

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 236
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 28/07/1997
Where it occurred: Konjic	Country: Bosnia Herzegovina
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Victim inattention	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: Incident no.724	Name of source: other
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMA-3 AP blast	Ground condition: woodland
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: YJ 404 324	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

vegetation clearance problem (?)
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/4 Corps ArBiH engaged in "mine-lifting". He had been US DoS trained.

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 victim was called to confirm the presence of a mine by one of his colleagues. He turned to comply, and as he did so his foot slipped "on a piece of wood"

and he fell over. As he got up "he put his foot outside the cleared lane and detonated a PMA-3 which was buried and not visible".

The victim "was wearing protective equipment and was not seriously injured".

Victim Report

Victim number: 308	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: worn, but no details recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Foot

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. The victim's injuries were described as "minor".

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the victim slipped and fell over. This kind of human error is unavoidable, However, the question arises – why were pieces of slippery wood left in the cleared lane? The presence of that wood may indicate failings in operating procedures and in the management that decided them.

Unfortunately the record does not explain how wearing protective clothing (usually a frag-jacket and a visor) could prevent serious injury when stepping on a mine.

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.

