

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 27/01/2008	Accident number: 517
Accident time: Not made available	Accident Date: 14/08/2003
Where it occurred: Not made available	Country: Iraq
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Handling accident	Date of main report: Not made available
ID original source: none	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created:	Date last modified: 27/01/2008
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: Not made available	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

protective equipment not worn (?)

Accident report

Details of this accident have been withheld by the demining NGO that employed the Victim. A spreadsheet including the Victim's name and very brief details of the accident was made available in 2007. Some details can be inferred from the information released. For example, the groin injury implies that the victim's PPE was not being worn, or inadequate for the purpose.

This entry will be expanded if access to the report of the investigation is made available in future.

The spreadsheet data is reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

“Date and country. [Name removed], deminer: Traumatic amputation of both hands, injuries to groin and leg.

Uncontrolled detonation of a PMN mine whilst mine being neutralised.”

Victim Report

Victim number: 679	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: no
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

severe Abdomen

severe Genitals

severe Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS: Hands

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a “Field control inadequacy” because it seems that the Victim was disarming a mine designated “no-touch” by the demining group, and may have been doing so without wearing appropriate PPE. The secondary cause is listed as a “Management control inadequacy” because the management of the demining group declined to make the accident details available. Although this is sometimes done to protect the Victims, in this case the Victim’s name was among the limited detail made available. It is possible that the managers have chosen to avoid transparency because they are afraid that the circumstances of the accident would reflect badly on their organisation.

The demining group have a “No touch” policy on the PMN (documented), so it is reasonable to presume that the Victim was in breach of SOPs while disarming the mine. The mine is routinely disarmed by other demining groups, and it is possible that the “no-touch” policy meant that the Victim was not appropriately trained in the render-safe procedure for the mine. If the disarming was approved without appropriate training, that would be a further significant Management failing.