

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 286
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 18/02/1992
Where it occurred: not made available	Country: Kuwait
Primary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Detection accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: KMOD/SER 36	Name of source: Various/AVS 2001:K9
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: Type 72 AP blast	Ground condition: wet
Date record created: 19/02/2004	Date last modified: 19/02/2004
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 (?)

inadequate investigation (?)

inadequate metal-detector (?)

Accident report

The details of Kuwait Boards of Inquiry are considered 'Commercial in Confidence'. The following summary is gathered from various documentary and anecdotal evidence made available during the research. All anecdotal evidence is drawn from sources who were in Kuwait at the time of the accident.

The demining group were a commercial company with a time penalty on their work. International staff were paid very well. The group worked in three-man teams with a two-man drill. They used the Schiebel AN-19 detector. Third Country Nationals hired by the company were not routinely issued with protective equipment.

A Ghurkha deminer was working with a Schiebel AN/19 in an area of high salt contamination (Subkha – salt marsh) when he failed to detect a Type 72 anti-personnel mine and activated it with his foot. He suffered a traumatic amputation of his lower leg.

After this accident (several similar ones had preceded it) the demining company recognised that salt marsh, Type 72 AP and Schiebel AN-19 detectors did not go well together. It was determined that the detection depth was vastly reduced by the salt content, in some cases to 1cm. The mines had been surface laid but had sometimes “sunk” into the ground.

Victim Report

Victim number: 362	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: None	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as “*Inadequate equipment*” because the victim was attempting to find a Type 72 mine with a detector that could not reliably locate it. This fact was known to management who had not taken measures to replace the detectors or change the methods used before this accident.

There is a paucity of reliable data for many of the accidents that occurred in Kuwait. If any reader has additional detail, please send it for inclusion.