

HSC [REDACTED]

Below is a summary of interview of HSC [REDACTED] USCG, conducted by the AIM informal board on August 23, 2006 concerning the diving incident which resulted in two deaths on August 17, 2006. AIM board members present at the interview were Captain [REDACTED] LCDR [REDACTED] and LCDR [REDACTED]

HSC [REDACTED] reported aboard CGC HEALY in the [REDACTED]. She is assigned as the [REDACTED] and handles the medical issues for the crew. Her collateral duties include [REDACTED]. She is also a qualified Landing Signals Officer (LSO) during flight ops.

On 17 August, she had flight quarters watch from 0001 to 1200, following which she hit the rack. She stated that she remembers LT HILL [REDACTED], talking about dive operations planned for later in the day. She asked LT HILL to wake her up for ice liberty. LT HILL mentioned that she would be "really pissed at OPS if he didn't let her dive."

Later, LT HILL did wake HSC [REDACTED] for ice liberty, but she was still too tired, and decided to stay in the rack as opposed to going out to the ice. She rolled over and went back to sleep.

She heard a pipe later in the day, while she was still in the rack, which got her attention. The pipe was "HSC your presence is requested on the ice." This is not the usual emergency pipe which would be "corpsman to the ice," so she believed it was just her shipmates planning to give her a hard time about her recent selection to the CGIS special agent program. She slowly started to get up, but was not in any particular rush.

A moment or two later, she stated that she heard the pipe "stretcher bearers to the ice." This is an emergency pipe, so she quickly grabbed her boots and jacket and ran from the room. She also heard a request for AED, so she ran to sickbay to grab the AED, but by the time she reached sick bay someone had already departed with it. She then went directly to the ice.

Once on the ice, HSC [REDACTED] saw BM2 DUQUE in the stretcher, and thought that he "didn't look good," and was likely "dead." LT HILL, she thought, looked a little better - her color was a little better than BM2's, although she noted that LT HILL was also receiving CPR and needed to get to sickbay quick. Both divers were transported to sickbay.

Inside sickbay, BM2 DUQUE was placed on the cot and LT HILL was put on the main sickbay table. HSC noted that CPR was being administered correctly and began to get meds. She also asked the XO to get the flight surgeon on the phone, but he was unable to get a good connection. HSC listened to the reports being given to the flight surgeon by LTJG [REDACTED]

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Standard medical procedures were followed, utilizing all available care for the next hour. Eventually, both divers were pronounced dead by LTJG [REDACTED] under the guidance of the flight surgeon.

In response to questions, HSC [REDACTED] noted the following. There is no medical bill or plan aboard HEALY for dive specific injuries. The flight surgeon is called for all injuries; there is no contact information for dive medical personnel aboard HEALY. There was no pre approved/coordinated medical evacuation plan to get a diver to a chamber or to a dive trained medical officer. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LT HILL was departing the Coast Guard to run/own a SPA/fitness center. The dive tanks were hydrostatically tested and filled at Fire King, a tank specialty shop in the Seattle area. LT HILL had been denied the opportunity to dive on a previous occasion two weeks before the incident of 17 August. LT Hill really wanted to dive in the ice to prepare the dive team for next years deployment. LT Hill was very enthusiastic about the dive program and diving was her passion. There had never been an occasion where ice liberty was combined with dive ops. LT HILL had given training to the crew on the Hyperlite recompression chamber, but not on this particular deployment. HSC specifically recommended that in addition to medical personnel other crewmembers need to be trained in setting up the recompression chamber.

[REDACTED]