

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 234
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 07/08/1997
Where it occurred: not recorded	Country: Bosnia Herzegovina
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: none	Name of source: other
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMA-3 AP blast	Ground condition: soft wet
Date record created: 17/02/2004	Date last modified: 17/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: GR: BP 844 574	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate metal-detector (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
inadequate investigation (?)
squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)

Accident report

Details of this accident were discovered in a document entitled "Synopsis of EA Military demining accidents 1997".

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 stated that the deminer was wearing "full protective equipment". He "was using the prodder properly and was moving forward" when he set off a PMA-3. [The injuries imply that the mine detonated under his knee.]

The ground conditions were reported to be "very soft and wet".

The Team Commander knew that there were mines present. "After thorough checking [he] had ordered the removal of 15cm of topsoil, followed by a second 15cm. The mine was still 15cm below the surface. This was too deep for the detector to pick it up and too deep for the prodder to reveal its presence... the ground compacted under his weight and set off the mine."

The victim "lost his leg from above the knee".

Victim Report

Victim number: 306	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: "full"

Summary of injuries:

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Above knee

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems likely that the victim was working properly within common SOPs and to accepted standards.

The detector could not find the mine and the alternative methods also failed. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*".

The PMA-3 is a very small mine and the loss of the victim's leg above the knee implies very strongly that he knelt on it after he had "missed" the mine while clearing.

The minimum-metal mine was buried at a very unusual depth. If the ground had not been very wet it is not certain that the victim's weight would have detonated it (although how they calculated its depth after the blast was not explained).