

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 17/05/2006	Accident number: 170
Accident time: 09:30	Accident Date: 25/03/1997
Where it occurred: Ou Sroleau Commune, Malay District, Banteay Meanchey Province	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: 07/05/1997
ID original source: NC (date inferred)	Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: bushes/scrub hard hidden root mat
Date record created: 14/02/2004	Date last modified: 14/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

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

Accident report

At the time of the accident the demining group operated in a two-man drill whereby one deminer used the detector and marked any signals while the other looked for tripwires, cut undergrowth and excavated any detector readings. A third deminer may have been resting [it is not known whether the group had changed from three-man to two-man teams at this time].

The following is taken from a translation from a Khmer accident report held by the country MAC. This internal report was prepared on behalf of the UN supported MAC.

After discussions with the Commune chief the Platoon Commander instructed his men to begin clearance work in the area. The area was covered with dense vegetation and the ground was hard. The operation went smoothly from 07:30 until 9:30 when there was an accident involving a PMN.

The victim was the vegetation cutter and prodder man. He cleared 50cm of vegetation at the end of the lane and then handed over to his partner, the detector man. The detector signalled so a marker was put down and the detector man returned to the umbrella. The prodder man investigated the source of the signal and then shouted that he had found a mine. He started to excavate around the mine in preparation for placing a TNT charge next to it. There were a lot of roots around the mine but the victim was not aware that there were also roots across the top. During the course of the excavation the victim initiated the mine with his "trowel".

The victim was seriously injured in the left eye, sustained a superficial wound in the cheek and suffered scattered wounds to the right leg and right arm.

The victim was taken to the rest area 300m away and given the first aid before being taken to Malay District Hospital, arriving at 10:30. The doctor said that the victim had lost the sight of the eye and it had to be removed. The victim was taken to Mongkul Borey Hospital, arriving at 14:30.

Victim Report

Victim number: 217	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: US\$2,500	Time to hospital: 1 hour
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Arms

minor Face

minor Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Eye

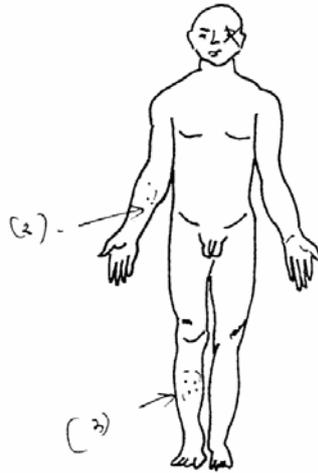
COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

The victim's left eye was "destroyed" and the victim suffered multiple superficial fragment wounds on the right forearm and left shin.

This sketch accompanied a compensation claim.



He left hospital on 7th April 1997.

The victim was awarded \$2,500 on 2nd June 1997 and he received it on 27th June 1997.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is given as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim was working appropriately and the presence of roots over the mine made it especially sensitive.

There is no mention of the victim's safety spectacles or their performance in the report. Given that there is no evidence of the UN controlled demining group's compensation board having penalised the victim for being in breach of SOPs and that one eye was not damaged at all, it seems likely that the victim was wearing his safety spectacles but that they failed – as in other accidents. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*".

The investigators did not comment on the victim's position, despite lower leg fragments indicating that he was squatting at the time. This demonstrates a tacit acceptance of field reality, as opposed to the group's published SOPs.

There was a significant management failure in supplying deminers with safety equipment known to be inadequate.