

DC3 [REDACTED]

Below is a summary of interview of DC3 [REDACTED] USCG, conducted by the AIM informal board on August 22, 2006 concerning the diving incident which resulted in two deaths on 17 August 2006. AIM board members present at the interview were Captain [REDACTED] LCDR [REDACTED] and LCDR [REDACTED]. This summary is in addition to DC3 [REDACTED] statement dated 18 August 2006. This summary is true and accurate.

DC3 [REDACTED] reported PCS from DCA school to HEALY in [REDACTED]. He was TAD at NESU Seattle from 20 March until the ship pulled in on 13 June. His previous unit was USCGC CHANDELEUR where he served as a SN. DC3 [REDACTED] primary duty in HEALY is [REDACTED].

DC3 [REDACTED] is not a certified diver or dive tender. He has only participated in one recreational dive – which was with some friends in Key West Florida last year. DC3 [REDACTED] has not received formal training as a recreational diver, a Coast Guard diver, or a line tender. DC3 [REDACTED] has not received nor completed PQS for line tending. This dive evolution was the first Coast Guard dive operation that he witnessed or participated in. Prior to this evolution the only dive meeting he attended was when LT Hill gave a lecture regarding dive school and the benefits of being a Coast Guard diver.

DC3 [REDACTED] first learned about the dive the morning of August 17, 2006 when HSC [REDACTED] spoke to him in the passageway, on behalf of LT Hill, and asked if he could act as a line handler. He said yes and was excited to help because he was very interested in going to Navy Scuba Diver School (dive school). In preparation for dive school he was improving his physical fitness by regularly lifting weights. His understanding was he might be able to attend dive school as early as next April.

When DC3 [REDACTED] heard ice liberty piped he went to the dive locker to help with the dive. This was DC3 [REDACTED]'s first time in the dive locker. DC3 [REDACTED] assisted BM2 Duque with putting on some of his gear in the dive locker and then went to the ice with him. BM2 Duque was the first diver to the ice and DC3 [REDACTED] remembers the BM2 waiting quite a while for the other divers to arrive.

Once the other divers arrived a modified dive brief was conducted. At this brief the line tenders received instruction on line tending as DC3 [REDACTED] previously explained in his statement dated 18 August 2006. Personnel in attendance at this brief were the divers: LT Hill, ENS [REDACTED], and DC2 Duque and the line tenders: DC3 [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE (1 of 1) PAGE 1 OF 6 PAGES.
(b)(6) & (7)(C)

LTJG [REDACTED] ENS [REDACTED] MK1 [REDACTED] and IT1 [REDACTED] DC3 [REDACTED] does not believe anyone else attended the brief. The dive team did not conduct an Operational Risk Management (ORM) or Green Amber Red (GAR) model at the brief. DC3 [REDACTED] is familiar with the GAR model because he participated in several during his tour in CHANDELEUR. He remembers ORM being conducted for mooring and high risk evolutions aboard CHANDELEUR. DC3 [REDACTED] is unaware of and did not participate in a dive brief other than the one conducted on the ice just prior to the dive operation on August 17, 2006.

DC3 [REDACTED] does not remember an emergency action plan being discussed at the brief. The line commands were discussed as he explained in his 18 August statement, but there was no discussion of what to do if there was a medical emergency. DC3 [REDACTED] does not remember being instructed on how fast to pull a diver to the surface if he received four pulls. He does not think the dive team had spare oxygen, the dive chamber, or any other first aid kit available at the dive site.

DC3 [REDACTED] did not observe the dive team utilize checklists in preparation for the dive or at the dive brief.

During the brief LT Hill described the dive plan as DC3 stated in his previous statement of 18 August 2006. DC3 [REDACTED] does not remember LT Hill stating how deep the divers were supposed to dive. He knew there were going to be two phases to the dive plan, but DC3 [REDACTED] was confused as to the depth of both portions of the dive. DC3 [REDACTED] does not remember being briefed on whether the divers were to go under the ice or stay in the open lead. DC3 [REDACTED] did not see anyone maintain a dive log, carry a radio to maintain contact with the bridge, or have a stop watch to monitor the time the divers were submerged.

There were a lot of people hanging around the dive site. DC3 [REDACTED] remembers seeing "polar bear" ice diving in two locations on the ice. "Polar bear" ice diving is where people strip down to their underwear and jump into the water. DC3 [REDACTED] remembers the polar bear dives being controlled, people jumped in one at a time and everyone was tethered to a line before jumping into the water. His recollection was the ice diving occurred closer to the ship, near the bow, about 30 feet from where the dive occurred.

The water in the dive hole was very clear. It is hard for DC3 [REDACTED] to estimate how far he could see down, but he could see a long way down.

DC3 [REDACTED] drew a picture which depicts where the dive site was and where the dive tenders were in relationship to each other. LTJG [REDACTED] who was tending BM2 Duque's line was closest to the ship and was on DC3 [REDACTED] right side as he faced the dive site. DC3 [REDACTED] was in the middle and was tending LT Hill's line. MK1 [REDACTED] was to DC3 [REDACTED] left and was tending ENS [REDACTED] line. As DC3 [REDACTED] stated in his previous statement - all three divers entered the water, ENS [REDACTED] and BM2 Duque then got out of the water due to problems with their dry suits.

After BM2 Duque re-entered the water, he and LT Hill submerged just under the surface to see if they would sink. They then came to the surface and asked for more weight. LT Hill asked for 5 pounds. DC3 [REDACTED] then placed one 3 lb and one 2 lb sand bag in a black mesh bag on her right hip. The bag was black, not yellow. BM2 Duque asked for 10 additional pounds of weight. DC3 [REDACTED] gave the bag containing the weight to LTJG [REDACTED] and LTJG [REDACTED] placed weights on BM2 Duque's suit. DC3 [REDACTED] is not sure where LTJG [REDACTED] placed the weights on BM2 Duque's suit.

After LT Hill and BM2 Duque had the additional weight they submerged 3-4 feet and performed checks on each other. DC3 [REDACTED] then received 1 tug from LT Hill and started to allow the line to pay out at a normal rate, hand over hand. The divers started to descend and then disappeared into the darkness. DC3 [REDACTED] then remembers the line running. As the line was running DC3 remembers giving more single pulls and LT Hill responded with single pulls. He is not sure whose line ran first, BM2 Duque or LT Hills, but he does remember them both paying out fairly quickly.

Eventually, a shipmate told DC3 [REDACTED] that he was almost out of line. DC3 [REDACTED] then stepped on the bitter end to hold the line. As DC3 [REDACTED] looked at the line it still appeared to be diagonal. DC3 [REDACTED] drew a picture of how he thought the line was tending at the point he stepped on it. DC3 [REDACTED] then felt a single tug and thought LT Hill was requesting more line, so he again began to pay out line.

DC3 [REDACTED] allowed the line to pay out until Senior Chief [REDACTED] arrived at the dive site and directed him to give four tugs on the line. There was no response to the four tugs so DC3 [REDACTED] began to pull up on the line. ENS [REDACTED] assisted DC3 [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE (109) PAGE 3 OF 6 PAGES.
(b)(6)&(7)(c)

with pulling on LT Hill's line. DC3 [REDACTED] remembers pulling hand over hand on a slow count – it is difficult for him to estimate the exact speed of the count, but he thinks it was one foot per second. DC3 [REDACTED] remembers pulling the line quicker after giving four more tugs with no response. When LT Hill came into view she was not moving and it appeared as if her tending line was a little tangled up around her shoulder and tank. DC3 [REDACTED] believes he saw bubbles which appeared to be coming from LT Hill. When he realized she was limp he pulled in faster. DC3 [REDACTED] is not sure how much faster he pulled at that point. As LT Hill got closer to the surface, DC3 [REDACTED] noticed she had foam in her mask. BM2 Duque reached the surface first and was pulled out of the water onto the ice. DC3 [REDACTED] got LT Hill to the surface and CWO [REDACTED] and ET2 [REDACTED] helped DC3 [REDACTED] pull LT Hill out of the water onto the ice.

Once LT Hill was out of the water DC3 [REDACTED] noticed her skin was discolored – it was a light blue color. It was not as discolored as BM2 Duque's skin, which was a darker blue color. LT Hill continued to have foam coming out of her mouth. The foam was also discolored and was bubbling out of her mouth like fountain soda. ET2 [REDACTED] and CWO [REDACTED] started CPR on LT Hill with LTJG [REDACTED] assistance.

DC3 [REDACTED] noticed EM2 [REDACTED] appeared to be the only one attending to BM2 Duque, so DC3 [REDACTED] shifted his attention to BM2 Duque. DC3 [REDACTED] attempted to try and open BM2 Duque's mouth, which was very difficult to open – it was like BM2 Duque had lock jaw. With great effort and strain DC3 [REDACTED] was able to open BM2 Duque's mouth and attempted to try and open his airway. EM2 [REDACTED] used his hands to start clearing blood red foam from BM2 Duque's mouth. They turned BM2 Duque on his side to assist with clearing the foam from his mouth. Next, DC1 [REDACTED] arrived and started to administer CPR to BM2 Duque as EM2 [REDACTED] continued to help by clearing foam from BM2 Duque's mouth. The stokes litter arrived and DC3 [REDACTED] assisted with putting BM2 Duque into the stokes litter.

DC3 [REDACTED] then assisted with the first aide effort for LT Hill as described in his 18 August 2006 statement.

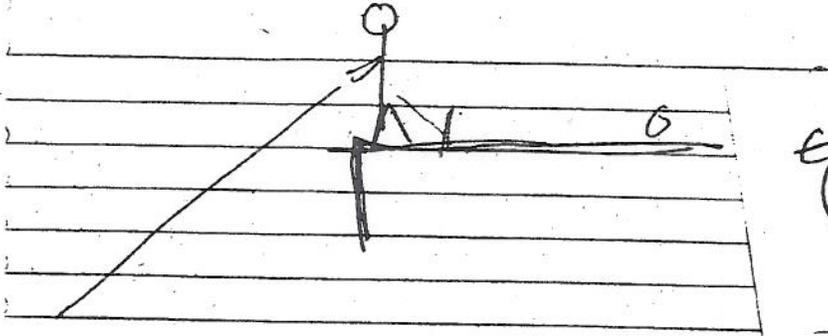
Shortly after LT Hill was placed in a stokes litter and taken to HEALY, DC3 [REDACTED] remembers taking pictures of the dive equipment. Specifically, DC3 [REDACTED] took pictures of both divers equipment, including the depth readings on their gages, as

directed by MSTCS [REDACTED] DC3 [REDACTED] took these pictures with LT Hill's camera.
After the dive operation, DC3 [REDACTED] gave the camera to PA2 [REDACTED].

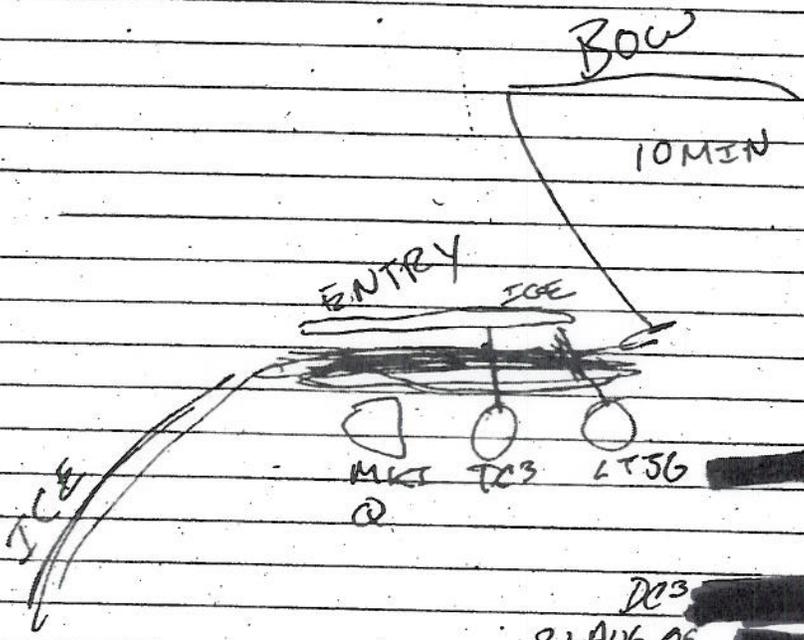
DC3 [REDACTED] then took BM2 Duque's gear and personal items to the dive locker.
When DC3 [REDACTED] arrived at the dive locker he observed FSCS [REDACTED] looking
through the dive locker for parts to the dive decompression chamber. MK2 [REDACTED]
eventually came to the locker and found the part.

DC3 [REDACTED]
DC3 [REDACTED]

(b)(6)&(7)(c)



Describe
in
sketch



DC3
22 AUG 06

(b)(6) & (7)(C)