

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 184
Accident time: 11:00	Accident Date: 10/06/1995
Where it occurred: Pursat	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate training (?)
Class: Handling accident	Date of main report: 20/06/1995
ID original source: none [date inferred]	Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: Fuze	Ground condition: not applicable
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

no independent investigation available (?)

disciplinary action against victim (?)

inadequate investigation (?)

inadequate training (?)

Accident report

The country MAC accident summary sheet listed this accident as occurring on 9th June 1995.

No formal country MAC Accident report was on file in January 1999. The accident was described in a letter to the group Commander, dated 20th June 1995, which stated that the accident occurred at 11:00 during a rest period. The victim had found a fuse from a POMZ-2 [usually an MUV striker and detonator] among fragments in the minefield and was carrying it back to the rest area.

The victim lost the little finger of his hand [left or right was not clear] and had a flesh wound on the palm. He was taken to Pursat Provincial Hospital, arriving at 12:20.

The victim stated that he was aware that he had breached SOPs by carrying the fuse out of the mined area after the whistle sounded for the start of the rest period. He did not know why it exploded.

Conclusion

It was determined that the victim had breached SOPs by not reporting the find to his supervisor and by carrying out this activity [whatever it was] during a rest period.

Victim Report

Victim number: 234	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: none	Time to hospital: hour 20 minutes
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Hand

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Finger

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

No medical report was made available.

The compensation board agreed to pay the victim's medical expenses but decided not to give him compensation. The victim was not dismissed because this was the "first blemish on an otherwise perfect work record".

The country MAC Accident summary sheet (apparently erroneously) recorded a payment of US\$150 in compensation.

The victim was still working with the demining group when the compensation board decided not to make an award, but his occupation was not stated.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the victim was in breach of SOPs and his actions were not corrected.

The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate training*" because it seems likely that the victim did not know how the fuze operated – many groups think that deminers do not need to know

technical details about mines and many deminers cannot distinguish an inert firing mechanism from the same thing with a detonator in place.

The question of punishing the victim by not paying compensation deserves comment. The victim had paid out of his own salary into a compensation fund and was injured while working. Punishing breaches of SOP by refusing to pay compensation for injuries that result makes the investigation of accidents more difficult because everyone has an incentive to cover-up SOP breaches.

Punishment of victims occurs in other accidents involving this demining group.