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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 22/01/2004	Accident number: 29
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 30/03/1997
Where it occurred: not appropriate (various)	Country: Mozambique
Primary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate training (?)
Class: Other	Date of main report: 30/03/1997
ID original source: none	Name of source: ADP
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: various	Ground condition: not applicable
Date record created: 22/01/2004	Date last modified: 22/01/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 2

Map details

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

Accident Notes

safety distances ignored (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
inadequate investigation (?)

Accident report

This accident was not recorded by the demining group as a mine accident. The victim appeared to have suffered loss of hearing as a result of working in close proximity to explosions over a three year period.

Victim Report

Victim number: 43	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 31	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: US\$1,680	Time to hospital: not applicable
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Hearing

COMMENT

No medical report was made available: see "Related papers".

Analysis

The primary cause is listed as a "*Management/control inadequacy*" because it seems that the group's SOPs allowed the victim to be too close to detonations on too many occasions and so those responsible for devising the SOPs and training were at fault.

It is possible that victim did not take the precautions he should have, in which case he may have been inadequately trained, so the secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate training*".

Related papers

An undated letter on file (apparently initialled by the Chief UN Technical Advisor) indicated that the victim suffered hearing loss due to multiple exposure to blasts. The letter states that the case was not investigated thoroughly and the author doubted that the damage occurred in normal work or as reported. None the less, the compensation award was approved.

The senior TA's decision to compensate the victim for work related injuries was signed on 31st March 1998. The victim's injury was summarised as trauma to the eardrum causing loss of hearing. The decision included the observation that the victim suffered hearing loss in the third year of his work with explosives. It states that he was subjected to several "ontorological" tests at Chicuque hospital, Inhambane and then given an audiometric test at Maputo Central Hospital, all of which were positive and showed that "neurosensorial" damage had occurred in both ears.

A report from Maputo Central Hospital (additional information suggested tests were carried out on 4th November 1997) described his injuries as "Severe damage to the right ear and moderate damage to the left ear [described as bilateral Hipocúsia]" and gave the opinion that the "injuries are compatible with sound trauma". From which the report concluded that the victim should not be exposed to further sound trauma and that he was therefore no longer suitable to be employed as a deminer.

Compensation was calculated as 35% x 30 x US\$160 (salary) = US\$1,680.

His DOB was recorded as 22/04/65