

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 22/01/2004	Accident number: 5
Accident time: 09:45	Accident Date: 16/07/2001
Where it occurred: Chipopopo road, Machaze District, Manica Province	Country: Mozambique
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: 20/10/2001
ID original source: FM	Name of source: NPA (field)/IND
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: Pt Mi Baa 111 AT blast	Ground condition: route (dirt), sandy
Date record created: 11/01/2004	Date last modified: 11/01/2004
No of victims: 8	No of documents: 2

Map details

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

Accident Notes

dog missed mine (?)
inadequate medical provision (?)
inadequate investigation (?)
mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)

Accident report

The National Manager of the demining group involved in the accident made available an internal report in March 2002. The report was based on a joint investigation headed by the National MAC's Deputy Director. The investigation took place from 24-26th July 2001. The report was written in English and the following summarises its content.

The demining group were clearing an 80km stretch of road using mine-dog teams and manual demining methods. They began work in November 1999. Work was suspended during the period of National floods, then restarted. They had cleared "approximately 43km" at the time of the accident. During the clearance task the demining team had found "1 UXO, 377 SAA of AKM" and 1724 pieces of metal.

The relationship between the demining team and the local community was "healthy". The group had been told of three AT mines on the road, but when the positions were identified, they found "holes" with no mines.

The "soil type" was "sandy and false". The vegetation was described as "combined, some parts with open vegetation and other parts with heavy vegetation".

At the time of the accident, the demining-group "Toyota Land-cruiser pick-up" was returning to the demining team's campsite along a road that the group had cleared when the vehicle detonated an unspecified AT mine [informally reported to have been a TM-57]. Demining group vehicles had traversed that stretch of road at least 70 times since it had been cleared. There were eight demining staff (including a driver) on the vehicle and four mine detection dogs. [The dogs may have been towed in a trailer as this is the group's customary means of transporting dogs.]

All the dogs died in the accident and the vehicle was completely destroyed. One deminer "died on the spot" and the other seven "suffered injuries of various degrees". "Soon after the accident first aid treatment was administered to the injured staff" by the demining group's own paramedics. [It is not recorded how they were contacted.]

"30 minutes after the casevac, some strange people were seen trying to steal tyres, battery and the winch cable from the vehicle.... [they] ran away once they realised that our staff was still nearby".

"The medical evacuation had to be carried out within two days and was difficult one – as it had to be done by a small helicopter that could only make flights during daytime."

The National MAC then led an investigation into the accident accompanied by the management of the demining group.

On 20th October 2001, the medical status of those injured was reported as:

- MDD Team leader – fully recovered and back on duty
- Dog handler 1 – "on recovery process and doing light duties".
- Dog handler 2 – "on recovery process at home".
- Dog handler 3 – "fully recovered and back on duty".
- Dog handler 4 – "on recovery process at home".
- Deminer 1 – killed "on the spot".
- Deminer 2 – "Fully recovered and back on duty".
- Driver – Fully recovered and back on duty.

"Soon after the accident, all mine detection dogs and respective staff were withdrawn from field operations to the training [area] for intensive refresher training.

The investigators found that the villagers in the area were former RENAMO supporters and it was rumoured that some were still armed.

Conclusion

The investigators concluded that:

The demining group recorded that the accident was caused by either:

- 1) A freshly laid mine by unknown person and for unknown reasons.
- 2) A missed mine by possibly a deminer, a dog handler or a mine detection dog during clearance operation.”

The national MAC recorded that the accident was caused by either:

- 1) “Deliberate laid mine by unknown person for various reasons, such as, to steal parts from the damaged vehicle, to hinder access to the area, to stop forest supervision from the government authorities and to safeguard political interest.
- 2) A missed mine by manual and mine detection techniques during clearance operation.”

Victim Report

Victim number: 8	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: US\$5229	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Genitals

FATAL

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

In a summary of the demining group's accidents made available in 2002 it was recorded that the victim suffered “multi-trauma, a wound on the testicles and unfortunately he died right on the spot”.

The demining group met all funeral expenses, paid US\$1062 as six months salary and 100,000,000 Metacais as compensation. The Metacais was around 24,000 to the US\$ in 2002, so the Metacais are calculated as US\$4,167, making the total compensation US\$5,229.

Victim Report

Victim number: 9	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: driver	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: none	Time to hospital: 4 hours and 5 minutes
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Chest

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim suffered chest abrasions and chest pain. He was back at work on 20th October 2001 and may have returned to work soon after the accident. No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 10	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: none	Time to hospital: 4 hours and 5 minutes
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim had blood in the urine and lower abdominal pain. He was back at work on 20th October 2001 and may have returned to work soon after the accident. No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 11	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: dog-handler	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: Not determined in March 2002	Time to hospital: 1 hour and 10 minutes
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Chest

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim suffered severe chest injuries with "right haemopeumothora and severe displacement of the fractured ribs". He was back at work doing "light duties" on 20th October 2001. No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 12

Name: [Name removed]

Age:

Gender: Male

Status: dog-handler

Fit for work: not known

Compensation: Not determined in
March 2002

Time to hospital: 1 hour and 10 minutes

Protection issued: Not recorded

Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Foot

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim suffered "right fracture of the calcaneus and fracture of the fifth right metatarsals". He was still "recovering from injuries at home" with physiotherapy in March 2002. No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 13

Name: [Name removed]

Age:

Gender: Male

Status: dog-handler

Fit for work: yes

Compensation: none

Time to hospital: 4 hours and 5 minutes

Protection issued: Not recorded

Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Leg

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim suffered leg injuries and a possible "minor fracture". He was back at work on 20th October 2001 and may have returned to work soon after the accident. No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 14	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: none	Time to hospital: 4 hours and 5 minutes
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Chest

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim suffered fractured ribs but was back at work on 20th October 2001 and may have returned to work soon after the accident. No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 15	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: dog-handler	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: not determined in March 2002	Time to hospital: 1 hour and 10 minutes
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Foot

severe Leg

COMMENT

Detailed injuries were not recorded. The victim suffered "a legamentus injury to his right knee" and all the "metatarsals of his right foot" fractured. No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because it is possible that the clearance method was not used adequately, or was not adequate for the task, and this led to the mine being missed. If the group had reason to believe that mines had been recently removed from the road, the field managers should have considered withdrawing the clearance team in case of an attack. The political complexity of the population's RENAMO affiliation and reliance of poaching game for an income might explain why the group was targeted (if it was). The secondary cause is listed as "Other" because it is possible that the mine was placed in an act of banditry not connected with the earlier removal of mines.

The accident investigation lacked detail and included some confusion over the names and current status of the victims.

The report indicated that it took up to two days for the victims to reach hospital because a small helicopter could only be used in daylight. With more than 12 hours of daylight, this excuse does not seem reasonable. The failure to have a rapid Medevac potential is recorded as an "inadequate medical provision". [The later summary of all accidents gave a maximum Medevac time of 4 hrs and 5 minutes.]

Related papers

In a summary of the demining group's accidents made available in 2002 it was recorded that the mine was a PT-Mi-Ba-III.

What medical details are recorded for the victims are drawn from that summary. The summary lists the victims and includes one name that is not among those listed in the group's own accident report. That victim is identified by inference.