

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 19/07/2011	Accident number: 782
Accident time: 10:45	Accident Date: 18/10/2007
Where it occurred: AF0308/01634, MF163, Jan-Qadam Village, Bagram District. Parwan Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate training (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: None
ID original source: (32)	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 (?)
use of shovel (?)
standing to excavate (?)
request for machine to assist (?)

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] DEMINING TEAM # 4 ON 18 OCTOBER 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 10:45 hours on 18 October 2007 in Minefield # AF0308/01634/MF163. As result of this accident, the deminer received injuries on his left foot palm.

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 villages requested American authorities in Bagram airbase to cooperate in clearance of this area. The clearance of this area was started jointly by some demining assets from [Demining group], [two other Demining groups]. On 18 October 2007 at 10:45 Hrs, the accident occurred on [the Victim] deminer of [Demining group] DT-4, while he was excavating a signal. As a result of the accident his left foot palm [sic] was injured and as he was fully dressed with PPE, other parts of his body remained unharmed.

CONCLUSIONS:

The following points were found by investigation team:

- The deminer had been working with large size shovel and as he pressed the shovel in the ground by force of his left leg palm, accidentally his shovel hit top of an anti personnel mine and caused it to explode, and that is why he got injuries in his foot palm.
- The deminer was fully equipped by PPE and as the accident happened he did not receive any other injuries to other parts of his body.
- Due to lack of proper training, excavation drill has not been practiced in accordance with the NGO SOP because the deminer was excavating the centre of the signal with a large shovel which is an inappropriate tool for excavation and a direct safety breach of SOP.
- Poor command and control was dominated in the team because the team leader and section leader failed to avoid the deminer of using improper tool and practicing wrong drill.
- The area in which the team is working is too hard and full of vegetation which needs mechanical asset to prepare the ground for manual team, but the team command group do not consider the deployment of mechanical asset in this part of the area. They say that permission of air base authorities is required for establishment of access way to shift mechanical asset in this part of the area.

- It is the second accident happened within three weeks in this team in the same task, the pervious accident happened on 30 September 2007 on one of the deminer due to poor excavation drill in hard ground.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following points are to be considered:

- Arranging refresher training session is strongly recommended for the team and the training should focus mostly on prodding and excavation drill.
- As it is the second accident happened in this task and according to investigation team report the task is full of dense vegetation and the ground is hard, so once again the good neighbourhood project officer is strongly advised to arrange a meeting with the air base authority and convince them to allow the use of mechanical asset for ground preparation. Till getting this permission the operation is to be suspended in those parts of the area which need mechanical asset preparation activity.
- Team command group should strictly control the activity of deminers and do not allow them to use improper tool and work contrary to approved standards.
- In order to identify poor performance and weak points of the operation, the internal quality control visits should be enhanced; necessary advised should be given to the team, and these QA visits should be recorded.

Victim Report

Victim number: 968	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
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: severe Foot

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available. "injuries in his foot palm" [the sole of his foot]

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a Field Control Inadequacy because the investigators found that the Victim was working with the wrong tool in the wrong drill and his errors were not corrected. The secondary cause is listed as *Inadequate training* because the investigators recommended that training was required. Failure to provide effective training is also a significant *Management Control Inadequacy*.

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.