

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 09/01/2008	Accident number: 464
Accident time: Not made available	Accident Date: 12/11/2003
Where it occurred: Not made available	Country: Sri Lanka
Primary cause: Inadequate training (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Handling accident	Date of main report: Not made available
ID original source: Not made available	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: P2Mk2 P4Mk1 AP blast	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created: 09/01/2008	Date last modified: 09/01/2008
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 (?)

inadequate training (?)

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 limited injury implies that the victim's PPE was being worn in the correct manner.

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] (Supervisor):

Handling mine - loss of parts of thumbs from both hands.

P4 Pakistan ap mine exploded when removing explosive from mine which was to be used for training purposes.”

Victim Report

Victim number: 616	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

severe Hands

AMPUTATION/LOSS: Fingers

COMMENT: "loss of parts of thumbs from both hands". No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as “Inadequate training” because many thousands of P4 mines have been disarmed without incident by local deminers in Sri Lanka. The victim was an ex-patriot specialist who may have been unfamiliar with the mine type.

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.