

ORIGINAL

Written Statement- ENS [REDACTED], [REDACTED] below is my best recollection of the events of August 17, 2006

I was on the ice when LT Hill and BM2 Duque went into the water at about 1810 on August 17, 2006. Both gave the "ok" sign that they were good to go. I walked away before they went down. I was cleaning up from the ice liberty when at about 1840 I heard someone yell that they needed to get the divers up. A couple minutes later I heard a yell for blankets and that BM2 Duque was unconscious. I did not know about LT Hill. I ran back onto the ship and had someone get blankets. I took the blankets down to the ice by the divers. I still did not see LT Hill but heard the request for two stretchers. I did see BM2 Duque. He was slightly blue and had vomit/foam on his face and coming from his mouth, as well as blood. The blood was on the ice. The personnel on scene were doing CPR and asking for the AED by the time I had come back onto the ice. I set down the blankets and cleared a path for the stretchers. I then ran over to ENS [REDACTED] and started to help her look through the diver's manual for instructions of some kind to help them. We were looking for their symptoms and trying to get as much information about them to help. What we read indicated that they were suffering from an arterial embolism. We were told that LT Hill's depth gauge was at 190 ft and BM2 Duque's depth gauge was maxed out at over 200 ft. Both were quickly taken onto the ship and into sickbay by 1900. ENS [REDACTED] along with other crewmembers (engineers) started putting together the Emergency Decompression Chamber. ENS [REDACTED] and I continued looking in the Diver's Manual to find instructions on how to properly decompress the victims. We found Table 6A in the manual that was the closest that we would find that explained the process. The minute I entered sickbay I heard that they were trying to get the flight surgeon on the phone, but that the iridium phone was not getting a good connection. OSC [REDACTED] was on the computer behind me trying to establish an email network with CAMSPAC for communications. I was instructed by XO to start taking notes of what was happening. At 1935 the Emergency Decompression Chamber was filled with 100% oxygen to test the seal, the test was SAT. The chamber was then deflated and a tandem tank was attached to the chamber for use when needed. Crewmembers were standing by just outside the sickbay door waiting for instruction as how to help. During this time only those that had a job were in sickbay and the door remained closed. At 2005 I stepped outside and asked that ENS [REDACTED] head up the process of making sure that the equipment that was being worn by both divers be collected, separated, and locked up somewhere. Everything was placed in the photo lab. As I was heading back in, at 2008 people were being told to leave sickbay, but I was let back in to continue taking notes. At 2010, LTJG [REDACTED] announced to those of us remaining that he had just gotten off the phone with the Flight Surgeon. He was told that we had done everything that we could and that we should stop. LTJG [REDACTED] pronounced LT Hill and BM2 Duque dead at 2010. This was after over an hour of CPR, medicine, and constant attention. Blankets and sheets were placed over LT Hill and BM2 Duque. About 10-15 minutes later the crew was asked to meet on the flight deck to be addressed by the CO. I did not go; I was in sickbay talking with LTJG [REDACTED] about what efforts had been made in trying to revive LT Hill and BM2 Duque, to add to my notes.

[REDACTED] 215
ENS [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE(91) PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES.

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