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

# PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

1. **AUTHORITY:** (1) COMDTINST M5830.1; (2) COMDTINST 5810.1D
2. **PRINCIPLE PURPOSES:** The information solicited will be used for the following purposes:
  - a. To establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the deaths of LT Jessica Hill and BM2 Steven Duque on 17 August 2006 on board the USCGC HEALY.
  - b. To make any determinations required in the course of U.S. Coast Guard administration.
3. **ROUTINE USES:** To assist U.S. Coast Guard Management decision-making.
4. **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO DISCLOSE:** Disclosure is *voluntary*, but if you do not provide the requested information, any determinations or evaluations made as a result of this investigation will be made on the basis of the evidence contained in the investigative record.

[REDACTED]

Aug 21, 2006.

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**Observations on diving incident on USGC Healy, August 17, 2006**

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This summary reports mainly on events observed along safety line of BM2 Steven Duque with reference to one observation on LT Hill's safety line.

Time of incident? 6:30 to 6:40 pm (approximate)

Notes taken of incident at 7:14 pm and forms basis of this summary

My location-to left of aft safety lineman for BM2 Duque approximately 25 to 30 feet from ice edge and diving site. LT Hill's safety line team located approximately 15 feet to right of BM2 Duque safety line. The ships bow located approximately 150 feet to the right.

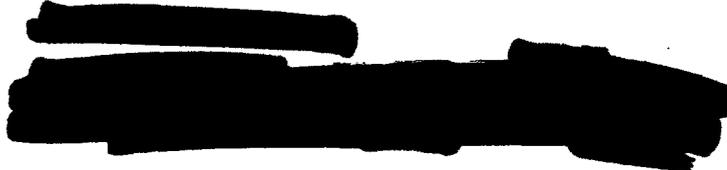
**Observations on reaching dive site.**

1. The safety lineman (left side of two safety line teams facing divers, ships bow to right) located at the ice edge reports that the diver (BM2 Duque) is indicating he wants more line out (one pull on line). The safety lineman reports there are repeated single pulls on line for more line out.
2. The line is then rapidly pulled by the diver resulting in the line spool controlled by the aft safety lineman pulled from his hands and falling to the ice spinning.
3. The aft safety lineman moves forward and picks up line. I move to left and pick line spool. (This spool is small diameter with no handle). The forward lineman may at this time still indicate single line pulls from diver?).
4. The dive master, located to the right of LT Hill's line, asks, "where are the divers".
5. The forward lineman states that the divers should be 20 feet down and directly in front of us under the ice. He then reports that the line is nearly vertical. He repeats this comment that the line is nearly vertical. I moved to right to see line was vertical.
6. The dive master then orders the lineman to signal the divers to return to the surface (4 pulls?).
7. The forward safety lineman indicates no response.
8. The dive master then orders the lineman to pull in both divers. The pulling is hard. The dive master then yells to adjacent people on the ice to come and help pull the divers up.
9. At this time I observe that BM2 Duque's line has one turn off the last row of line on the spool. As the divers are being pulled up I roll up the line (thumbs in hole in spool with fingers spinning the spool). The line is being fed to me

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- by person in front facing me. Initially I can keep up with line spooling but line sags to ice behind person feeding me the line. I try spinning spool faster.
10. BM2 Duque reaches surface and is pulled on ice on his back. He appears unconscious, white fluid gushes from his mouth as life saving events conducted. LT Hill reaches surface a short time later (I initially see her in the water and then she is blocked by people). A female voice up front near the ice yells "get him to the chamber".
  11. I observe that LT Hill's safety line is piled on the snow to the right and appears to be much greater in length than BM2 Duque's (LT Hill's line may have had a greater diameter than Duque's giving the apparent appearance of being longer?)
  12. We are asked to clear area. I pick up a third safety line spool and carry over to the ship ladder.



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