

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 15/05/2006	Accident number: 117
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 28/05/1998
Where it occurred: Chehelstoon, Ward 7, Kabul city	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: none	Name of source: MAPA/UNOCHA
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: AT (unrecorded)	Ground condition: route (verge)
Date record created: 12/02/2004	Date last modified: 12/02/2004
No of victims: 3	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

inadequate investigation (?)
dog missed mine (?)
inadequate equipment (?)
mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)
inconsistent statements (?)

Accident report

An investigation was carried out on behalf of the UN MAC and its report made briefly available in September 1999. The following summarises its content.

The accident occurred on a stretch of road that the authorities had asked to be cleared after an accident in which a truck was "blown up". The road was cleared by the mine-dog group and the area handed back to the local officials.

As the officials were pulling the destroyed vehicle away over another area of road (cleared by a mine-dog group in 1997) one of its wheels detonated another AT device at the side of the road. Three people were injured and the vehicle was "further damaged".

The road where the accident occurred had been used in the time between clearance and the accident. The investigators felt that this proved that the mine was not missed in the original clearance.

A local dispute between the authorities and nomads who refused to hand over weapons had led to security in the area being poor. The nomads left the area immediately after the accident and it was felt that this could imply that they had laid the mine involved in the accident.

A casualty report submitted at the time reported that there were three casualties. The later investigation [delayed] found that only the medical doctor had sustained injuries. Three representatives of the authorities were also injured.

The Team Leader reported that after the group had completed the emergency clearance requested by the authorities "a shower truck was driven onto the road to make sure clearance quality". He stated that there were two injuries, and that both victims were taken to an ICRC hospital in Kabul.

The Assistant Group Leader said that no demining personnel were injured in the accident.

Conclusion

The investigators concluded that the mine was probably laid by the nomads.

Recommendations

The investigators recommended that deminers not work in areas where there is conflict or the possibility of re-mining in the near future. Also that the demining group and regional office involved should take care to ensure that its future reports were accurate.

Victim Report

Victim number: 151	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: driver	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: None	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Body

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 152	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Helmet	Protection used: not recorded
Thin, short visor	

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Body

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 153	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: medic	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Body

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the group involved had moved the vehicle beyond the area they had reason to believe was dangerous and into an area they believed to be safe. The fact that the area was not safe may be seen as a survey management failing.

The mine involved in the accident was not identified but it was assumed that it was an AV/AT mine of some kind.

The dispute between the nomads and the authorities may have led to remaining although it seems unlikely that the nomads would have placed a mine intended to injure the authorities on the verge rather than in the road. Their hasty departure after the accident might have indicated fear of unjust retribution rather than a guilty conscience.

The agency that was used to make investigations for the UN MAC (based in Pakistan) at this time was frequently constrained by lack of funds, staff and transport. At times their movement was constrained by safety concerns. As a result, investigations were frequently delayed by weeks, meaning that an assessment of the site at the time of the accident was impossible.

Related papers

The original accident report named three members of the demining group who suffered "shrapnel on their bodies" and received first aid in the field before being taken to the ICRC hospital.

A sketch map showed that the mine detonated at the very edge of the road and inside an area reported cleared by the mine-dog group.