

I [REDACTED], EMPLID: [REDACTED] USCG, am assigned as the [REDACTED] aboard the Coast Guard Cutter HEALY (WAGB-20) I give this true and correct statement as to my observations on the ice during ice liberty on 17 August 2006 in position 77-12.965N 177-38.400W.

I departed the ship at 1730 and proceeded onto the ice, at 1840 I observed the dive tenders, who I recall were LTJG [REDACTED], ENS [REDACTED], MK1 [REDACTED] and DC3 [REDACTED], they appeared to be pulling on LT Hill's and BM2 Duque's dive tending lines, I observed them pulling four tug's, I believed this to be a signal of distress, I approached the dive tenders and asked ENS [REDACTED] who I assumed to be the Dive Supervisor, as she was in a dry suit, what was going on, ENS [REDACTED], calmly stated the dive plan was to go to 20 feet, as I looked into the water and observed both divers tending lines going straight down, there was no sign of either diver or their bubbles anywhere in site, I then looked at the dive tenders and observed that they had a heavy strain on the tending lines and what looked to me about 150 to 160 feet of line into the water. I recommended to ENS [REDACTED] that she bring the divers up slowly so that we could see them, the visibility was very clear and I could not see the divers, ENS [REDACTED] told the dive tenders to heave around slowly on the line, it appeared to me it was difficult for the four tenders to pull the divers up so I then yelled very loud to the other hands on the ice that we needed help to pull the divers up so we could see them and check on their status. Many members assisted in heaving and at this point I recommended to ENS [REDACTED] to take charge and to try to observe the divers as they came up and control the speed of their ascent. I then told someone to get HSC [REDACTED] out here and to bring 2 stokes litters to the ice. CWO2 [REDACTED] arrived at the ice edge and looked over the side with me and I helped him clear light ice from the surface. At this point I believed the plan was to bring the divers up slowly so we could at least see them, and see if they were moving, breathing and allow them to decompress if needed. Within a short time 2 to 5 minutes, I observed the divers, first LT Hill, she had air bubbles coming from her face mask, then 5 seconds latter I observed BM2 Duque with very few air bubbles coming out of his facemask, When I first observed the divers, it appeared to me they were about 50 feet to 60 feet deep, and we had already pulled in about 100 feet of line from both divers or more. As they approached the surface both divers appeared unconscious and non-responsive. BM2 Duque had red foam that looked like blood coming from the regulator attached to his dive mask; he was brought out of the water first. LT Hill was then recovered from the water shortly there after. I assisted in scene control as the first responders ET2 [REDACTED] (EMT) and CWO2 [REDACTED] pulled LT Hill out and DC1 [REDACTED] and another treated BM2 Duque. Each team attempted to clear the diver's airway and check for a pulse, they then began CPR. I started to secure the dive gear and then I looked at the pressure gage and depth gage of both divers. LT Hill's depth gauge recorded a maximum depth of 190 feet and BM2 Duque's depth gauge recorded a maximum depth of over 200 feet. HSC [REDACTED] arrived on the ice and both divers were placed into stokes litters as medical treatment continued and then transported to sickbay for further treatment. MSTCS [REDACTED] then arrived with me and I transferred the dive equipment to him and he took control of LT Hill and BM2 Duque's dive tanks and equipment and secured it in the photo lab on the ship. I then assisted in clearing all hands from the ice. I then reported to the bridge where I relieved BM1 [REDACTED] he retained the DECK and I assumed the CONN, I then started driving the ship to Point Barrow, Alaska

[REDACTED] *BMCS*
[REDACTED], BMCS, Navigator, USCG.

18 AUG 2006
Date

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