

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 232
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 23/05/1997
Where it occurred: Travnik	Country: Bosnia Herzegovina
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: Incident no.575	Name of source: other
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMA-3 AP blast	Ground condition: ditch/channel/trench woodland
Date record created: 17/02/2004	Date last modified: 01/03/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: GR: XJ 967 879	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east: XJ966879	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate metal-detector (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
inadequate investigation (?)

Accident report

Details of this accident were discovered in a document entitled "Synopsis of EA Military demining accidents 1997". The victim was a member of FWF/3 Corps ArBiH engaged in "mine-lifting".

As part of the Peace Accord, the three active armies were required to engage in humanitarian demining. They did this without keeping the country MAC informed of their working methods or giving them access to conduct accident investigations.

The document states that the demining team were working in a gully in a wooded area. "They had used prodders to probe the ground from which they were lifting mines. They also used detectors to sweep the area to 15m beyond the area which had been prodded". A member of the demining team who had been involved in laying the mines during the war "walked into the area which had been swept by detectors and detonated a PMA-3".

"He did not sustain any serious injuries."

Victim Report

Victim number: 304	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. The victim suffered only "minor" injuries.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the victim walked into an area that should have been clear. Either the group were not working thoroughly or they were using a technique (or equipment) that was not thorough enough. Responsibility for ensuring that the technique (and equipment) are adequate lies with group management.

The injuries resulting from stepping on a PMA-3 vary from bruising to traumatic amputations. The picture below shows why this happens. It shows a cut-away section through a PMA-3. The 35g Tetryl is in the top and centre of the mine. The area of pressure-plate surrounding it is actually larger than the area of pressure-plate over it. If a victim is fortunate, they step on the pressure plate but the explosive charge is not beneath their foot.

