

# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 17/05/2006	<b>Accident number:</b> 163
<b>Accident time:</b> 07:50	<b>Accident Date:</b> 05/09/1998
<b>Where it occurred:</b> K'dep Thmar, Thmar Pourk District, Banteay Meanchey Province	<b>Country:</b> Cambodia
<b>Primary cause:</b> Unavoidable (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Unavoidable (?)
<b>Class:</b> Excavation accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> 05/09/1998
<b>ID original source:</b> DF	<b>Name of source:</b> HT (field)
<b>Organisation:</b> Name removed	
<b>Mine/device:</b> PMN AP blast	<b>Ground condition:</b> hidden root mat metal fragments soft
<b>Date record created:</b> 14/02/2004	<b>Date last modified:</b> 14/02/2004
<b>No of victims:</b> 1	<b>No of documents:</b> 1

## Map details

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

## Accident Notes

squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)  
no independent investigation available (?)

## Accident report

At the time of the accident the demining group operated a one-man drill whereby one deminer used all the tools including the detector and cleared an area on his own. The demining group issued frontal protection and their drills assumed the deminer would kneel or squat while excavating.

A "preliminary" report of the accident was held by the demining group's country office and made available. The following summarises its content.

Signed by an expatriate specialist and dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 1998, the report stated that demining had started at the site on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1998 and fourteen Type 69s and two PMNs had been recovered. The victim had worked for 40 minutes on the morning of the accident and in that time had cleared 4m and located and excavated four metal fragments. He was prodding to investigate another signal from his "Ebinger 420H" when at 07:50 he detonated a PMN.

The victim was found stunned and sitting in his lane. The initial examination revealed that he had received only minor abrasions to his left hand and forearm. He suffered no hearing loss and was not bleeding. The victim later found that he had lost the fingernail from his left forefinger. The victim was evacuated to the MSF hospital at Thmar Pourk.

An investigation of the site revealed the spring and part of the firing pin in the crater. The crater was 30cm deep and 80cm wide, from which the investigators calculated that the mine was approximately 5cm below the surface.

**The victim** stated that the ground was soft due to rainfall two days before, and that he had met resistance from stones and roots during earlier excavations. He insisted that he was not prodding too hard.

**A deminer in an "adjacent" lane** stated that the victim's visor was blown off and lying 3m behind him. The inside of the visor was splattered with mud but he felt that this was because of earth thrown into the air after the explosion. The victim's prodder was "slightly right, with its tip bent" and lying seven metres behind him, together with his end-of-lane maker which had snapped in half.

## Conclusions

The investigators concluded that the victim's visor saved him from further injury (as indicated by blast markings on its upper left face). Also that his injuries were consistent with the act of steadily a prodder with his left hand.

They decided that it was difficult to determine whether the victim was prodding too vigorously, but his clearance rates suggested that he was not working too quickly. It was thought possible that the mine was at an angle in the ground.

## Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 208	<b>Name:</b> Name removed
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> yes
<b>Compensation:</b> not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> Long visor Short frontal vest	<b>Protection used:</b> Long visor, Short frontal vest

## Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Arm

minor Hand

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. The victim returned to work on 8th September 1998

## **Analysis**

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim was working properly [according to approved SOPs] when the accident occurred.

The researcher believes that it is possible that (in the absence of many PMN mines in Cambodia) the PMN-2 mine is simply referred to as a PMN.