excavation Accident	Date of main report: Not recorded
ID original source: DA49	Name of source: UNMACCA
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: Not recorded
Date record created:	Date last modified: 07/03/2011
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 (?)
Inadequate detector pinpointing (?)
SquattingKkneeling to excavate (?)
handtool may have increased injury (?)

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. # 49, No.# Accident: DA49

Demining group: [Name removed]

Date of Accident: 27th December 2008 10:25 AM

IMSMA ID: [None]

Accident/Incident: Demining accident

Name: [the Victim]

Type of Casualty: Injured

Type of injury: Injuries on his right hand and traumatic amputation of his fingers

Title: Deminer

Team No: DT-11

Task No: AF/0809/09388/0129

Activity of Victim during accident: Prodding

Type Device: PMN

Equipment Damaged: [None]

Village, District, Province: Surkhdehwall village, Rodat District, Ningarhar Province

Investigation Completed Y/N: Y

Action Taken by NGOs (Y/N): Y

BOI Conclusions:

The investigation team concluded that the contributing factor to this accident was carelessness of deminer in terms of started excavation on the top of the detected signal, and poor command and control by acting team leader.

Victim Report

Victim number:

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 recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES: Severe hand

AMP/Loss: fingers

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as *Inadequate training* because it seems that the Victim started excavating on top of the mine. He may not have known how to pinpoint the detector reading appropriately, or may not have been instructed in safe excavation techniques. The secondary cause is listed as a *Field Control Inadequacy* because the investigators gave “poor command and control” as a contributory cause.

The handtool often used by this demining group is their own design of scraper/prodder with a handguard made from the sidewall of a vehicle tyre. While it is designed to put the deminer’s hand further from a blast, it is known to separate in blast events and so does not meet the IMAS recommendations for blast-resistant handtools.

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.