

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 19/07/2011	Accident number: 769
Accident time: 08:20	Accident Date: 30/09/2007
Where it occurred: AF0308/01634, MF163, Jan-Qadam Village, Bagram District, Parwan Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Other (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: None
ID original source: (30)	Name of source: UNMACCA
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: AP blast (unrecorded)	Ground condition: hard
Date record created:	Date last modified: 19/07/2011
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

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

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)
handtool may have increased injury (?)
Inadequate detector pinpointing
squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)
inconsistent statements (?)

Accident report

The only report of this accident that has been made available to date is a UNMACCA Lessons Learned document. Its conversion into a DDAS file has led to some of the original formatting being lost. Text in square brackets [] is editorial. This record will be revised if more information becomes available.

The document is reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

LESSONS LEARNED SUMMARY OF DEMINING ACCIDENT OCCURRED TO [Demining group] ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

INTRODUCTION:

An investigation team composed of Mr. [Name removed] the QMA and [Name removed] Team Leader of QMIT-21 was convened by the Area Manager of AMAC Centre to investigate the demining accident that occurred on [the Victim] deminer of [Demining group] DT-4 at Jan-Qadam village, Bagram district of Parwan province. The mentioned demining accident occurred at 08:20 hours on 30 Sep 2007 in Minefield # AF0308/01634/MF163. As result of this accident, the deminer received some minor injuries on his left hand.

SUMMARY:

MF AF/0308/01634/MF163 is located at Jan Qadam village of Bagram province. This area is contaminated by anti personnel mines laid by Russians over the period from 1982-1985. These mines have been laid as belt to secure Bagram airbase from Mujahidin attacks. The density of mine contamination in this area is very high. Elders of Hassan Khail, Gujor Khail and Jan Qadam requested American authorities in Bagram airbase to cooperate in clearance of this area. According to request from Bagram Mine Action from UNMACA the clearance of this area was started jointly by some demining assets from [Demining group and two other Demining groups]. On 30 Sep 2007 at 08:20 Hrs, the accident occurred on [the Victim] deminer of [Demining group] DT-4, while he was excavating a signal using bayonet. As the involved deminer is left handed (used to work with left hand) and on the time of accident he has been fully dressed with PPE, he received some minor injuries to his left hand while the other parts of his body remained unharmed.

CONCLUSIONS:

The following points were found by investigation team:

The accident area was full of vegetation and the ground surface was too hard and required initial preparation by MDU but the field officer has failed to provide MDU support for this team.

The deminer used to work with his left hand; whereas the signal was at right safety margin of the lane so the deminer was not in a stable position to properly work on the signal.

He has directly started from the top of signal without safety margin behind the signal.

According to the Team Leader, the victim deminer has been used bayonet for excavation but they could not show the bayonet to the investigation team, saying that the bayonet has been thrown away by explosion to unknown area and missed.

The lane on which the accident happened has had continuous signal covered with vegetation having 80cm height, so the ground was fully excavated manually at depth of 13 cm.

The teams working in this project does not have mission leave while the other teams work 50 days and have 10 days off.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following points are to be considered:

Project Officer is to provide MDU to assist the manual deminers on softening the ground and remove he vegetation. Field Officer is to try as much as possible to make the work easier and safer for the deminers.

Those deminers who are left handed (habituated to work with left hand) should start from right side of the lane and move to left side.

The command group specifically the relevant section leader should make sure the deminers work from stable position.

Victim Report

Victim number: 955	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Frontal apron Long visor	Protection used: Frontal apron; Long visor

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES: minor Hand

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available. ". . . minor injuries on his left hand".

Analysis

The primary and secondary cause of this accident are listed as *Other* because the investigation includes a fundamental contradiction that makes it impossible to understand what was happening at the time of the accident. The investigators say that the Victim was investigating a metal detector signal and started digging directly on top of it, and they also say that the entire area was being excavated to a depth of 13cm manually with bayonets. The Victim cannot have been doing both.

Conducting area excavation with a bayonet would be impractical and is unlikely to have been attempted. Conducting signal investigation with a short AK bayonet is common in Afghanistan, and believed more likely.

The "Inadequate investigation" listed under notes refers to the absence of a full accident report. The UN supported MACCA has failed to make these widely available for some years, so ignoring the requirements of the IMAS. It is noteworthy that the Afghan national staff have been more responsible over sharing data than those internationals who presume greater responsibility.