

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]

21 Aug 2006

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

Dr. [REDACTED]

Below is a summary of interview of Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] conducted by the AIM informal board on August 21, 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]

Dr. [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] aboard CGC HEALY for this phase of this mission. He reported aboard on [REDACTED]. He was one day late due to some heavy multi-year ice at Barrow that delayed the helicopter to ship transfer of scientists and personnel.

On 17 August, the ship had been doing seismic operations in the morning and was now mapping a ridge heading in a northerly direction. Several crewmembers and scientists had been asking about an opportunity for ice liberty and he concurred that it seemed like a good idea at this point in the deployment. He met with the captain early in the day and gave his opinion, and concurrence with ice liberty.

He heard about diving from Jessica (LT HILL) earlier in the day. She was really anxious to get in the water to train her divers. Earlier in the trip she had asked him about a dive and he pitched the idea at an evening science brief. He said he felt bad that he apparently caught the command off guard and got LT HILL in trouble. Apparently she hadn't briefed the command, and that annoyed the XO. That was around the 23rd of July.

The trip had not gone entirely as planned, but nevertheless they were getting some good science results. The weather hadn't been cooperating at all, but finally on the 17th it was beautiful and they completed a great deal of seismic work. It was a great day to finally let the crew and science party off the ship.

Dr. [REDACTED] made his way onto the ice sometime after liberty was piped. He had a beer or two as he walked around talking with crewmembers and scientists. He spent most of the time taking pictures with his "old fashion" film camera. His focus was on ice structures.

As he wandered by the dive side he noticed that the line seemed to be running on one of the line handlers. It seemed to be running away, and someone dropped one of the reels. A short time later it became obvious that there was an emergency, and he went back aboard the ship to stay out of the way. He was never really in the area of the dive.

In response to questions, Dr. [REDACTED] stated the following.

- At the evening meeting where he pitched the dive operation, as best he could recall the XO's response was "what the hell."
- There was no need for science diving on this trip.
- He can be reached at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]
- His scientific field of study is plate tectonics.

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