

18 AUG 06
DC3 [REDACTED] - 1258388

STATEMENT- TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

ON 17 AUG 06 I WAS DESIGNATED AS A LINE TENDER FOR THE DIVERS BY LT HILL DURING ICE LIBERTY. WE DRESSED EVERYONE OUT IN DRY SUITES AND THEN COMMENCED TO THE DESIGNATED DIVE SPOT AT THE PORT SIDE JUST OFF THE BOW THE FIRST TO HEAD OUT WAS BM2 DUQUE WITH ME ASSISTING HIM, LT HILL WAS NEXT TO COME DOWN TO THE SPOT AND ENS [REDACTED] THIRD. AFTER SUITING UP THE TEAM IN FLIPERS AND GLOVES, A DIVE BRIEF WAS HELD TO GIVE A BASIC OVER VIEW OF WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO (THE DIVERS WOULD GO DOWN AND CHECK OUT WHAT WAS BELOW AND GET SITUATED THEN COME BACK UP DECOMPRESS AND THEN HEAD BACK DOWN FOR 20 MIN WITH AN UNWATER CAMERA TO DO SOME EXPLORING. MK1 [REDACTED] WAS DESIGNATED FOR ENS [REDACTED] LINE, I WAS TO TEND LT HILLS LINE AND LTJG [REDACTED] WAS TO TEND BM2 DUQUES LINE THE LINE COMMANDS WERE EXPLAINED TO US BEING 1 IS FOR OK 2 FOR MORE LINE 3 IS TAKE IN SLACK 4 DIVER COMING UP OR TENDER WANTING DIVER TO COME UP). AFTER THE BRIEF THE THREE DIVERS (LT HILL, ENS [REDACTED] AND BM2 DUQUE) SAT NEAR THE ENTRY SPOT AND MK1 [REDACTED] ITI [REDACTED] LTJG [REDACTED] AND MY SELF ALL ASSISTED WITH THE DIVERS TANKS (INCLUDES TURNING ON AIR, OPENED ALL THE WAY THEN A QUARTER TURN BACK) AND REST OF THE GEAR BEING AIR, MASK, AND HOOD. AFTER DOING INITIAL CHECKS WHILE ON THE ICE THE DIVERS ENTERED THE WATER. LT [REDACTED] SHORTLY EXITED AFTER WATER GOT INTO HER WET SUIT AND WENT TO CHANGE OUT FROM DIVE GEAR. THEN A FEW MOMENTS LATER BM2 DUQUE EXITED THE WATER WITH COMPLAINT OF WATER IN HIS GLOVE SO HE WENT TO THE DIVE LOCKER AND CHANGED SUITES, LT HILL REMAINED IN THE WATER AND WAITED FOR HIS RETURN. ONCE BM2 RETURNED WE RE-EQUIPED HIM WITH HIS TANK AND GEAR. THEN HE RE-ENTERED THE WATER. ONCE AGAIN THE DIVERS CHECKED EACH OTHER OVER. AFTER CHECKS LT HILL REQUESTED AN EXTRA 5 LBS OF WIEGHT, BM2 REQUESTED 10 LBS. ONCE LOADED UP THEY SUBMERSED JUST UNDER 3-4 FEET AND PERFORMED CHECKS ONCE AGAIN THEN I RECEIVED 1 TUG BACK FROM LT HILL WHICH GAVE ME THE OK. AS THEY STARTED TO DECEND I STARTED TO FEED LINE OUT IN ORDER TO NOT RESTRICT. I FED LINE OUT UNTIL THEY FADED OUT OF SITE. I CONTINUED TO FEED OUT LINE. ONCE IN A WHILE FEELING A TUG. I WAS THEN NOTIFIED BY A SHIPMATE THAT I WAS NEARLY OUT OF LINE, SO THAT'S WHEN I PLACED MY FOOT ON THE LINE ON THE ICE AND STOPPED FEEDING LINE OUT I ALSO NOTICED LTJG [REDACTED] WAS HAVING THE SAME SITUATION OF TAUT LINE. BY THIS TIME ENS [REDACTED] HAD RETURNED. ABOUT 5 MINUTES HAD ELAPSED SINCE THEY WERE ACTUALLY UNDER WATER. ABOUT THIS TIME THE SHIP PIPED THAT WE ONLY HAD 10 MINUTES TO GO TILL ICE LIBERTY WAS OVER. ABOUT A 2 MINUTES AFTER THAT BMCS [REDACTED] COMES OVER AND NOTICED THE LINES WERE ALMOST AT AN END SO HE GAVE THE ORDER TO START TO GIVE THE FOUR TUGS FOR RETRIEVAL. SO I GAVE FOUR TUGS AND RECEIVED NO RESPONSE AT THIS TIME ENS [REDACTED] STARTED HELPING ME PULL LT HILL UP AS I PULLED I GAVE ANOTHER FOUR TUGS WITH NO RESPONSE. WE STARTED TO PULL A LITTLE QUICKER, A FEW OTHERS STARTED TO HELP US PULL UP AS I STAYED IN THE FRONT PULLING AND LOOKING TO SEE IF I SAW ANYTHING ABOUT 2 MINUTES PASSED FROM THE MOMENT WE STARTED PULLING THEN I SAW BLUE WHICH WAS THE TOP OF LT HILLS TANK ALONG WITH BUBBLES I ALSO NOTCED BM2 DUQUE WAS JUST BELOW HER. I NOTICED LT HILL WAS NOT MOVING AND SHE WAS A LITTLE TANGLED UP IN THE LINE I TOLD SENIOR CHIEF [REDACTED] WHO WAS ALREADY REQUESTING THE MEDICAL HELP. I KEPT ON PULLING AS SHE GOT CLOSER I NOTICED SHE HAD FOAM IN HER MASK. BM2 WAS THE FIRST TO REACH THE SURFACE AND WAS BEING PULLED OUT. I GOT LT HILL TO THE TOP AND STARTED PULLING HER OUT AT WHICH POINT CWO [REDACTED] AND ET2 [REDACTED] ASSISTED ME WITH GETTING HER OUT OF THE WATER. THEN WE REMOVED HER MASK, LT HILL WAS FOAMING OUT OF THE MOUTH AND NOSE. IMMEDIATELY ET2 AND CWO [REDACTED] BEGAN CPR, I TURNED AND NOTICED THAT ONLY EM2 [REDACTED] WAS ATTENDING TO

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BM2, SO I BEGAN TO ASSIST HIM, HIS EQUIPMENT WAS ALREADY OFF AND HE WAS FOAMING BLOOD OUT OF THE MOUTH AND NOSE, EM2 TRIED CLEARING HIS AIRWAYS BUT BM2 WAS LOCK JAW AND BITING HIS TOUNGE SO I PRIDE HIS MOUTH OPENED AND EM2 STARTED CLEARING FOAM WHICH WAS BLOOD RED. WE TURNED HIM ON HIS SIDE AS SOON AS WE STARTED TO CLEAR HIS AIRWAYS OF FOAM. DC1 [REDACTED] ARRIVED ABOUT THIS TIME AND STARTED TO ADMINISTER CPR AS EM2 CLEARED FOAM. THE STRECHER BARER ARRIVED WITH A STRECHER READY FOR BM2, WE SLID THE STRECHER UNDERHIM, LAYED HIM FLAT AND STRAPED HIM IN WHICH THEN WE COVERED AND OTHER CREW MEMBERS PULLED AWAY TO MEDICAL. I THEN TURNED MY ATTENTION TO LT HILL WHO WAS STILL BEING WORKED ON BY ET2 AND CWO [REDACTED] THE STRECHER WAS READY SO WE TOOK HER PACK OFF WHICH WOULDN'T COME OFF BECAUSE OF THE AIR SUPPLY LINE SO WE CLOSED THE VALVE ON THE BOTTLE AND CUT THE LINES AND UNCLIPED THE TENDING LINE. WHICH THEN WAS CLEARED AND THEN LT HILL WAS LOADED ONTO THE STRECHER AND PULLED AWAY TO MEDICAL. I REMAINED BEHIND FOR CLEAN UP AT WHICH POINT I WAS ORDERED BY MSTCS [REDACTED] TO TAKE PHOTOS OF THE SCENE, EQUIPMENT, GAUGES AND GENERAL AREA WHICH I DID TILL THE CAMERA BATTERY STARTED TO DIE ON ME. THEN I PICKED UP BM2'S EQUIPMENT AFTER UNLOADING THE WEIGHTS AND I WENT BACK TO THE DIVE LOCKER.

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